

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembering Jane

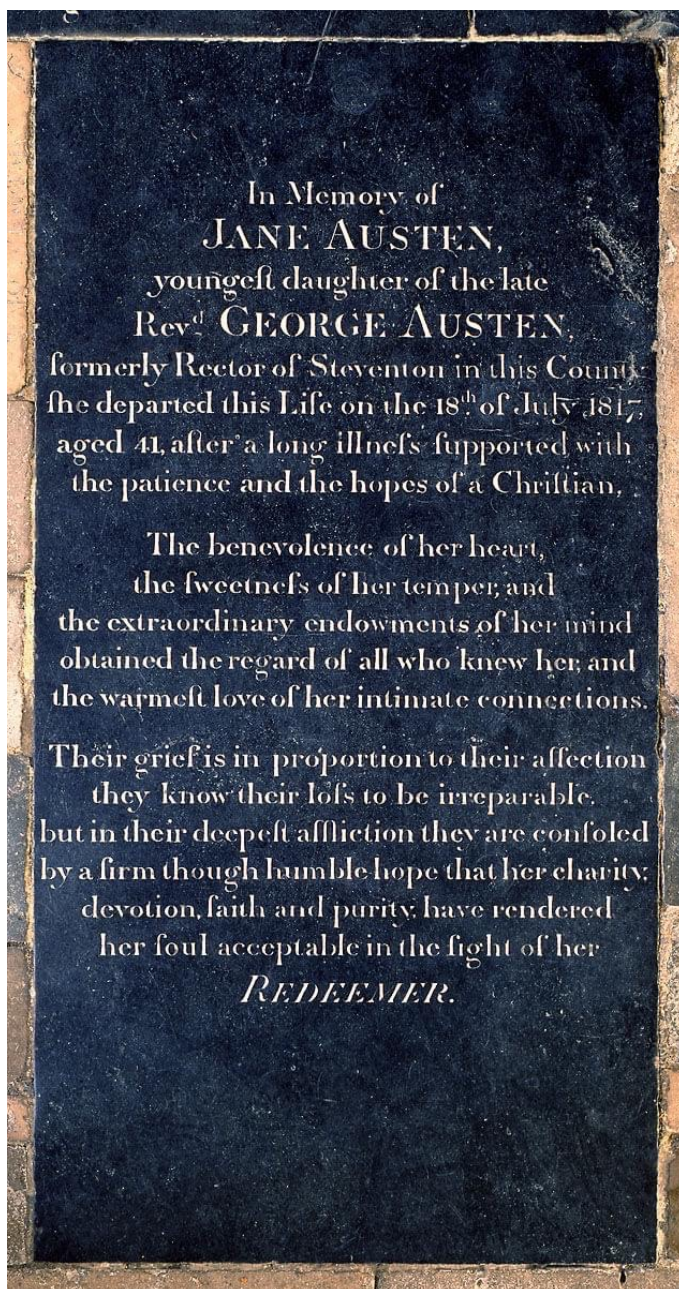
Image of the day

Remembering Jane

Last month in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* was first published.

Jane Austen's remains were buried inside Winchester Cathedral in 1817. She died at the age of 41.

Celebrated as one of England's greatest novelists, flowers are often left next to her memorial by fans of her work.



Jane Austen died in a house on College Street in Winchester after a short illness. The Cathedral was a central landmark of her life. For a comprehensive overview of sites in and around Winchester associated with Jane Austen visit

- https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/app/uploads/2021/01/008_jane_austen_12pp_dl-kbyg-web.pdf

People and places

Cloughfern Sunday school does Candlemas



In Cloughfern Parish Sunday School children yesterday learnt about Candlemas, making cards and decorating buns for the Church coffee morning.

Service in Slavin recognised

In Slavin parish in the Garrison Group yesterday Sunday School recommenced with Rev. Rebecca welcoming two new leaders Lindsey Gregg and Jenna Earls.

Florence and Doreen Earls who have taught Sunday School in Slavin and Belleek for 30 years were each presented with a bouquet of flowers by Elizabeth Ovens, Church Treasurer.



The Rector, Rev Rebecca, thanked them for their many years of dedicated service, as they had taught many of the present children's parents.





Worshipping at Knock

Young people who took part in worship at St Columba's, Knock, in Belfast, yesterday

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Candlemas Cakes to die for at Cloughfern

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New leader of Jesuits in Ireland

Father General Arturo Sosa has appointed Fr Shane Daly as the next Provincial of Ireland.

He is aged 49 and he entered the Society of Jesus at the age of 35, in 2008. Before joining the Jesuits, he worked as

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a teacher in a prison for youth offenders. After his novitiate in Birmingham, he was sent to Canada and got a Master's degree in theology from the University of Toronto and an STL from Regis College (2013-2015). He was ordained to the priesthood in 2015.

After ordination, he became a teacher of History and Religion at Belvedere College in Dublin, and from 2016 to 2019, he was headmaster of

Colásite Iognáid (St Ignatius College), in Galway. In 2019, he began a Ph.D. at the Loyola Institute, Trinity College, in Dublin.

Shane Daly did his Tertianship in Portland, Oregon (USA), from January to May 2022. Since August 2022, he has been the Socius of the Irish Province.





Faith in the future – Historic Irishtown church plans major restoration

A historic Dublin church which has been at the heart of its community for over 300 years is setting its sights firmly on the future. Parishioners of St Matthew's Church in Irishtown, where Wolfe Tone and Robert Emmett are said to have worshipped, have outlined ambitious plans to secure the church's future.

The Christopher Wren–designed church is located in a dynamic part of south Dublin which is no stranger to change and evolution. When the church was built in 1704, the sea lapped up against the walls of the churchyard and the



Longstanding parishioner Gladys Raethorne and Canon Leonard Ruddock examine the mosaic tiles which date from the church's extension in 1879.

nearby docks were a hive of activity. Later, many of the key events of the 1916 Rising took place just a stone's throw away. Today the tide has changed again and the area is at the epicentre of technological development with global tech giants such as Google, Meta, Twitter and LinkedIn among others located in Dublin's so-called Silicon Docks. The Aviva Stadium is in the parish as is Pfizer Europe's headquarters.

Through this, St Matthew's has maintained its tradition of witness and worship and intends to keep doing so for

generations to come. In recent years there have been a number of developments which have helped to promote the church's relationship with the wider community in Irishtown. The most obvious of these is the removal of the tall trees around the churchyard which mean that the church is now visible as you approach it from all directions.

The parish also built a columbarium wall in the graveyard and it is open to the entire community meaning that anyone who wishes to inter the ashes of their loved ones in Irishtown can do so. In recent years too, the main door of the church, which had been closed for half a century, were reopened improving the connection between the church and the community. In a new development, the parish holds weekly coffee mornings ("Coffee @ St. Matt's"). The Rector of Irishtown and Donnybrook Union of Parishes, Canon Leonard Ruddock, notes that even in densely populated areas people can be lonely, particularly as many are continuing to work from home.

Now the parish plans to undertake a complete refurbishment of the interior of the beautiful church. The works, due to start this Spring, include rewiring, restoration of the plasterwork, restoration of the stained glass windows, restoration of the original floor tiles, painting and generally bringing the building up to modern standards while restoring the ancient components.

"This work is a statement of confidence in the parish and in the church," Canon Ruddock explains. "St Matthew's has been here for over 300 years and we want to make sure it is

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here for generations to come for worship and to celebrate key moments in their lives.”



Canon Leonard Ruddock, historian Trevor James and parish administrator Jonny Bell at St Matthew's Irishtown.

He acknowledged that the work is only possible because of the sale of St Mary's Church in Donnybrook earlier this year. After much prayerful consideration St Mary's closed and was deconsecrated in June 2020. "There was no easy way forward," he observes. He became the new Rector of Irishtown and Donnybrook in April 2022 and recognises that the period which led up to the closure of St Mary's was stressful for parishioners attending both churches but they are now moving on together.

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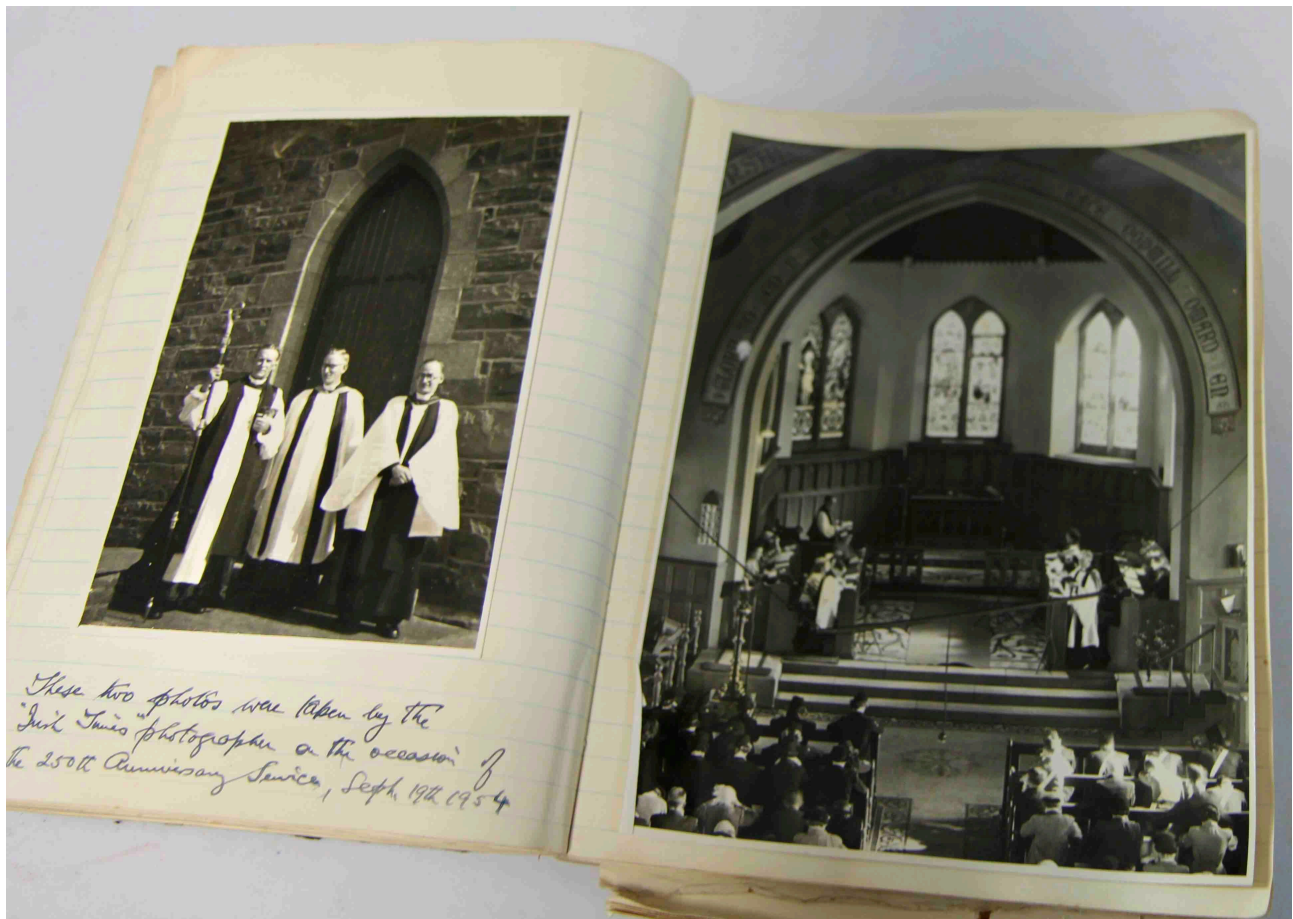
When St Matthew's Church opened in 1704 it was a much smaller building, explains parishioner and historian Trevor James. It was designed as a 'chapel of ease' for the original St Mary's Church, which was located in the centre of Donnybrook and of which no trace remains. At the time, located as it was at the edge of the sea and the Liffey delta, it was difficult to get from Irishtown to Donnybrook. St Matthew's catered mainly for customs officials who were all Protestants, as were all government workers. There were also barracks at Beggars Bush and the Pigeon House Road and military sailors as well as the local population and civil servants. It had not been planned to build the church tower as high as it is but the corporation requested the additional height to act as a navigation aid for shipping.

St Matthew's was a Royal Chapel as money was granted by parliament to build it.

Once the Church of Ireland was disestablished in 1871, it ceased to be so.

Wolfe Tone is known to have stayed in the area and is said to have worshipped in St Matthew's. Robert Emmet would definitely have been in the church, not least because he had friends in the area. Lundy Foot tobacconist and renowned snuff manufacturer was a parishioner. Lundy Foot and their Blackguard snuff were household names throughout the British isles and beyond. Their family grave is also in St Matthew's.

Before the church was extended in 1879 there would have been 300 to 400 people attending services on Sundays with people having to remain outside. The Revd Stoney pushed for the extension, despite reservations in St Mary's. The



Photos taken by an Irish Times photographer at the 250th anniversary service of St Matthew's on September 19 1954 contained in the parish scrapbook.

church was almost gutted with only the walls being retained and the chancel was built on and this is the church that remains today. The mosaic tiled floor, which is still in place, was laid by an Italian tiler who left Dublin under something of a cloud. He did leave behind a box of spare tiles which are still in the church.

The high proportion of Protestant population continued in the area with a large number of Church of Ireland homes evident in the 1911 Census.

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Parish administrator, Jonny Bell, explains that during the 1916 Rising soldiers took over the church at some time and bullet holes can be seen in the old school building. However, he adds, the parish bulletin of the day did not give the rising much credence, referring only to “the regrettable circumstances of last week”. This is despite much of the fighting taking place within a kilometre of the church at Boland’s Mill and Mount Street Bridge.

Gladys Raethorne has been a parishioner of St Matthew’s all her life. She was baptised and confirmed in the church and was married there 51 years ago. She recalls Sundays as a child and coming to the church which was full to capacity. Her father would bring the children in the morning and her mother in the evening, in addition to attending Sunday School. She remembers her wedding day. “I thought I was Elizabeth Taylor getting married. The whole community came out to look,” she says. Her husband was Catholic and in 1971 this was frowned upon to say the least so much of the community didn’t come in to the church for the wedding but gathered outside.

All sense of the monochrome society of the 1970s is gone with the huge influx of multinational companies. Residents hail from all over the world and the area has changed once again. Reflecting this, the church is shared with the Knanyan Indian Orthodox Church. One of the few constants over the past three centuries remains St Matthew’s Church.

The parish has received an architect’s report and hopes to go to tender for the works shortly. It is expected to close for a few months in Spring 2023 for the work to take place.

News reports



Archbishop “horrified” by killings on eve of historic ecumenical pilgrimage to South Sudan

The Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed his “sorrow” as violence and sectarian conflict continues to take lives in South Sudan.

Archbishop Justin is currently on a historic three-day Pilgrimage for Peace to South Sudan with Pope Francis and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Just days before the church leaders' trip started, 27 people were killed in a raid in Kajo-Kiji.

Preaching at All Saints Anglican Cathedral in Juba on Saturday, Most Rev Justin Welby urged those who have committed “secret crimes and evil deeds” to ask for God’s mercy transformation.

He also prayed they would know the “infinite love of Christ”.

He said: “Whoever you are here, whatever you have done in your life, if there are secret crimes and evil deeds that nobody else knows, God knows your heart. And He kneels before you. God in Jesus kneels before you, and he says: ‘Will you let me wash you?’ When he washes us we are changed.”

“My heart breaks, I can hardly speak, with sorrow for South Sudan. I beg that at every level, from the President to the smallest child, that people find the mercy of God and are transformed, and that there is peace and good government. That no one steals money. That no one kills their neighbour for cattle.”

Pope Francis and the head of the Church of Scotland also held services elsewhere.

On Saturday afternoon the Archbishop, the Pope and the Scottish Moderator met with people displaced by conflict in South Sudan before addressing a joint open-air Prayer Vigil for Peace at John Garang Mausoleum in Juba.

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The joint pilgrimage by leaders of Roman Catholic, Anglican and Reformed traditions is the first visit of its kind in history.

Moderator preaches for a congregation of 16,000 people

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland preached in front of nearly 16,000 people at a Presbyterian church in South Sudan today.

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields was given a rapturous welcome at Nyakuron-West Church in Juba when he and the Church of Scotland delegation arrived at the large tent venue.

The First Vice President of South Sudan, Riek Machar, was in the congregation and gave an address, urging people to embrace forgiveness and reconciliation.

Dr Greenshields, Principal Clerk, Rev Fiona Smith, and Rev Ian Alexander, who leads the Church's international partnerships work, and members of the Presbyterian Church USA also met with local church leaders.

The colourful and lively service was one of three major events that the Moderator took part in today as part of an historic ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace alongside Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The three spiritual leaders worshipped at different churches as per their faith traditions this morning but appeared together at Freedom Hall to meet and address people who

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have been forced to flee their homes and live in displacement camps.

Dr Greenshields, Pope Francis and Most Rev Justin Welby later led a large open-air prayer vigil for peace and an estimated 50,000 people attended.

Peace building

The Moderator used all three occasions to bring greetings from the Church of Scotland and express solidarity with ordinary people who are suffering profoundly from continued armed conflict, violence, floods and famine and appealed to decision-makers to lead the way in bringing about reconciliation and lasting peace.

Speaking at the Church service, Dr Greenshields acknowledged that it is "very difficult" to be a Christian, the leader of a country and a church but encouraged people to follow Jesus's commandment to love one another deeply and build a society that is worthy of the name Christ

Dr Greenshields described the Pilgrimage of Peace as a "remarkable occasion" given the Christian Church has united in this way for the first time in more than 500 years.

"Here we are on South Sudanese soil seeking to find a way together and encourage one another to be peacemakers," he added.

The only way to do that is to love God with all our hearts and minds and love one another.

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"Jesus says, 'love Your enemy' and pray for them."

Dr Greenshields led the opening prayer at the Freedom Hall event and met some young people living in camps who shared their testimonies.

Addressing the vast crowd, he said: "We thank you for this space and ask that for all present it might be a space of hope

"A space where love is shared, known and experienced

"We are in Freedom Hall and may this be a place of new beginning."

Unity

Dr Greenshields told the crowds at the outdoor prayer vigil that it was a "great pleasure and privilege" to join the Archbishop and the Pope on the Pilgrimage for Peace.

"We are visiting your country to emphasise our commitment with you to peace in South Sudan and to encourage and stand in solidarity with you, the people who are still suffering profoundly from the effects of violence, floods and famine.

"In the unity of faith, we offer solidarity with the Churches, the people and leaders of this country who genuinely seek change through peace for a future that is optimistic and hopeful.

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"There is a strong legacy of churches working together for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan – they played a key role in the nation achieving independence peacefully.

"We hope to encourage the continued unity of churches for the common good in South Sudan, for justice and fullness of life for all the people."

Dr Greenshields said he prayed that the Pilgrimage of Peace will enhance "the spirit of change" in all people.

"To empower us all to seek hope, reconciliation, forgiveness, justice, and unity in and through our Lord Jesus Christ," he added.

Christian Aid's South Sudan team welcome Church of Scotland Moderator

The Church of Scotland Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, made time during his busy 3-day visit to South Sudan to meet staff at Christian Aid's office in Juba.

James Wani, Christian Aid's South Sudan Country Director said:

"We are thrilled that the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields has been able to make time during the Pilgrimage of Peace to meet our Christian Aid staff in Juba. Christian Aid has a rich legacy in South Sudan and we were able share about our work, through our partners, on peacebuilding and emergency

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humanitarian assistance. The harsh reality is that conflict, Covid and the climate crisis have taken their toll and this year we expect more than three quarters of the population to require humanitarian assistance.”

Head of Christian Aid Scotland, Sally Foster-Fulton said:

“This historic peace pilgrimage brings with it much hope and optimism and we stand with our sisters and brothers in South Sudan at this time. Dr Greenshields and the Church of Scotland group received a warm welcome from our country team in Juba and it's a rare opportunity for face-to-face conversation about peace, the impact of the climate crisis on South Sudan and Christian Aid's vital humanitarian work. I hope this is just the start of an ongoing conversation.”

Poem for today

Sunday Morning by Louis MacNeice

Down the road someone is practising scales,
The notes like little fishes vanish with a wink of tails,
Man's heart expands to tinker with his car
For this is Sunday morning, Fate's great bazaar;
Regard these means as ends, concentrate on this Now,

And you may grow to music or drive beyond Hindhead
anyhow,
Take corners on two wheels until you go so fast

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That you can clutch a fringe or two of the windy past,
That you can abstract this day and make it to the week of
time

A small eternity, a sonnet self-contained in rhyme.

But listen, up the road, something gulps, the church spire
Open its eight bells out, skulls' mouths which will not tire
To tell how there is no music or movement which secures
Escape from the weekday time. Which deadens and
endures.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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