



Image of the day - New visitor experience at St Mary's Collegiate Church Youghal

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Reports

Immersive visitor experience' launched at Youghal's St Mary's



St Mary's Collegiate Church, one of the oldest churches still in-use in Ireland, has just announced it's new tourist experience titled: Voices of St. Mary's. (Image: Cork County Council)

The €250k project will invite visitors to explore the church - one of Ireland's oldest - in a unique way.

Youghal has just gained a new tourist attraction right in time for summer 2021, with a new "immersive visitor experience"

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just launched in one of the town's oldest monuments, Rebecca Laffin reports in Cork Beo.

St Mary's Collegiate Church, one of the oldest churches still in-use in Ireland, has just announced its new tourist experience titled: Voices of St. Mary's.

The experience uses a variety of interpretative media to invite visitors to engage with and explore the meaning and significance of this important national monument in East Cork.

The project is the result of €252,000 in funding by Fáilte Ireland's Ancient East Storytelling and Interpretation scheme and Cork County Council.

New media and technology has been used to enhance the visitor experience at St Mary's, with a new self-guided, multi-lingual system.

Interactive touchscreens allow visitors to explore the past, with fascinating insights into what the church looked like in different periods since Early Christian times.

Animated illustrations show the exterior changes to the church over the centuries and video footage of the excavations and discoveries unearthed during the Church's archaeological dig of 2014 are on display.

The audio-tour is part theatre, part tour bringing visitors on a remarkable journey through time in the company of the fictional Roe family, sharing in their emotional reunion and

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their conversations about the history of the church and their own family memories.

Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr Mary Linehan Foley welcomed the addition to the list of attractions in her hometown of Youghal, saying: "St Mary's Collegiate is the largest and most important medieval building in the town; and one of the largest churches in the country.

"It has international significance and since the early 13th century, it's been at the heart of the town here. The new approach to interpretation of the site will propel St Mary's to become a really iconic visitor experience within Ireland's Ancient East and bodes well for an economic boost for the region."

Mary Houlihan, Manager Ireland's Ancient East, added: "Ireland's Ancient East is home to some of the Europe's most remarkable built heritage including tombs older than the pyramids, historic castles, ruined abbeys and cultural sites like St. Mary's Collegiate Church in Youghal.

"After an incredibly challenging year for tourism, the new interpretive "Voices of St. Mary's Collegiate Church", supported through Ireland's Ancient East Storytelling and Interpretation Scheme, will enhance the tourism appeal of Youghal, and its surrounds, by offering visitors a unique and immersive experience that will attract visitors for many years to come."

Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Tim Lucey, thanked Fáilte Ireland for their support, saying: "Cork County is renowned for its rich archaeological heritage which

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contribute much to our economy, cultural identity and quality of life.

"Cork County Council recognises the intrinsic value of our heritage sites and invests in protecting and promoting our cultural and historical assets.

"The funding from Fáilte Ireland is a welcome investment in Youghal and an endorsement of the quality of this project which will be an economic driver for the East Cork Region."

St Mary's Collegiate Church is open 7 days per week, 10 am – 4.30 pm. See [www.stmaryscollegiateyoughal.ie] or tel: 024-25386.

Archbishop of Canterbury becomes a Big Issue vendor in Cambridge for the day

The Archbishop of Canterbury has taken to the streets of Cambridge to get a taste of life as a Big Issue vendor.

Justin Welby donned a baseball cap and spent time trying to persuade the public to purchase a magazine from him.

The Archbishop was selling alongside local vendor, Lee Welham, at his pitch, outside the Round Church in Cambridge.

The highest-ranking Church of England leader has been in Cambridge for the last six weeks on study leave and the pair struck up a friendship in that time.

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Vendor Lee's charming enthusiasm and enterprising spirit has made him a big hit on his pitch, turning him into a tour guide and tourist attraction in the city.

And his cheery demeanour and can-do attitude has not been lost on the Archbishop.

The 37-year-old vendor is no stranger to looking after fellow vendors in his co-ordinating role across Cambridgeshire and he took Welby under his wing on his pitch as he swapped his robes for a Big Issue tabard to spend 40 minutes in Lee's shoes.

It was an enlightening experience as the church leader sold five magazines, even donning a facemask to keep hidden his identity hidden.

Speaking about the experience, the Archbishop said: "The Big Issue changes lives and changes society. Each time you stop for a chat with a vendor and buy a copy of the magazine, you are part of that change.

"I'm hugely grateful to have had the chance to go on a shift with Lee and get a glimpse of what it's like selling the Big Issue. When we look at the life and ministry of Jesus - who famously said he had no place to lay his head - it's clear that homelessness is an issue that matters profoundly to God. And that tackling poverty together is the essential work of a society where every person is truly valued."

Lee Welham said: "This community is so wonderful. It was brilliant to show the Archbishop that everyone does treat the vendors well around here. I've built a lovely community.

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Each and every one of these people here comes and says hello to me every morning.”

Chris Falchi-Stead, Director of Sales and Operations, at The Big Issue, said: “The sell-off experience was a great opportunity to show the Archbishop, on a small scale, what everyday life selling the magazine on the streets is like.”

“Lee is a fantastic ambassador for The Big Issue, showing the Archbishop the ropes, providing sales tips as well as sharing his experiences.”

Lee also took the Archbishop on a punt down the River Cam with a picnic, provided by local Café, Le Pâtissier.

Read the Archbishop’s full interview with Lee on religion, hope and homelessness on BigIssue.com or in the magazine from your local Big Issue seller.

Report courtesy of Cambridgeshire Live.

People and places

World Refugee Day in Carrigaline Parish

Carrigaline Union of Parishes in the Diocese of Cork has recently begun the process to become a Church of Sanctuary (within the Places of Sanctuary movement).

On Sunday 20th June, World Refugee Day, the parish welcomed Fiona Finn, the CEO of NASC Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre in Cork, to speak at the 11am



Fiona Finn of NASC gives the address on World Refugee Day in Carrigaline, County Cork.

On Sunday 20th June, World Refugee Day, the parish welcomed Fiona Finn, the CEO of NASC Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre in Cork, to speak at the 11am Service. This Service was also live-streamed and may be viewed on the parish YouTube channel.

Fiona thanked the parish for their existing involvement with NASC over the last two years as part of the Community Sponsorship Initiative.

Together with their neighbouring Roman Catholic parishes of Our Lady and St John's Carrigaline and The Harbour Parishes, Carrigaline Union of Parishes are sponsoring a refugee family to live in the locality.

Fiona spoke about the latest stark figure of 82.5 million refugees worldwide (a rise from 79 million in 2019) and what

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we, as individuals can do to help in this seemingly hopeless situation. Everyday things like writing to our political leaders, especially now that Ireland has a seat on the UN Security Council, can make a difference.

The appointed Collect of the Word for 20th June, after Fiona had finished speaking, uncannily echoed her words: O God our defender, storms rage around us and cause us to be afraid; rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear ...

Culture Night to return to Belfast's Cathedral Quarter

Culture Night Belfast is set to return to the Cathedral Quarter this September with a new format and a new approach designed for a Covid-safe, post-pandemic environment.

Running from 17 – 19 September, Culture Night Presents The City Garden will transform Cathedral Gardens, Writers' Square and the area around into a colourful, nature-inspired place for play, enjoyment and relaxation, all evoking the feeling of a garden in the heart of the city.

Susan Picken, Director of Cathedral Quarter Trust and Culture Night Belfast said that the challenges of the past year had given everyone a chance to reflect about the shape of the event. She said: "The arts and the wider community have had a particularly difficult time over the past 18 months.

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“We have made a continued effort to support the arts through our website, social media and mailshots and now we are back we want to make sure we continue to actively support our cultural sector, now and in the future.

Commissioning of Lay Reader

Merville Boyd was commissioned a Lay Reader in at a service in Ballinderry Parish Church on June 16 by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison.



Merville and his wife Thelma are pictured with Bishop George; the Rev Peter Jones, Warden of Readers; and the rector of Ballinderry, the Rev Trevor Cleland.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

It's Columba's story – but not as you know it

You've read about him; now it's time to see the film. A new Horrible Histories–style video depicting the life of St Columba was launched at a special all age service of worship in St Augustine's Church yesterday and will be made available free to local schools in the Londonderry area.

The video, Columba: A Tale from Bad to Good, was commissioned by St Augustine's as part of the Columba 1500 year of celebrations, marking the sesquimillennial anniversary of the patron saint's birth.

The film was scripted, directed and produced by Kieran Griffiths of the Playhouse, in Londonderry. The project was supported by Donegal County Council/Colmcille 1500, The Honourable the Irish Society and the Church of Ireland Board of Education.

St Augustine's Church – the 'Wee Church on the Walls' – is believed to stand on the site where St Columba founded his monastery in Derry in the middle of the 6th century.

The video is also part of our History & Heritage playlist on the Church of Ireland's YouTube channel.

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Charles Wood Singers applications sought

Application forms to become a member of the Charles Wood Singers for this year's Festival and work with @davidhconductor and @philscriv1 are now available on the website: charleswoodsummerschool.org/

The closing date to apply for this unique choral course is Monday 5th July 2021.

Union College exhibition on NI100

Officially opened 100 years ago yesterday in Belfast City Hall the next 11 years saw Northern Ireland's Parliament meet at Union Theological College until Stormont was opened. With its own archive material, the College has created a special online exhibition to mark #NI100 bit.ly/3cY5UOs

Connor Diocesan Synod Service online

The 2021 Synod for the Diocese of Connor is scheduled to take place on Thursday June 24. A service of Holy Communion will take place in St Stephen's Parish Church at 12 noon. The service is limited to invited participants, but will be livestreamed on the diocesan Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofConnor/>

The business of Synod will take place on Zoom, commencing at 2pm.

All Aboard Sunday School Programme

Material for year three of Connor's All Aboard Children's Ministry Programme will be shared on the diocesan website.

All Aboard is a three-year Bible based teaching programme suitable for children aged four to 11.

The programme is jam-packed with interactive and engaging activities to help teach Bible stories in a fun interactive way. It comes with lots of ideas for storytelling and is designed to meet the needs of a wide range of abilities. It also includes a monthly activity week.

There are 10 units in total. Unit One is now available, and the remaining units will be uploaded in due course.

The All Aboard programme is available free of charge to leaders in Connor Diocese. For those unable to download the programme, printed copies are available from Diocesan Office in Church House. Please contact lorraineogilby@connordiocese.org to arrange a time to collect.

A Shetland Pilgrimage - Pentecost challenge 2021

Shetland is the most northerly location for parishes of all denominations in the UK. The distance from south to north on the main island is similar to the virtual journey in the Holy Land mapped by this Pentecost Challenge. Partly inspired by this, a fundraising team lead by Fr Ambrose Flavell but supported by all denominations have joined the Pentecost

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Challenge, walking from the extreme south to the far north of the main island of Shetland.

They are also celebrating the 1500th anniversary of the birth of St Columba. They are remembering their common debt to the Celtic monks from Iona and elsewhere who brought the faith to these islands in the 6th and 7th centuries. As they walk, they hope to experience the peace and solitude which brought these early monks closer to God, and at the same time raise funds for the children of the Holy Land.

At the end of their journey, the team plan an ecumenical service to commemorate the anniversary of St Columba. We are most grateful for their efforts.

You can follow their experiences and see their beautiful photos on their fundraising page; maybe also sponsor them: <http://ow.ly/rciH50F78z6>

Media review

LCC spokesman David Campbell resigns from the board of cross-border peace-building charity Co-operation Ireland

Loyalist Communities Council (LCC) spokesman David Campbell has resigned from the board of cross-border peace-building charity Co-operation Ireland

DUP leader-in-waiting warns of consequences if protocol issues are not addressed

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson has warned that British government failure to address unionist concerns about the Northern

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Ireland Protocol will have "consequences for the stability of our political institutions"

Increasingly bullish Sir Jeffrey Donaldson willing to collapse Stormont over Irish Sea border, his camp says

Sources close to Sir Jeffrey Donaldson have for the third time briefed that he is prepared to collapse Stormont, signalling a new phase in which both the DUP and Sinn Fein see walking away from government as a negotiating tactic.

DUP warned they cannot hold Stormont institutions to ransom over Irish language

Warnings from nationalists come amid speculation that the DUP will not nominate a new first minister unless there is a "significant change" to the plan for Irish language legislation

Man abused by paedophile priest Malachy Finegan to receive six-figure sum in damages

A man abused for years by a paedophile priest at a Co Down school is to receive a "six-figure sum" in damages, the High Court has heard. He now wants his case to shine a spotlight on the failure of the church and the school to uncover this appalling criminality.

Rise in contacts with Catholic church's Safeguarding Children's board

There was an increase in the number of requests for advice last year from the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Site ownership a recurring concern about National Maternity Hospital

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Government uncomfortable building €800m hospital on land it does not own

Co Antrim GAA club welcomes parishioners to 'Mass on the grass'

A makeshift altar was created beside the football nets at St Joseph's GAC in Glenavy

Joe Biden does not believe US Catholic bishops will adopt policy denying him Communion

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has voted to create guidelines on communion, which could lead to US politicians who support abortion rights being denied the sacrament

World Health Organization wants to BAN all women aged 18-50 from drinking alcohol

THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) says that women of "child-bearing age" should be prevented fr...

Covid grant of £1.5m to Royal County Down Golf Club despite 'significant bank balance'.

A Covid-19 hardship fund for sporting organisations in Northern Ireland has been criticised for not taking bank balances and reserves held by applicants into account.

Veterans charity rejects Sinn Fein claim that Armed Forced Covenant is fully operational in Northern Ireland.

A veterans charity has insisted that the UK Military Covenant is not being implemented properly in NI, after Sinn Fein appeared to suggest it was.



Pointers for prayer

O Lord,
we beseech thee mercifully to hear us;
and grant that we, to whom thou hast given
an hearty desire to pray,
may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted
in all dangers and adversities;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Jesus' homecoming was attended by enthusiastic crowds but also by dissenters, who attributed his good works to Satan. That we might be faithful to the One who calls us his "family", blessing his goodness and striving to follow his example, we pray "True Son of God and Son of Man," and respond, "Keep us faithful, keep us true."

That the Christ's church would remain faithful in its witness to the truth of the gospel, we pray: True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That where the church of Jesus Christ finds itself a minority in the midst unfaith, it may not succumb and accept defeat. True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That homes of the church that are afflicted with violence, anger, or abuse, may find refuge and counsel in God's Word. True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That our congregation may be enabled to embrace the lost, the fallen, and the wayward of our community. True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

That those who participated in baptismal and confirmation preparation , may be blessed with increasing faith and strengthened in continued, regular worship we pray: True Son of

God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

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Pardon us, O God, when we are so concerned with ourselves and those near to us that we fail to pray for others. Instill within us your compassion. True Son of God and Son of Man.

Keep us faithful, keep us true.

Let your loving Spirit, O God, announce again the "Abba" word of our divine parentage and our sure inclusion as members of your family. Amen.

Speaking to the Soul

Be just and fair to all. Do what is right and good, for I am coming soon to rescue you and to display my righteousness among you. Blessed are all those who are careful to do this.

Isaiah 56:1-2 NLT

Justice is a major theme throughout the book of Isaiah. From the first chapter, God declares his hatred of every form of injustice and his unwillingness to receive the worship of people who refuse to act justly. God declares that he has had more than enough of the people's sacrifices and is burdened by their religious festivals. It's vital that we realise that fighting for justice is not an optional extra for Christians but integral to our worship. Or to use the blunt language of Isaiah 1.15-17 if we don't live justly then God won't listen to our prayers.

I wonder how well you know the community where you live and whether you can identify where injustice is taking place. I say that because most forms of injustice are hidden. They

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can happen in busy cities and quiet villages. The only way to know what is going on is to get to know people well and to hear their stories. In Isaiah's world the people who were most vulnerable and who suffered the greatest injustices were the disabled, foreigners, orphans and widows. And everyone was vulnerable to those market traders who acted unfairly and who adjusted their scales to increase their profits.

Injustice is an offence to God because it is a denial of everything that he wants, and it spoils the lives of everyone it touches. No wonder he hates to listen to the worship of people who live unjustly! As we worship our great God of justice we need to understand that as we sing our songs of praise we are being recruited to be fair and just to everyone we meet.

QUESTION

In what ways are you working for justice in your community?

PRAYER

Loving God, help me to love the people around me enough to spot injustice when it occurs. Give me courage to stand up for people who find it hard to obtain justice. Amen

