

Church News Ireland

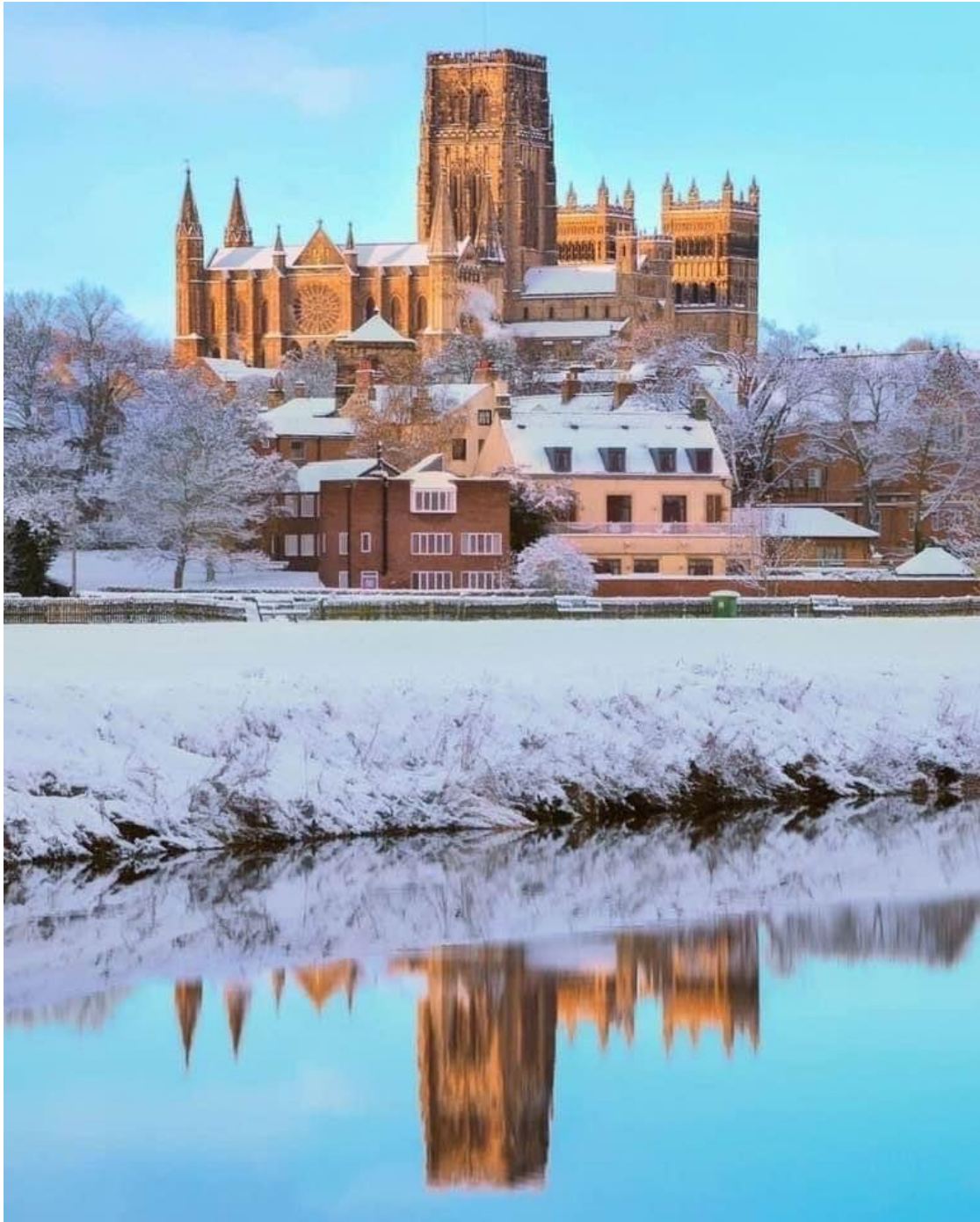


Image of the day – Durham Cathedral

Image of the day

Durham Cathedral

Things to see and do - From the museum to the tower, Harry Potter filming locations to stained glass, find out what you can explore on a visit to Durham Cathedral. Explore everything Durham Cathedral has to offer at - [\[https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/\]](https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/)

People and places



Aghalee Parish's Holy Heritage

Prof. Brian Walker will give a presentation on the church history of Aghalee Parish through the ages.

January 16, 2023

Professor Emeritus Brian M. Walker (formerly of Queen's University, Belfast) is a historian and political scientist with particular expertise in C19th and C20th history. He is a son of the rectory, with a wide knowledge of church history, and is the author of a number of books on history, politics and commemorations. Under the title, 'Our Holy Heritage', Prof. Walker will help us to understand the history of Aghalee Parish through the ages, within the context of our wider diocese and the early Christian church in this area.

You will be most welcome at Soldierstown Church Hall on Thursday 16th February at 7:30pm.

Healing Service

"Living Hope in 2023"

7.30pm Tuesday 31st January

St. Finnian's Parish Church
Cregagh Park
Belfast

Bishop Harold Miller

Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil





Mothers' Union achievements in 2022

Coming to the end of the second week of January, Mothers' Union has been reflecting on what was achieved as a movement in 2022. Read the article here:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/mothers-union-2022>

4 Corners Festival 2023 programme is now live

If you've been looking forward to any of the events and haven't been able to sign up for them, now's your chance.

DREAMS

Visions for Belfast



Check out the programme here -

<https://4cornersfestival.com/2023-programme-overview/>

News reports

Parents fear being ‘railroaded’ into changing their school patronage

Parents have expressed anger and confusion over concerns that their schools were being “railroaded” into change of patronage from Catholic to secular, The Irish Catholic newspaper reports.


Community meetings were held last month in eight areas across the country, including Dublin and Cork, as part of a pilot initiative to diversify patronage choices for parents.

However, in Raheny, North Dublin a survey found that 83% of parents were opposed to divesting or reconfiguring the patronage of the school.

“Beacon of Hope” launched by Christian Aid to tackle Blue Monday

International development charity, Christian Aid, is launching a “Beacon of Hope” art installation in an eye-catching bid to raise awareness of injustices and inequality.

Chairperson of Christian Aid, Dr John Sentamu, said: “This Blue Monday might well become the bluest yet, with people struggling amidst a cost-of-living crisis. To help lift the spirits of the nation, Christian Aid will be showing what we can achieve when we’re united by hope.”





Brothers in Arms
The Priest & the taxi-driver

Gardiner Street Parish
Church of St Francis Xavier

Join Fr Brendan McManus SJ & Jimmy Fullam sharing the story of their Camino experience:

- walking through a heatwave,
- coping with injury,
- reflecting on life and faith.

John Sullivan Room,
Gardiner Street Church, Dublin 1
Saturday 4th February 2023
11am-12.30pm
Cost: €10



January 16, 2023

Initially set up in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral, the Beacon of Hope - a bright five-sided, stained-glass structure – will later this year be auctioned off to raise funds for Christian Aid's humanitarian work.

The project is a collaboration between Christian Aid and Ugandan artist and writer Matt Kayem. Matt has used his signature style of recycled denim stretched into canvases to convey vital messages around food poverty, equality, health, climate and injustice.

Talking about his involvement, Matt said: "With so many injustices in the world, it is important we speak out. I am glad to be working in solidarity with Christian Aid to reach



January 16, 2023

out to people about the importance of equality, of decolonisation. By raising awareness, we can create hope that change really is in our hands.”

The Beacon of Hope will be displayed from January 16–29 at Southwark Cathedral, open to all. There will be two late night viewings – on Wednesday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 25 when the cathedral will be open until 8.30pm and candlelit, giving visitors the opportunity to see the beacon at night. This will be free entry.

Recent ordinations



Rev. David Aksenczuk is pictured with Archbishop of Down and Connor Noel Treanor and his parents Ola and Jarek following his ordination to the diaconate on Sunday, January 8.

Four men were ordained to the diaconate across the island of Ireland last weekend, at a time of vocations crisis in Ireland.

Two sets of ordinations took place on the feast of Epiphany as Stephen Ward was ordained by Bishop of Derry Donal McKeown in Waterside parish, Derry, while Cameroon seminarians Conrad Forzeh and Frankline Nkopi were ordained by Bishop of Elphin Kevin Doran in Sligo Cathedral.

Archbishop of Down and Connor Noel Treanor ordained David Aksenczuk in Belfast.

In the media

Priest's prayers answered after computer theft from his church

A west Belfast priest has hailed the power of social media after an iPad and iMac stolen from his church were returned following an online appeal, Liam Tunney reports in the Belfast Telegraph

Fr Martin Magill posted an appeal on Facebook and Twitter after the equipment and a sum of money were taken from the sacristy of St John's Church on the Falls Road.

The incident was reported on Wednesday afternoon, but by the following day the computers were safely back in time to broadcast Thursday's Compline (night prayer) to parishioners.

Along with pastoral assistant Catherine McCoy, Fr Magill was able to use Apple's 'Find My' app to track the location of the stolen items.

The clergyman explained: “On Wednesday afternoon Catherine went in to close the church and noticed the door into our sacristy corridor open.

“When she came into the sacristy then she noticed that a number of pieces of equipment had gone missing.

“We realised at this stage that it had been stolen, so we decided that we would put out a post just to let people know and see if they knew anything.”

Shared more than 600 times on Facebook, the post alerted people to the theft, with many describing sightings of the person who may have been responsible.

The appeal led to a video call from a youth worker, who was able to show Fr Magill the missing equipment still intact.

“It was all there, apart from an iPad cover and an envelope containing cash subscriptions to a magazine,” said the priest.

“When we got the news last night we put out another post to show the equipment had been returned.

“It shows the power of social media.

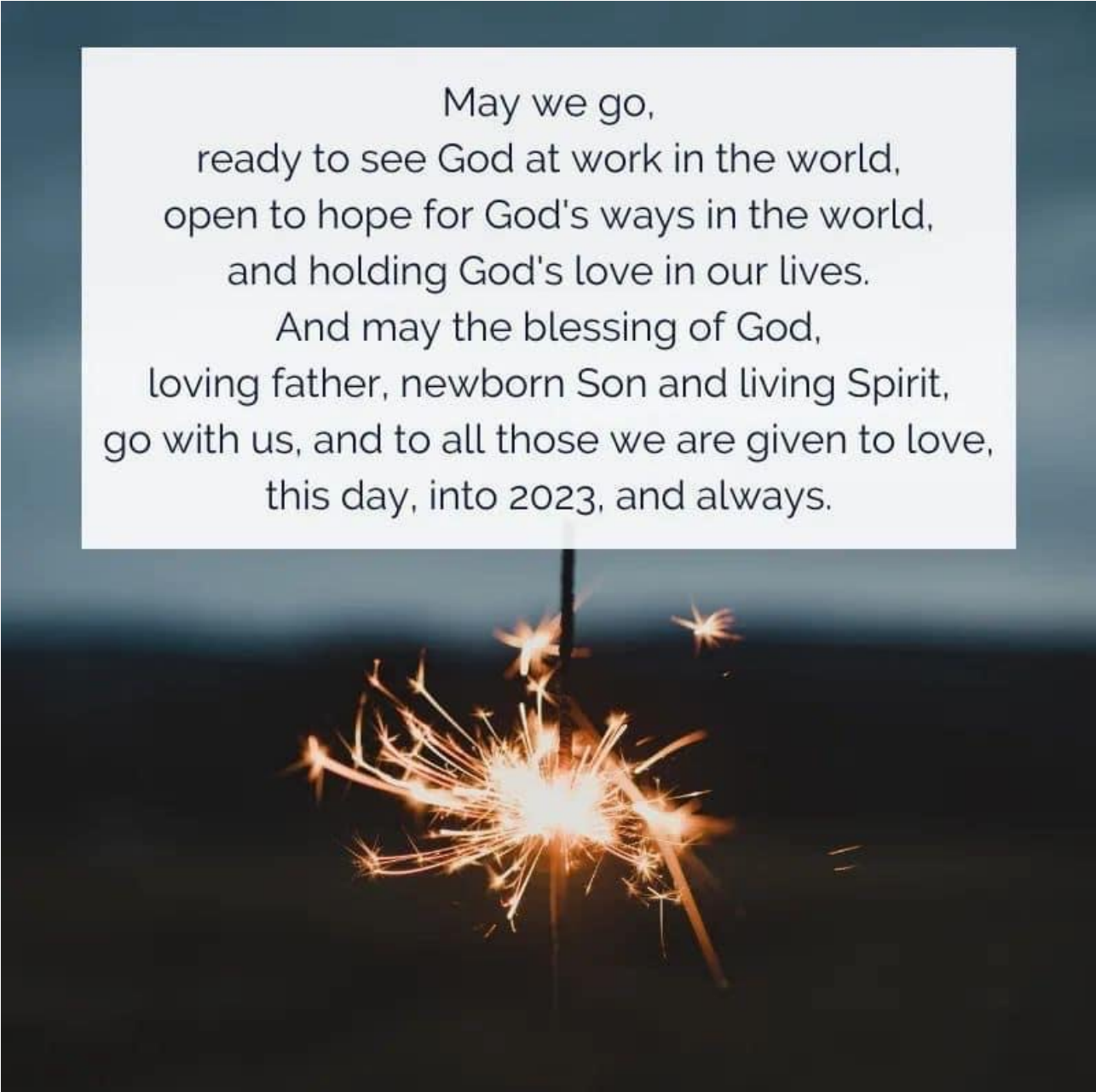
“There is obviously still a piece of work for police to do.”

January 16, 2023

The PSNI has appealed for information following the burglary.

“Anyone who may have noticed anyone suspicious in the area around the time of the burglary or anyone with CCTV or mobile phone footage that could help with our enquiries can contact police on 101 quoting reference 1304 of 11/01/22,” it said.

Fr Magill revealed despite the theft the church would remain accessible to parishioners, who use it on a daily basis.



May we go,
ready to see God at work in the world,
open to hope for God's ways in the world,
and holding God's love in our lives.
And may the blessing of God,
loving father, newborn Son and living Spirit,
go with us, and to all those we are given to love,
this day, into 2023, and always.

“Thankfully churches are, for the most part, not affected by crime or vandalism. It would be very rare for us,” he added. “There was a huge response, with people commenting on it, and the vast majority are very sympathetic.

“We leave the church open every day, so even though we had the theft, it was open as usual and we are planning to continue to leave it open.”

Those with information on the burglary can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Presbyterian Moderator Dr John Kirkpatrick attends Motor Cycle Union of Ireland Ulster Centre awards

As the principal public representative of the Presbyterian Church, the moderator of the all-Ireland denomination is most commonly seen as a man of the cloth, Graeme Cousins reports in The News Letter.

However Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick has also been known to trade cloth for leather, and last night in the Royal Hotel in Cookstown, the church’s current moderator became probably the first moderator to speak at a motorcycle awards night.

Motor Cycle Union of Ireland Ulster Centre’s annual season awards night saw a host of Northern Ireland’s leading road

racers and newcomers attend the ceremony, which honoured their achievements in last year's season.

Portrush minister Dr Kirkpatrick has a lifelong love of motorbikes and road racing, and a longstanding pastoral association with the sport, as he is race chaplain to the Motor Cycle Union of Ireland (MCUI) – a position that he has held since 1994.

Speaking before yesterday award's ceremony, Dr Kirkpatrick joked that while it was a coincidence that the MCUI chaplain is also this year's PCI Moderator, it was probably the first, and potentially the last time, a moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland would speak at the gala event.

He said: "This is always an important night for honouring the skill, dedication, courage and passion of those involved in motor cycle racing in Ulster and, of course, a time for reflection as we remember those whose passion for the sport was everything and ultimately cost them everything.

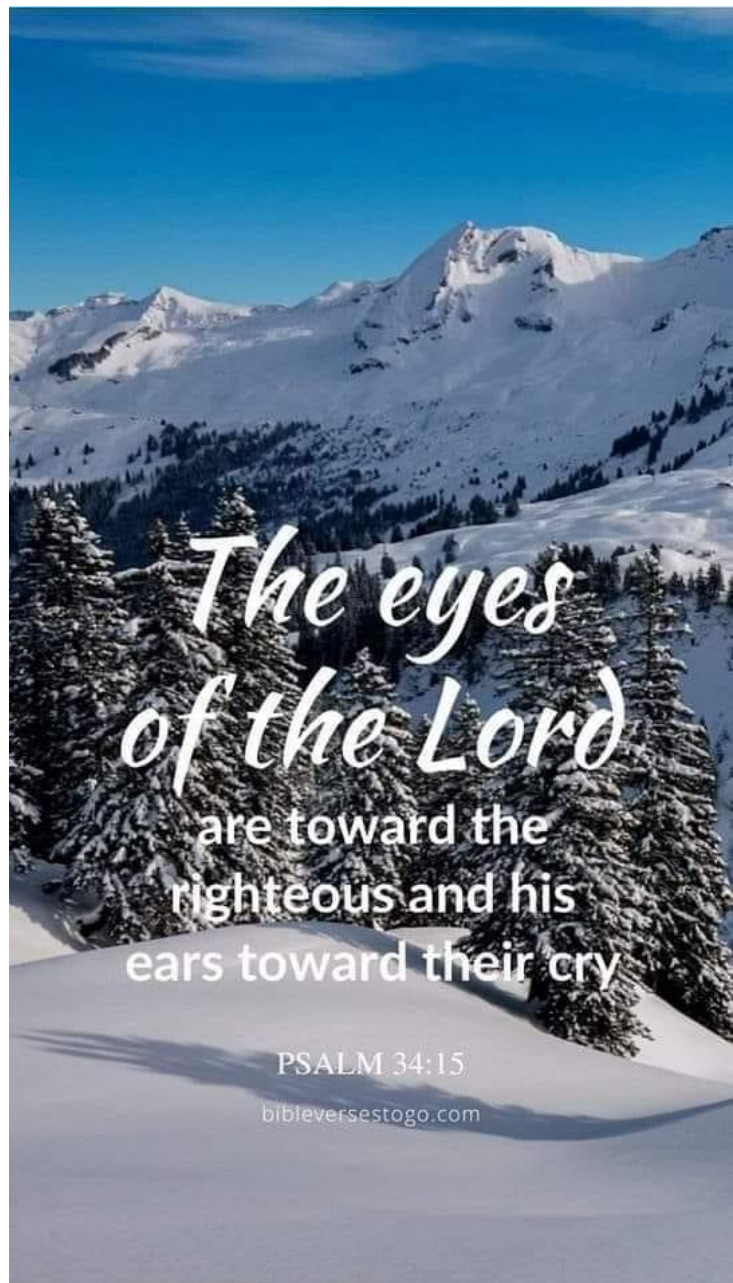
"Like any of our hard working chaplains you will find in hospitals, prisons, the armed forces or universities, their role is to come alongside people, supporting them, offering a listening and compassionate ear, being there for them, encouraging and praying for them, and not just in their hour of need. In a non-denominational way, my role is no different.

"Increasingly you will find more of our ministers, and those from other denominations, getting involved in sports chaplaincy as this ministry has expanded in recent years. In

doing so, they bring their love of sport and love for Jesus together, as they offer pastoral and spiritual support to sportsmen and women, and officials, across a range of disciplines. It also underlines the fact that through sports chaplaincy, the Church wants to continue to demonstrate its care and compassion for people and its genuine desire to be there in every avenue of everyday life.”

Dr Kirkpatrick continued: “It is also about building relationships and trust on and off the pitch, or in my case on and off the track, in and outside of the paddock, with people of all faiths and none.”

The moderator also said that it had been a privilege to serve in his capacity as race chaplain for nearly 30 years: “The motorcycle racing community is a large family of people of all ages and from different walks of life who share a real love of the sport, its speed and power. People who celebrate the skill of the riders together, and at times come together to acknowledge the pain and grief that people often go



January 16, 2023

through, but always appreciating that it takes every rider to make a race.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Dust and Glory Resources for Lent 2023

Over the next few weeks, you and your church may be starting preparations for Lent. This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life.

Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness is the Church of England's Lent theme for 2023.

Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

The Archbishops' Lent Book and Course

Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness is the Church of England's Lent theme for 2023. This year's resources are informed and inspired by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2023 Lent Book, *Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up* (SPCK) by Bishop Emma Ineson, who has also co-written the daily reflections booklet for adults (CHP).

There will be free online support for groups studying the book – including in-depth video interviews with the Archbishop of Canterbury and others exploring the themes of each of the chapters.

The book will also be the 2023 Big Church Read for Lent.

Daily reflections – booklets, app, audio

As in recent years, the weekly themes of the Archbishop's Lent Book are also explored in daily reflections from the Church of England.

Dust and Glory: A Lent Journey of faith, failure and forgiveness offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a practical challenge, as well as a prayer linked to the week's theme. Co-written by Bishop Emma Ineson and

January 16, 2023

Abbie Martin, the booklet is designed to be used either in parallel with the Lent Book or independently.

An accompanying children's version will also be available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes.

The book and booklets will be accompanied by daily #DustAndGlory social media posts from Ash Wednesday (22 February) to Easter Day (9 April), together with a wide range of free digital resources for individuals, groups and churches.

An update to the award-winning Church of England campaigns app for iOS and Android – including daily audio – will be available in early February. Anyone who has the Church of England's #FollowTheStar app installed will automatically get the Lent update.

The reflections will also be available via email and also via the Church of England's smart speaker apps – as well as on the Daily Hope phone line.

Find out more about our theme and the resources available for 2023 at cofe.io/DustAndGlory.

Book - The Letter of James: Six studies on living a complete life in Christ by Curtis Wilson

A new study on the Letter of James is now available in print or instantly on Ebook. A great tool for personal growth,

group study, or family devotionals. In this set of studies on the book of James we look at how the Lord exchanges our trials for His engrafted word. On the practical side there is so much to be done from studying this letter. We conclude this series of studies with a final examine on prevailing prayer. You are sure to enhance your walk with Christ by letting this six-part study weave its way into your heart.
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B9R25KLM#>

Poem for today

Peace by Patrick Kavanagh

And sometimes I am sorry when the grass
Is growing over the stones in quiet hollows
And the cocksfoot leans across the rutted cart-pass
That I am not the voice of country fellows
Who now are standing by some headland talking
Of turnips and potatoes or young corn
Of turf banks stripped for victory.
Here Peace is still hawking
His coloured combs and scarves and beads of horn.

Upon a headland by a whinny hedge
A hare sits looking down a leaf-lapped furrow
There's an old plough upside-down on a weedy ridge
And someone is shouldering home a saddle-harrow.
Out of that childhood country what fools climb
To fight with tyrants Love and Life and Time.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com
