



Image of the day - Bandon school lockdown initiative

May 11, 2021

Young and old knit for good causes in Bandon Grammar School 'lockdown' initiative



At a short outdoor socially distanced gathering the students presented the blankets to Ms. Clare O'Donovan from Bandon Community Hospital, Ms. Mary Nolan from Clonakilty Community Hospital and Ms. Lisa Howard St Luke's Home in Cork.

May 11, 2021

It may be true to say that this pandemic has had the most impact on the lives of the young and older people who live in care homes.

As a way of connecting the young with some of those older people, Bandon Grammar School launched a wellbeing initiative at the start of the last lockdown in January, requesting students and staff, their parents or grandparents, relatives and friends to knit or crochet a 6inch square and return them to the chaplain at the school.



The purpose of the squares was to make up knee blankets for older people who live in care homes in the hope that the blankets would provide warmth and comfort to an older person and help them to know that there is a community beyond their own who thinks and cares about them.

The response to this appeal was overwhelming and over fifteen hundred squares were returned to the school in an array of colours and stitches from every corner of the county and beyond.

Women in leadership roles within Catholic Church frustrated at being labeled 'Father's helpers': report

A new report reveals that women in leadership roles in the Catholic Church in Ireland feel “blatantly ignored” and are frustrated with the perception of them as 'Father's helpers', Sarah MacDonald writes.

The 'Role of Women in Church Leadership' study, which was undertaken by the Diocese of Limerick, says a radical change of mindset is needed in order to recognise the contribution of women and balance leadership within the Church.

It concludes that women struggle in a parish environment that revolves around the priest.

Some of those interviewed for the report said that decision-making is often seen to be the preserve of the priest and there is little redress if things go awry.

“I have been blatantly ignored at times, despite having a leadership role, because there was a priest present and people (women especially) seem culturally inclined to respect the priest's authority over a lay woman's,” one participant said.

Calling for the dignity of women in ministry to be honoured and the clerical model to be addressed, the report notes women experience much of what they do in the Church as “somewhat invisible”.

May 11, 2021

The issue of women priests was not addressed in the study. Instead, the report focused on the possibilities currently open to women within existing Church law. It found that these need to be more widely understood and called on the Church to facilitate change.

Speaking to the Irish Independent, Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick said: “Unfortunately, there is no secret about being told we have issues with regard to women in Church leadership. To say addressing this is long overdue would be



May 11, 2021

an understatement. We have lay women and men who want greater participation in leadership, and we need to take up that invitation immediately.”

The report came out of the 2016 Limerick Diocesan Synod. According to Dr Leahy, the motion that got the highest approval vote in the synod was that which looked at how women can play a leadership role in the governance of the Church and at diocesan and local levels. “It is something we shouldn't have to address as it's a problem that shouldn't exist, but it does,” he said.

Much of the report is based on insights received from 24 women on their experience as a woman in ministry and lack of 'formal' recognition of their roles. It calls for opportunities to be created for women's voices to be heard in liturgies, in leadership, in Church life and for greater team ministry.

Connor and Derry Mothers Union members join their All Ireland President on her walks

A small group of Mothers' Union (MU) members joined All Ireland President June Butler for a walk along the north Antrim coast, one of June's series of '21 in 21' fundraising walks.

The walk began on Monday April 26 at Holy Trinity Parish Church in Portrush, where the rector, the Rev Canon Peter McDowell, set the walkers on their way with the Mothers' Union Prayer.



The MU group with the Rev Malcolm Ferry at Agherton Parish Church, Portstewartt

Walking along with June were Nina McNeary from the National Churches Trust; Kim and Alicean from Agherton Parish and Jean and Kay from Ballywillan Parish.

The route followed the promenade towards the coastal walk leading to Portstewart. It passed the grave of the unknown sailor which has been tended by local people for about 200 years and a piece of wartime history in the form of a giant arrow that the RAF used to get their bearings on the way to protect the convoys in the North Atlantic.

In Portstewart, the group followed the promenade and then



The Rev Canon Peter McDowell sees the MU walkers off from Holy Trinity Parish Church, Portrush.

the cliff walk as far as the old Ice House, used for hundreds of years by the local fishing community.

They arrived at Agherton Parish Church around midday and were met by the Rev Malcolm Ferry, his wife Carol and Agherton branch member Rosemary. Connor Diocesan President Sally Cotter and her husband Bob joined the walking group at Agherton, and we were directed to socially distanced seating.

The small group sat back to listen to a recording of Agherton's Lockdown Choir performing Allegri's Miserere Mei, Deus, and the rector then gave a short reflection based on the church windows, paying particular attention to the

May 11, 2021

feet of the images represented. The time of worship closed with a prayer followed by the Mothers' Union prayer again.

June spoke about the Mums in May 21 initiative. As fundraising at branch level has been suspended because of the pandemic, the All Ireland President has set herself the challenge to walk 21 kilometres, made up of three legs of 7km, in each of the 12 Church of Ireland dioceses in Ireland, and asking for sponsorship from MU members and members of the public.

Her first walk in Connor took place on April 13 when June walked from Stranmillis to St Anne's Cathedral. She hopes to do a third Connor walk later this year.



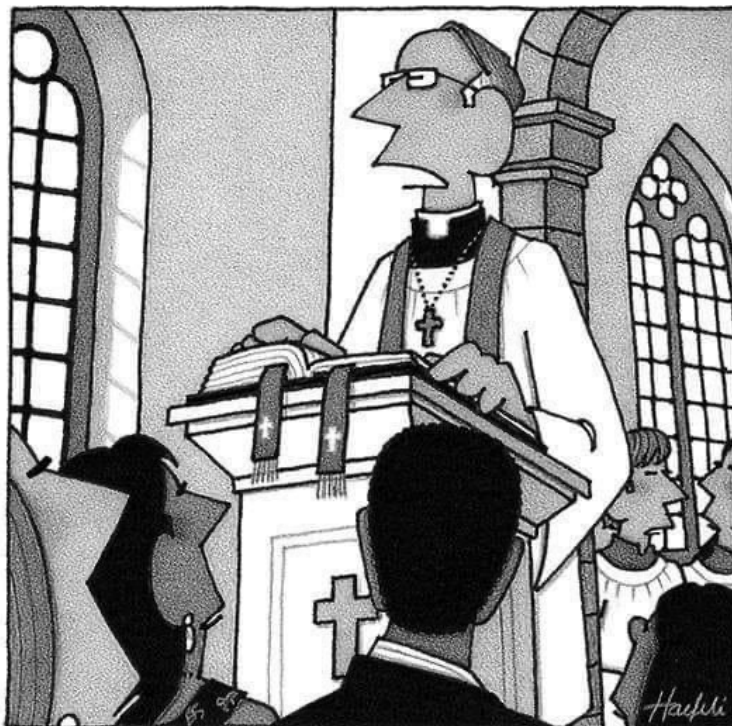
The Bishop of Derry & Raphoe Rt Rev Andrew Forster and Rector of Castlerock, Rev Chris MacBruithin met the MU President

May 11, 2021

Members of Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union joined the organisation's All Ireland President, June Butler, on the North Coast in a socially-distanced show of solidarity during the first of her 'Mums in May' walks in the diocese.

The MU President is hoping to complete three 7km walks in each diocese throughout Ireland, this year, although progress will depend on COVID restrictions in local areas.

The splendid weather brought a healthy turn-out of local MU members to share the journey on the first of June's Derry and Raphoe walks, around the Articlave and Castlerock areas. The Mothers' Union women were joined by two fathers – there to show their solidarity with June's fundraising initiative – the local Rector, Rev Chris MacBruithin and Bishop Andrew Forster. (Photo on previous page).



"Today, I'll be cherry-picking from Deuteronomy."

Pope tells new Swiss Guards they represent a church that welcomes



A Swiss Guard recruit takes his oath during the swearing-in ceremony for 34 new guards at the Vatican May 2021.

Meeting new recruits to the Swiss Guard, Pope Francis thanked the young men for having chosen to serve the successor of St. Peter and he thanked all the guards for their diligence and service.

“Pilgrims and tourists who come to Rome have the opportunity to experience the courtesy and helpfulness of the guards at the various entrances to Vatican City,” he said, asking the guards not to forget the importance of this role of being “a beautiful witness” and sign of a church that welcomes others.

May 11, 2021

“I greatly appreciate your ability to combine the professional and spiritual aspects” of guard life, “expressing in this way your dedication and fidelity to the Apostolic See,” he said in a private audience at the Vatican May 6, welcoming 34 men from Switzerland who were sworn in as Swiss Guards later the same day.

The colorful induction ceremony of new recruits is traditionally held May 6 to mark the date in 1527 when 147 Swiss Guards lost their lives defending Pope Clement VII in the Sack of Rome. Only 42 guards survived. Holding the ceremony on the anniversary is meant to remind new guards of the seriousness of their commitment.

Last year, the ceremony and papal audience were postponed until early October because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respecting ongoing precautions to curb the spread of the coronavirus, only close family members of the new recruits and a limited number of representatives of the Swiss government were allowed to attend the May 6 ceremony in the Vatican’s San Damaso courtyard.

New recruits pledge to “faithfully, loyally and honorably” serve and protect the pontiff and, if necessary, sacrifice their lives for him.

Today, the more than 100 Swiss soldiers are responsible for guarding all entrances into Vatican City State as well as keeping watch over the pope and his residence in the Domus Sanctae Marthae. They also provide security and

May 11, 2021

ceremonial services during liturgical events and visits of heads of state and other dignitaries to the Vatican.

Earlier in the day, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, celebrated Mass for the new recruits and their families in St. Peter's Basilica.

Cardinal Parolin said the Holy See was grateful for their "precious service."

Recalling that "today, dear recruits, with an oath you will declare the desire to give your life for Peter" and his successors, he said their commitment to serve the pope "for love of the Lord" requires "faith and strength of soul."

He asked the new members of the Swiss Guard to pray for the grace "to welcome the demanding call to mission" and to bear witness to Jesus, especially by the example of their lives.

Primus calls on new MSPs to look to COP26

With the new MSPs preparing to be sworn in at Holyrood this week following the Scottish Parliament election, the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church has called on politicians – and the electorate – to move forward together, and not to forget the importance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow later this year.

May 11, 2021

“The result of the election for the Scottish Parliament will have seen some rejoicing and others struggling to accept it,” said The Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness.

“We must now move forward as we all seek to do the best for the people and the land we live on.

“There are many different suggestions about that best way forward as we seek recovery after the pandemic but please remember that in November, Glasgow will hold the COP26 meeting, a moment when united voices need to be heard as we seek to find the ways to heal the very planet we live on.”

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

2021 Anniversaries-free online lunchtime talks

On Tuesday in St Mary’s cathedral, Limerick, the first in a new series of free online lunchtime talks on the theme of ‘2021 Anniversaries’ will begin at 1.15pm when Dr Brian Murphy OSB from Glenstal Abbey will speak about ‘Winnie Barrington, innocent victim of war’.

Online Fellowship Evening

Thursday 13th May, hosted by Fivemiletown Parish at 8.15pm with guest speaker, Claire Holmes. To request zoom link, contact email address; fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com

Sunday 16th May – National Sports Sunday

May 11, 2021

Will be marked in Magheracross Parish Church, Ballinamallard by Archdeacon Brian Harper, Chaplain to Ballinamallard United Football Club. The National Sports Sunday theme is now in its fourth year. More resources available at the following link; <https://sportschaplaincy.org.uk/nationalsportssunday/resources/>

Easter reflections by Archbishop Michael Jackson

The Archbishop continues this series of reflections for the Season of Easter 2021.

His reflection for the Sixth Sunday of Easter (Sunday May 9) is based on St John 15: 9–17.

“As the Father has loved me, I have loved you.” [St John 15:9]

The Archbishop’s next reflection will be available on Thursday May 13 for Ascension on D & G’s YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/c/](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough)

TheUnitedDiocesesofDublinandGlendalough

Thy Kingdom Come global prayer movement

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement during the time between Ascension Day, which is next Thursday, and Pentecost which falls on 23 May. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer, with participation spanning across 172 countries.

Visit the website (www.thykingdomcome.global) for resources and inspiring stories of prayer or you

can [download a prayer journal](#) with short prompts and suggestions for each day.

Media review

PSNI silent on Sir George Hamilton's claims over 2015 murder of Kevin McGuigan

The PSNI has declined to say if it agrees with ex-chief constable Sir George Hamilton's recent revelation that senior figures in the republican movement were probably involved in the murder of Kevin McGuigan.

Irish-American politician Kevin J Boyle: I condemn only IRA 'errors' like Kingsmills

One of the most vocal US commentators on Troubles matters has said he is willing to condemn IRA "errors" such as the Kingsmill massacre – but stopped short of condemning its campaign in general.

Relatives angry at 'incomplete' HET Narrow Water investigation

The Northern Ireland veterans' commissioner has expressed disappointment at an incomplete legacy probe into the IRA murder of 18 soldiers at Narrow Water.

If Isis suspect so much as sets foot in Northern Ireland, arrest her, says senior unionist

May 11, 2021

An Irishwoman who converted to Islam and is accused of joining Islamic State should be immediately arrested if she enters Northern Ireland, Lord Empey a senior unionist has declared.

Northern Ireland Centenary rose proves a thorn in the side for Sinn Fein

A Sinn Fein minister has rejected a request to create a display of the new Northern Ireland Centenary rose within the Stormont estate.

Robin Swann's call for restrictions on cross-border travel rejected by Republic's health minister

The Republic's health minister has said he would not support restrictions on cross-border travel.

Search all monuments for slavery links, Church of England tells parishes

Telegraph.co.uk

Search all monuments for slavery links, Church of England tells parishes ·

Chaplain flagged to Prevent for school sermon on LGBT policy victim of 'Church of Postmodernism'

Telegraph.co.uk

Church of England reverend and former Trinity College Cambridge chaplain Dr Bernard Randall was appointed in 2015 to provide pastoral care at the ...



Pointers for prayer

Mighty God,
in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
we will share in his resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

Living God,
long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news
of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,

and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,
and peace,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his
resurrection,
teaching them to love all people as neighbors.
As his disciples in this age,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe
in which we are privileged to live
and our neighbours with whom we share it.

... Petitions...

Open our hearts to your power moving
around us and between us and within us,
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and
enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

Speaking to the Soul - Believe

A Reading from 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

13 But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers
and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 14 For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, 17 comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Meditation

I've never forgotten a conversation I had with my little brother after service one Sunday when we were both in the process of entering the Episcopal Church from the garden-variety evangelicalism in which we were raised. He asked me how I had made the switch from thinking about salvation as a matter of faith alone to a matter of sanctification. As it happened, we both had the same answer: it described our experience. But in retrospect, the answer is both-and, rather than either-or. As Paul says in our lesson, we were chosen by God to be saved from the very beginning, salvation to be enacted by the purifying action of his own Spirit and belief in the truth.

It was easy, then, to devalue the emphasis on belief with which we were raised, because, having always believed, our experience had been one of a process. But to switch to emphasis on a process runs the danger of forgetting that belief is the door that opens the way to the process. It

May 11, 2021

leaves us vulnerable to being satisfied where we are — in the midst of a process that often stagnates, often only inches forward, especially when it is not infused with the energy that comes with belief: with seeing how faith makes everything different, everything new.

This morning we will stand and say the 1,700-year-old words the Church clung to as expressing her belief — knowing that belief is everything, and that seemingly small semantic changes were the difference between worshipping the revealed, incarnate God who said, “I am the truth,” or instead worshipping figments of our imaginations. May we all be infused with fresh belief as we say them.

