



**Image of the day -
The Queen arrives at Balmoral for her summer break**

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Image of the Day - The Queen has arrived at Balmoral Castle for her summer break. In a small ceremony outside the Castle gates, Her Majesty inspected a Guard of Honour formed of the Balaklava Company, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland._

People and places



Cork Youth go kayaking

The Cork Diocesan Youth Council met again on Friday 30th July, with a group of teenagers from all over the diocese, to go kayaking at Lough Hyne.

Diocesan Youth Officer Hilda Connolly has run several events over the past few weeks and the outdoor activities have been especially popular. This time, twenty-four teenagers met with the Sea Atlantic Kayaking crew in the morning and, together with the youth leaders Clodagh and Oriel, they spent three hours out on the lake.

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Hilda said: “The day was an extra-special day as one of the group turned eighteen. In fact, over the past few months a number of young people from this group have turned eighteen and some of them have been coming to CDYC from as young as thirteen.

“It has been great to watch the teens grow over the years and remain keen to be involved in leadership team once they turn eighteen. I am looking forward to many more years of working with this amazing group of young adults. “

Killinchy Parish’s annual Livingston Days Festival

The 3rd Annual Livingston Days Festival took place at Derryboy Primary School to celebrate our founding father Reverend John Livingston 1630 and the common bonds between the Ulster-Scots and USA. It was sponsored by the Ulster Scots Agency.

Little Acorns and Killinchy Young Farmers organised a tractor run and vintage car rally as part of the festival. There was also a family fun day in the grounds of Derryboy Primary School with a fine display of Ulster Scots heritage and music. The Schomberg Society had an educational stall and various musicians including Amanda McIlveen, Chloe McGregor, Kask and Killinchy Silver Band entertained the crowds.

Principal of Derryboy Primary School, Dr Judith Harper rolled up her sleeves and helped to make the day a terrific success. Local councillors Robert Burgess and Terry

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Andrews supported the event along with the Minister of Education, Michelle McIlveen MLA.

William Humphrey MLA from North Belfast was present to discuss how urban and rural communities can learn from each other in terms of cultural celebrations. Clare Wilson from Little Acorns thanked everyone for playing their part in delivering such a fantastic family fun day.

Trowel used to lay foundation stone returns to Aughrim church

A little piece of history came back to the tiny St John's Church in Aughrim on Sunday afternoon (August 8).

The silver trowel which was used to lay the foundation stone of the beautiful church 109 years ago was presented to the parish during a special service which also marked the reopening of the church for public worship for the first time since the easing of restrictions. There will now be a service in St John's on Sundays at 9am.

The foundation stone of St John the Evangelist Church in Aughrim was laid on May 7 1912 by the then Rector of Arklow, Canon Richard Hallows. His great grandson, Michael Hallows, along with his wife Janice, visited Aughrim to present the silver trowel used on the day. He found the trowel while clearing out his parents' home in England and decided its rightful home was in Aughrim.



Michael told the congregation, which had gathered carefully in pods inside and outside the church, he and his wife had found the trowel under the bath in his parents' home as they prepared to move house recently. It had been stored beneath a hatch in the floor for 40 years. "We feel it belongs here and we would like you to have it for posterity," he said when presenting the trowel, which is still in its original case, to longstanding Aughrim parishioner Patricia Porter, on behalf of the parish.

Michael gave a brief history of his great grandfather who was born in Blackrock in Dublin. He had been training to become a lawyer and was articled to his father, also a lawyer, when he entered divinity training at the age of 28. He was made deaconed in 1878.

While Rector of Arklow he shot to fame due to his involvement in the Arklow Affair.

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In April 1890 he and his curate, the Revd John Harrison, decided to preach their faith along Arklow's Main Street. Apart from failing to consult his neighbouring Catholic parish at a time of growing antagonism, the move also blocked the Main Street and both combined to provoke considerable unrest which at its height required 100 RIC members and 100 soldiers to be drafted into Arklow to keep the peace. The Arklow Question was discussed in Dublin Castle and the Houses of Parliament in London.

Eventually on March 5 1891 the pair were convicted of obstructing the public highway in the magistrates court and were sentenced to 14 days imprisonment having refused to pay the fine. On their release they continued to preach until the late 1890s.

Whatever the consequences of his actions, Michael, who is a retired Detective Chief Superintendent with the Metropolitan Police in London, reported that the parishioners of Arklow held Canon Hallows in very high esteem and both he and his curate are buried in the grounds of St Saviour's Church.

The Rector of Castlemacadam, Ballinatone and Aughrim, the Revd Suzanne Harris, gave thanks for all who had worshiped in St John's Church over the last 108 years since it was consecrated. She thanked Michael and Janice for travelling from the UK to present the trowel and all in the parish who had made the service possible. She presented Michael with a painting of the church and information on its history.

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Calry Parish walk for Kindu Diocese

Parishioners from Calry Parish are doing a sponsored walk along the Miners Way in support of their CMSI link Diocese, Kindu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The walk, which started on the bank holiday Monday, will take them 118km through Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon.

This long distance footpath is a route that miners took to and from the Arigna mines. Many Congolese work as miners today, often in very precarious conditions. The country is resource rich, but sadly the profits don't seem to benefit ordinary people much at all. In consequence it is regarded as the second poorest country in the world.



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The aim of this walk is to fundraise for the redevelopment of rural schools in Kindu Diocese. The Anglican Church in the DRC was founded not by western missionaries but by evangelists from Uganda. The current Archbishop of the country is Masimango Katanda. He also serves as Bishop of Kindu, an area in the east of the country twice the size of Ireland.

Archbishop Masimango's priority is to promote development with a special emphasis on education. Many school buildings in his enormous diocese are very dilapidated and in need of renovation. In order to break the cycle of poverty education is vital. Money goes a lot further in Congo than it does in Ireland.

Calry are aiming to raise €1,500 on this walk which is the cost of re-roofing a school building and repairing broken-down walls. They would appreciate whatever you are able to give.



Priorities Fund is now open for applications

The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund is Now Open for applications. Contributions to the fund come directly from Church of Ireland parishes and since its

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establishment in 1980 over €19 million has been distributed in grants.

Categories that are currently supported by the fund:

Training—Lay and Ordained

Christian Education

Outreach initiatives

Innovative ministry in a rural context.

Our website provides more detail about the above criteria



Flowers in Dixon Park, Belfast

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Applications can be completed online at
<https://priorities.ireland.anglican.org>

The closing date for the receipt of completed applications is
Sunday, 31st October 2021

Contact -

Gordon Woods – Administrator of the Priorities Fund (on
behalf Finance Department of The Representative Church
Body)

Email: priorities@ireland.anglican.org

Tel: 00 353 – 1412 5636 9.30am– 1pm Mon– Friday

Priorities Fund Office Church of Ireland House, Church
Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF47

Reports

Young evangelicals are leaving church - LGBTQ bias may be driving them away

**As white evangelical denominations double down on
their opposition to equality, many younger evangelicals,
gay and straight, are voting with their feet, Religious
News Service reports**

For Ethan Stalker, the break unfolded in a now familiar way.

On March 18, 2019, Stalker announced on a blog post he
was gay. The next day, he got invited to a coffee meeting
with a pastor at the evangelical church in New York City

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where he was serving as a lay leader. The pastor told him he no longer qualified to be a small group leader.

His life choices, he was told, were not “God’s best” for him. The church allowed the 25-year-old, who works in marketing for healthcare companies, to continue to volunteer on its broadcast production team.

Three months later, Stalker quit the church.

“They loved to tell me my sexuality doesn’t define me,” Stalker said. “But they shoved a handful of verses down my throat that completely sexualize me as a gay person and put a cap on what I can do. It dismissed who I am as a complex human being. That was a huge problem for me.”

Stalker’s story is one shared by thousands of LGBTQ young people who grew up in evangelical churches that deny them full participation. LGBTQ people are typically excluded from serving on church boards and from leading worship or other church groups. They are not ordained or allowed to marry same-sex partners in the church. That’s causing many younger evangelicals — gay and straight — to question the integrity of their church’s theology and the consistency of its biblical interpretation.

Amid widespread acceptance of LGBTQ people, evangelical church attitudes toward the group have not budged, and the consequences have been dire.

A study last month by the Public Religion Research Institute found the number of Americans who identify as white evangelicals has declined dramatically, from 23% in 2006 to

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14.5% in 2020. Those leaving in the greatest numbers are younger evangelicals whose attitudes toward sexual minorities are starkly at odds with their elders. Take same-sex marriage: While only one-third (34%) of white evangelicals age 50 and over favour same-sex marriage, 51% of younger white evangelicals ages 18-49 now favour it — a majority, another PRRI study found.

To be sure, evangelicals, like people of all faiths, leave church for many reasons: changing politics, shifting cultural tastes, spiritual restlessness. But among younger evangelicals, the church's attitude on sexuality is emerging as one of the big causes for the decline.

“Most people know and love someone who's openly gay,” said Julie Rodgers, a Christian writer, activist and lesbian whose story is featured in the new documentary on Netflix, “Pray Away.” “It causes them to wrestle with the implication of teachings that say, ‘We're bad and wrong and sinful.’ It creates a significant conflict for them in a way that (evangelical allegiance to) the Republican Party more broadly feels like an abstraction, and they don't see the effect of that on human beings they know and love.”

In contrast with most mainline Protestant denominations where LGBTQ members are routinely ordained and their marriages solemnised in church (the United Methodist Church being the exception), white evangelical denominations such as the Southern Baptist Convention, the Presbyterian Church in America, the Anglican Church in North America and dozens of others have resisted offering gay people equality. LGBTQ people are allowed to attend church, to be baptised and in most cases to take

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Communion — but not much else. All three denominations doubled down on their opposition to fully affirming LGBTQ people at their annual conferences this summer.

In evangelical circles, LGBTQ equality has become the litmus test. Churches that stray from those policies risk losing their evangelical bonafides.

More at -

[\[https://religionnews.com/2021/08/06/young-evangelicals-are-leaving-church-resistance-to-lgbtq-equality-is-driving-them-away/\]](https://religionnews.com/2021/08/06/young-evangelicals-are-leaving-church-resistance-to-lgbtq-equality-is-driving-them-away/)

'I spent three days laid on my front - the only way I could breathe. I lay there and prayed'

It was at the end of April 2020 during the first lockdown that Revd Jo Haine, along with her husband and children, caught Covid-19.

“We followed all the rules. We were really careful, washing the shopping, washing our hands, but it is highly transmissible,” she said.

At first she experienced it as a bad bout of flu. ‘It was after 10 days that my breathing started to be affected, I was getting very short of breath. I spent about three days in bed laid on my front because it was really the only way I could breathe. I lay there and prayed.’ While the rest of her family recovered, for Revd Jo the illness continued for months with breathlessness, a recurring fever, fatigue and muscle pains.



Revd Jo is Team Vicar of Emmanuel and St Mary's Church in Weymouth, Dorset.

She had another set back to her health recently as a result of the virus, with the return of the fever.

‘Long Covid means that my body seems unable to regulate its temperature’ she said. “I’m fine cognitively but if I put too much physical demand on my body I get a high fever, fatigue, and my joints become stiff and ache.”

She pays tribute to the support of her congregations, colleagues, retired clergy and lay ministers, alongside the support from the Diocese of Salisbury.

A mental health nurse in her former profession and more used to being a care giver than a patient, Revd Jo says

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“living with Long Covid has highlighted the importance of well being, something that should be a priority for all clergy and lay ministers anyway.”

A group has been formed, meeting with the Bishop of London, to explore how best to support clergy with Long Covid and to look into the longer term impact on ministry and the care of congregations.

London diocese reports rising number of candidates from diverse ethnic backgrounds recommended for ordination training

Thirty percent of the candidates recommended for ordination training in the Diocese of Southwark this year are from UKME or BAME backgrounds.

Five out of a total of 17 candidates were put forward between January and July of this year.

Four out of the five candidates have also been recommended for leadership positions - incumbent status, meaning their potential to lead a parish has been recognised.

Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Deputy Director of Vocations, Rev Raymond Baudon, spoke to Premier: "The most recent comparable figure was in 2016, where the percentage was 25 percent. So we're seeing a slow, but steady increase, which is great for us, really."



In March this year, the Diocese's Synod unanimously approved the Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter.

Moving forward, Rev Raymond said the Diocese is aiming to build on the successes of this year:

"First of all, whatever we've achieved this year could easily roll back in future years. So we absolutely need to maintain the position that we're in, but also consciously build on it as well. And I think that word confidence is key there, that it takes a lot of confidence to be able to put your hand up and say, actually, I think God's calling me to ministry. And if you're somebody who has consistently throughout their life received feedback that somehow they're not quite part of society, in a way, then, to have that confidence is very difficult. I've seen it myself in candidates that I've been

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working with, just to be able to say, 'No, actually, you're able to do this, no matter what other people have told you, you're as much a child of God and as much loved by God as anybody else'. And so having a place in the church is as much there for you as it is for anybody else. So we can't rest on these results from this year. We have to keep building on them."

Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, who is the Diocesan Lead on Racial Justice, said in a statement: "The Diocese of Southwark has committed itself to an anti-racism strategy across all aspects of our diocesan life together. A key part of the Southwark vision is the identifying and training of future church leaders, lay and ordained, so that the leadership better reflects the people and parishes we serve.

"Therefore, it is good news to learn that 30 per cent of all the candidates who have been recommended for ordination training beginning in autumn 2021 come from a UKME background. This figure is close to the number of people from UKME and global majority origin and heritage in our churches and in the wider parish also. It is also good to hear that the majority of those recommended will be training for incumbency status and their gifts for leadership in the Church recognised. We are thankful for all who have encouraged and enabled these candidates and look forward to their blessing the Church through their service in years to come."



Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Tour of Mothers Union founder's church

To take a virtual tour of the Mary Sumner Church where Mary worshipped while she was alive click -

<https://youtu.be/sqJXhOVaqZg>

Mothers Union worldwide inspiration

Hear from the Australia and New Zealand region Mothers' Union Zonal Trustee, Libbie Crossman in a recent Inspiration slot.

Click here for the clip: <https://youtu.be/oVxWHOMeZF8>

C of E Digital Labs free interactive webinars

The Church of England Digital Labs team are running a number of free interactive webinars where you can learn digital skills to help your church communicate online and reach your local community.

Find out more and register at:

churchofengland.org/resources/digitallabs...



Poem for today

Epic by Patrick Kavanagh, 1938

I have lived in important places, times
When great events were decided : who owned
That half a rood of rock, a no-man's land
Surrounded by our pitchfork-armed claims.

I heard the Duffys shouting "Damn your soul"
And old McCabe stripped to the waist, seen
Step the plot defying blue cast-steel -
"Here is the march along these iron stones."

That was the year of the Munich bother. Which
Was most important ? I inclined
To lose my faith in Ballyrush and Gortin
Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind.
He said : I made the Iliad from such
A local row. Gods make their own importance.

Pointers for prayer

Intercessions from Tenth Sunday after Trinity Year B— 8th August 2021

Everlasting God Help us to understand the way that you
would like things to be done and to be ready to follow your
ways until we too can enter the wide open doors of heaven.

Almighty God you want us hold the needs of our sisters and
brothers in Christ as dear to us as ourselves. Help us to love

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our neighbours as ourselves as we offer our thanks and our intercessions on behalf of the church here in the Costa Blanca and throughout the world.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, you call us all to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit. Help us to demonstrate our love for your creation and the world in the way that we live. Open the hearts of those with power both elected and non-elected and give them compassion in all that they do for the good of the people that they lead.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God we pray for all those here in the Costa Blanca on holiday this Summer despite the ongoing restrictions imposed because of the Pandemic. Thank you for the refreshment which holiday brings to their lives, for the freedom from routine and for the new experiences and opportunities they have as they explore our countryside and relax in our resorts. Thank you for the gift of your wonderful creation and help us to be good steward especially in our leisure time and also to continue to take all the necessary precautions for the safety of ourselves and others.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

Loving God friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has healed so many in body, mind and spirit. We hold before you those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

(Short Silence)

(add names of those requesting prayer)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we pray for all who grieve for loved ones who have died. Be with them in their sorrow, lead them with your love to accept their loss and to go on with their lives. We raise before you those who have died recently and those whose anniversary falls at this time

(Short Silence)

(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

God of power, hear our prayers, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the world and all that is evil. Lead us as we go forward into another week strengthened and upheld by your love, the knowledge of the Gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

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Intercessions for Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Year B – 15th August 2021

Everlasting God as we approach your throne in the House of Wisdom in humility and simplicity we ask that you will hear our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

Almighty God we pray for our churches in The Costa Blanca and ask that our church here in..... be given a clear vision of what is needed to be both focused and relevant in all that is good and serves your purpose of spreading the Good News to both residents and visitors.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God we thank you for the beauty of the created world; for its wonderful variety and the bounty that it brings forth. Help us all to be good stewards showing love and friendship to all peoples and the enjoying the warmth and light they bring to our lives. Be close to all who govern ensuring the decisions that they make, day by day, are made for the benefit all of the people entrusted to them in their leadership.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God we pray for our own communities and all of our neighbours. We thank you also for our families and friends, raising before you those we know with particular needs. May

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your peace and love surround them bringing with it comfort and strength.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God we thank you for those we know who are on the road to recovery and for the miracle of healing. We pray for all who minister to the sick and infirm, both at home and in hospital care centres. We name before you now, those we know who are ill or in need of our prayers asking that through these requests they may all experience the light of the Gospel and a real sense of your healing presence.

(Short Silence)

(add names of those requesting prayer)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God we pray for those whose lives have been shattered by the death of someone close and dear to them. We pray for members of our natural and church families who have died and whose anniversary we remember now.

(Short Silence)

(add names of the recently departed or on Anniversary list)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

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Faithful God receive our intercessions and thanksgiving on behalf of the church and the world. Hear our prayers and reward our stewardship of this earth with the riches of heaven.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen



Speaking to the Soul

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.

Philippians 3:8-9 NLT

Oscar Wilde once defined a cynic as the person “who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing”. His observation well describes our cynical society which is desperately interested in the price of things but can often overlook what is truly valuable. It often takes a serious

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illness or an accident for people to start looking hard at what is most valuable in life. Here the apostle Paul runs through this exercise for himself. His detractors said that what mattered most was obeying the Jewish law and his answer is that if they wanted to play that game then he was the runaway winner. He was circumcised on the eighth day of his life as every little Jewish boy should be. He came from the favoured tribe of Benjamin so he was, as he described himself, “a real Hebrew if ever there was one”! He was also trained as a Pharisee and was so committed to his Jewish faith that he was happy to persecute the church. But all of that was, for him, just a pile of garbage alongside the blessing of knowing Jesus.

What matters most to you? Is it your family, nationality, education, house, car, job, financial security – or is it Jesus? The point is not that our family, education and possessions are insignificant or unimportant. They are all part of God’s gift to us so we should treasure them and continually thank God for them. However, when put alongside the blessing of knowing Jesus all those other things are temporary and relatively unimportant. There’s nothing more vital than to sort out the priorities in our lives because all our decisions will flow from that. The way we use our time, money and talents will all be determined by that fundamental decision. Paul would say to us today that we can never make a better decision than to give Jesus that pre-eminent place in our lives.

QUESTION

What matters most to you?

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PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for the incredible blessing of knowing you. Forgive me for those times when I have allowed other things to get in the way. Amen

