

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Deanery for sale**

May 19, 2022

# People and places



## The Deanery in Cashel is going on sale

Tipperary Live reports that Maryville, the Deanery in Cashel has gone on sale.

The 18th-century residence in Boherclough St, Cashel, is described as an important landmark in Cashel. Maryville was built in the 1790s and has been the official rectory/ vicarage for the Church of Ireland Cashel parish since the 1960s.

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The stunning two-story country house has eight bedrooms and five bathrooms.

It has a drawing room, study, kitchen, dining room and conservatory.

It sits on c9.66 acres of zoned land. The property includes walled gardens and field paddocks.

The house is off the main road and can be accessed by a private driveway.

The entrance has two rendered piers and cast-iron gates. It will be auctioned in the Cashel Palace Hotel on June 29, 2022.

The property is listed by Dougan FitzGerald and DNG Liam O'Grady.

## **Scouts and Bikers support Antrim parishioner taking aid to Ukrainian refugees**

**Kenny Campbell, a parishioner of All Saints' Parish Church, Antrim, is making a 3,200 mile round trip to take vital supplies to a Ukrainian refugee camp in Medyka, Poland.**

Kenny and his friend Gerard Hughes are members of the Belfast Harley Davidson Owners' Group (HOG).

They leave Antrim on Wednesday evening, May 18, travelling to Dublin to catch the Holyhead ferry. Then, en





Kenny and Gerard and members of 5th Antrim Scouts load up their van with all the gifts donated by parishioners and families of the Scout troop.

route to Harwich, they will team up with HOG chapter members from England and Wales.

Their journey will take them from Holland, through Germany and finally to Poland. Along the way Kenny and Gerard expect to be joined by more than 50 Harley Davidson bikers.

Kenny spoke about his upcoming trip to the congregation of All Saints' on Sunday May 15 and was overwhelmed by the subsequent deluge of items and money for the refugees in the camp.

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Kenny and Gerard met with the members of 5th Antrim Scouts on Tuesday evening, May 17, to load up their van with all the gifts that had been donated by parishioners and families of the Scout troupe.

Kenny commented on how he delighted he had been with the response to his trip and especially the generosity of local branches of Asda and Boots, Trespass and the Entertainer Toy Shop, as well as the families of pupils at Doagh and Carnmoney Primary School. Stena have kindly donated ferry tickets and their van was donated by Bridge Commercials.

Kenny is making a daily video blog and will be back in All Saints' on Sunday June 5 to speak about his trip.

## **Ballintoy Parish Church featured by National Churches Trust**

**Ballintoy Parish Church currently features on the website of the National Churches Trust as its 'Church of the Week.'**

The Trust works with churches across the UK to maintain historic buildings and keep them thriving.

In 2021, Ballintoy Church was one of nine churches across Northern Ireland to benefit from £200,000 of funding thanks to a grant awarded to the National Churches Trust by the Historic Environment Division at the Department for Communities.



Key features listed on the Trust website for the scenic Ballintoy Church are:

- Captivating architecture
- Enchanting atmosphere
- Famous connections
- Fascinating churchyard
- Glorious furnishings
- Magnificent memorials
- National heritage here
- Social heritage stories
- Spectacular stained glass
- Wildlife haven

And the article goes gives this insight into the parish and its history:



Ballintoy or 'Baile an Tuaigh' means 'the northern townland' in Irish.

This church is perched on a hill above Ballintoy Harbor in one of the most scenic locations on the north Antrim coastline. Rathlin Island and parts of the Scottish coastline can be seen out to sea as well as the stunning white cliffs as a backdrop.

The steeple from this church was removed after being damaged by a hurricane that struck the north coast in December of 1894. Part of it crashed through the church roof, headstones were blown over and broken, houses in the village were severely damaged and in some cases demolished, stacks in the fields were scattered and several thatched cottages in the district caught fire and burned. At the harbour, several boats were destroyed and the sea washed around O'Roarke's cottage (now O'Roarke's Kitchen) to a depth of four feet.

Inside the church are two beautiful stained glass windows, one depicts Saint Patrick at Slemish mountain, on the wall inside is a plaque to David Elder Jamieson who lost his life aboard HMS Defence at the Battle of Jutland, in the graveyard are the war graves of sailors lost from HMS Racoon and HMS Viknor during the First World War.

If you look on the side of the church you will see another unique feature, a sundial which dates to 1817 and was used to record the movements of the tides. Around 1760 the estate and castle was purchased by Alexander Fullerton who left the estate to his niece with the proviso that the Fullerton surname be retained, hence the Fullerton Arms in

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the village. On her marriage to Dawson Downing the Downing-Fullerton surname came into being. A relative of her husband Sir George Downing is remembered in the naming of Downing Street in London, the seat of the government. The castle was demolished in 1795 with the oak panelling, staircase, beams and fittings being re-used in Downing College, Cambridge.

Many notable landed families appear on the names of the gravestones here. These include the Stewarts of Ballintoy, Downing Fullerton, and the Stewart-Moore family. The Reverend Robert Trail who died in 1842 and is buried in the graveyard was the longest serving Minister of Ballintoy Church having been here for 66 years.

The area was recently used as the backdrop for filming scenes for the new series of global smash hit fantasy series 'Game of Thrones.'

## **Spring edition of Down & Dromore's Church Planting News**

The Spring edition of Church Planting News is now available to download and read online.

The diocesan web site comments - In church planting, sharing the good news of Jesus goes hand-in-hand with reaching out in compassion to the communities where God has placed us. This edition of Church Plant News highlights the work of our church plants in modelling God's compassion through Christians Against Poverty, food bank



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provision and mental health support within our communities as well as in their responses to the conflict in Ukraine.

Find out more about Church Planting on this page of the diocesan website -

[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2022/05/spring-edition-of-church-planting-news-> ]

Find out more about how you can partner with the Church Planting Fund on this website page.

Please email Keith Gardiner if you would like printed copies of Church Planting News:

[generosity@downdromorediocese.org](mailto:generosity@downdromorediocese.org)

## News reports

### Neglecting RE leaves a hole in curriculum, warns MP

**Religious education lessons must not be “neglected” by schools because they can help teenagers prepare to deal with grief, the Father of the House of Commons has said.**

Sir Peter Bottomley said that faith, religion and tradition are “comforts at times of joy and at times of grief”, and that “every young person needs to understand religion”.

He made the comments after a study found that about 34 per cent of academies in England have no timetabled RE lessons and nearly 500 secondary schools have zero hours of RE provision in Year 11.

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While the researchers found that the number of students taking religious studies at GCSE had risen by nearly a third over the past decade, they said that no government money had been spent on the subject in the past five years.

A team from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (Natre) and RE Today found that the subject is being “neglected by the Government” and “marginalised by some schools, particularly in the academy system”.

‘Too many young people are not getting a fair deal when it comes to religious education’

Sir Peter, who is the MP for Worthing West, called for a national plan for the subject. He said: “Too many young people are not getting a fair deal when it comes to religious education.

“In neglecting the subject, we leave a gaping hole in our school curriculum.

“At its best, RE prepares young people for the ethical, moral and religious debates that influence life in modern Britain and the wider world.”

Sir Peter said that religion had helped a community deal with grief after six teenagers lost their lives in a car accident in Eltham, South London, in 1995 – where at the time he was their MP. “The first thing that all their fellow pupils did was to congregate at a church, even though half of them didn’t know which way up to hold a hymn book,” he said.

“I think that it was helpful for them to be able to find a church and find refuge, but it could have been more helpful if they were more familiar with the functioning of a church.”

Deborah Weston, a Natre research officer, said: “It is a great shame that RE is being neglected by the Government, and marginalised by some schools, particularly in the academy system.”

## **Record numbers of students taking Religious Studies**

**The number of students taking Religious Studies at A-level has seen a 50 per cent rise since 2003, according to a new landmark study.**

GCSE-level interest in the subject has also increased by nearly a third in the last decade, researchers found.

Schools with higher entry rates for GCSE-level RS also had higher than average Attainment 8 scores.

The study was carried out jointly by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE), and RE Today Services.

Their report draws from an Ofsted subject report, public surveys, school workforce data, freedom of information requests, and interviews with teachers and students.



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Despite record levels of interest, they warn that the subject is being neglected by both the government and schools.

Despite the teaching of RE being a legal requirement in all schools across England, over a third (34%) of academies reported no RE at all in the curriculum, while almost 500 secondary schools had no provision in Year 11.

The study expresses regret over lack of government spending on the subject in the last decade, and the failure of many academies to offer high quality RE despite it being commended by Ofsted for giving students "the opportunity to make sense of their own place in the world".

The data review was led by NATRE Research Officer, Deborah Weston, who said: "With record numbers of students taking the subject, it is a great shame that RE is being neglected by the Government, and marginalised by some schools, particularly in the academy system.

"In the Queen's Speech we saw the government's commitment to 'help every child fulfil their potential, wherever they live'.

"The data has shown us that high-quality RE enables precisely this, being a key marker for both academic achievement and a vital part of young people's development in making sense of their own worldview as part of the diverse and pluralistic nature of belief in the 21st century.

"The planned changes outlined in the Queen's Speech provide a once in a generation opportunity to address most of the issues highlighted in this data."

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Ms Weston is calling for a national plan to safeguard the subject's future in English schools.

"However, without a properly funded National Plan and a system of accountability for high-quality RE under the Government's academy vision for all schools, we risk denying a generation of students access to this vital subject," she said.

"A high-quality education in religion and worldviews must now be part of their plans to help every young person fulfil their potential in school, society and the world of work."

Sir Peter Bottomley, Father of the House of Commons, made similar calls during a parliamentary roundtable in March to discuss the subject.

Responding to the latest data, Sir Peter said: "Looking at the performance data on this report card, too many young people are not getting a fair deal when it comes to religious education.

"In neglecting the subject, we leave a gaping hole in our school curriculum. At its best, RE prepares young people for the ethical, moral and religious debates that influence life in modern Britain and the wider world."

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## Prayer Book Society responds to criticism of preacher

The Prayer Book Society has commented on its decision to have Msgr. Michael Nazir-Ali deliver the sermon at a choral evensong held at St Peter's Church in Stanway, Gloucestershire on St George's Day, saying it would have been rude to have rescinded his invitation to preach since he had quit the Church of England.

Msgr Nazir-Ali, who was received into the Roman Catholic Church last year and reordained as a Roman Catholic priest, preached on the topic of martyrdom. The PBS newsletter reported:

“He spoke in his sermon of the importance of martyrdom and sacrifice – as exemplified by St George and St Mark whose Saint's Days are April 23rd and 25th respectively. He reminded us that much of the story of St George is legend but there are many reports which ring true of both his martyrdom and sacrifice. The major story is that he was a senior officer of Emperor Diocletian and was executed in 303 for declaring himself a Christian at a time when Christianity was not tolerated. There is a message there for us today. This was the last major Roman persecution of Christians. Just three years later Constantine became emperor; he became a Christian in 312 and declared tolerance for the faith in 313.”

After it reported the news of the Saturday 23 April 2022 ceremony on Twitter, PBS was asked by Dennis Lennox



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why it had allowed a Roman Catholic who had repudiated the formularies of the Church of England to deliver the sermon.

The Prayer Book Society tweeted in response:

“Because he was invited and accepted the invitation whilst not a Roman Catholic and those involved in organising the event decided that it would be ungracious to disinvite him given his continued desire to speak.”

It further stated allowing non-Anglicans to deliver sermons at Prayer Book Society events “might be that the recognition by other denominations of the Prayer Book’s value strengthens the case in some quarters for its continuing relevance.”

## In the media

### **Killaloe accused of deceiving laity over role of deacons**

The Tablet

Members of the laity have accused the Diocese of Killaloe of a “breach of trust” over the ministry of permanent deacons which remains on hold in the west of Ireland diocese, Sarah Mac Donald writes.

Plans to train laymen for the ministry were paused in 2014 by the then Bishop of Killaloe, Kieran O’Reilly, following protests by a group known as the Women of Killaloe.

They argued that the role of the permanent deacon is unnecessary as most of its functions can be carried out by a layperson. They also believe that if it is introduced, it should be open to women and men, as it was in the early Church.

Bishop Fintan Monahan succeeded O'Reilly, now Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, in 2016.

However, despite the pause on recruiting permanent deacons in Killaloe, it subsequently emerged that one man from the diocese had already begun training for the diaconate before the reintroduction of the ministry was halted.

The Tablet has learned that a number of lay people in Killaloe are now concerned that this permanent deacon, who was ordained for the Diocese of Cloyne, is ministering publicly in Killaloe, including at liturgies in the cathedral in Ennis, undermining the agreement reached between the diocese and its people.

Speaking anonymously, one parishioner said: "The present situation is very confusing and lacks transparency. People understood that the bishop was not continuing with the introduction of the permanent diaconate. This was publicly announced at the time and very much welcomed in the diocese. However, what was not disclosed is that a candidate from the diocese had been in formation for this ministry.

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“We had hoped that the Church had listened to the voices of women in the diocese. We are left wondering if in reality the permanent diaconate is being introduced by stealth.”

The parishioner added: “All of this is happening at a time when Pope Francis is trying to move the Church towards being more synodal, more open, more transparent.”

Another parishioner said: “The stance being taken in the diocese goes against the whole synodal process. It shows complete disdain for the wider community of clergy and lay people, who were promised that the permanent diaconate would not be instituted in the diocese.”

In 2015, a spokesman for Killaloe, Fr Brendan Quinlivan told The Tablet that one candidate had begun the process of discernment for the permanent diaconate before the pause on recruitment was announced.

He added: “As the candidate is a committed and active member of his faith community, it is hoped that his participation in this theology course will equip him to be an effective participant in the lay leadership that is at the heart of the Killaloe diocesan pastoral plan.”

In 2001 the Irish Bishops received permission from the Vatican to proceed with the restoration of the permanent diaconate in Ireland. The first 14 permanent deacons were ordained in Dublin and in Elphin in 2012. There are now more than 100 permanent deacons serving in the Irish Church and nearly all of the Irish Church’s 26 dioceses have embraced the ministry.

the tablet.co.uk



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## Board members of Green Pastures 'megachurch' resign

**Members of the board of Green Pastures 'megachurch' in Ballymena have dramatically announced their resignation following weeks of turmoil.**

Belfast Telegraph

It comes after the resignation of lead pastor Jeff Wright and eight members of the Church's 'Executive Team' in recent weeks. A review was also launched into complaints against Mr Wright from Church members, Andrew Madden writes.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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