



**Image of the day - Lockdown mural from 12K+
bottle tops by Ballymoney school Cork**

Reports

Cork Church of Ireland School's massive mural using 12K+ plastic bottle tops conquers lockdown isolation

A small, rural two-teacher Church of Ireland National School in Ballineen in West Cork with twenty-nine pupils decided to find a creative and artistic way to overcome one big obstacle caused by Covid-19 restrictions: not allowing the pandemic to break down the sense of community in the school.

The school's two classrooms have been completely separated this year due to those restrictions. The two classes have had separate entrances and separate break times.

That did not stop Ballymoney National School which is in the Kinneigh Union of Parishes. How were they going to help the pupils to feel connected to each other?

Throughout the year the school worked on a massive mural (24 feet x 8 feet) made out of 12,400 plastic bottle tops.

A medieval building like the Cathedral requires constant care & protection to ensure its survival. Since its construction the Cathedral has seen wars, floods & fire. Each restoration over its history has added a new facet to the building's continuously developing identity. The replacement of the Cathedral roof, which is drawing to a

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close, marks a new chapter. The beauty of the roof, with new slates from the same quarry as the one they replaced, is being revealed as the scaffolding comes down.

In September, a sign was put up appealing to members of the local community to collect plastic bottle tops for the school. The response was incredible! For months people delivered bags of bottle tops to the school.

The school's very talented resource teacher, Esther Quin, drew the mural on six sheets of plywood in December and the senior classroom painted it. The parish hall adjacent to the school had no events happening in it due to the restrictions and the school was very fortunate to be able to use it as an art studio to create our mural in.

When the junior classroom returned to school in March, they began sticking the plastic bottle tops in place. Everyday they sent an updated photograph of their progress to show the senior classroom who were still learning remotely on zoom. Constructing the mural gave the pupils a chance to sit and chat to each other as they stuck the bottle tops in place which was exactly what they needed after the long school closure.

School Principal, Ms Shireen Rountree said:

Our wonderful parents helped permanently secure the glued bottle tops in place with screws. This week the mural was finally erected on the back of the school shelter on the Rossmore Road. It is bright, beautiful and absolutely massive! It is 24foot long and 8 foot high. Altogether it took 12,400 bottle tops to make the mural! It depicts our view of

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Ballineen Bridge with Enniskeneane village on one side and Ballineen village on the other side. It shows some of the wildlife that we are lucky enough to see from our playground – herons and swans. We hope it brings a smile to the faces of passersby to see what we have created from their rubbish. The parents and staff are extremely proud of the children's wonderful achievement.

Digital future for Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer promoted by lockdown use

Plans have been unveiled by the Prayer Book Society (PBS) to use digital platforms to promote the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

Originally compiled by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, and still used by churches across the country, the new PBS approach aims to make greater use of the rapidly expanding world of digital communications.

PBS says the new formats will be 'a far cry from Cranmer's quill.'

John Riding from the Prayer Book Society told Premier News why the society has decided to focus on a digital future.

"One of the many things which happened as a consequence of lockdown was that an awful lot of the world went online. And something which went online very heavily, of course,

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was church, because for a time we were forbidden, our churches were still forbidden from singing in worship. So a lot of things that were there every week for Christians simply disappeared. And an awful lot of these things ended up online. And one of the things that we discovered, I confess a little to our surprise, was that the Book of Common Prayer became very, very popular in terms of online streaming.

"And we found many, many services were being streamed online, we were listing at one time, something in the region of 300 each week on our website. And there will have been many more than that, because of course, we will not have heard of most of them, I suspect. So really, what we're doing is we're responding to the shift of community, from the local community and the church building into the online community. And this is clearly going to be an ongoing trend. So we are making sure that we are there into the future with it."

He added that the project is a large one and will focus on social media at the outset: "In the long term, I would expect there will be all sorts of things like apps and such like. In the short term, our focus is really upon social media, because it was social media, if you like that came to us, people posting about services and about the Book of Common Prayer. That's where our initial focus is going to be. But of course, whenever you start moving into a digital environment, it doesn't come in in bits and pieces. So there is a broader plan, which will involve rebuilding our website and our various other online presences as well. But the kind of initial focus of it is picking up on these many many contacts that we've made via social media over the last year or so.



Spotted at Southwark Cathedral

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The Prayer Book Society was founded in 1972 amidst liturgical reform in the Church of England. According to the society, it was feared that the 1662 Book of Common Prayer - despite its continued status as the Church of England's

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official standard of teaching - would fall into disuse, being replaced by contemporary forms of worship.

Deeply rooted in the Bible, The Book of Common Prayer is the traditional service book of the Church of England and contains its official teaching.

It was created in 1549 and then revised in 1552 by Thomas Cranmer, it was the handbook of the new English church which had just split from Rome.

Miami-area churches minister to rescue teams after condo collapse

Nearby congregations offer snacks and spiritual care to those tasked with “bringing order to the chaos.”

Miami Beach pastor J. P. Funk woke up Thursday morning to the news that a condo building only about a mile from his church had collapsed, leaving more than 150 people missing in the rubble. At least two people connected to Calvary Chapel Miami Beach lived in the building, including the mother of one of its members.

Funk’s focus immediately turned to the disaster—but he worried that his congregation wouldn’t be able to help in the crucial early days of search and rescue. Half its staff was on vacation, and they initially had no way to access the disaster site, which was surrounded by law enforcement and clouded by smoke. “You can see the smoke from smoldering ruins reminiscent of 9/11.”

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As the news began to air footage of Champlain Towers South in Surfside, with its fallen-away side and piles of concrete below, local churches responded the best way they knew how: They showed up to offer support for first responders and distraught families and gathered to pray for miracles as the rescue efforts went on day by day.

The 12-story beachside building was home to an international mix of foreign retirees, South American immigrants, and Orthodox Jews. The closest church is right across the street, a Spanish-speaking congregation called Casa.

Casa offered up its building to law enforcement and quickly sent out calls for members to bring snacks and drinks. Volunteers walked through the busy tangle of media and rescue workers to deliver refreshments and words of encouragement.

US Bishops will not vote to ban politicians from receiving Communion

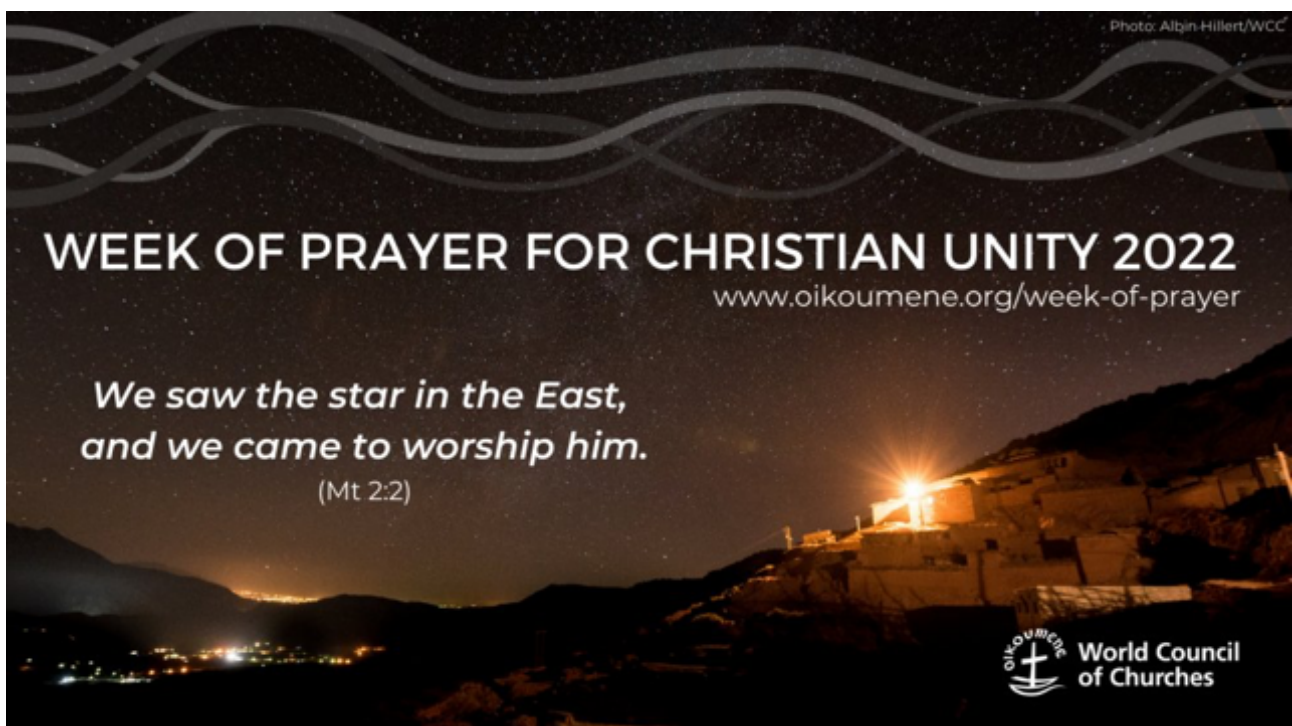
During their Spring Plenary Assembly, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said they are drafting a teaching 'Document on the Meaning of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church.'

In a statement they say: "there has been much attention on the vote taken to draft a document on the Eucharist" but they explain: "the question of whether or not to deny any individual or groups Holy Communion was not on the ballot."



The bishops stress that it was not up for debate to vote on banning politicians from receiving the Eucharist, nor is it their intention to issue a national policy on withholding Communion from politicians, regardless of whether they hold public office or not.

They say: "The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life. The importance of nurturing an ever deeper understanding of the beauty and mystery of the Eucharist in our lives is not a new topic for the bishops. The document being drafted is not meant to be disciplinary in nature, nor is it targeted at any one individual or class of persons. It will include a section on the Church's teaching on the responsibility of every Catholic, including



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bishops, to live in accordance with the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist we celebrate.”

People and places

St Peter's Church on Belfast's Antrim Road celebrates its Golden Jubilee - a look back

From the News Letter, June 26, 1950

The Primate of all Ireland (the Most Reverend Dr J A F Gregg) was the preacher at the opening service of the golden jubilee celebrations of St Peter's Parish Church on the Antrim Road, Belfast in June 1950 reported the News Letter.

The Primate said that on St Peter's Day 50 years previously, the eastern portion of the church had been licensed and opened for worship, and that in 1933 the building, had been enlarged "as it was now", had been consecrated.

He said that he remembered well the beginning of the district, for he had been serving in the diocese the time.

He reminisced: "St Peter's had become a parish in 1900, and during the 50 years there had been only two incumbents - Archdeacon Brett, 24 years, and Dr Breene, now 26 years."

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He said that it was an interesting sign of the growth of Belfast and of the corresponding growth of the Church of Ireland in the city that in 1938 St Katharine's parochial district had been formed. The district had become a parish in 1941.

The church in Belfast, the Primate went on to say, "was, under God, to be congratulated warmly on the vitality of its people".

He added: "What surer sign can be shown of liveness than that district like St Peter's should become a parish, and, in turn, give birth to a new district which itself speedily became a parish?"

The Primate added that he prayed that God "would bless present and future generations of church people the results of forethought, planning and liberality of those who worshipped in St Peter's during those creative, formative 50 years".

The service was conducted by the rector (the Reverend Dr R S Breene, MA), assisted by the Reverend T G McAlister, MA (curate).

The Reverend J R B McDonald, BD., a former curate, who was home on leave from Mukono. Uganda, was present, and he and the Reverend J Roundhill acted as chaplains to the Primate.

St Peter's Choir, assisted by the Youth Guild Choir, led the praise.

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The offertory was in aid of the organ renovation fund.

The News Letter columnist Roamer also referred to St Peter's Golden Jubilee in his column on the same day in 1950.

He wrote: "A well-produced book issued in

connection with the

Golden Jubilee of St Peter's Church, Belfast (which takes place this week), is out of the usual run of such publications in that it includes a comprehensive account of the history, the district, and a chapter on conditions and events in Britain, at the time the church was opened. "One of the best things in the book (which has been written and compiled by the rector Chancellor Breene) is a reprint from Nomad's Weekly of a visit to St Peter's in 1906 penned by the late William J Livingstone, it is in satirical vein.

"Here, for instance, is his impression of the congregation: 'On every side we see the familiar faces of the merchant princes of Belfast. There is a distinct flavour of petrol in the air, while every male - and some of the females - bear evident traces of the golf links in their weather-beaten, sun-brown faces, here are men who have made much money in trade as to despise trade and men with sufficient blue blood



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in their veins to enable them to wear badly-cut clothes with an air distinction.”

Courtesy Archives in News Letter 26.06.2021

Naval appointment for minister

Yesterday morning the Rev Simon Hamilton preached his final sermon in Cladymore and Tassagh Presbyterian churches. After six years with these congregations Simon is taking up a full time role as a chaplain within the Royal Navy. He has served several years as chaplain in HMS Hibernia, the Royal Navy Reserve unit in Northern Ireland.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Iona Abbey reopening service

The Iona Community invite you to watch videos taken from the Iona Abbey reopening service on our YouTube channel or here:

[<https://iona.org.uk/iona-abbey-reopening/>]

There are also five more videos here including - A Service of Blessing and

Press Coverage

From local to national and global press coverage, read of the impact that the renovated living and community space at Iona Abbey will have on local communities.



Evening Standard:

[<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/princess-princess-royal-people-scotland-christianity-b939375.html>]

Press and Journal:

[<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/3211279/princess-anne-opens-refurbished-iona-abbey-in-landmark-moment-after-3-75-million-renovation/>]

Summer Music at Sandford

A new series of 'Summer Music at Sandford' began on Friday 4 June 2021 and recitals will be uploaded every second Friday to the Music at Sandford and St Philip's Youtube channel. The next recital will be on 2 July when

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Stan O'Beirne will play piano music by Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy and Szymanowski.

Walk of a Lifetime - Camino to Santiago de Compostela

“The Day has finally arrived. We are launching a very special event for 2022 and we hope you can join us on this Walk of a Lifetime. Walking is something we love doing and it has brought us to so many wonderful places across Ireland and the Continent, and now we want to take you with us as we walk the Final 100km of the Camino Portuguese to Santiago de Compostela.

Looking forward to meeting you all on the Camino” say Joe Finnegan, Claire Finnegan and Charlie McGettigan

Contact Stein Travel on the link below for more details.

<https://www.steintravel.ie/offers/finnegan-way-camino.aspx>

Pointers for prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:

Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal:

Grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord.

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Heavenly Father, when our yoke is heavy, when our patience is short, when silence is deafening, by your Holy Spirit remind us of your great faithfulness, and have compassion on us.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Holy Spirit, you make the bonds of love between warriors on the field of battle “stronger than lions.” Make our love for each other equally wonderful, as we struggle together on earth against all the forces of sin, death and the devil.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Holy Spirit, hear our prayers when we are in the depths of despair, and reform our laments into praise, as we sense that the Lord Jesus Christ is bearing our burden.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus Christ, as we share our gifts for your work, we do it because we first learned it from you. Receive our thanks for your Holy Spirit's encouragement to be generous, and bless all whose needs are attended to.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you know the cost of healing. You felt the power leave from yourself for the sake of others. Make us willing also to expend ourselves for another.

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Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

Holy Spirit, you remind us that the seasons of our lives pass quickly, and at the end of our time, you have promised us a new home. Yet we are bold to ask for your mercies for those who need you here and now _____.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: You live among us.

The love of God has won. The new life has begun.

Amen

Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God, and
guided them in the way of your love,
so listen now to those who call upon you.

Intercessions may be inserted concluding with:

Move us to praise your gracious will,
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of
death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens
and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,
those seeking healing,

those in need within the church and the world. Amen

Speaking to the Soul

“What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarrelling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me.”

Isaiah 58:4 NLT

Nothing is more unattractive than hypocrisy. When I have talked to people who don't go to church, time and again they have pointed out the gap between churchgoers' faith and actions. This was precisely the situation that Isaiah was addressing. The people were regular in their attendance at the Temple and they said all the right things. They seemed to take their faith seriously but, in fact, it was all an act. Even when they fasted it was just play acting because they kept on fighting and quarrelling with one another. And the ultimate proof of their hypocrisy was that they treated their employees badly.

Jesus spent a lot of time pointing out people's hypocrisy. In his day the most educated and committed Jews were the Pharisees. No one could doubt that they took their faith seriously. They were meticulous in the way in which they worshipped and tithed, but Jesus repeatedly told them that they were missing the point. Through making an elaborate public performance of their giving and praying they were showing that it was all an act. They were eager to make a good impression and to be honoured and respected by the people. But Jesus tells them to make their gifts so secretly that even their left hand would not know what their right

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hand was doing, and to pray with the door shut so that no one could see them. (Matthew 6.1-6)

Let's not fool ourselves; there's more than a whiff of hypocrisy about all of us from time to time. We are all far from perfect and we need to be constantly aware of the gaps that can spring up between our faith and our practice. This is one of the reasons why it is so important to have honest and open relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters. Within a community of love and encouragement we need to have people around us who care for us enough to speak words of truth to us, to ensure that our faith and actions are telling the same story.

QUESTION

How are you guarding against hypocrisy in your own life?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, forgive me for those times when my faith is just an act. Help me to live with integrity and faithfulness to you. Amen

