

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – oldest Irish stone roofed church

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Oldest Irish stone roofed church

St Doulagh's Church of Ireland Church this week -

photographed against a clear blue sky as the parish team were showing pupils from Malahide and Portmarnock Educate Together National School around what is, by far, the oldest building in the locality dating back to the 12th century. It is, in fact, the oldest stone roofed church still in continuous use in Ireland. Well done the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh.

People and places

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry receiving medical monitoring and treatment

The Episcopal Church's Office of Public Affairs released the following statement on May 30 with information about medical care Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is receiving for internal bleeding and an irregular heartbeat.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was admitted to the hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he underwent testing for

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internal bleeding and a heart condition. He has been discharged and will be monitored while working on a reduced schedule from home.

Curry's internal bleeding is under control, and additional test results are expected later this week. He has been receiving treatment for atrial fibrillation (AFib), which was detected in an annual physical. While in the hospital, Curry experienced two other episodes of irregular heartbeat, and he will wear a



The poster features a light green background with a sunflower in the top right corner. In the top left, there is a circular icon of a potted plant. The text is centered and reads: 'Plant Sale' in a large, dark green, cursive font; 'SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2023' in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font; '11AM - 3PM' in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font; and the address 'HEYN HALL, ST MARK'S DUNDELA SYDENHAM AVENUE/HOLYWOOD ROAD, BELFAST BT4 2DR' in a dark green, sans-serif font. Below the address, it says 'REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE' in a dark green, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are three cartoon illustrations of people: a woman on the left holding a plant, a man in the center holding two plants, and a woman on the right.

Plant Sale

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2023
11AM - 3PM

HEYN HALL, ST MARK'S DUNDELA
SYDENHAM AVENUE/HOLYWOOD ROAD,
BELFAST BT4 2DR

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



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heart monitor to determine what further treatment is necessary.

Until he is cleared for air travel by his medical team, Curry will remain in Raleigh, resting and working from home on a reduced schedule. As more information becomes available regarding Curry's health and schedule, his staff will provide updates.

Please pray for a full and speedy recovery—and for Curry's medical team as they identify the best course of treatment.

Northern Ireland football fans invited to attend Service of Thanksgiving

Northern Ireland fans are being invited to attend a Service of Thanksgiving for Billy Bingham MBE in Belfast next month.

Bingham, who famously managed Northern Ireland at two World Cup final tournaments in the 1980s and was also an outstanding player for his country, will be remembered at the service at St Anne's Cathedral on June 7 (11.30am).

The memorial service, which is being hosted for the Irish Football Association, is to be led by the Dean of Belfast, Very Rev Stephen Forde, with music provided by Master of Music Jack Wilson, Belfast Community Gospel Choir and pianist Ian Hannah.

The Irish FA and the Bingham family were keen for fans to join them in celebrating the life of the former Northern

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Ireland boss, who sadly passed away last summer. Invitations to fans is being organised by the Irish FA

St Macartin's Cathedral Flower Festival – A major success

The Flower Festival held in St Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen, over four days last weekend, attracted

a large number of visitors from a very wide area in the very fine summer weather.



The theme of the Festival was the ‘Signs and Sayings in John’s Gospel’. Responsibility for arranging the 20 outstanding arrangements rested with members of the Erne Flower Arranging Society, assisted by two specialists in floral art, Messrs Alan Beatty and James Burnside. Volunteer stewards from the parish were available in the cathedral to give whatever assistance or information was required by visitors.

A very impressive display at the west porch of the cathedral welcomed visitors with the theme “I am the door”. Window

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displays interpreted a number of important biblical sayings such as: “I am the good shepherd” and the act of “Changing water into wine”. At the lectern, a very impressive floral display was



associated with Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet. The Crucifixion was depicted in the chancel with an elaborate floral display surrounding a large wooden cross surmounted by a crown of thorns. The central pews had a number of displays ranging from “Healing the blind man” to “Feeding the 5000.” Displays in the Regimental Chapel included “I am the bread of life”. The Book of Remembrance had a very poignant display featuring Jesus’ saying: This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”. The alter in the Regimental Chapel featured “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty”. The final display (St Macartin, St Patrick and St Brigid) in the north porch featured silver birch and mountain ash and other elaborate floral displays appropriate to the

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saying "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe".

Visitors regarded the exhibition as outstanding. It was a great tribute to the flower arrangers in the skill they displayed in translating the biblical sayings into the most attractive and appropriate floral displays.

Visitors had the opportunity of having morning coffee, lunch or an evening meal, provided by volunteer ladies from the parish, in the well decorated Cathedral Hall...



This week, **The Feast of the Visitation:** - Mary said: "He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he has sent away empty."

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... The Dean, The Very Revd Kenny Hall, was absolutely delighted with the number of visitors from many different countries who were visiting the town over the weekend, and the local community response. The Dean said “The Festival provided pleasure and enjoyment to a large number of people who were extremely generous in their financial support realising in excess of £32,500. This will enable the Cathedral to carry on and enhance its work at the Heart of the Community in strengthening commitment, outreach and Christian Love.”



**Church's
Ministry
of Healing
Ireland**

**THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF
HEALING: IRELAND**

**Annual Service of Thanksgiving:
a Eucharistic Service
of Wholeness & Healing**

11th June 2023, 3pm: St Mary's, Maynooth
Preacher: Mrs Gillian Kingston
All welcome!

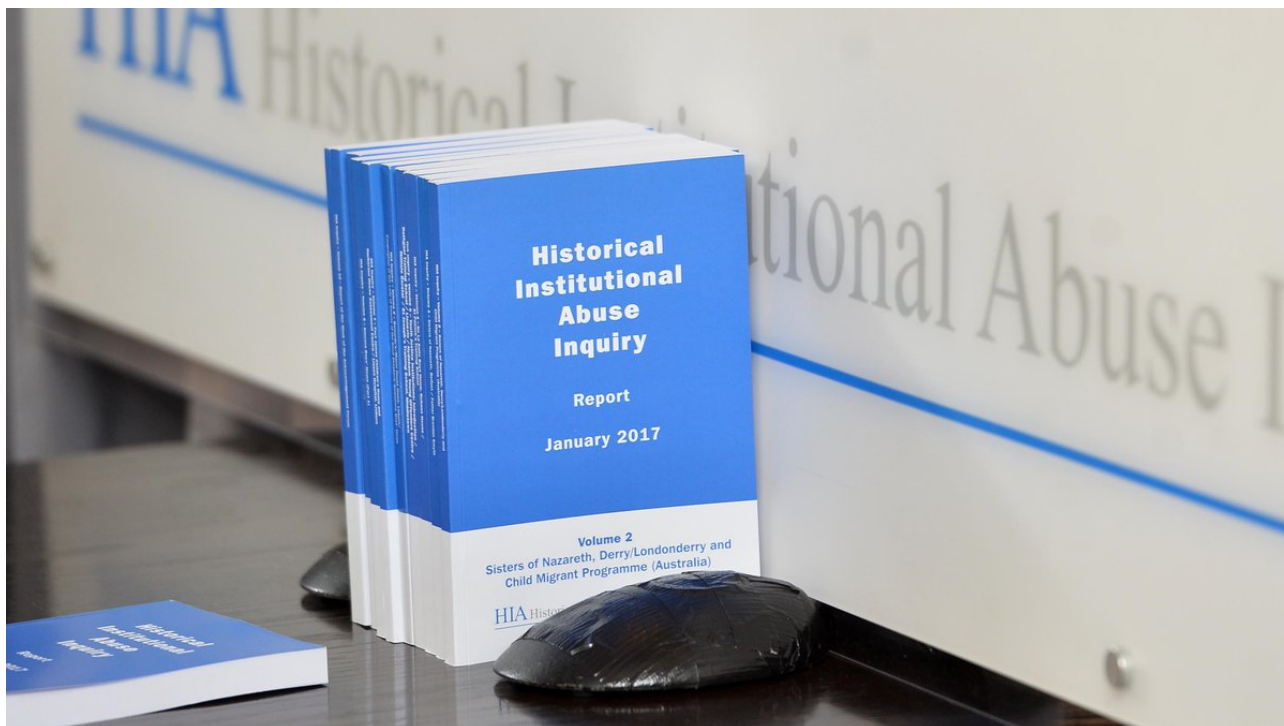


Architectural Heritage Fund grants Northern Ireland

The Architectural Heritage Fund announced this week that it has awarded 6 more grants to groups in NI, thanks to Communities NI.

They will help animate 3 churches, 2 industrial buildings, and the former home of the manager of the Lagan Canal, which is set to form a base for natural and built heritage skills training.

From a station building to a warehouse, 15 diverse projects were supported at last week's grants panel including St John's Church, Hilltown which has been vacant since 1983. Clonduff DE is working to create a community hub in this historic building.



Historical Institutional Abuse Redress

Every household in Northern Ireland is to receive a leaflet outlining services and compensation available for victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse (HIA).

Support and compensation were among the recommendations of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIAI), which revealed sexual, physical and emotional abuse at state, church and charity-run homes from 1922 to 1995.

Stormont's Executive Office said more than 3,700 applications have been made to the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board (HIARB) so far, and more than £68 million has been paid out in terms of redress.

Palestrina Choir tour to Rome

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Dublin's Palestrina Choir Rome tour

In the media

Integrated education halted by territorial divides, not religion

The current Tory government has committed itself to expanding integrated education in Northern Ireland, Malachi O’Doherty writes in the Belfast Telegraph.

Brandon Lewis, as secretary of state, committed £435k to the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education to support a project encouraging schools to transform. He described the integration of schooling as an 'absolute priority'. The Integrated Education Forum is also to receive £1.465m.

Then Rishi Sunak, around the marking of the 25th anniversary of the Agreement, said in Belfast that integrated education should become the norm and not the exception.

And last week Lord Caine, the parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the Government would be putting “considerable sums of money” into developing the sector. This may just have been a reference to money committed but at a time when schools are screaming for help and we don't have an Executive, this seems out of character with the general squeeze on budgets.

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Lord Caine was speaking at an event called a Peace Summit at Ulster University last Wednesday and the promise of money for integrated education wasn't his only commitment.

He is the one who will be driving through the controversial legacy bill in June and he told the audience there that there would be amendments to the bill to improve it.

He said his thinking on this had been influenced by conversations with Laurence Simms, the Irish Secretariat.

Simms himself spoke at the event about a willingness to spend money here and encouraged people to engage with the Shared Island initiative which has a billion euro to distribute. He said the Irish government would be improving its offer of multi annual funding for organisations. The government that Lord Caine speaks for is hardly likely to be around long enough to see a radical expansion of integrated education but one may suppose that a Labour government would be similarly inclined to promote it.

Bringing Catholic and Protestant children together is a sensible aid to eroding sectarianism but progress has been slow.

Most of the work has been done by parents.

Kellie Armstrong, the Alliance MLA, got an act through the Assembly last year to compel the Department of Education to prioritise integrated education but she herself expressed concern that future ministers of education would not drive this.

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When Peter Robinson briefly championed the idea of Catholic and Protestant and other children being educated together the Catholic Church dismissed the idea as sectarian. What we got was a measure of shared education, Catholics and Protestants going into the same campus by different doors.

Far from mixing children together this — as Newton Emerson recently pointed out on the Nolan Show — made segregation more obvious.

Duncan Morrow said at the peace summit that he was sceptical of the Government's commitment to integrated education given that funding for the shared education system has been cut from, by his estimate, £14 per pupil to £7 per pupil.

While the DUP boycotts the Executive there is no education minister and no committee to discuss the NIO's promotion of integrated education.

Perhaps Lord Caine is anticipating that Westminster will be driving change while the Assembly is down, taking advantage of the DUP boycott to force change at a level that the local parties could not be trusted to manage, as was done with same sex marriage and abortion law reform?

There would be an advantage in having the expansion of integrated education driven from Westminster.

There was a lot of opposition to Kellie Armstrong's bill, as there was previous opposition to merging our teacher

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training colleges, the Catholic St Mary's and the Queen's University courses.

It is too easy to say that favouring integration discriminates against other systems.

The state system says it is already integrated; open to Catholics if they want to come.

Yet they have Protestant church people on their boards representing the Churches which transferred their schools to state control.

The Catholic Church says that it provides an ethos that is not available in state schools. The presumption behind the Catholic system is that more than half the families in the State want their children raised as Catholics yet levels of church attendance do not reflect anything like that level of committed devotion to the Church.

Children are being sent to Catholic schools for many reasons other than that their parents want them to inherit the faith. It's often because the Catholic school is the school in the heart of a Catholic area. It is territorial segregation not religious enthusiasm that drives educational segregation.

Father Martin Magill argued recently that people who made use of the church for sacramental ceremonies like baptisms, weddings and funeral services should be contributing more. The church won't charge them or turn them away but it is suffering depleted resources and understaffing in an age of rapid secularisation.

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We have the anomaly that two political parties drawing votes almost exclusively from the Catholic community endorse the legalisation of abortion which their Church adamantly opposes.

Indeed, there is an exception in canon law which automatically excommunicates any Catholic who has an abortion or facilitates one.

So how Catholic are the Catholics?

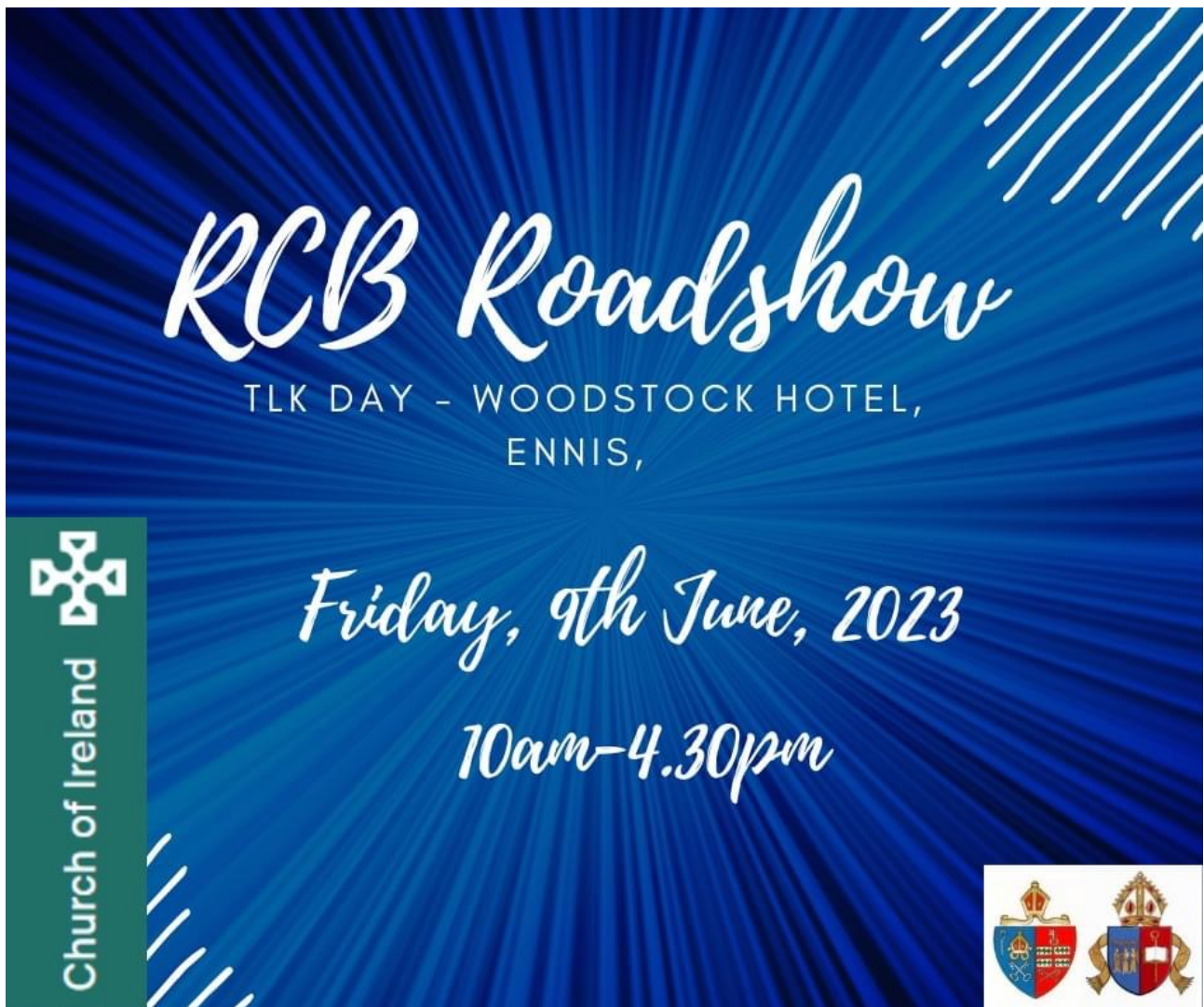
Logically the Church's involvement in education should somehow be reduced to a level proportionate to actual Catholic practice.

Lord Caine, if he wishes to stand over his words to the Peace Summit, could confront these big education systems with less risk of being branded sectarian than any local minister could.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

C of I's RCB Roadshow

The RCB Staff are undertaking a Roadshow covering various topics which will be of interest to dioceses and parishes across the Church of Ireland. Tuam Limerick and Killala's Day will take place on Friday, 9th June, 2023 at the



Woodstock Hotel, Shanaway Rd, Ballylannidy, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 TR25 from 10am - 4.30pm.

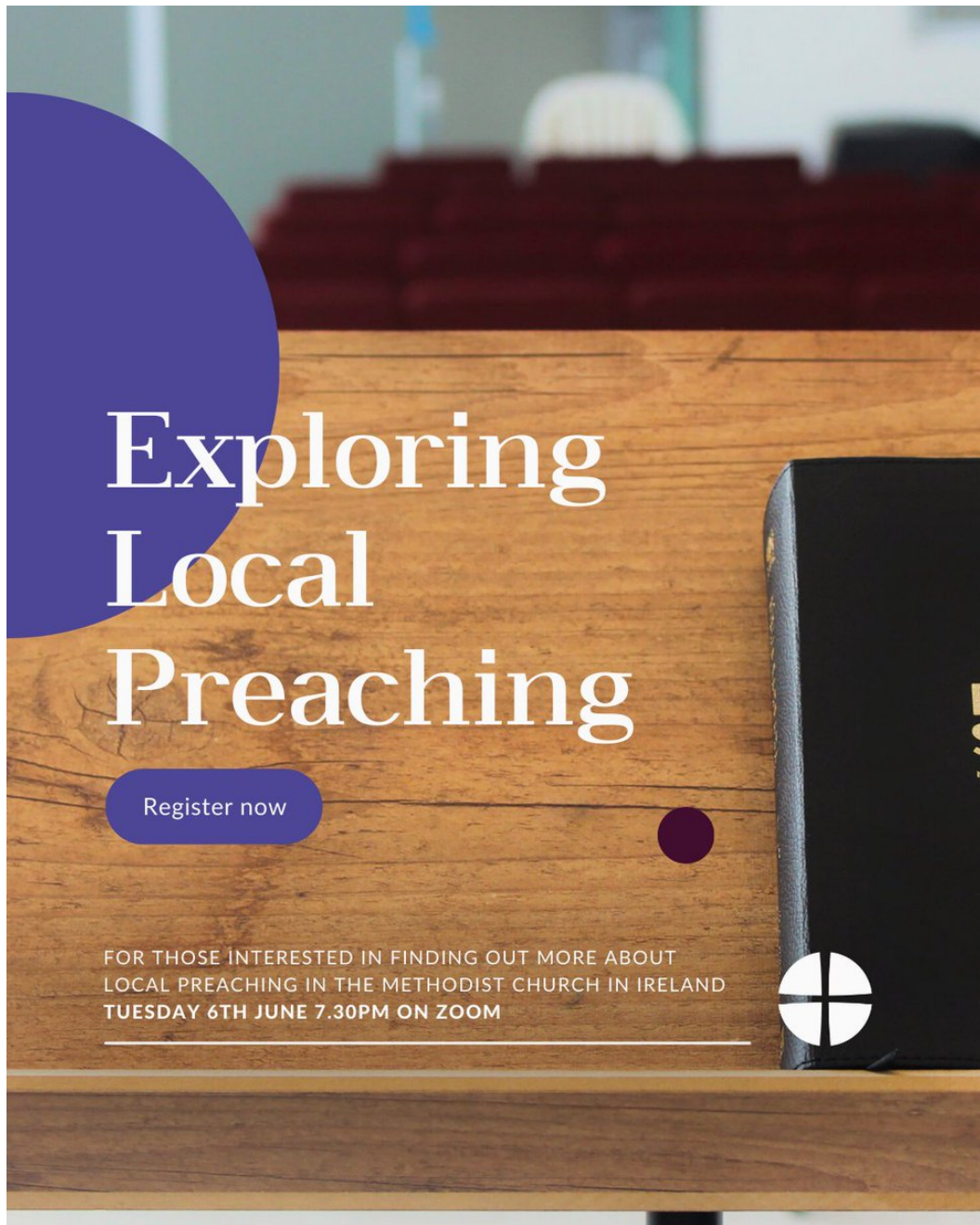
Topics covered will include Data Protection, Charities Finance and Property Protocols.

The information will be useful for all Select Vestry members but is open to any interested parishioners.

If you'd like to come along, let your Diocesan Secretary know - Lorna Sharpe limerickdiocsec@gmail.com or Heather Pope secretary@tka.ie.

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Explore local preaching in the Methodist Church



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Join this upcoming online session to explore local preaching in the Methodist Church in Ireland: – Being called to be a Local Preacher – The why & how of Local Preacher Training in MCI – Training in the local context Tues 6 June, 7:30pm
→ Register: <http://bit.ly/ExploringLP>

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Podcast by President Designate of Irish Methodist Church

President Designate for 2023-24, the Rev David Turtle, shares his hopes and fears for Conference and lots more in the latest episode of the Living Wholeheartedly Podcast with Rev H Morris

Watch now on YouTube, or listen wherever you listen to podcasts: <http://bit.ly/LW-Pod>

Poem for today

Sun and Shadow

By Oliver Wendell Holmes

As I look from the isle, o'er its billows of green,
To the billows of foam-crested blue,
Yon bark, that afar in the distance is seen,
Half dreaming, my eyes will pursue:
Now dark in the shadow, she scatters the spray
As the chaff in the stroke of the flail;
Now white as the sea-gull, she flies on her way,
The sun gleaming bright on her sail.

Yet her pilot is thinking of dangers to shun,--
Of breakers that whiten and roar;
How little he cares, if in shadow or sun
They see him who gaze from the shore!
He looks to the beacon that looms from the reef,
To the rock that is under his lee,

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As he drifts on the blast, like a wind-wafted leaf,
O'er the gulfs of the desolate sea.

Thus drifting afar to the dim-vaulted caves
Where life and its ventures are laid,
The dreamers who gaze while we battle the waves
May see us in sunshine or shade;
Yet true to our course, though the shadows grow dark,
We'll trim our broad sail as before,
And stand by the rudder that governs the bark,
Nor ask how we look from the shore!

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
