



**Image of the day -  
Inspector of the environment**

## People and places

### European Heritage Open Day - First Dunmurry NSPCI

**European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) is Northern Ireland's annual celebration of local architecture, history and culture. Each year many properties and locations open their doors to the public to host lots of free events.**

First Dunmurry NSPCI will be participating on Sunday 12th September. It will be open from 11.30am to 3pm. Visitors are welcome to join the Sunday Service from 11.30-12.15pm or explore the beautiful church building and grounds. Church volunteers will be available on the day to answer any questions on its fascinating history.

Why should you visit First Dunmurry NSPCI?

“First Dunmurry NSPCI is a beautiful 18th century church located on the outskirts of Belfast, surrounded by a peaceful graveyard. Rev. Dr Henry Montgomery, preacher, teacher and reformer is commemorated by an Ulster Historical Society Blue Circle Plaque and by an impressive marble memorial located inside the church building. Renowned as a brilliant orator, Montgomery worked tirelessly for the rights of many different causes (including Catholic emancipation) and led the remonstrance of liberal Irish Presbyterians in Ireland.

The congregation can be traced to the 17th century, however, worship originally took place short distance from

# EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2021

6 to 12 September

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where the current church resides. The present building is the second on the site and was constructed in 1779, incorporating part of the original building at the rear of the church. In the late 19th century, a second storey was added to the church and a balcony and organ loft was erected behind the pulpit.

When visiting the church, it is worth taking a close look at the box pews which feature different styles of panelling unique to the original members of the congregation who brought their own wood to create their own seating.

A beautiful stained-glass window depicting the McCance family's journey to church was erected in the early 1900's in memory of John McCance JP (1816-63) and his brother Henry (1829-1900). The window has been attributed to **Tiffany & Co**, and is reminiscent of the Tiffany 'Autumn Landscape' window which is now part of the collection of the [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)



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Metropolitan Museum in New York. Unfortunately, the window was damaged during The Troubles when the signal box at the nearby railway crossing was bombed and has since been partially restored to its former glory.

Marble memorials inside the church commemorate **Rev. Dr Henry Montgomery** and his son, also named Henry who fought during the First and Second Sikh Wars and died when returning from India in 1857.

The church's beautiful pulpit was restored in 1976 in memory of Elizabeth Andrews, the daughter of **Thomas Andrews** who perished with the **RMS Titanic**.

First Dunmurry Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church welcomes a congregation of worshipers who meet together every Sunday to uphold the proud traditions of liberal Presbyterianism, which have characterised this special place for centuries.

[<https://firstchurchdunmurry.com/upcoming-events/european-heritage-open-day/>]

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/european-heritage-open-days>

## **The Dean of St Paul's announces retirement in 2022**

**The Dean of St Paul's, London, the Very Revd Dr David Ison, has announced his intention to retire in**

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**September 2022. Dr David Ison will be 68, and will have served at the Cathedral for ten years.**

The Dean leads the Cathedral assisted by the Residentiary and Lay Canons, enabling Chapter to implement the agreed vision for St Paul's. Recruitment for the next Dean of St Paul's will begin later this year.

The Very Revd Dr David Ison says "Being part of the team shaping St Paul's for the twenty-first century is a great privilege and a stretching and fulfilling experience. I have learnt much and experienced many new things, and I deeply appreciate working along-side exceptional colleagues in cathedral, diocese, city and beyond. Through all the cathedral's opportunities and challenges, we continue to pursue the vision of enabling people to encounter the transforming presence of God in Jesus Christ.

"It is unusual to announce retirement a year in advance but a wide consultation is required to appoint a new dean, hence making public the reason why those consultations are happening. I am very grateful that those responsible for the appointment are already working with the cathedral to start the recruitment process in the autumn of 2021. This means there will be no long gap between one dean and another, which will benefit St Paul's as it continues to cope with the financial impact of the pandemic and develop its ministry to city and nation. There will be a time next year for farewells, but during the next twelve months I will be working hard to contribute all I can to ensure that St Paul's continues to be a beacon of hope for everyone."

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The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE said “St Paul’s Cathedral is a national symbol of faith, unity and hope. Under David’s skillful and sensitive stewardship, it has continued to fulfil a central role at the heart of our diocese and the City of London. It has been a vital anchor and place of worship for communities across the country and for Christians everywhere, both in times of happiness and in grief. I am immensely grateful to David for this dedicated leadership over the last ten years.

“I have had the pleasure of working closely with David on many occasions during my time as Bishop of London, and want to thank him especially for his commitment and thoughtfulness during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been inspiring to see how he and his team of staff and volunteers have met the challenge through tirelessly supporting communities across London and ensuring the Cathedral has remained an important place of hope and thanksgiving. The work that he has begun to help communities rebuild will also be continued in his stead.

“David’s wisdom and experience will be much missed, and I thank him wholeheartedly for his service. In the meantime, I am looking forward to working with him as we commence the consultation process to appoint a new Dean of St Paul’s later in the year.”



## Reports

### **Bishop of Raphoe latest cleric to defy ban on ceremonies**

**The Catholic Bishop of Raphoe has become the latest church leader to defy the Irish Government's ban on communions and confirmations in the Republic and is set to recommence these sacraments in his diocese from the middle of this month, Sarah MacDonald writes in the Belfast Telegraph.**

In a letter to the priests of Raphoe, Bishop Alan McGuckian said he was aware that areas of Co Donegal, including parts of his diocese, have the highest rates of Covid-19 infection in Ireland.

He said it was “essential that we maintain the highest standards of sanitisation and social distancing at all of our ceremonies”.

Dr McGuckian also appealed for any post-ceremony gatherings to be kept strictly to family pods.

Churches in Northern Ireland have been able to celebrate the sacraments since March.

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The decision to recommence communion and confirmation ceremonies in Raphoe from Friday, August 13 followed consultation with teachers and parents, he said, and in light of the dates for the reopening of primary and secondary schools across the diocese.

However, divisions are emerging within the Church over the move by the bishops of Elphin, Clogher, Meath, Raphoe, and Waterford and Lismore to resume ceremonies.

Some priests have expressed disquiet as they believe it will put pressure on priests to hold the ceremonies and risk the health of those who are not yet vaccinated.

Fr Iggy O'Donovan, a priest in the Glen of Aherlow in Co Tipperary, said he felt that those bishops who have chosen to ignore the advice of the public authorities and go ahead with communion and confirmation services were making “a grave error”. He said Taoiseach Micheál Martin has been “handling a poisoned chalice” and that it was “a no-win situation” for the Fianna Fáil leader.

“At the very, least he might expect co-operation from clerics like myself who constantly proclaim our 'pro-life' credentials,” he said.

Fr O'Donovan is serving in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emyly which is upholding the ban on communions and confirmations.

Responding to a comment by Fr Joe McDonald in Monday's Irish Independent in which the Dublin priest said communions and confirmations were “not some devotional extra” and that the Government needed to be reminded that



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for Catholics the liturgy is “the summit and source of our life in faith”, Fr O'Donovan said: “In reality, most of these celebrations are purely secular events and God is an optional extra to many Catholics.”

Separately, a parish priest in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore wrote to the Taoiseach about the ban on communions and confirmations.

In his letter, Fr Michael Toomey, the parish priest of Ardfinnan, Ballybacon and Grange in Co Tipperary, told the Taoiseach that in light of restaurants, pubs, concert halls, theatres and stadiums now allowing more people in, “it seems that the restrictions on celebrating these sacraments in a safe and well controlled environment in the church are now dormant”.

Referring to the warning by Health Minister Stephen Donnelly that parishes hosting communions and confirmations are putting people's lives at risk, Fr Toomey asked the Taoiseach: “So why are you putting lives at risk opening up other settings with less secure protocols in place? Packed pubs, restaurants and sports facilities, but no to sacraments. It makes no sense at all.”

Courtesy the Belfast Telegraph 03.07.2021





## Kenya elects first female diocesan bishop

**The Ven. Rose Okeno was elected this week as the second female bishop for the Anglican Church of Kenya. She will preside over the Diocese of Butere in Western Kenya, following last year's resignation of Bishop Timothy Wambunya.**

The Rt. Rev. Professor David H. Kodia of Bondo Diocese, who heads the Anglican Church of Kenya's Electoral College which selected Okeno for the role,, noted that she is

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now firmly part of the church's unfolding history of women in leadership.

“Let's pray for Rose and her family...I want to confirm that (she) was truly humbled by the confidence exhibited in her,” he said on Facebook.

Archdeacon Okeno, a 52-year-old widow, has been in ministry for over two decades. She obtained her bachelor's degree in theology from the Kenya Methodist University. According to her profile on LinkedIn, the mother of two boys and two girls enjoys netball and drama.

Okeno has an abiding interest in both the Anglican Communion and the Green Anglicans Movement, and is also excited about providing diocesan spiritual and pastoral oversight, and advocating for women's ministry across the Church.

“(I am) well aware that many cultures still hold that women and widows should not serve at such levels. Among other things, I am here to right that notion because it is not Biblically correct,” Okeno said, speaking from Butere after her election.

“As women ministry leader in the diocese, I am also responsible for family life training, for which I am so passionate. (It includes) preparing sermons and preaching, guiding and counselling, with specialization in marital counselling (and) economic empowerment through capacity building.”

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Following the 1978 Lambeth Conference, which allowed member churches of the Anglican Communion to ordain women, the Anglican Church of Kenya amended its canons to permit women to join the episcopate in 1980. However, neither of first women to stand as candidates, the Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki in 2012 and the Rev. Canon Dr. Rosemary Mbogo in 2014, were successful.

In October 2014, the church's House of Bishops declared a five-year moratorium on the possibility of appointing and consecrating women as bishops in the East African nation. The GAFCON Movement, in which Kenya plays an important role, had also asked all its member churches to refrain from ordaining women to the episcopate after its Task Force on Women in the Episcopate, which was chaired by Kenyan priest Samson Mwaluda, concluded in 2017 that the issue of women bishops "poses a threat to the unity we prize."

However, the Rev. Canon Dr. Emily A. Onyango was chosen as the Kenyan Church's first female bishop on January 12. She serves as the first assistant bishop of Bondo, a post created by the diocese.

At her consecration on March 27, Bishop Onyango prophetically observed that it would now be easier for African women to move into positions of leadership.

"We have several women in ministry today, but few know where it all started. I am, also, really thankful to the late Bishop Henry Okullu for opening this door for us," Onyango said, referring to the clergyman who ordained her in 1984,

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after ordaining Kenya's first woman to the priesthood, the Rev. Lucia Okuthe, in 1983.

The Kenyan primate, Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit, reminded the church's synod in January, after procedural objections to Onyango's consecration had been raised, but before the consecration had actually taken place that both he personally and the Kenyan church's House of Bishops had agreed to honor the GAFCON moratorium. After the synod proceeded to reaffirm a 2019 amendment to the church's constitution that affirmed women's ministry in the episcopate, however, Ole Sapit took no further action to block Onyango's consecration.

Raila Odinga, Kenya's former prime minister, and current head of the political opposition voiced his own warm affirmation of Okeno's election. He said he was "deeply proud of ACK, my Church for leading the way in elevating women to leadership positions."

Africa's first female Anglican bishop, the late Rt. Rev. Ellinah Wamukoya, who died last year, was also from Kenya. She was elected as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Swaziland on July 18, 2012.

## **The Global Catholic Climate Movement is now known as the Laudato Si' Movement**

**Movement leaders explained during a livestreamed program July 29 that the change better reflects the work of the six-year-old worldwide network and its**





**connection to prayerful action on environmental protection and climate change.**

The organization’s new name incorporates the Franciscan phrase *Laudato Si’*, which is Italian for “praised be to you,” and forms the basis of Pope Francis’ message in his 2015 encyclical, “*Laudato Si’*, on Care for Our Common Home.”

It also helps that the new name easily translates into other languages as well, reaching across Catholic communities globally, said Lorna Gold of Ireland, who chairs the group’s board of director.

The change, Gold said, calls people “to be protectors of God’s handiwork, as Pope Francis call us to.”

“It reflects broader care for our common home. It’s more than an encyclical. Ultimately, its about a Franciscan world

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view, returning to St. Francis and that visions of communion with all creation,” she added.

Argentine Tomás Insua, the organization’s executive director, explained from Rome the discernment process that began in 2019 that led to the name change and the adoption of a new mission statement. He said the effort reflected Pope Francis’ call for synodality throughout the church that urges as many voices as possible be heard and reflected on.

After the name was selected earlier this year, movement leaders sent a letter to the pope explaining their thinking behind the decision. Weeks later, on the eve of Pentecost, May 22, the pope responded with a handwritten message, thanking the movement for “the mission of promoting integral ecology and for the help you offer to the church throughout the world.”

“To me, it’s a sign of where we need to go with our new name,” Gold said.

In a video message aired during the program, Cardinal Michael Czerny, undersecretary of the Migrants and Refugee Section of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Integral Human Development, said that any time the name of the organization is said a prayer is offered.

“For the Laudato Si’ Movement to name itself as a prayer is to tell the truth that we are not going to be able to implement the encyclical ‘Laudato Si’,’ we’re not going to be able to care for our common home unless we do it together, as ‘Fratelli Tutti’ teaches us, but also as whole persons. Not

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only as environmental persons but also spiritual persons,” Cardinal Czerny said.

Yeb Saño of the Philippines, vice chair of the movement’s board, said the process of discerning a new name provides an impetus to “spread and inspire hope” in a world that is seeing an increasing number of environmental disasters ranging from drought to overwhelming flash floods and dangerous wildfires.

“What is abundantly clear for us today as we embrace this new name is that the mission before us is larger than all of us and bigger than we imagined. And likewise we realize this movement is beyond the borders we have somehow drawn in the sand before and that we have to reach out to as many people, faith communities and many more because we know we cannot do it alone, ” Saño said.

The name change also led to the unveiling of a new website, [laudatosimovement.org](http://laudatosimovement.org).

The movement includes more than 800 organizations and thousands of what it call Laudato Si’ animators, people working worldwide to implement the pope’s encyclical in parish and school life, local communities and businesses.



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## Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

### Archbishop Welby promotes Cheeky Pandas



**“Thy Kingdom Come’s children’s resources are here to help children grow deeper in their faith and understand the importance of prayer through songs and stories. If you're searching for activities to help children build a lifelong relationship with Jesus this summer, have a look at their service plans, prayer books and special TV series! “**

Cheeky Pandas and Thy Kingdom Come are partnering together to bring you a variety of free resources that seek to get children excited about Jesus, the Bible and prayer, and ultimately, help each child build a beautiful life-long relationship with Him... with some panda fun along the way!

“We have a fun filled, bible-based TV series for use in family services, assemblies, and at home, featuring songs, animated stories, prayer and interviews with special guests. Alongside this, we have activity packs, service plans, a

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prayer book, a children's app, and our Prayer Bears - each with an illustrated prayer book in their bag!"

These free resources are designed to equip churches and parents in nurturing and encouraging children in their faith. You can fill out the form further down this page to be kept informed of details and resources.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

## Poem for today

By Faughan

From Songs of Peace by Francis Ledwidge

For hills and woods and streams unsung  
I pipe above a rippled cove.  
And here the weaver autumn hung  
Between the hills a wind she wove  
From sounds the hills remember yet  
Of purple days and violet.  
The hills stand up to trip the sky,  
Sea-misted, and along the tops  
Wing after wing goes summer by,  
And many a little roadway stops  
And starts, and struggles to the sea,  
Cutting them up in filigree.

Twixt wind and silence Faughan flows,  
In music broken over rocks,  
Like mingled bells the poet knows  
Ring in the fields of Eastern flocks.  
And here this song for you I find



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Between the silence and the wind.

## Pointers for prayer



Pray for the of children in Zambia during this time. Many children have no access to learning as schools have closed due to the containment measures put in place to avoid the spread of C-19. Families are struggling and cannot afford the cost associated with online learning.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear us when we hunger and cry out to the one who is the bread of life. Renew us by your gift and restore us by your presence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear the cry of all who hunger this day and who long for the gifts that renew and restore life. Renew our concern for your creation and for all who inhabit the earth.

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Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear us when we thirst and long for living water. May all who thirst drink deep from the rivers of living water.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear the cries of those who long for clean water and who live in parched lands. May all who thirst find living water for daily life.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, who gives to us bread from heaven, hear our cry to the one who is the bread of life: give us this bread always.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## Speaking to the Soul

**Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.**

Philippians 2:12-13 NLT

If you have given your life to Christ, confessed your sins and received his forgiveness then you have the gift of salvation. This is the amazing Good News that Paul was so desperate

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to share. But he was equally concerned that his readers should understand that they now had work to do. The situation is much the same as in marriage. Having a wedding and receiving the gift of marriage is just the start of the journey. You now have work to do. Lots of it!

Advertising always reveals a great deal about a society. These days we often hear products being promoted because they will offer us a quick and effortless route to making life easier, smoother, happier and more fulfilled. It's very

tempting to speak of the Christian life in the same way. But it would be a lie. I have not the slightest doubt that living for Christ is the most wonderful and fulfilling life that exists here on earth. But nowhere does Paul ever suggest that following Christ requires no effort, pain or hard work.

I fully recognise that hard work doesn't sound very attractive, but we should never fear it. Jesus once invited his followers to take on his yoke, explaining "my yoke is easy and my burden is light". You don't see many yokes these days so I had better explain. A yoke is simply a wooden beam normally used between a pair of oxen or other animals to enable them to pull together on a load when working in pairs. Jesus doesn't deny that his followers will have burdens to bear, but he makes the incredible promise that as they take his yoke they "will find rest" for their souls. (Matthew 11.28) I know exactly what Jesus means. Over the years I have seen many people working incredibly hard for God in this country and around the world and it has been beautiful to see their peace and contentment because they have done their work yoked to Jesus.

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## QUESTION

What is the hard work that God is calling you to do?

## PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that as we accept your yoke we find perfect rest. Amen

