

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembrance at Rathfarnham

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Remembrance at Rathfarnham

Members of the Rathfarnham parish Garden of Remembrance Subcommittee with Archbishop Michael Jackson, Canon Adrienne Galligan and Minister Colm Brophy.

People and places

Trio of projects completed at Rathfarnham

Parishioners in Rathfarnham gathered on Sunday morning (June 26) to celebrate the completion of a trio of projects. Archbishop Michael Jackson consecrated the church's beautiful new garden of remembrance and dedicated the new eco-boiler and video streaming system.

Both the eco boiler and the video streaming system were achieved as a result of donations in memory of parishioners.

Members of the Wilkinson family bought the video streaming equipment in memory of David and Gary Wilkinson. The donation which funded the eco-boiler was made anonymously. A team of parishioners formed the garden of remembrance subcommittee and oversaw the project which

has created a beautiful contemplative space in the church yard for the interment of ashes.

Among those present at the service was local TD and Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora Colm Brophy. The prayers of dedication were all written with the help of sixth class from Rathfarnham Parish National School.

In his sermon, Archbishop Michael Jackson said that there was no readily available formula or prescription for coming to terms with grief and loss. But gradually, he observed, two journeys meet – the journey of letting go and the journey of keeping going. He said that those who had given gifts and who had contributed to the garden of remembrance were to be thanked.

“You who have given gifts for dedication today and who have enabled the construction of a Garden of Remembrance right beside this long-standing parish church at the heart of this vastly expanded village community are to be thanked, applauded and honoured for what you have done. You had no need to do this but you have done it and, in doing it you have shared with the rest of us your grief. But you have also shared with us other qualities and other things too. Giving is voluntary; and there never is a requirement to give. We are here to dedicate together the Garden of Remembrance, the eco-boiler and the audio visual system. Each in a special and unique way expresses the intention of this parish, its rector and its people, in looking upwards to God and outwards to society,” the Archbishop stated.



Members of the Wilkinson family whose gift of video streaming equipment was dedicated in Rathfarnham Parish.

He said that three words came to mind: faith, hope and generosity. The faith, he said was faith in the future and that generations to come would use the gifts enabling the memory of those who have been lost to live on. Hope opened windows and let fresh air in. He added that there was hope in community belonging and community enjoyment. Generosity went beyond financial generosity and showed generosity of heart to do a public thing to the glory of God and in memory of known and loved individuals, he said.

“We rejoice to dedicate together gifts today. We rejoice to have been brought together by those who have given them for use and for community and for memory.

We rejoice to worship with those who are with us in this church and with us by video-link; this double congregation is a reminder that God is not confined by walls, that God is

June 30, 2022

out and about already in the parts of the world where we are not and cannot be and all of you who are beyond this church building are as welcome as all of you who are within this church building,” Archbishop Jackson concluded.

The Archbishop unveiled three plaques to mark the occasion and the sun shone on the congregation after the service as they gathered for refreshments in the church yard.

Somme remembrance in Dervock

**Derrykeighan
'Guiding Star' LOL
995 – annual
service of
remembrance of
those who paid the
supreme sacrifice
at the Somme
offensive was held
at Dervock War
Memorial Garden,
Carncullagh Rd,
Dervock on
Sunday (26th
June).**



Wreaths were laid representing 30 Lodges, Bands and Community Groups;

June 30, 2022

reflecting how those from 'Rural Ulster' that fought are still remembered for their courage and sacrifice - 106 years later.

Mrs McCartney at the formal opening of the War Memorial Institute in Dervock in 1922 revealed that “Upwards of 42 men had made the supreme sacrifice and about 200 had served”. (Source: Larne Times & Weekly Telegraph 25th Dec 1922).

Captain Samuel Allen MC also remarked that taking into account the size of the population and comparing it with other places there was no doubt that Dervock had played as great a part in this war and maybe greater than other districts in that part of the country and should be justly proud of that fact.

Catholic bishops congratulate new C of I Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory

The following statement of welcome and congratulations from Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly was made on the election of the new Church of Ireland Bishop Adrian Wilkinson of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory:

“I am delighted to congratulate Bishop Adrian Wilkinson as the new Church of Ireland Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory. I assure him of my prayerful support and I have no doubt that he will be warmly welcomed by people of all denominations in his new diocese.

June 30, 2022

“I wish Bishop Wilkinson many blessings as he takes up his new responsibilities. I pray that God will grant him all the grace, wisdom and courage that he needs and I look forward to co-operating with him closely into the future.”

Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA is the Archbishop of Cashel & Emly

Bishop Ger Nash said -

“I wish to warmly welcome Bishop Adrian Wilkinson as the new Church of Ireland Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory. I spoke to Bishop Adrian following his election and I offered my congratulations to him on his new appointment as Bishop, and also extended my good wishes to his wife Jackie. Bishop Adrian has an established connection with his new diocese as his late father, Ken, previously ministered as Rector in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.

“I assured Bishop Adrian and Jackie of my prayerful support and wish them God’s blessings as they undertake their new diocesan responsibilities. I look forward to working closely with them into the future.”

Methodist Church’s partnership with Cliff College to deliver Foundations for Mission and Ministry

Through MCI’s partnership with Cliff College – from September 2022 our local preacher training, formation for ordained ministry and lay theological education will be



delivered through the Foundations for Mission and Ministry programme based at Edgehill House and online.

See bit.ly/FFMAM or contact the Director of the MCI Ministries Team – Revd. Dr. Janet Unsworth – at ministries@irishmethodist.org for more details.

Irish delegation moved by testimony of various families at Rome festival

Speaking from Rome after the Festival of Families, Archbishop Eamon Martin, who is leading the Irish



delegation, said, “It was very moving to hear the testimony of the various families, just sharing their own real stories of their daily lives. We really got a sense of the struggles of family, the pain of family, but, also the joy of family and the tremendous commitment and dedication between parents and children

which really makes family work. I find myself really thinking of a lot of families who are struggling and just bringing them to prayer tonight and hopefully this joy of this Festival of Families will continue over the next few days here at the World Meeting of Families.”

Thirteen year old Chloe O’Sullivan from Carlow, shared her reaction, saying, “I thought the Festival of Families was really nice, especially the music. It was lovely to see how families got to share their stories with us and with Pope Francis. The story that I found really moving was the one shared by the Ambassador’s wife. I will remember that for a



long time. I also loved how relaxed and easy going it was, especially when some of the really young children starting running around the stage.”

Father Timothy Bartlett of Down and Connor diocese, who served as Secretary General of the 9th World Meeting of Families in Dublin in 2018, said he found the family testimonies very moving, “particularly the family from Ukraine and the Italian family here who welcomed them into their home.” Father Bartlett continued, “ I was very moved by the story of the family that came very close to breaking up permanently through divorce and yet they found a way back from that. I think the choice of family testimonies was very typical of Pope Francis in that they were very real but behind all of them was a message of great hope.”

June 30, 2022

The WMOF continues in Rome with a three day pastoral congress which will see 30 panels and discussions being delivered by 62 speakers from across the world. The closing Mass will be celebrated by Pope Francis on Saturday evening, and the Angelus and ‘Mandate to Families’ by the Holy Father will be shared on Sunday morning.

300th anniversary of Donegal Parish a landmark moment



Bishop Andrew Forster described the 300th anniversary of Donegal Parish as “a landmark moment” in the local congregation’s history.

He was speaking in Donegal Parish Church during the second of two services, on Sunday morning, which marked the tercentenary.

June 30, 2022

Half an hour earlier, the Bishop had joined the local Rector, Archdeacon David Huss, members of the church and friends of the parish at a short service of prayer and worship on the site of the original parish church, which was built in 1722 and now lies in ruins beside the ancient abbey in Donegal Town. Among those gathered were the Mayor of Donegal



Town, Paucic Kennedy, Sinn Féin County Councillor, Noel Jordan, and Fr Pearse Mullen.

Archdeacon Huss said, during the first service, that the old church was “a very special place” for the community. The adjoining cemetery had been used to bury people of various denominations, including some of the most famous people in the town’s history. Among those buried there, he said, were Rev Samuel Reid – the longest-serving Rector of Donegal – and his son-in-law, Alfred Banks, a doctor who had lost his life to typhus. “So, although a lot has changed,” Archdeacon Huss said, “a lot of things are the same, aren’t



they? Pandemic, war and tragedy still are with us. And yet, as we read, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. So, as we come to these stones, which could tell many stories if they could speak, we also come to that living stone who is unchanging and it's in that we trust.”

In his sermon, in the second service – during which he baptised baby Zoe Alcorn – Bishop Andrew invited the congregation to give thanks for a parish which, in its three centuries of history, had witnessed the 1798 rebellion, “when French ships came right up the bay here, in Donegal, to invade and then turned back to make their way home; we think of our more recent history of civil war, independence, partition. And you look and see how God has led us through times of difficulty, times that were uncertain, to where we are today. So, we look back in thankfulness, we remember



people of faith who have built a legacy, but as we look back, we are reminded that we are the labourers of a new generation to build for the future.”

Bishop Andrew reminded those present of the importance of family, not just their own kin but their ‘spiritual family’. The church building in which they gathered this morning – and which will celebrate its 200th anniversary in six years’ time – was much more to its congregation than bricks and mortar, much more to them than sand and stone and cement. “It’s the place where you come to celebrate new birth and to dedicate new birth into the hands of God, just as we did this morning with Zoe; it’s the place where you come in the high days of life – some of you celebrated your marriage right here; it’s the place where you come when heartache seems overwhelming – the saddest times of life are funerals; and it’s the place where you come, Sunday by Sunday, to praise God, to worship God, and that’s why a building like this

becomes a hallowed space: it's not just bricks and mortar, it's much more than that, it's history, it's your tradition, it's your family, and what happens within a space like this blesses your family and helps your family. For me, yes, of course, the church is a building that we love; it just becomes part of us, doesn't it? It becomes part of the people who we are because it's the place where your family and the family of God gather."

Landmark moments were great in life, the Bishop suggested, and great in a parish's history. "They help us to assess things, to be thankful for what's happened in the past and to look ahead to the future – to dream dreams." Bishop Andrew paid tribute to the group of men and women who, 300 years ago, dreamt a dream of having their own parish in Donegal Town, and to their successors who, 100 years later, dreamt the dream of building a new house of God.

"What are your dreams for your church family," the Bishop asked, "what are your dreams of what this church family can look like?"

The Bishop compared the parish family to a ring of people holding hands and supporting one another. "What if we turned the circle around, still holding hands and supporting each other but looking out? Looking out to our society, looking out to our world in need, looking out to our world that is crying out for meaning? What if we looked forward by looking out – looking out with the good news of Christ – to share with those around us. Dream dreams of what that would mean for this parish. Dream dreams also for what that would mean for yourselves."

June 30, 2022

Bishop Andrew reminded the congregation of what Saint Paul said in the New Testament reading (Galatians 5: 13-25): ‘...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.’”

Today’s worship was led by Archdeacon Huss, who told those present and watching online that it was the first time in three years that the four parishes in the Group had gathered together for a service. The Rector was assisted by Diocesan Reader Nuala Dudley. The Old and New Testament readings were delivered by children from the parish. Young people also led the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession for the church and the world. Music was provided by the parish choir and by harpist Valerie Frewen-Perri, who performed two pieces composed 300 years ago by JS Bach. After the service, the congregation were invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the adjoining hall.

News reports

New Zealand bishop moves to Hull

10 Downing Street has announced yesterday that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of the Right Reverend Doctor Eleanor Sanderson as Suffragan Bishop of Hull in the Diocese of York, following the retirement of the Right Reverend Alison White.

Dr Eleanor Sanderson has been Assistant Bishop of Wellington in the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia since 2017.

June 30, 2022

The Bishop of Hull is one of three Suffragan Bishops supporting and extending the ministry of the Archbishop of York in the Diocese of York, and has a particular responsibility for the Archdeaconry of the East Riding, encompassing the City of Hull, the East Riding of Yorkshire, and part of the North Yorkshire coast including Scarborough and as far north as Ravenscar.

Eleanor was born in Hinderwell, near Whitby in North Yorkshire and within the Diocese of York in 1977. She grew up in Derbyshire and came to faith whilst a student at Bristol University, where she studied geography. She studied at Victoria University in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand, for a Master of Development Studies (2003) and PhD in Geography (2006), followed by a further Masters in Theology (2013) through the University of Otago. Her active and dynamic academic career continues with a prolific publishing record and a number of prizes and scholarships. She is a Fellow in Public Theology within the Centre for Anglican Communion Studies at the Virginia Theological Seminary, and remains a Research Associate at Victoria University of Wellington.

Ellie's ministry to date has been within the Diocese of Wellington; she was ordained in 2005 and was Vicar of the Parish of St Alban's, Eastbourne, Chaplain to Wellesley College, and the Diocesan Canon Theologian prior to her appointment as Assistant Bishop. She additionally served in a wide range of roles in academic and not-for-profit development organisations. In the Diocese of Wellington, she has led intentional discipleship programmes which resource Christians to go deeper in their relationship with



God and equip them to build up mission and discipleship with others.

Ellie is married to Tim and is mother to two boys aged 12 and 14.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said, “I'm delighted that Eleanor Sanderson will be the next Bishop of Hull. She has a great zest for life, and the joy she finds in her faith just shines out of her. She and Bishop Justin Duckworth are torchbearers for the church in bringing it back to its central calling to attend to God, in order to go forward with really practical and sacrificial responses to modern challenges in the world we all share. Ellie has her feet planted on the ground and her eyes on Jesus as she rolls up her sleeves to get involved with God's people.

“She was born in the Diocese of York so this is a homecoming; I know that the Diocese and particularly the people of Hull, the East Riding and on the Yorkshire coast

June 30, 2022

will come to love her quickly, and that she, Tim and their sons Joe and Zac will be taken to all our hearts as they join us in living Christ's story here.”

Bishop Eleanor Sanderson said, “I'm so excited and humbled to be called to follow Alison White as Bishop of Hull. It's a great honour to take this title from such a vibrant and historic city as Hull, and to renew a connection between this city and my family village of Tideswell in Derbyshire, which was also the home of the first Bishop of Hull, Bishop Pursglove in the 1500s. I'm looking forward to getting to know Hull and its people and to exploring the villages and towns of the East Riding Archdeaconry and the Yorkshire coast too.

“In Wellington we have recognised the need to stop and turn to God, offering ourselves in partnership with Jesus to be a transformative movement of local faith communities - and in so many places here I see the same thing happening, through the Mustard Seed and Multiply initiatives, through the processes of transformation within and through local churches as part of our commitment to Live Christ's Story. Above all, I have been deeply struck by how readily people here can testify to the hope of Christ visible around them. It will be an honour to interweave my own strands of faith, hope and love with the faith hope and love lived so vibrantly within the Diocese of York.

“I'm looking forward to living the friendship of Jesus alongside Archbishop Stephen, Archdeacon Andy, all the clergy and the whole family of God within the East Riding Archdeaconry, and to bringing my family to live in these

June 30, 2022

wonderful communities within Yorkshire, serving God together in the land and coastlines where I was born.”

Bishop of Wellington the Rt Revd Justin Duckworth said, “It is with great heaviness of heart that we say farewell to Bishop Eleanor, Tim, Zac and Joe. Knowing them as we do we are certain that God will do great things with them in the Diocese of York. It feels a little like the seeds sown in Hull by William Wilberforce, the Clapham Sect and the Church Missionary Society blew to Aotearoa New Zealand, and now those seeds blow back again with Bishop Eleanor and family. We are excited to see the missional discipleship adventure unfold.”

Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia Philip Richardson said, “Bishop Eleanor’s appointment to the See of Hull is an occasion of both real sadness and deep rejoicing. Bishop Eleanor has made an extraordinary contribution to the life of our church over many years and most recently as a bishop in the Diocese of Wellington. She has brought her unique gifts to bear in a period of significant transformation in the focus of mission within that diocese. She has become a respected and highly valued member of the House of Bishops in this church. As such, we will be extremely sad to see her go but we genuinely rejoice in the discernment that God is calling her to serve within the Diocese of York as Bishop of Hull.

“This is a very significant call and responsibility which Bishop Eleanor is well equipped to meet. We know that our church will remain close to her heart as she will remain in ours. We wish her, the clergy and people of the East Riding every blessing in this new time of episcopal leadership.”

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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