

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Salute to Moderator**

## Image of the day



### Salute to Moderator

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland and his family, along with military chaplains and representatives were the guests of honour at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, enthusiastically hosted by Major General Alastair Bruce, Governor of Edinburgh Castle. The Moderator was invited to receive and acknowledge the Salutes at this most amazing display of Scottish and International talent. The saluting gun in the photo above has a link to Ireland being fired by an Ulster and Scottish Volunteer Reserve Royal Artillery Regiment.

## People and places

### 400th Anniversary of one of Donegal's oldest churches

**Events are being organised to mark 400th anniversary of St Lugadius' Church in Lifford which is recorded as being of national importance in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey. Chris Ashmore writes in Donegal Live.**

There will be an open day on Monday, August 15th as part of the activities to mark the 400th anniversary.

St Lugadius' Church in Clonleigh, Lifford, is recorded as being of national importance in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey for County Donegal, and is in the records of protected structures.

This church, along with Raphoe Cathedral, are the only seventeenth century plantation churches listed as still being intact in Donegal. There are very few left in the whole of Ireland, and it is much rarer to find one still in active use. The open day is from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm on Monday while there will be a special service on Sunday, August 21, at 3.30pm.

Averil Meehan, a long-standing parishioner of St Lugadius's Church, Lifford, Clonleigh Parish, has documented the story



## **St Lugadius' Church in Lifford**

of this historic church and parish from earliest times to the present day.

Lifford, the administrative centre of Donegal, has within its boundaries, the Parish Church of St Lugadius. Though the Parish of Clonleigh was transferred to Raphoe Diocese in 1978, it belongs historically with its neighbouring Parishes of Monellan and Donaghmore, and the Parishes of Inishowen to Derry Diocese.

She has traced the story of the parish right back to its origins in the early Celtic Church, to the time of St Columba in the sixth century.

According to Rev Canon David Crooks, who is Rector of Taughboyne with Craigadooish, All Saints and Killea, the parishioners are confident in their future, despite there being only a small congregation at St Lugadius'.

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“If the people of St Lugadius’ Church, Lifford, in the Parish of Clonleigh continue to support their beautiful church, then there is no reason why it should not continue to bear witness to the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for many years to come,” he states in the special booklet that has been produced to mark the occasion. He also paid tribute to Averil Meehan for “her excellent, beautifully illustrated and readable account of their lovely old church, its history, and its significant place in the community.”  
*Report courtesy of Donegal Live ,August 11, 2022*



## **Newtownabbey minister to walk between churches to help residents experiencing fuel poverty**

**A Methodist minister in Newtownabbey is set to walk between the five churches on her circuit this month in a bid to raise funds to help people who are struggling due to the cost of living crisis, Russell Keers writes in Newtownabbey Times.**

Rev Karen Spence, the minister at Newtownabbey Methodist Church in Rathcoole, will be walking between the churches on her circuit to raise funds and highlight fuel and food poverty across Newtownabbey.

The Mission in Rathcoole issues fuel vouchers to people who are referred to the Rathcoole Drive church and Rev Spence is conducting her generous effort on August 23 as the number of people impacted by fuel poverty increases across the region.

Speaking to the Newtownabbey Times, Rev Spence said: “During the months of June and July 2022 we issued 19 fuel vouchers and in the same period last year we issued 10.

“We expect the issue of fuel and food poverty to get worse as the cost of living continues to increase.

“It is very hard to predict how many people will need assistance over the next few months and into 2023, but given the trend this year it will exceed last year.



“The people we help are not church members, but are referred to us via outside agencies with whom we partner. At Christmas we helped 129 families with fuel vouchers and 249 families received toy vouchers. We expect this to increase this year.

“I am walking from Rathcoole back to Rathcoole via Whiteabbey, Monkstown, Glengormley and Greencastle. I’m leaving the Mission in Rathcoole at 9.30am and hope to be back after 2pm.

“I will be stopping in each church to meet people who may have gathered and speak briefly about how we can fight fuel and food poverty and to encourage them in the work they do. I may receive donations at these stops.”

Rev Spence, who moved to the area last year from Co Kerry, came up with the idea to conduct the charity initiative

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during “a steroid induced sleepless night” as she recovers from treatment for bowel cancer.

Detailing her journey from diagnosis to recovery, she explained: “I was and still am a fit and active person, walking most days and playing golf regularly and had never been ill prior to last August when I took unwell.

“I had just moved to the area from Co Kerry and put it down to both moving house and to a new church. On August 23 I contacted the doctor and I am grateful she took my symptoms seriously and ordered some tests to be done.

“The walk is on August 23 this year because that marks a year since I contacted the doctor. Her prompt action has saved my life, or at least extended it.

“I have remained positive since the diagnosis. I took a sort time off work to recover from the surgery in November 2021 and went back to work in early January 2022 on a phased return. My four cycles of chemotherapy started a week later and I continued working as best I could throughout the chemo as this gave me something to focus on which was good for my mental health. The idea for the walk came on a steroid induced sleepless night!

“I will also do some fundraising for a cancer charity in the future.”

Urging anyone experiencing any symptoms to contact a medical professional, Rev Spence explained: “I would implore people of any age to get any symptoms checked out as soon as possible.



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“People like the late Dame Deborah James and the Radio 1 DJ Adele Roberts have been really helpful in helping people talk about bowel cancer and stoma bags and removing the stigma.”

As Rev Spence’s recovery continues, the Methodist minister has thanked the medical staff and everyone who has supported her over the past year.

She stated: “The treatment I received from my doctor, surgeon, team of oncologists and nursing staff in Laurel House has been amazing given the pressures they continue to work under with Covid-19.

Report courtesy The Newtownabbey Times, August 12, 2022

## **Night of joy welcomes new rector of Wexford**

**The Reverend Norman McCausland was instituted as incumbent of the Church of Ireland’s Wexford and Kilsoran Union of Parishes at a special service in St Iberius Church, Wexford, on Friday night last, August 12th.**

He was instituted by The Venerable Ruth Elmes, Archbishop’s Commissary until the consecration of new Bishop-Elect Adrian Wilkinson in October.

Mr McCausland succeeds Canon Arthur Minion who is now Rector of Birr Union of Parishes in County Offaly.

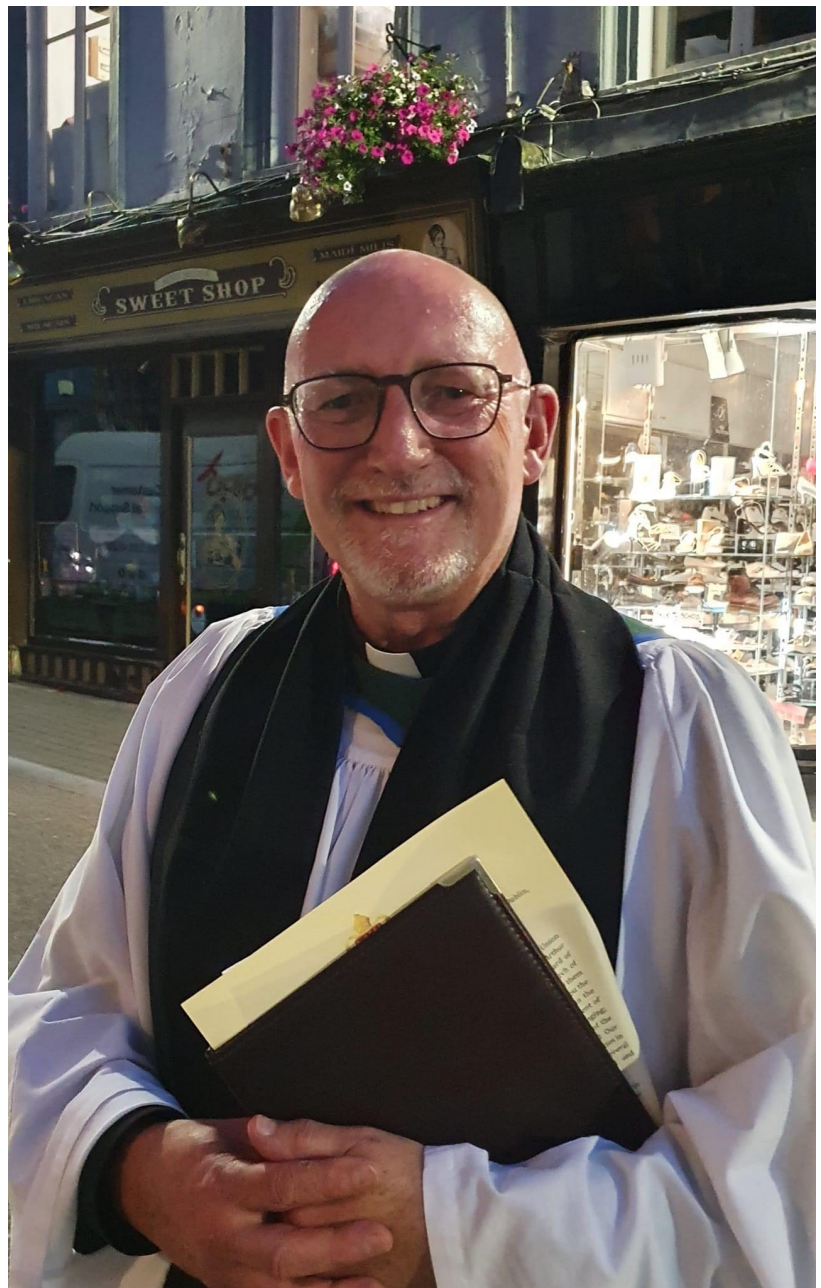
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The new rector is from Omagh originally but has ministered in many places. Prior to his appointment here he was rector of the parish of Raheny and Coolock in the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough for nine years.

**‘I’m about building and rebuilding community and communities of faith’- The Reverend Norman McCausland**

Ordained in 1989, Norman has a rich variety of pastoral and parochial experience and has served on the staff of the Church of Ireland Theological College. He is also known for his interests and qualifications in music, theatre and communications. He is married to Tara and has three sons – Cian 23, Tom 21, and Conor 12.

The preacher at the service of institution was The Reverend Canon Gillian Wharton, Rector of Mount Merrion parish in Dublin (first on left – front row).



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She welcomed the new rector and his family to Wexford and wished Mr McCausland well in this new chapter of his life.

“It is an exciting and daunting time for ministry as we try to work out how it is that we go forward,” she said.

She pointed out that people, clergy and parishioners are tired after the difficulties of the pandemic and witnessing the human cost of the more recent war in Ukraine and other strife around the world. She said that it is time to look to the future and to using everyone’s skills in a parish to develop its ministry, particularly as there are now ‘many more boxes to be ticked and forms to be filled’ in order to comply with State rules and regulations.

“Clergy can’t do it all,” she said. “Today as we gather here in this new sphere of Norman’s ministry we look to the future. Norman is a strategic thinker, he thinks things through, he works out what people’s expectations might be...he is courageous to go and try things...but all those things will be tried with you, as parishioners, working alongside him... and all of those things are subservient to being and doing what God is calling Norman to be and to do with you in this place. Norman has been chosen and called because of the gifts and skills that he has just as in the same way each of you has been called because of the gifts and skills that you have.”

The blueprint for all that’s to be done will be the personal ministry of Jesus Christ, she continued.

“He had to deal with the rules



and regulations, with the prejudices, vices and notions that people had in his day too. The hallmark of His ministry was how people loved and cared for each other. Norman is first and foremost here to care and love you and bring you an experience of God's love and God's ministry as shown in the person of Jesus of Christ," he told the congregation, "and each of you is called to share in that ministry with him so tonight is a night of joy for Wexford and Kilscoran. Tonight our hope and our prayer is that God will richly bless you in your ministry here, Norman, and that together you will grow in your understanding of God, in your faith in Christ and in your care, compassion and love and welcome and inclusion for each other and all those who are beyond these doors and part of the wider community."

Fr Billy Swan welcomed Norman on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church and looked forward to continuing the strong ecumenical relationship that has been established by clergy of all faith traditions in Wexford.

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“I would like to wish you every blessing for a long and fruitful ministry here in Wexford for many years to come,” he said.

He also acknowledged the work, service and friendship of the new rector’s predecessor, Canon Arthur Minion, and saluted the dedicated ministry of the Reverend Conor O’Reilly, curate, particularly as priest-in-charge during the recent vacancy.

Norman McCausland was also welcomed by The Reverend Katherine Kehoe of the Methodist Church.

“I am delighted to be here this evening to greet you and welcome you and your family to the sunny south-east,” she said. “My prayer for you this evening as you set out on a new adventure and journey with God that the light of hope will fill your heart with peace and love.”

Struck by the first scripture reading (Joshua 1:2), she reminded him of what it said and its value when someone was starting out on a journey – Be strong and courageous: do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

## **Focus missionaries for Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen’s University**

**Focus missionaries are set to aid the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen’s University Belfast in its outreach efforts in the coming academic year.**

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Director of Campus Ministry Shannon Campbell said that Focus will help to develop the chaplaincy's "outward vision", which will stop it from becoming a "little holy huddle".

A team of Four focus missionaries will be based with the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's in the next academic year, which Ms Campbell said will be a "big help"

## **CMSI celebrates anniversaries with Bishop and Shyogwe Diocese**

**The CMS Ireland family sent the warmest congratulations to Bishop Jered Kalimba on the 25th anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of Shyogwe, Rwanda and on the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of Shyogwe Diocese!**

CMSI said "We feel very privileged to have been working in partnership with Shyogwe Diocese for the last 14 of those years, giving thanks for all the many ways God is blessing the ministry of the church. It is wonderful to count Bishop Jered and his team as our friends – we are with them in Spirit for the celebration event taking place tomorrow, and pray for God's richest blessings."

## **Irish priest film consultant on Italian exorcist**

**An Irish priest is being consulted on a new film about famous Italian exorcist Fr Gabriel Amorth to ensure the depiction is accurate, The Irish Catholic understands.**

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Part of the The Pope's Exorcist is set in Ireland. The psychological thriller stars Russell Crowe as Fr Amorth, who it is estimated performed about 100,000 exorcisms.

The Irish Catholic understands the priest will also be meeting Mr Crowe to assist him with the role.

## Perspective

### Remembering Jeremy Taylor, bishop, and spiritual teacher

**We thank God for the life and witness of the Rt Rev Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor and spiritual teacher, who died on August 13, 1667.**

In the middle of the seventeenth century the Church of England suffered greatly from civil war and revolution, and many of its people sought guides who could help them find spiritual order in their own lives. Today we remember the finest of these Anglican spiritual teachers, a bishop named Jeremy Taylor.

Taylor had been a priest for nine years when the English Civil War broke out in 1642. He joined the side of King Charles and served as a chaplain in the royal forces.

Towards the end of the war he was captured and briefly imprisoned; on his release he found refuge at the house of the Earl of Carbery in Wales.



Here he acted as spiritual director to the earl's wife and wrote some of his best works. He also experimented with the liturgy and composed one of the first "alternative rites" in Anglican history.



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In 1658 Taylor moved to Ireland and was lecturing there when the monarchy and the Church were restored two years later.

As a reward for his loyalty he was made bishop of two dioceses in northern Ireland, Down and Connor. Taylor had a very hard time because many of his clergy held presbyterian views and refused to acknowledge the authority of any bishop. His conflicts with these clergy wore down his health, and he died after a short illness on this date in 1667.

Almost all of Taylor's writings were designed to help people to develop and keep a rule of spiritual practice. He understood how hard such a task can be, and he did not seek to make it seem easier than it is. He taught that Christians have a fear some personal responsibility for choosing the way of Christ in all their actions.

He also believed that holiness involved training in the deeper and more difficult rule of love — love for God in prayer and love for other humans in the works of everyday life. In the end, Taylor's strictness as a spiritual teacher had a purpose of joy — such joy as can be tasted only by those who accept its cost and practise its duties."

Text from: "For All the Saints"

Image from: Wikipedia article on, "Jeremy Taylor"

## Poem for today

### In Memoriam - Francis Ledwidge by Seamus Heaney

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The bronze soldier hitches a bronze cape  
That crumples stiffly in imagined wind  
No matter how the real winds buff and sweep  
His sudden hunkering run, forever craned  
Over Flanders. Helmet and haversack,  
The gun's firm slope from butt to bayonet,  
The loyal, fallen names on the embossed plaque —  
It all meant little to the worried pet  
I was in nineteen forty-six or seven,  
Gripping my Aunt Mary by the hand  
Along the Portstewart prom, then round the crescent  
To thread the Castle Walk out to the strand.  
The pilot from Coleraine sailed to the coal-boat.  
Courting couples rose out of the scooped dunes.  
A farmer stripped to his studs and shiny waistcoat  
Rolled the trousers down on his timid shins.  
At night when coloured bulbs strung out the sea-front  
Country voices rose from a cliff-top shelter  
With news of a great litter — “We'll pet the runt!” —  
And barbed wire that had torn a friesian's elder.  
Francis Ledwidge, you courted at the seaside  
Beyond Drogheda one Sunday afternoon.  
Literary, sweet-talking, countrified,  
You pedalled out the leafy road from Slane.  
Where you belonged, among the dolorous  
And lovely: the May altar of wild flowers,  
Easter water sprinkled in outhouses,  
Mass-rocks and hill-top raths and raftered byres.  
I think of you in your Tommy's uniform,  
A haunted Catholic face, pallid and brave,  
Ghosting the trenches with a bloom of hawthorn  
Or silence cored from a Boyne passage-grave.  
It's summer, nineteen-fifteen. I see the girl

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My aunt was then, herding on the long acre.  
Behind a low bush in the Dardanelles  
You suck stones to make your dry mouth water.  
It's nineteen-seventeen. She still herds cows,  
But a big strafe puts the candles out in Ypres:  
'My soul is by the Boyne, cutting new meadows...  
My country wears her confirmation dress.'  
'To be called a British soldier while my country  
Has no place among nations...' You were rent  
By shrapnel six weeks later. 'I am sorry  
That party politics should divide our tents.'  
In you, our dead enigma, all the strains  
Criss-cross in useless equilibrium  
And as the wind tunes through this vigilant bronze  
I hear again the sure confusing drum  
You followed from Boyne water to the Balkans  
But miss the twilit note your flute should sound.  
You were not keyed or pitched like these true-blue ones  
Though all of you consort now underground.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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