

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Black Head from Whitehead

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Image of the day

Black Head from Whitehead

People and places



Annalong Tractor Run hits the roads again

On Friday 29 July Kilhorne Church (Annalong) held their annual Tractor Run and raised over £3700 for parishioner Jane White who volunteers with Mercy Ships.

The event took place just as the good weather broke however, as Rector, Revd Geoff Hamilton says, “it takes



Jane White who serves aboard the Mercy Ships

more than rain to stop the people of Mourne from having a great night!”

He continues:

“The support from the local community was so encouraging as they stood in the rain watching around 100 vehicles travelling through the village and surrounding area. The evening continued with hotdogs, and desserts and cups of tea in the church hall. Around 300 people packed into the hall to enjoy the food and craic!

“It was such a brilliant community night with everyone enjoying coming together again but there was more going on than tractors, hot dogs and desserts as this was an event to raise funds and awareness for Jane White. Jane is one of our parishioners who is part of an important ministry called Mercy Ships. Jane and her team deliver vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need. By the end of the evening we had raised £3700 for Jane and her work, with more donations coming in.

“You know, something happens when we come together with a shared focus, as we’re able to do things in a way we couldn’t do as individuals. Even though the rain arrived it didn’t dampen the evening and it was extra special this year as Jane was able to be with us and share a little about her work.

“We do life better together!”

Munch on Mondays at St John's Ballyclare

Love Ballyclare, a local news net reports -

“Called by to say hello to the fantastic 'Munch on Mondays' team outside St John's Parish Church this



morning and came away with this amazing selection of deliciousness. four different types of bread rolls and sticks; a stone baked double pepperoni pizza topped with tomato and basil sauce and mozzarella; perfectly ripe baby plum tomatoes; and a chocolate trifle with layers of indulgent chocolate custard, chocolate sponge and a rich chocolate

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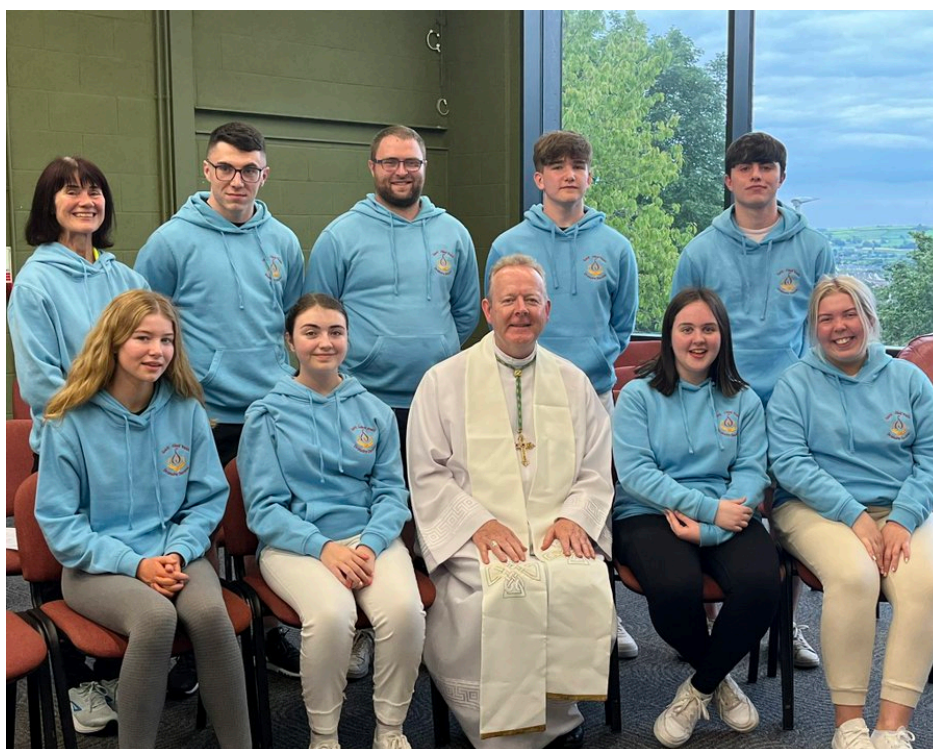
✉ nickymorton@hotmail.co.uk

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mousse, finished with a sweetened cream topping and chocolate curls. Hard to believe that had it not been for the incredible generosity of local suppliers like the Coop in Ballynure and the hard work of the MoM team at St John's, this amazing food would have ended up in the bin today.

“If you know of anyone who is struggling to cope right now, please let them know about 'Munch on Mondays', or call by yourselves and see what's available for FREE each Monday between 11 and 12. You never know what you'll come away but you'll be saving this fantastic fresh food from going to waste and you could be helping someone out when they really need it most!”



Archbishop thanks Dromore Diocese youth leaders

Archbishop Eamon Martin has expressed thanks to Dromore Diocese youth leaders, organising enjoyable,



action-packed summer camps for our young people and helping them to 'step forward in faith'! "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news (Is 52:7)

Training Day for Primary School Choir Directors

Places are still available for the Charles Wood's SC Training Day for Primary School Choir Directors on Monday 22nd August, led by @aiskenney and Judith Gannon. Full details and bookings available here: <https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/training-day-for-primary-school-choir-directors-tickets-354502706137>



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FIND US ON



Joan Lingard - author

Author whose ‘Kevin and Sadie’ novels depicted a young couple’s relationship during the Troubles

Joan Lingard who has died aged 90, revolutionised children’s books in the 1970s with her explosively topical Kevin and Sadie novels, a Romeo-and-Juliet series about a Catholic boy and a Protestant girl in contemporary Belfast, which sold more than a million copies and became school set texts.

Lingard had already published five adult novels – starting in 1963, with Liam’s Daughter – when she decided to write a love story for teenagers, set in the working-class Belfast neighbourhoods in which she had grown up, where “Catholic and Protestant families lived close to each other, but they could as well have been a thousand miles apart. They even went to different chip shops.”

It was the late 1960s, the Troubles were escalating and her agent warned her that turning such grim headlines into a children’s novel would be distasteful, and no publisher would touch it. Joan Lingard wrote it anyway. “I felt that the only way to get any change for the better was to start with the young.”

She called her novel *The Twelfth Day of July*, and its heroine is Sadie Jackson, a smart, fiery Protestant girl who catches Catholic Kevin McCoy in the act of spraying “Down with King Billy” just before the Protestants’ march on July 12 to celebrate William of Orange’s victory in the Battle of the

Boyne. As tit-for-tat graffiti escalates into a bloody riot, the pair fall inconveniently in love.

Julia McCrae, a publisher at Puffin, the children's imprint of Penguin, was handed the manuscript by a writer friend, who told her: "You should read this. The person who has written it can't get it published. They're all saying it's too risky." McCrae realised that "the book was very good. Too good not to publish."

Saved from the reject pile, *The Twelfth Day* came out in 1970, and was a commercial hit, followed by *Across the Barricades* (1972), her most famous novel, which became mandatory reading at schools, in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and even as far afield as South Africa and Germany.

Joan Lingard wrote three further Kevin and Sadie novels, *Into Exile* (1973), *A Proper Place* (1975) and *Hostages to Fortune* (1976), which follow the couple as they are forced to scrape a living in England. The series has sold more than 1.3 million copies, been translated into more than a dozen languages, and has never been out of print.

Groundbreaking in setting a children's story within the closely observed fabric of modern working-class life, the series paved the way for the grittiness of authors like Jacqueline Wilson and Melvin Burgess. There had never been a fictional heroine like Sadie, a marginalised Northern Irish teenager who talks frankly about her sexual desires, and whose blistering irreverence would, half a century later, influence the hit sitcom *Derry Girls*. The phrase "Kevin and Sadie" also entered the lexicon: a critic described U2's 2015 short film about punks in 1980s Northern Ireland who fall in

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love across the sectarian divide as “Kevin and Sadie with safety pins”.

The novels were praised for their even-handedness. Although Joan Lingard went to a Protestant school, she was “considered something of an oddity” because she was a Christian Scientist, so “I didn’t belong to either side”. When asked whether she identified with free-spirited Sadie, she said: “Yes. But part of me is Kevin, too.”

Joan Amelia Lingard was born on April 8 1932 in Edinburgh, to Henry Lingard, the son of Stoke Newington publicans, who had joined the Navy at 14, and Elizabeth (née Beattie), from Tollcross in Edinburgh. The birth took place on Canongate, off the Royal Mile, in a taxi on the way to hospital.

When she was two, her father was posted to Belfast, and the family moved to a redbrick terrace in the east of the city, “a very parochial, small community” that was predominantly Protestant, and “while not going as far as to paint its kerbstones red, white and blue, had a strong Orange cast to it”.

At her Protestant school, Bloomfield Collegiate, “not a word about Irish history was breathed, nor were we encouraged to read Irish writers apart from a few poems by Yeats.”

The girls would do their skipping to the line: “If I’d a penny do you know what I’d do? I’d buy a rope and hang the pope and let King Billy through.” Whenever a nun passed on the street, she was taught to avert her eyes. There were two

Catholic families on the street, but only her mother, “who carried no such baggage”, would talk to them.

By the time she was 11, Joan had finished all the “ancient” children’s books in the local library, so her mother suggested she should write something of her own. In green ink, “a suitably artistic colour for a writer”, she wrote an Enid Blyton-style story about smugglers in Cornwall.

Her adventurous imagination also led her to tail her teacher, a German émigré whom she and her schoolfriends had decided was a spy, around wartime Belfast for incriminating evidence. “We were very shocked when, on VE day, she waved a Union Jack in celebration. It turned out that she was Jewish.” Later, Joan Lingard turned the misunderstanding into her children’s story, *The File on Fraulein Berg* (1980), “as an apology”.

In 1946, when she was 14, her mother became ill with breast cancer, and died two years later: “It was the worst moment of my life.” Joan Lingard left school with only a senior certificate, and got a job teaching at a Belfast elementary school, 54 children to a class, “no desks, only benches”. After eight months, she got a job at the Ulster Bank instead, then, aged 18, followed her father to Edinburgh, where she was a librarian, then trained as a teacher at Moray House College of Education.

In 1954 she married Fred England, and had three daughters, but the success of her novels gave her the financial independence, in 1971, to leave a marriage that “wasn’t happy for me”. The next year, skiing in Glenshee,

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she met Martin Birkhans, a Canadian architect. They married in 1996.

Birkhans's childhood as a Latvian refugee – his family fled the Soviet Army in 1944 and were shunted around Europe before settling in Canada – gave her source material for her novels *Tug of War* (shortlisted for the 1989 Carnegie Medal) and its sequel, *Between Two Worlds*. In all, she wrote 57 novels, for children and adults, and was on the founding committee of the Edinburgh Book Festival; she set a record by appearing every year. In 1999 she was appointed MBE.

Allan Massie was one of many critics who thought her underrated. “Her books are well-crafted, the story deftly told, the characters thoroughly imagined. She is a moralist, concerned with how people behave to each other; her judgment, though acute, is rarely harsh. She understands just how difficult it often is to behave well, how attractive temptation may be. (If it wasn't attractive, it would be easy to resist, and moral or ethical questions would be fewer.) In short, she is very good.”

Joan Lingard's final novel, *Trouble on Cable Street*, was published in 2014. She is survived by her husband Martin, and by her three daughters.

Joan Lingard, born April 8 1932, died July 12 2022

In the media

Warning by Archbishop on future of Catholic Church in Ireland

‘Look at your priest, he may be the last in a long line of resident pastors’, says senior cleric Patsy McGarry the Religious Affairs Correspondent of The Irish Times writes

Where the Catholic Church in Ireland is concerned “the one certainty is the ongoing and sustained decline both in the numbers who practice and in the numbers of those who answer the Lord’s call to priesthood and religious life,” Archbishop of Tuam Francis Duffy has said.

“All trends are dramatically downwards with no turning point in sight. I suggest you look at your priest, he may be the last in a long line of resident pastors and may not be replaced,” he said.

“I suggest you look at your church, you may be lucky to have a Sunday Mass or several, but for how much longer? I suggest you look at your fellow parishioners at Mass, who among your neighbours will continue to be the new leaders and carry on pastoral work in your parish, alongside a much smaller number of clergy? Who among them will lead prayer services and keep faith alive and active through catechesis and other initiatives?,” he said.

“Some may think I have painted a somewhat dismal picture. It is the current reality as I see it, and as I know many of you see it too. While we must face it and work with it, we must not lose hope,” he said.

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It was “a time of decline in some respect but it is a time of great hope. Opportunities are there to be seized,” he said. It was “the best of times to be a priest, challenging – yes, with risks – yes, with God on our side – yes”.

It was “a time for faith, faith into action, faith into reaching out,” he said.

Noting that the Catholic Church in Ireland “has formally entered a synodal process” in which the faithful were being consulted on its future, he said he is “convinced that this is the way to go and it will be a fruitful new departure”.

But, he warned “the synodal process is a pathway not a runway.” In saying that “some people wondered if I was dampening down expectations, I said I was being realistic,” he said.

The synodal process was “a new chapter for the Catholic Church in this country. It means learning as we journey together all the while being guided by the Holy Spirit. It means being patient with each other and respectful of differing views, being adventurous and willing to value the new, as well as the traditional, and it calls for being focused.”

There were “no quick fix solutions or approaches as we reflect on and consider our Church. Instead we journey together on a path that will have many twists and turns and will not always be easy.”

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The Archbishop was speaking as a report is being prepared for submission to Rome by August 15th next as part of preparations there for a Synod in October 2023.

The report is a synthesis of many radical views expressed by Irish Catholics following widespread consultations in the Church's 26 dioceses across the island where laity called for fundamental change, including the ordination of women, a removal of mandatory celibacy for priests, and for a more inclusive Church more with regard to members of the LGBTI+ community, the divorced and remarried, single parents, and cohabiting couples.

Last month the Catholic Primate Archbishop Eamon Martin warned against "divisiveness and polarisation of views" as preparations continue on the report to be submitted to Rome this month. It was "vitally important," he said, not to allow the discussion about the synod in Rome next year to "degenerate into a kind of them and us adversarial process which loses sight of our shared belonging within the Church of Christ".

Concerns have been expressed in Ireland, and elsewhere, that these pre-synodal discussions throughout the Catholic world could damage, not create, communion in the church, even as the synod would "not diminish the teaching authority of the pope and the bishops, but rather affirm and enhance it," Archbishop Martin said.

Patsy McGarry is Religious Affairs Correspondent of The Irish Times

Lambeth focus

Creation of safe communities is a core part of the Church's global mission, say bishops

Lambeth Calls session on Safe Church

Bishops at the Lambeth Conference agreed to take forward a Lambeth Call on Safe Church and recommitted to making the safety of all people in the provinces of the Anglican Communion a priority of their focus. They made this public commitment following a plenary session on Safe Church, which included a presentation from a survivor and interviews with the Archbishops of Canterbury and Cape Town.

Abuse survivor Dr Ann-Marie Wilson, who has given evidence to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), gave a powerful video testimony in which she spoke of the trauma of the church-related abuse she suffered as a child and subsequent abuse as a young woman and adult. Issuing a challenge to bishops across the globe she said that in order to be relevant to the next generation they must clear up the past, give a clear apology and ensure protections are in place that will ensure that the Church of the future will have no place for abuse.

During a follow up interview Mandy Marshall, the Anglican Communion's Director for Gender, asked the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

(Southern Africa Province), what effect dealing with Safe Church issues has had on them.

Archbishop Justin spoke about the impact of abuse on survivors and said that the biggest challenge of his ministry had been to try and get the institution of the Church to be serious about it and never to cover up. Talking in the context of countries where there is much persecution and violence, he stressed that the issue of misuse of power is fundamental. He said that he always took those who disclosed very seriously, and that it is vital that all clergy know how to report concerns appropriately. He stressed the importance of the verse from 1 John: 1:8 “If we say we have no sin we lie, and the truth is not in us.”

Archbishop Thabo said he had found Ann-Marie’s video message very moving and apologised for the sins of former priests. He described the understandable anger of victims with the Church and its leaders and said how important it was to deal with people in a pastoral way – which can be especially difficult if cases are played out in the public domain. But, he said, it was important that Safe Church in South Africa is now carried out independently.

Chair of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission, Garth Blake, outlined the development of work on safeguarding in the Communion, noting the establishment of a Charter by the Anglican Consultative Council, followed by the establishment of the Safe Church Commission in 2016 and the publication in 2019 of Safe Church guidelines.

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As part of the Call, the bishops committed to intentionally sharing safeguarding information about clergy between Churches of the Anglican Communion to improve safety and standards around the Communion. They also committed to adopting the Communion-wide Charter for the Safety of People (see above).

The Call also speaks of the creation of communities in which all people are safe and cared for as a key part of the Church's mission and commits to action that will make churches of the Anglican Communion places of enhanced safety for everyone. Provinces of the Communion, through their representatives, will regularly report their progress on fulfilling their responsibility to protect all people in their care.

Evangelism is the core business of the Church

The Archbishop spoke during the plenary on Mission and Evangelism at the Lambeth Conference.

He tweeted 'Evangelism is the core business of the Church. Bishops must lead by example. Beginning with our own need to receive the gospel.'

You can read his address in full:

<http://ow.ly/QsQe50K6e7>

Poem for today

Irish Poetry by Eavan Boland

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for Michael Hartnett

We always knew there was no Orpheus in Ireland. No music
stored at the doors of hell.

No god to make it.

No wild beasts to weep and lie down to it.

But I remember an evening when the sky was dark at four.

When ice had seized every part of the city and we sat
talking—

the air making a wreath for our cups of tea.

And you began to speak of our own gods. Our heartbroken
pantheon:

No Attic light for them and no Herodotus but thin rain and
dogfish and the stopgap of the sharp cliffs
they spent their winters on.

And the pitch-black Atlantic night.

And how the sound

of a bird's wing in a lost language sounded.

You made the noise for me.

Made it again.

Until I could see the flight of it: suddenly

the silvery, lithe rivers of your southwest lay down in silence
and the savage acres no one could predict were all at ease,
soothed and quiet and

listening to you, as I was. As if to music, as if to peace.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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