



Drone captures stunning views of inside of St Patrick's Cathedral

St Patrick's Cathedral is one of Dublin's most popular visitor spots.

The cathedral dates from 1191 AD, while the building on site has been there since 1220 – so there's no doubt that it has seen it all.

Until recently that is.

The cathedral was paid a visit by a drone, which captured some beautiful shots of the historic

building in all of its glory. The drone, operated by [Sky Pixels Ireland](#), was flown around the cathedral, filming the building at all its angles. Over 5,500 people had viewed the You Tube video within the first day of it being made available.

[Try watching this video on www.youtube.com](#)

See the drone, operated by [Sky Pixels Ireland](#), flying around the cathedral, filming the building at all its angles.

With music from Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir, it's an epic watch - and just in time for [Heritage Week](#). If you haven't paid a visit to [St Patrick's Cathedral](#), now is the time as [Heritage Week has a number of events taking place](#).

Priest says demand for secular schools is low

The vast majority of parents want the present system of school patronage retained, according to Fr [Brendan Hoban](#), a founder member of the Association of Catholic Priests.

Patsy McGarry in Irish Times - The real demand is not for secular schools but for school places,
churchnewsireland@gmail.com



Fr Brendan Hoban

he said, and “providing adequate places is the responsibility, not of the [Catholic Church](#), but of the State”.

It was a “fatal presumption that the Archbishop of Dublin (or any other bishop or collection of bishops) could deliver the divesting programme by, say, issuing an edict from Maynooth”, he said.

“Only Catholic parents can make that decision,” he said.

Fr Hoban said the experience from parishes was that after spending money buying sites, building schools and fundraising to develop facilities, parishes had “no intention of handing over their local school to anyone”.

He also said the presumption there was huge demand for a secular school system was not correct.

Surveys conducted by the Department of Education indicated that “support for secular schools ran at between 1 per cent in rural and 8 per cent in urban areas”.

Atheist [Ireland](#) should “build their own schools, propose their own curriculum, fundraise and all the rest of it”, he said.

“The presumption in media circles is that the only impediment to resolving the situation is for the very bold Catholic Church to do the bidding of atheist Ireland and those who imagine Irish parents are waiting with bated breath for a religion-less, spirituality-neutral system of education.”

There was as much chance of that as his local Moygownagh GAA “giving their football field to Cricket Ireland”, he said.

Methodist Newsletter Art Competition

In previous years the *Methodist Newsletter* has run a photographic competition. This time, they

are inviting amateur artists to enter their painting competition! The competition will be judged by Carole Kane, an artist with wide experience of community arts whose work is seen and recognised at both local and international levels.

The theme is 'Easter', and the winning pieces of art will be produced in the April 2016 edition of the Methodist Newsletter. You are invited to express through paint any aspect of Easter that inspires you. As a means to finding inspiration, you might begin by prayerfully reading the Easter story and thinking about what aspect moves you, and what you want to communicate through your painting.

They are looking for an original 2D piece of work using any paint medium (oil, watercolour, acrylic, pastel etc), drawing or collage. Your paper or canvas should not be more than 40cm x 30cm.

Each entrant may produce up to two pieces of art.

Entrants should be aged over 16.

How to enter: When you have completed your paintings, take photographs of them with a digital camera and email them to the Methodist Newsletter at newsletter@irishmethodist.org. Please send images of around 1 megabyte

including a title for each work and your contact details. The best pieces will be shortlisted and the artists invited to send or bring the originals to Edgehill Theological College Belfast where the final judging will take place.

The closing date for submission of photographs is Friday 8 January 2016.

First prize – £50; Second prize – £30; Third prize – £20. The best paintings will be featured in the April 2016 magazine.

17 men begin studies for priesthood at Maynooth

This year's intake of 17 trainee priests for the diocesan priesthood in Ireland is a rise on last year's cohort of 14.

The new batch of seminarians will bring the total number of resident seminarians training at St Patrick's College Maynooth to sixty.

A further twenty non-resident seminarians are also pursuing their studies in St Patrick's, together with some postgraduate priests and several hundred lay students.



Over the past three years, the number of new seminarians beginning their studies in Maynooth has been: fourteen in 2014; twenty in 2013; and twelve in 2012.

On Sunday, the President of Maynooth, Mgr Hugh Connolly, prayed that others would “hear the voice of the Holy Spirit” and consider a vocation to the priesthood.

Though the seventeen students have commenced their formation at the National Seminary, some of those from dioceses in the North of Ireland will continue their studies at St Malachy’s College in Belfast at the conclusion of the Introductory Programme in mid-September.

The new first year seminarians come from twelve dioceses. The breakdown of dioceses

represented by 2015's cohort shows that two of them, Dublin and Down & Connor, have three men embarking on formation.

The diocese of Killaloe has two students, while Armagh, Cork & Ross, Derry, Galway, Kerry, Ossory, Raphoe, Tuam and Waterford & Lismore have one student each.

Welcoming the new candidates, their families and friends to Maynooth on Sunday, Mgr Connolly said, "Our thoughts and prayers accompany these seventeen men who have taken the first step along the road to ordained ministry and to placing their lives at the service of Christ and of His people."

He noted that the formation year will coincide with a Year of Mercy which will be celebrated throughout the world by the universal Church.

"When our Holy Father announced this he said, 'I am convinced that the whole church – has much need to receive mercy because we are all sinners and will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time,' he said.

"The call of Jesus pushes each of us to never stop at the surface of things, especially when we

are dealing with a person, because we are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart to see of how much generosity everyone is capable. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God.”

Mgr Connolly concluded, “It is my wish that the year ahead will be a year of mercy and of grace for each one of us here in our seminary community. May we never stop at the ‘surface of things’ but rather push on to discover the presence of Christ in our community and in every person with whom we are called to minister and to share our lives. Let us pray that others will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and that they may also consider a vocation to the priesthood.”

The breakdown for 2015 by diocese of the seventeen first year seminarians is as follows:

Armagh – 1
Cork & Ross – 1
Derry – 1*
Down & Connor – 3*
Dublin – 3
Galway – 1
Kerry – 1
Killaloe – 2
Ossory – 1
Raphoe – 1

Tuam – 1

Waterford & Lismore – 1

* These students will continue their academic studies in Belfast after one month of formation work in Maynooth.

Lack of priests in Irish Catholic Church: The problem is becoming more acute

Irish Times Opinion Aug 25 -At a time when the shortage of Catholic priests in the western world, not least in [Ireland](#), has become acute it is hardly critical to wonder at a model of priesthood which no longer meets the needs of the faithful through lack of personnel. Not least when, as is widely believed, the matter could be helped greatly were adjustment to be made to a discipline rather than a teaching of the church.

The rule of celibacy did not exist for the first millennium of Christianity. The first pope, by tradition Peter, was himself married – a fact that caused no crisis back then. It ought to be possible, with a will, for the [Catholic Church](#) to revert to a married clergy again without trauma. Indeed, many within and without the church would welcome such change as, pastorally, it would lend credibility to the ministry of its priests

and bring it into line with the practice and experience of all other Christian denominations. It is one area of Catholic practice where [Pope Francis](#) can himself change things more or less unilaterally, as no issue of dogma is involved. So it is to be hoped by many within the Church that, following the October synod in Rome, he will make such change.

Should he do so it would go some way to addressing what papal nuncio to Ireland Archbishop [Charles Brown](#) has described as a “huge problem” in Ireland, as elsewhere, whereby an increasingly elderly clergy is burdened with a labour which would challenge men decades younger. As Dr Brown noted in an interview with this newspaper last week, many priests now in their 70s and 80s, on whom the Church increasingly relies, will soon no longer be able to continue their ministry.

At the same time, vocations to the priesthood remain sparse, leaving many dioceses facing a future with too few priests to provide even the most rudimentary ministry in every parish; a great many of whom have a large practising faithful. As an example, within the next five years the largest diocese on the island, the Catholic archdiocese of Dublin, will struggle to have one

priest for each of its 199 parishes. The Catholic Church must choose. It is celibacy or a future.

Methodist and C of I students study tour to Rome

Canon Maurice Elliott, Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, and the Revd Dr Richard Clutterbuck, Principal of Edgehill Theological College, will lead a study tour to Rome which begins on Thursday. The group is made up of four students from Edgehill and twelve from the Theological Institute. There will be courtesy visits to the Anglican Centre to meet Archbishop Sir David Moxon and to the Methodist Centre to meet the Revd Tim MacQuiban.

Conserving Buncrana's iconic Christchurch

One of Inishowen's iconic and historic churches is to be conserved and enhanced with the input of the entire local community.

Derry Journal - Christchurch Church of Ireland in Buncrana was erected in 1804 following the

division of Fahan parish into Fahan Upper and Fahan Lower in 1794.



The building, with its Gothic Revival character, is a striking and much-loved feature in the town, standing tall along its Main Street as the years and generations have passed.

One of its most striking and significant features is its bell tower or ‘town clock’ which is synonymous with Buncrana.

The nearby church hall, accessible from St Mary’s Road, was erected in 1876 and the graveyard is located between these two



Reverend Judi McGaffin

buildings. The historian and antiquarian Harry Percival Swan, who donated Swan Park to the people of Buncrana, is buried within the graveyard.

The original church building has been added to over the years, including enlargement in 1816 and extensive refurbishment in 1867.

A new conservation plan is now being developed for the church and surrounding area, with the local community being invited to be part of it.

Plans for the conservation and restoration can be viewed all this week in the church which will be opened each day as part of heritage week and at a musical evening to be held this Friday.

Reverend Judi McGaffin told the 'Journal' the plan is in place not just to develop the building for the Church of Ireland congregation, but also for other denominations within the Inishowen community.

She said: "We are aware the Church of Ireland is a smaller minority in Buncrana. We have 140 parishioners between Fahan and Buncrana, all of whom are very enthusiastic and willing. But, our presence can really grow within the community.

"The building and town clock is a central and pivotal part of Buncrana and the church itself is a community space. We are very, very welcoming of people from all denominations and this is something we want to grow and develop into the future.

She added: "Churches aren't meant to be used just on a Sunday. They're great places of solace and reflection and should be opened up as

much as we can possibly open them. God doesn't just live in a Church, he lives in everyone who goes into it and those who don't. We need to open it up to represent that God is everywhere and the church isn't just for the Church of Ireland community, it's for the whole community."

The community consultation is a key part of the plans, which are being presented by diocesan architect and parishioner Caroline Dixon.

A number of areas are in need of repair and Rev. McGaffin told how plans include resurfacing and re-rendering and the installation of a disabled access ramp, among other things.

They are also hoping to refurbish and open up the transept to be used as a community space.

An invitation has been extended to all for the musical evening this Friday, 28th August at 7.30 pm. Entertainment includes the 'Treblemakers' - Lauryn Mullholland, Liam and Amy McCay - and Anne Moore, who has been organist in Fahan for more than 50 years. The plans will be available to view on the night and there will be refreshments afterwards in the church hall.

The church is also open all week from 11am - 6pm, as is Fahan Upper between 11am - 2pm on a Sunday.

Kells parishioners visit Áras an Uachtaráin



Members of the Kells Union of Parishes (Meath and Kildare) recently visited the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and had an opportunity to visit Áras an Uachtaráin.

New ministry at Armagh parish

On Sunday 2nd August 2015, Revd Rosie Diffin returned to her home Diocese of Armagh, as a

Diocesan Curate with responsibility for the Parishes of Kilmore and St Saviour's, Dobbin.

Rosie had previously been Curate Assistant at Seapatrick Parish Church, Banbridge.

New coordinator of Down diocesan link with Albany

Revd Gerald Macartney, rector of Drumgath and Drumgooland, will be coordinating the link between the Diocese of Down and Dromore and the Diocese of Albany in New York State. He takes over from Archdeacon Roderic West.

The role chiefly involves facilitating visits between the two dioceses and looking after the practicalities such as booking flights and finding hosts. Each year, a group from Down and Dromore attend the Albany Convention in June and there's a reciprocal visit for our St Patrick's Day celebrations in March. Folk from Albany often come along to our Clergy Conference which takes place on alternate years in October.

"I am looking forward to forging links with the church in Albany," says Gerald. "Since coming to Down and Dromore, Roberta and I have hosted two couples from the States and have been



enriched with new friendships. I would recommend the experience to others in the diocese and very much hope that even more people, lay and ordained, will offer hospitality to our guests.”

Through DDYC, the exchange visits also involve young people travelling from Albany to Summer Madness in Glenarm and, on occasion, youth from Down and Dromore participating in the Beaver Cross youth camps in Albany.

Anglicans called to join worldwide Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, has called on Anglicans everywhere to join Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran and other Christians in a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September.

The first day of September has become a significant date for Christians caring for the environment. The Orthodox Church has celebrated a Day of Prayer for the Environment on 1 September since 1989 and earlier this month Pope Francis established a 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' in the Roman Catholic Church which will be held annually on the same date.

Pope Francis said in a [letter](#) to the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, "As Christians we wish to offer our contribution to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing". He said that the World Day of Prayer would offer individuals and communities



Anglican Communion bishops beat the drum for climate justice

an opportunity to “reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation” and that it should become an occasion for “reflection, conversion and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles”.

The Lutheran World Federation has been promoting a global ‘[Fast for the Climate](#)’ and has invited its member churches to fast and pray on the first day of every month until December 2015, when the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Paris, France. The fast is seen as

“a way for religious communities to express and act upon their concern about climate change and climate justice”, to “show a commitment to undertake the necessary transformations in their communities”, and to “demand that national governments work for more ambitious and ethical outcomes in climate negotiations”, according to Dr Carlos Bock, who was Director of the LWF Department for Mission and Development when the initiative was launched.

Archbishop Makgoba is chair of the international [Anglican Communion Environmental Network](#) and in February this year hosted a meeting of bishops from around the Anglican Communion whose dioceses are suffering from the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. In a statement [*The World is our Host: A call to urgent action for climate justice*](#), the bishops encouraged Anglicans to “join in prayer and fasting for climate justice on the first day of each month as an integral part of life and worship”.

Archbishop Makgoba has set out his own commitment to fasting and praying for climate justice on 1 September:

“I fast in solidarity with children who will go to bed hungry tonight because their parents cannot afford the rising prices of food.

“I fast in solidarity with climate refugees who have lost their homes and livelihoods due to climate change.

“And I fast in solidarity with people of faith around the world because we know that hope is rising.”

Media digest

Irish Independent - Sinn Féin cannot simply wish the Provos away

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/mandy-johnston/sinn-fin-cannot-simply-wish-the-provos-away-31472519.html>

Provos pose an ‘insidious threat’ - Tánaiste

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/provos-pose-an-insidious-threat-tanaiste-31475555.html>

Making our slow way out of Sinn Fein's moral fog

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/eoghan-harris/making-our-slow-way-out-of-sinn-feins-moral-fog-31470893.html>

Belfast Telegraph - How IRA's return to violence silenced the SDLP

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/how-iras-return-to-violence-silenced-the-sdlp-31475114.html>

ITV set to snap up Northern Ireland's UTV television channel

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/mediatechnologyandtelecoms/11819916/ITV-set-to-snap-up-Northern-Irelands-UTV-television-channel.html>

Orange Order stands by Fermanagh County Grand Master after 'homosexuality is wrong' remarks

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/orange-order-stands-by-fermanagh-county-grand-master-after-homosexuality-is-wrong-remarks-31468545.html>

News Letter - No action on abortion arrests challenge after a month

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/no-action-on-abortion-arrests-challenge-after-a-month-1-6919899>

Irish Times - Few politicians want to see the Executive collapse but two men are now dead

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/few-politicians-want-to-see-the-executive-collapse-but-two-men-are-now-dead-1.2327333>

Unsung heroes of marriage equality vote – three months on

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/unsung-heroes-of-marriage-equality-vote-three-months-on-1.2326024>

Mail - Libby Purves writes about findings from the Marriage Foundation and the government's General Household Survey which suggest that marriage is becoming less popular among middle-class families. She writes about the trend being worrying because of the potential rise in family and social instability and talks about the benefits of marriage.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3209630/LIBBY-PURVES-middle-classes-shun-marriage-social-cement-truly-crumbling.html#ixzz3jncMzrFm>

BBC - Report that a mother whose son was stillborn has criticised a church for removing keepsakes from his grave without warning. It says St John's Church in Warminster was carrying out a clean up ahead of its 150th

anniversary celebrations and that the church has apologised and the Diocese of Salisbury said it will raise awareness of its rules.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-34038925>

BBC - Item that a 250-year-old book donated to a Wrexham charity shop is to be returned to Worthenbury Church, Wrexham. It states the 1766 edition of the Book of Common Prayer was originally given to the church, on 6 October 1773 by the then Rector Philip Puleston. The prayer book is to be given back to Worthenbury Church today (Tuesday).

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-34039648>

BBC - Report that All Saints Church in Wytham, near Oxford has raised £123,000 to restore its roof after receiving a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It states the church raised almost half of the money it needed through four years of fundraising and churchnewsireland@gmail.com

the congregation is now celebrating after it was awarded a further £63,100 from the lottery fund.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-34041139>

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