



Brigid's Way walk for National Heritage Week

Brigid's Way organisers says they are delighted to have been invited to join National Heritage Week next Sunday (30 August). The 20km walk incorporates a stage of the ancient path associated with Ireland's inspirational female saint.

Earlier in the year, Brigid's Way was named as one of Ireland's National Pilgrim Paths.

“We will walk one of the nine stages of Brigid's Way but in reverse,” Karen Ward told CatholicIreland.net.

She described it as an ‘alignment’ of ancient and sacred sites from Faughart to the Saint's monastic city in Kildare.

It was discovered by Anthony Murphy and Richard Moore during research for their book *Island of the Setting Sun: In Search of Ireland's Ancient Astronomers*.

The route intersects the Cygnus (Swan) constellation which was prominent in the skies at the time of Brigid's birth in the 5th Century AD.

Karen Ward, who featured in RTE's *Health Squad*, has learned that the route follows the direction that Brigid took to be buried in Downpatrick.

“Brigid means many things to many people, she was a very special woman. We are amazed at the emails and letters we get from around the world from people who admire her. They see her as a Goddess and a Saint, as an archtypical strong woman – of peace, justice, and industry

as her Abbey in Kildare was very productive and well run.”

So Karen Ward hopes that on Sunday many will be keen to walk in Brigid’s footsteps on what is an ancient section of Brigid’s trail between Robertstown and Donadea Forest Park in Kildare.

The walk involves some off road sections and runs along the canals, boglands and the forest.

It includes a 9/11 memorial and at Donadea Forest Park guided tours are available.

Brigid’s Way started in 2013 by Dolores Whelan and Karen Ward and with the backing of the Brigidine Sisters in Kildare, and the support of many groups and individuals along the route.

This Summer, the 2015 pilgrimage from Faughart to Kildare involved almost 100 pilgrims who came from America, Mexico, UK, Northern Ireland and from all over Ireland.

There was a core group of 15 people who completed the full nine days and others joined in for five or six days.

Many also joined for just a single day and one section of the route, and Karen Ward was

particularly happy to see so many joining in this way as the pilgrims moved towards Kildare.

This year for the first time pilgrims were able to 'sleep under the stars' in Donadea Forest Park.

For the Brigid's Way Along the Canal on Sunday cars can be left at Donadea Forest car park, and from there at 2.30pm a bus will take walkers to Robertstown Lock to start the walk at 3pm.

To book the bus email: info@brigidsway.ie or tel: 087 467 7632

Also see: www.brigidsway.ie

Friel's Columba drama in Belfast church this Saturday

Kabosh bring their rehearsed reading of Brian Friel's *The Enemy Within* to Belfast this weekend.

Brian Campbell in Irish News - First staged in 1962, the play is an imaginative account of the voluntary exile of Columba/Columcille, and is set in Iona - where Columba lived for 34 years after his departure from Ireland in 563.

The Kabosh production – directed by Paula McFetridge - features a cast of actors including Peter Ballance, Vincent Higgins, Gerard Jordan,
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***The Enemy Within comes to Belfast on Saturday
August 29***

Thomas Finnegan, Terence Keeley, Frank McCusker, Noel McGee, Seamus O'Hara and Lalor Roddy.

The Enemy Within concentrates on the private man, a charismatic, worldly personality who struggled to combine skills of scholar, bard and ruler with a fearless commitment to his vocation, and it probes the theme of exile - a subject Friel would later return to in Philadelphia, Here I Come!

The play forms part of the Belfast leg of the Lughnasa International Friel Festival, which began in Donegal last week and with the Belfast

events running from today until Monday. Kabosh performed *The Enemy Within* at Glencolmcille in Donegal last week.

There will also be a rehearsed reading of another Friel work, *The Gentle Island*, at the Brian Friel Theatre at Queen's tomorrow at 11am, while the Lyric Theatre production of *Dancing at Lughnasa* is the 'signature event' of the festival, running at the Lyric from today until September 27.

The Enemy Within will be staged at the First Presbyterian Church in Rosemary Street, Belfast, on Saturday at 11am. For tickets (£6/£8), visit LughnasaInternationalFrielFestival.com.

Godfrey Day Memorial Lecture 2015 and Visitors from Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

The annual Godfrey Day Memorial Lecture, which examines contexts for overseas mission, takes place on Tuesday next, September 1, at 6.30 pm in the Trinity Long Room Hub at Trinity College Dublin. This year's lecture will be given by Dr Matthew Jones, Academic Programme Director of Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong, and will address 'Christian Belief

and Context in Melanesia'. Dr Jones is the latest distinguished guest from Hong Kong to deliver the lecture in recent years. Others have included Archbishop Paul Kwong, Revd Peter Koon (provincial secretary) and Professor Gareth Jones (Ming Hua Theological College).

Christianity in Melanesia has evolved in some exciting and challenging ways particularly in relation to the many vibrant and diverse cultures it has encountered along the way. This lecture introduces how Christian belief has developed in the region with particular reference to the Anglican traditions and missions across Solomon Islands and the Melanesian Brotherhood, an indigenous Anglican religious order, well known for their evangelism and mission work across Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

The Christianity that has emerged from these Anglican traditions and missions is rich, vibrant and a unique synthesis of Melanesian and European cultural contexts making it both inter-cultural and inter-contextual. A key focus of the lecture will be discussing how and why such Melanesian Christian belief and context is making a significant contribution to the life of the Anglican Communion and to the life of the wider Church beyond.

For the last number of years Dublin University Far Eastern Mission (DUFEM) has focused on strengthening the relationship between the Church of Ireland and the Hong Kong Province Sheng Kung Hui (???). One of the fruits of this work has been the exchange of Theological students between the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong (pictured).

Coinciding with the Godfrey Day Memorial Lecture, 21 members of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (???), the Province of Hong Kong and Macau in the Anglican Communion, will be visiting Ireland on a 10 day exploration/study trip. Organised by Ming Hua Theological College and DUFEM, participants are set to enjoy an exciting and imaginative exploration of Dublin, Belfast, Armagh and Enniskillen.

Ming Hua, as the theological college of the Anglican Province of Hong Kong and Macau, prides itself on enhancing the experience of its students and by providing opportunities for members of the Church in Hong Kong to learn more about their faith as Anglicans in both a local and global context. This trip is an opportunity to do exactly that and will give participants the chance to see and experience both the important history and legacy of Irish

Christianity and the vibrant modern history of Ireland and its people.

Led by Dr Matthew Jones and co-ordinated on behalf of DUFEM by Dr Kerry Houston (Director of Chapel Music at Trinity College Dublin), participants will discover more about Ireland, its rich and dynamic history and experience the great warmth and legendary hospitality of its people. Highlights of the trip include tours of the Irish Houses of the Oireachtas, Trinity College, Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin, visits to the Northern Ireland Assembly, Saint Anne's Cathedral, the Peace Line and Titanic Quarter in Belfast and visits to Armagh Cathedral, Enniskillen Cathedral and the County Fermanagh Lakelands. The organisers are most grateful to the clergy in all of these venues for their assistance and generous hospitality.

The Anglican Church in Hong Kong has a very positive relationship with the Church of Ireland. This trip is another example of the warm friendship that exists between the Church in Hong Kong and Ireland that will further strengthen links with both the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and links at diocesan and parochial level. Participants on the visit include

Ming Hua staff, students, members of clergy and members of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

Renowned Benedictine monk's contribution to Bere Festival

The renowned Benedictine monk and meditation expert, Fr Laurence Freeman, is leading a music and silence festival on Bere Island in Cork over the next four days.

“There is an urgent need today to recover the experience of the spiritual. Music opens that door for many, and meditation is the way in that it changes how we see the world,” Fr Freeman explained.

Local and international musicians have been invited to perform, listen and reflect, with a mix of musical concerts and workshops and optional periods of silent meditation.

According to organisers, the festival provides an opportunity for members of the public and musicians, to share their experiences, learn how to meditate and discover how meditation can enhance their creative lives.

This is the second year the festival has been held and Fr Laurence was also involved last year.



His connections with Bere Island go back much further as his mother Anne Sullivan was born on the island and she moved to London before Fr Laurence was born in 1951.

He returns frequently to Bere Island where there is a meditation group, and he meditates with children in the local national school.

He also leads meditation retreats for medical practitioners and works with the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin.

He has had a very varied life before becoming a monk and priest.

He worked in banking, at the UN in New York and in journalism before replacing his briefcase with a breviary.

Today, Fr Laurence is a Benedictine monk of the Monastery of Christ our Saviour, Turvey, England, a monastery of the Congregation of Monte Oliveto.

Initially in the monastery his spiritual teacher was John Main. He helped Fr Main to establish the first Christian Meditation Centre in London.

At the invitation of the Archbishop of Montreal, in 1977, he accompanied Fr Main to establish a Benedictine community of monks and laypeople dedicated to the practice and teaching of Christian meditation.

Fr Laurence studied theology at the Universite de Montreal and at McGill University. He made his solemn monastic profession in 1979 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1980.

After the death of John Main in 1982, he continued the work of teaching meditation that had already begun to develop a global community.

In 1991, Fr Laurence returned to England to establish the International Centre of the newly

formed World Community for Christian Meditation, of which he is director.

It is now present in more than a hundred countries as a 'monastery without walls, and he travels and teaches widely for it.

Laurence Freeman has conducted dialogues and global peace initiatives such as the historic *Way of Peace* with the Dalai Lama.

He is active in the inter-religious dialogue. He leads the teaching of meditation to children and students as part of the recovery of the contemplative wisdom tradition in the Church and in society at large.

Fr Laurence has been teaching an MBA course on *Meditation and Leadership*, at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, Washington DC, since 2013.

In the same year he started to lead the course on *Health & Meditation: Healing From the Centre*, at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

He is the author of many books and articles including *Light Within, Selfless Self, Web of Silence, Common Ground, A Short Span of Days, Your Daily Practice, Jesus: The Teacher*

Within, First Sight: The Experience of Faith and Beauty's Field: Seeing the World.

He writes a quarterly spiritual letter for the World Community and publishes *Daily Wisdom*, a popular daily email of one of his photographs with a short text. He is also the editor of John Main's works.

The Cork festival which began yesterday (Thursday 27 August) and concludes Sunday (30 August) will include music and dance workshops, morning and evening music and meditation, talks and discussions, guided walks, evening dances and concerts, and local fresh food and drink.

New Braille Church of Ireland songbook does double duty

The Church of Ireland has received the first Braille copies of its *Thanks & Praise* hymnal supplement from the Braille Unit at Maghaberry prison. *Thanks & Praise* is a supplement to the *Church Hymnal*, containing a collection of 227 hymns, songs and liturgical settings.

Sue McAllister, Director-General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, made the presentation to the Rt Revd Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and



Presentation of the new Braille Church of Ireland hymnal supplement. Phil Wragg, Governor, HMP Maghaberry; Mark Mooney, Braille instructor; Sue McAllister, Director-General, Northern Ireland Prison Service; the Rt Revd Harold Miller, Chair, Liturgical Advisory Committee.

Dromore and Chair of the Liturgical Advisory Committee.

Bishop Miller remarked: ‘We are pleased that this project has contributed to the rehabilitation of prisoners at the Maghaberry Braille Unit and grateful for this invaluable resource for worship.

‘The supplement will help blind and partially
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sighted people to engage more fully in parish life, and we thank the prisoners and staff involved for their time and skill in making this gift to the Church.'

Welcoming the publication, Sue McAllister said: 'The Braille Unit at Maghaberry gives prisoners the opportunity to give something back to the community while at the same time providing them with a range of skills which will help them when they are released from custody.

'I want to thank the staff and the prisoners who have produced this supplement. I know from speaking to the Bishop that their efforts are greatly appreciated and this Braille version will be of great benefit to local churches and their congregations.

'Initiatives such as the Braille Unit give people in prison the opportunity to develop their skills which will help them to find employment after they are released. Having a job is a key part in reducing re-offending and is one of the ways in which the Prison Service helps to build a safer Northern Ireland.'

Each Braille version of the book consists of three volumes and a total of 263 pages. The Church of Ireland has a longstanding link with the Braille

Unit, which has previously produced editions of the *Church Hymnal* and the Book of Common Prayer.

Relief and disquiet as controversial church split minister resigns

Controversial Church of Ireland minister Reverend Alan Kilpatrick has officially resigned from the troubled Knocknamuckley parish in Co Armagh and says he is feeling "great".

Belfast Telegraph - Over the past couple of years parishioners at the rural St Matthias's Church on Bleary Road near Lurgan had been split over his relaxed style of ministry, which was said to rarely involve him wearing official robes or preaching from the pulpit.

Following the row the Scottish minister stepped down from his role in May, and has now officially handed in his resignation.

Some of the Knocknamuckley congregation have moved with him to his new church.

"I am staying in the Church of Ireland," Rev Kilpatrick told the Belfast Telegraph yesterday.

"I am already leading a missional congregation in the Craigavon area. We are in Bleary and will be moving on October 1 to a venue to be announced."

On his general mood, he added: "I'm fine, I'm good, I'm great."

One parishioner described Rev Kilpatrick's official resignation as "a weight off our shoulders" while another member of the Knocknamuckley Concerned Parishioners group welcomed the development, but voiced other concerns to this newspaper.

"He is still in the parish boundary," the member said. "Apparently he is looking at a house in the parish boundary and I understand that is unacceptable."

On what difference it would make if he did live in the parish, the member said: "Would you want him on your doorstep?"

A statement from the Down and Dromore Diocese of the Church of Ireland confirmed Rev Kilpatrick's resignation and said his replacement will be appointed in due course.

"Mr Kilpatrick signalled his intention to step down on September 30 in May," the statement

said. "The parish will therefore fall vacant on October 1, 2015. Until then its representatives are not in a position to look for a new minister.

"Mr Kilpatrick will continue as minister-in-charge of the missional congregation which is under the authority of the bishop and Diocese of Down and Dromore.

"It is currently meeting in temporary premises in Bleary."

The Future of Northern Ireland - Duncan Morrow



Belfast South Methodist Church at the Agape

Centre, is launching a series of public discussions on current issues of concern.

The inaugural discussion on Monday, 21 September, 2015 - 19:30 will feature Dr Duncan Morrow on the topic 'Beyond Despair – the Future of Northern Ireland : What does hope look like ?' Following Duncan's talk there will be good opportunity for discussion. No charge. Tea and coffee available. All welcome.

Agape Centre, Belfast South Methodist Church,
238 Lisburn Road, Belfast.

Email: reception@agapecentrebelfast.org

Media digest

Ind

Columnist, Carl Packman, writes on how politicians need to tackle rising personal debt which he says has reached crisis level. He mentions the Archbishop of Canterbury promoting credit unions as an alternative to high street lenders, but says it will be too long before these can really make a difference.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/corbynomics-must-address-the-silent-crisis-of-personal-debt-10472946.html>

Mail

Report on baptism of glamour model Emma McKay, who now lives in Cornwall, and who was baptized in the sea at Porthpean beach. It states she was baptised by the Revd Mike Marshall, from the Holy Trinity Church, St Austell. She is quoted saying Christianity had helped her overcome her demons.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3211349/Glamour-model-baptised-sea-turning-Christianity-bid-real-hasn-t-stopped-posting-revealing-snaps-social-media.html#ixzz3jzWhImKw>

Times

Report on second careers for lawyers which mentions Eversheds solicitor, Giles Orton, who is a Church of England ordinand beginning a journey into working for the Church, based in Derbyshire.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4538960.ece>

Times

David Aaronovitch writes about the migrant crisis and calls on more action by the UK government to respond. He says it appears as if we are putting our heads in the sand and trying to ignore the situation.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4539208.ece>

Mail

Columnist Amanda Platell writes about what happiness means for her after her father was diagnosed with cancer. She mentions her faith and praying during the period of waiting to see if he would receive the all clear.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3211976/You-learn-happiness-means-ve-nearly-lost-loved-one-Amanda-Platell-s-father-s-diagnosis-gave-perspective.html>

BBC

Report on how schools are receiving help from Oxfordshire County Council to increase the number of children having free school meals. It says the local authority is using £1.1m in government funding to improve facilities. Half the government money will go towards new kitchen facilities at Woodstock CE School and Clanfield Church of England Primary School.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-34064049>