

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Nostalgia Carrickfergus

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Nostalgia Carrickfergus

The cutter 'Peggy Bawn' was built by Hilditch of Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim in 1894. Peggy Bawn was designed by the great G L Watson of Glasgow and built by John Hilditch in Carrickfergus for the Commodore of the Carrickfergus Sailing Club, J. Alfred Lepper. Watson was the pre-eminent yacht designer of the period, having designed Britannia for the Prince of Wales in 1893 as well as numerous others. Here is something of her history from when she came up for sale a couple of years ago, having undergone a wonderful restoration. <https://www.sandemanyachtcompany.co.uk/yacht/302/g-l-watson-36-ft-cutter-18942005>

People and places

Julieann Moran appointed as new General Secretary of the Synodal Pathway

Julieann was formerly the National Secretary for the Society of Missionary Children at Missio Ireland, where she worked since 2016 to raise mission awareness and develop evangelisation resources for dioceses, parishes, and Catholic primary schools across the island of Ireland.

The position of General Secretary is a new appointment and its purpose will be to promote synodality in the Irish Catholic



Church, coordinating the work of the national Synodal Pathway and supporting Ireland’s contribution to the Synod on Synodality initiated by Pope Francis for 2021-2023 with the theme, ‘For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission’. The post includes responsibility for consultation, planning, communications and administration.

Welcoming the appointment, Dr Nicola Brady, chair of the Synodal Steering Committee, said, “Julieann comes to this role having already made a significant contribution to the work of promoting synodality in the Irish Church at all levels – local, national and universal. In particular, Julieann’s experience in connecting the local Church in Ireland to wider global realities will be invaluable as the synodal process develops. On behalf of the Steering Committee I wish Julieann every success as Secretary General.”

Following her appointment, Julieann said, “I am delighted to be appointed to this very significant role, and grateful for the



opportunity to help shape the next steps taken on this synodal journey.

As we continue to reflect upon our preparations for the Universal Synod, and what we have learnt so far in Ireland about who we are as a people of God, I look forward to working with as many people as possible in further outreach, consultations, and spiritual conversations for the Synodal Pathway. This will be a demanding task but a synodal Church is a Church that reaches out and listens: listens to God and listens to one another. With prayer, patience, and the Holy Spirit, I am convinced that synodality is essential in a Church that nurtures and renews the Gospel message of Jesus Christ today.”

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Bishop Brendan Leahy, vice-chair of the Synodal Steering Committee, said, “I am delighted with the appointment of Julieann Moran. I believe that on the basis of Julieann’s vast experience of Church on so many levels – pastoral, cultural and missionary – she will contribute much to our Synodal Pathway in Ireland. In particular, I believe she will be able to engender a vibrant networking of individuals, parishes and dioceses, as well as congregations, movements and organisations, as we delve into the key Synod question: ‘What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?’ I know that Julieann’s appointment will be warmly welcomed by many”

Assistant Diocesan and Provincial Registrar appointed

The Revd Sean Hanily, the Rector of Rathmichael in Dublin, has been appointed Assistant Diocesan and Provincial Registrar.

Mr Hanily is music graduate who, prior to ordination, worked in a County Registrar’s Office, as an archivist, and also in an administrative role in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin.

Making the announcement, Archbishop Michael Jackson commented: “I wish the Revd Sean Hanily well as he undertakes the role of Assistant Diocesan and Provincial Registrar. I have every confidence that he will work effectively with the Diocesan and Provincial Registrar, the Revd Robert Marshall”.

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In his new role, Mr Hanily will support the work of the Diocesan and Provincial Registrar. The Revd Robert Marshall welcomed the appointment stating: “I am



delighted that the Revd Sean Hanily has been appointed by the Archbishop as Assistant Diocesan and Provincial Registrar and look forward to working with him in the coming years”.

Mr Hanily, who continues to serve as Rector of Rathmichael, said he was delighted and honoured to be appointed to the role by the Archbishop. “I am thankful to the Archbishop for his trust in me as a young cleric and look forward to serving the dioceses in this new capacity as well as my ongoing ministry in Rathmichael,” he said.

Mr Hanily has been Rector of Rathmichael since November 2020. Prior to that he had been Curate of Drumragh with Mountfield (Omagh) in the Diocese of Derry since 2018.

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Visitor from Lichfield Diocese to Cork, Cloyne and Ross developing Diocesan links



The Rev. Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum and the Rev. Julia Cody after the service in front of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.

To further develop the link between the Diocese of Lichfield, UK and the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Rev. Julia Cody, link person from Lichfield, visited the Diocese of Cork during the month of July 2022 as part of her sabbatical.

During her time in Cork, the Rev. Julia Cody visited a number of parishes, events, and sights all across County

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Cork. She discovered the many different aspects of life in the Diocese, from the urban parts to the most rural parts, and she also got to know the varied and inclusive nature of the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross. Many of the parishes, youth groups, and organisations in the Diocese showed great interest in building lasting relationships, and welcomed the initiative, inviting Julia to their churches, events, and homes.

After her visit, Julia wrote, “My time in the Diocese was great. I really enjoyed meeting people, exploring possible links, and I feel like I have a much better picture of the Diocese and some of the possibilities. It was a privilege to preach at St Fin Barre’s Cathedral and I hope that link will be able to develop, too. It was great to chat and build relationships, as well as to have some time to enjoy beautiful Co. Cork. Thank you for so much time, for the fun, and the friendship. It was great and I hope to visit again in the not too distant future and develop the existing links even further”.

New Curate Assistant for Cork parish

The Ven. Adrian Wilkinson welcomed the Rev. Jean Carney as the new Curate Assistant to Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield.

Jean is currently a Deacon and will be ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop on 14th September, 2022 in St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, Cork.



The Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson commented, “I was delighted to welcome the Revd Jean Carney to some of our services on Sunday 14 August. She met a number of parishioners that day, and I hope she will feel very at home among us as she settles

into life in Cork. Jean brings many gifts with her into full time ministry, and we look forward to supporting her as she prepares for her ordination as a priest next month”.

Jean said, “I am delighted to be chosen to serve as Curate in the Douglas with Frankfield group of parishes. With such a warm welcome on Sunday, I know that I am going to enjoy my time here. I look forward to meeting everyone over the next few weeks.

NI Scouts seek a Youth Commissioner

The role of NI Youth Commissioner is to ensure that young people from 4–25 years are involved and engaged in every decision that shapes their Scouting experience locally and to empower young people to share their ideas and have a meaningful voice in planning and implementing and reviewing their programme and opportunities.

The role is for anyone aged between 18 and 25. It doesn't matter if the individual you want to nominate is new to Scouting; we welcome nominations of and from external candidates.

To nominate others or yourself, please complete the nomination form below. Please complete by Friday 16th September 2022.

<https://form.jotform.com/221584260149354>

Room at The Hub, QUB

The team at The Hub arise - “We are currently able to offer a limited number of spaces in both shared and single rooms for September.

“If applying for a shared space, you may apply with a friend – but please ensure you each enter your own separate application. At the time of writing, we have two shared spaces to offer – this will fluctuate as incoming students confirm their A Level results – but this should give an idea of the limited availability.



“If you have any questions, or have recently applied but have yet to hear back from us, please do not hesitate to get in touch. All of the information is available on our website – <https://thehubbelfast.org/2022/06/28/apply/>

The Hub also has on offer Café staff and internship opportunities —

Apply or spread the word!

<https://thehubbelfast.org>

World News

Archbishop delivers his final key note address to the Lambeth Conference

‘Honest’ Lambeth Conference a success, says Archbishop of Canterbury

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The Archbishop of Canterbury has described the Lambeth Conference as “a success” as he shared his reflections on the once-in-a-decade event.

Writing in the Church Times, Most Rev Justin Welby said he believed the conference was “a series of remarkable surprises and examples of God’s gracious action” and was reminded that “the Church is built first and foremost on the grace of God, expressed in honest relationships”.

One of the aims of the conference was honesty about internal challenges, especially around sexuality, Archbishop Justin wrote.

He recognised that the crisis over the Human Dignity call became “a moment of frustration”.

“We honestly admitted that there is deep disagreement and a plurality of views across Anglican provinces — but we remained committed to listening and walking together to the maximum possible degree despite these deep disagreements,” he said.

“There is no doubting that these are matters on which there is profound disagreement among us, and that was clear in the run-up to that session.

“But again, by the grace of God we “walked in the light” and committed ourselves to listening and walking together to the maximum possible degree, despite our deep disagreements,” he added.

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Other aims such as committing to action on mission and evangelism, reconciliation, climate change, and safeguarding, among others, were also achieved.

During the conference, he also acknowledged “signs of where the Holy Spirit” may be leading the Anglican Communion in the coming years, especially around ecclesiology. Separately, there was a sense of spiritual renewal around solidarity with other faiths, the importance of the church being primarily local, and global justice, he wrote.

Archbishop Justin concluded: “I BELIEVE the Conference was a success: not because it produced a great outburst of agreement, but because it showed, in a very fractured world, that disagreement without hatred is possible, diversity is a gain, not a problem, and that we can find greater organic unity if we look outwards and give ourselves to the missio dei.

“Most of all, after 14 years in which world crises have come with remorseless regularity for all of us, we rediscovered the love of God in the face of Christ.”

You can read the Church Times article here -

[[] <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2022/19-august/news/uk/honest-lambeth-conference-a-success-says-archbishop-of-canterbury>]

Ursula von der Leyen at Taizé

Mrs Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, will be in Taizé on Saturday 27 August.

During her visit, she will meet with the community and dialogue with young people there.

Brother Alois commented: "Our desire as a community is that all the young people who come to Taizé may feel that trust in God helps them to find meaning in their lives and to assume responsibilities when they return home. Ursula von der Leyen's visit is an important moment, which indicates that the aspirations and commitments of the younger generation are being heard and taken into account by political leaders and institutions. In this respect, this visit, in the serious crises of the present time, will be a sign of hope."

Ursula von der Leyen will give a public lecture on European affairs at 5.30pm. It will be possible to attend this conference by registering in advance See: www.taize.fr/fr_article34442.html .__

During this special week for young adults from 18 to 35 years old, other speakers will lead workshops, among them experts in various fields, scientists, political leaders - the full program will be published on the website. A special program on saving biodiversity will be offered for those who wish to attend.

International meetings have resumed their course in Taizé after two years affected by the pandemic. Since Easter, more than 20,000 young people have come to take part week after week in the activities offered: community prayer, sharing in small groups, workshops for reflection, practical tasks.

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Other upcoming events include: This Saturday, August 20, as part of the "week of witness to the Orthodox faith", a special day will take place in Taizé: Metropolitan Dimitrios will come from Paris to celebrate the divine liturgy at 9 am, in the Church of Reconciliation.

The next European meeting will take place from December 28 to January 1, 2023 in Rostock, in the north of Germany, on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

The evening prayer continues to be broadcast live each day in audio on the Taizé website, and the Saturday evening prayer in live video: www.taize.fr/en_article28227.html

Official launch of London to Walsingham Camino

The official launch of the London to Walsingham Camino, and the publication of the accompanying guidebook, will take place on Saturday, 3 September 2022.

The schedule for the day includes three locations and a walk between them, in part along the ancient pilgrimage route.

CNI

In the media

DUP strategy on NI Protocol paying off with unionists, poll suggests

The results of a series of recent polls come as little surprise in some respects but in others have sparked heated debate, states Belfast Live

It is not unexpected that the DUP's hardline strategy against Brexit's Northern Ireland Protocol appears to be paying off with unionists.

The party is on 24% in the latest LucidTalk poll, up three points since May's election, while rivals UUP remain unchanged on 11% and TUV is on 6% (-2).

But the move in turn appears to be consolidating support for Sinn Féin on 30% (+1) and Alliance on 16% (+2). It comes at the expense of the SDLP, down two points to 7%.

There has been much more debate over LucidTalk's poll about Michelle O'Neill's recent comments that there was "no alternative" to IRA violence during the Troubles.

Her remarks drew widespread criticism from political opponents, but in the survey 69% of nationalist voters agreed with the Sinn Féin vice-president.

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Almost 75% of nationalists aged between 18 and 44 agreed with Ms O'Neill, according to the poll published by the Belfast Telegraph.

DUP MP Gregory Campbell claimed Ms O'Neill's leadership has caused a new generation to grow up to "romanticise the campaign of shooting and bombing".

On the future of Northern Ireland, 48% of those surveyed support remaining in the UK compared to 41% backing a united Ireland, while 11% are undecided.

However, unionists will be concerned that 57% of 18 to 24-year-olds surveyed support a united Ireland compared to 35% for the Union.

Polls are only a snapshot in time, but parties will be closely considering the results as they prepare for council elections next year - and a possible snap Stormont election by January.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Prison Governor's Journal

Prisons in England and Wales have weathered a succession of crises since 1947. In this inspiring book, Brendan O'Friel considers the impact of cell

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overcrowding and regime destruction on both staff and prisoners.

The consequential inability to reduce re-offending, he argues, generates continuing threats to public safety.

Drawing on his decades of service as a Governor, O'Friel, an alumni of Stonyhurst, explores some "unanswered questions" arising from the chronic prison crises. He provides insights into life within the seven penal establishments in which he served, including the "explosion of evil" - his story of the Strangeways riot of April 1990.

From being involved in the difficult formation of the Prison Governors Association in 1987, he describes the work of the Association to influence and improve penal policy and practice.

The 2020 Covid 19 Pandemic has added substantially to the prisons crisis but Brendan O'Friel suggests it may also offer a surprising opportunity for radical change. Illustrated with photographs, verse, drawings and cartoons, the book captures the realities of the prison crisis.

For more information see: www.prisonsgovernorjournal.com/

Prison Governor's Journal by Brendan O'Friel, ISBN 978 152 62 0847 7 is available from all good bookshops.

To order a copy online see:

www.prisonsgovernorjournal.com/where-to-buy.html

Presbyterian Expressions

Expressions is an 8 session film series that seeks to help connect themes from different passages of Scripture and open up conversations on how their faith expresses itself in everyday life and witness.

Order now:

presbyterianireland.org/expressions

Perspective

Frederick Buechner and our understanding of The Resurrection

The recent passing of the great preacher, novelist, and theologian Frederick Buechner (July 11, 1926 - August 15, 2022) reminds me of a small piece of his commentary on the resurrection which is particularly relevant as some clergy colleagues argue about the necessity of belief in the “bodily” resurrection.

Buechner liked to remind us that in the Bible, the best parts of the story are often in the margins, at the edge of what seems to be the main event. Between the tragedy of Good Friday and the triumph of Easter Sunday, it is easy to miss what happens at the edges of the story. First, two Pharisees, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, go to Pilate and ask for permission to give Jesus a proper burial. And then, if we follow the path at the edge of the story, it gets even more interesting. Matthew tells it this way:

The religious leaders went to Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what this imposter said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” (Matthew 27:62-65)

Buechner points to those few lines in Matthew’s gospel as the fulcrum on which the Easter story turns. Easter begins, not with faith but with doubt. The old men tell Pilate they are afraid that Jesus’ disciples will steal his body and claim that he has come back to life. But behind the fear they name is another one they cannot even bring themselves to whisper in the silence of their own hearts.

A few days ago they were certain, but now they have doubts.

It is a wonderful irony. As Buechner tells the story, Pilate and Herod have patched up their feud and joined together to have him executed. His followers have scattered. One disciple betrayed him, another denied even knowing him, and all of them are in hiding. The disciples are devastated. Their dreams have been crushed. Yet, while the disciples are certain of defeat, others have begun to doubt. For the old men who stand before Pilate, the doubt is becoming unbearable.

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They want a Roman guard, as if that could stop it. But all the soldiers in the world will not be able to prevent the inevitable. It is, as Buechner says, like trying to stop the wind with a machine gun.

Buechner reminds us that Easter begins, not with faithful and brave young disciples, but with fearful and doubting old men. In spite of all the evidence, they are not certain that he is dead. It is only a small crack in the façade of their certainty that the future will be just like the past. But it is enough. Like the flower pushing up through the pavement. The certainty of death gives way to the mystery of life.

Poem for today

The Railway Children by Seamus Heaney

When we climbed the slopes of the cutting
We were eye-level with the white cups
Of the telegraph poles and the sizzling wires.

Like lovely freehand they curved for miles
East and miles west beyond us, sagging
Under their burden of swallows.

We were small and thought we knew nothing
Worth knowing. We thought words travelled the wires
In the shiny pouches of raindrops,

Each one seeded full with the light
Of the sky, the gleam of the lines, and ourselves
So infinitesimally scaled

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We could stream through the eye of a needle.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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