



Image of the day - St Peter's Church in Milford

Iconic Milford Church is 60-years-old

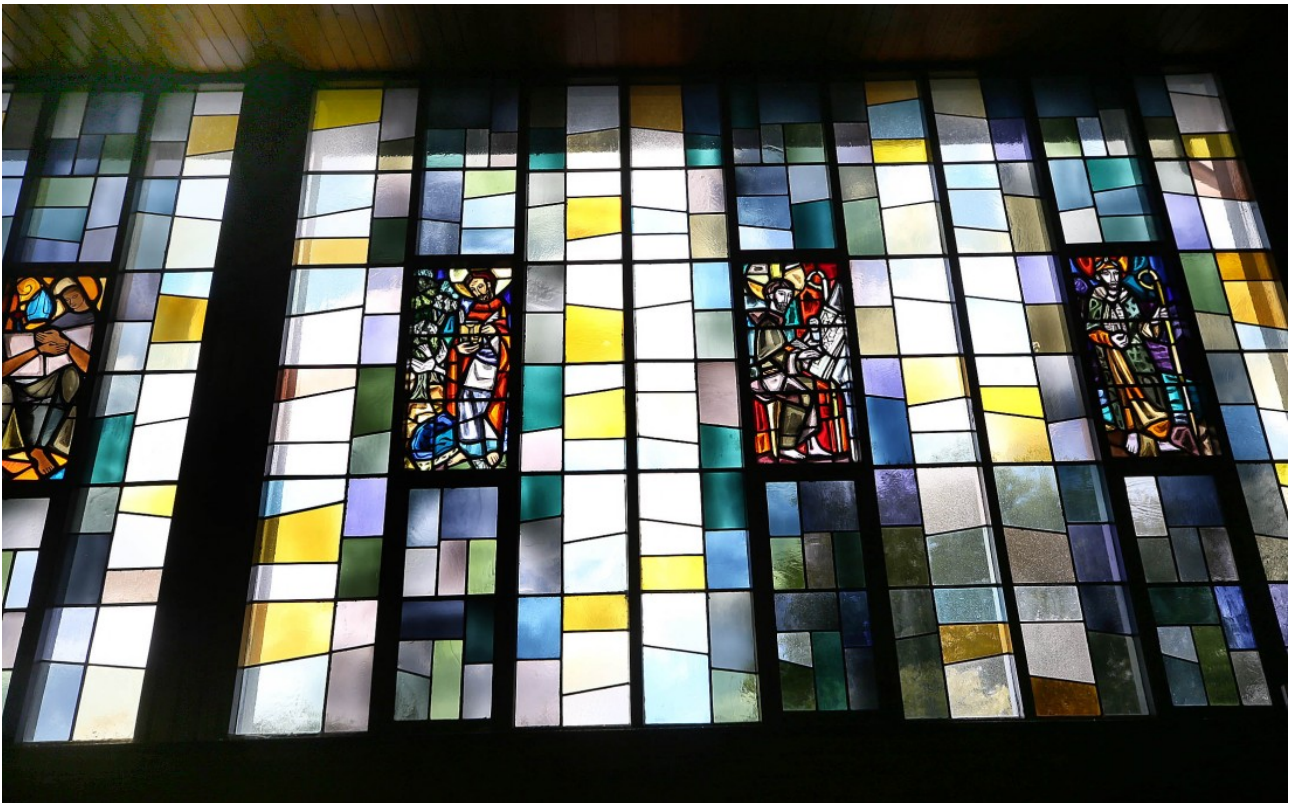


Fr Stephen Gorman pictured in St. Peter's Church, Milford

St Peter's Church in Milford, which was designed by the famous architect Liam McCormick, turns 60 years old today, Donegal News reports May 28.

Due to the pandemic the milestone will be marked with a simple mass led by Fr Stephen Gorman this morning with plans for a celebration next year. Fr Gorman told the Donegal News that the church itself is of national importance and said its 60-year anniversary is a great milestone for the local community.

“The church was blessed by the Most Reverend MacNeely, Bishop of Raphoe at the time. The architect was Liam McCormick of Corr and McCormick who were based in Derry. The Stations of the Cross were done by the famous



The magnificent stained glass windows of St. Peter's Church, Milford.

architect Imogen Stuart. We find that a lot of people come to look at the stations and pray in front of them. Many architecture students contact the parish because they are doing studies on the church itself.

“It is a great milestone for the local community. Unfortunately we are not able to celebrate but we are hoping once the pandemic ceases that we will be able to and we hope to have the Bishop come and say mass next year.”

Liam McCormick was regarded as the “father of modern church architecture in Ireland” and designed several churches in Donegal. Milford was his first in the county followed by Murlog (1964), Desertegney (1964), Burt (1967),

May 31, 2021

Creeslough (1971), Glenties (1974) and Donoughmore Presbyterian Church (1977).

Most Rev. Dr MacNeely said at the time ‘St Peter’s is a type of church which will attract a good deal of attention and interest from people who know something about church architecture.’ At the opening ceremony Archdeacon Hugh Canon Boyle also said: “In years to come, St Peter’s will be pointed out as one of the gems of modern church architecture”.

The erection of the church began in July 1959 and the construction work was undertaken by Mr Joseph McMenamin, Stranorlar. It was built and furnished at a cost of £28,000. An article in the Derry People dated June 3, 1961 noted that ‘the contemporary design embodies many features new in church architecture. Built of steel reinforced concrete, the roof is supported on four tapered steel columns. The interior is finished in a restful buff-coloured rough-surfaced brick, and the floor is in grey-white mosaic. The design accentuating the importance of the altar allows for clear vision from any of the seated position.”

Report and photographs courtesy Donegal News

Rector puts faith in podcasts

In a world dominated by images, audio content has been gaining ground through a growing fanbase of podcasts and audiobooks.

Statistics from 2021 reveal that there are currently 850,000 podcasts available on a vast number of topics across a range of platforms.



Revd Jono Pierce (above), rector of St Finnian's, Cregagh, has been listening to podcasts for some years now and sensed a fresh opportunity to share his faith.

He says: "The beauty of audio is that it's so easy to consume – in the car, exercising, doing chores around the house etc. I feel it's really important to see people of faith having a presence in this growing world of influence.

"I wanted to try to put something out there to share the reason for the hope I have found in my Christian faith and just share stories and experiences that had helped to make Jesus real to me," he says.

During lockdown Jono invested in a course and taught himself how to produce a podcast.

"My editing skills are a bit rough and ready, but I launched my podcast, *Bitesize Chunks of Faith* about 3 months ago. I love being part of the podcasting community which is very supportive and helpful to one another."

Bitesize Chunks of Faith contains some personal stories and interviews people have shared with Jono in church about how faith has helped them through their lives.

May 31, 2021

Check it out by clicking the link below. There are now 12 episodes available from Season 1.

[Bite Size Chunks of Faith](#)

Ireland participates in Iter Europaeum initiative

Ireland was among the countries taking part in the EU initiative "Iter Europaeum" yesterday, Sunday 31 May, with Saint Isidore's Church in Rome under the spotlight.

Ireland was among the countries taking part in the EU initiative "Iter Europaeum" yesterday, Sunday 31 May, with Saint Isidore's Church in Rome under the spotlight.

The Iter European initiative, marking the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the European Union and the Holy See continues to bring new energy and ideas to many of Rome's churches.

The project, that aims to show and enhance the deep links between the European Union and its 27 Member States, and the Holy See was launched on 9 May, coinciding with Europe Day, and is scheduled to continue until 27 June.

During this period, each Sunday, liturgical celebrations, concerts and guided tours take place in churches or basilicas that are connected to one of the EU member states.

May 31, 2021

On Sunday, 31 May, EU Ambassadors visited the Irish National Church, of St Isidore, near Rome's Via Veneto.

Speaking to Vatican Radio's Mario Galgano, the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See, Derek Hannon highlighted the bonds the EU and the Holy See have in common:

From your point of view, how are diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the EU and how does your country collaborate with these relations? What common challenges are faced?

Relations between the Holy See and the EU are excellent as Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said after her recent meeting with Pope Francis. The EU sees the Holy See as a promoter of justice in the world and a defender of human rights. My sense is that the Holy See views the EU as a zone of stability and as a stabilising force in an increasingly fractured international landscape

Ireland has been a fully-committed member of the Union since we joined in 1973 and we are fully engaged across the spectrum of the Union's activities. Within the EU Ireland echoes the views of the Holy See on many issues including for example Migration which is so close to the concerns of Pope Francis and also on Nuclear Disarmament. We both agree that even the possession of nuclear weapons is unacceptable and have signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

How does the Irish community live in Rome?

May 31, 2021

The Irish have had a strong presence in Rome and in the Vatican going back a long, long time. Like many older communities, the Irish community in Rome is fully integrated into the life of the city. Rome remains a favourite place of pilgrimage for many Irish people and they arrive here in large numbers throughout the year, though obviously not in the past year.

How will you celebrate the Iter Europaeum in Rome?

On Sunday, EU Ambassadors will visit the Irish National Church, San Isidoro a Capo le Case, on Via degli Artisti near the Via Veneto and I will of course join them. St Isidore's was established as a Spanish church in the early 17th century but ran into financial difficulties and was taken over by the Irish Franciscan Luke Wadding who transformed into a thriving centre for the training of priests to minister in Ireland. We will be welcomed by the Guardian Fr Hugh



May 31, 2021

McKenna and given a guided tour of this beautiful church which has been in Irish hands almost continuously for the past 400 years.

The Iter Europaeum is a great way of reminding us of the deep and abiding historic connections between EU member States, the Holy See and the wider Eternal City. initiative, marking the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the European Union and the Holy See continues to bring new energy and ideas to many of Rome's churches.

Covid 'lifted veil' on reality of Church in Ireland - Archbishop Martin

The Primate of All Ireland has said the Covid pandemic “lifted the veil” on the reality of the position of the Church in Ireland, observing that it ranked low on the public’s list of priorities, Sarah Mac Donald writes in The Tablet.

Speaking at the online launch of a new book, Maynooth College Reflects on Covid-19: New Realities in Uncertain Times, Archbishop Eamon Martin said that despite speaking to government about the importance of public worship ahead of reopening society, it had been “humbling” to realise that “spiritual health, the importance of going to Mass, the importance of being together in worship, didn’t really figure as one of the major issues in the minds of a lot of people”.

But the Archbishop of Armagh noted that surveys have shown that being able to worship and be together has a



positive impact on people's mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and consequently on the common good.

The new book is a response to Archbishop Martin's call to explore what the Covid crisis is saying about the Church and about prayer and faith, as well as exploring the possible lasting effects of the pandemic on church life. It offers a variety of reflections from the perspectives of theology, Scripture, philosophy, ethics, liturgy, pastoral and canon law.

“So much of what we take for granted as Church was cruelly disrupted and interrupted by this pandemic,” said the archbishop, and he acknowledged how difficult it was to be a leader in the Church at this time and to have the kind of decisiveness that people were sometimes expecting. It was only natural that people would start to ask: “Where is God, where is Church, where is Eucharist?”

To the question: where was the Church during this time, for him it was not inside empty churches, “but out in the daily

May 31, 2021

lives of so many good people, nurses, carers, others – who, motivated by their faith, were going the extra mile to reach out in helping others”.

Professor Salvador Ryan, one of the editors of the new book, said that because of the pandemic a number of issues that have needed to be addressed by the Church in Ireland were now “really being seen in high relief in a way that they haven’t been seen or that we weren’t prepared to see or didn’t want to see or didn’t have time to see” before Covid. He said the pandemic offered the Church “the opportunity to recalibrate, to take stock, and hopefully work towards renewal”.

Courtesy of The Tablet, 29/05/2021.

People and places

Christ Church, Dublin, re-opens for public worship

Yesterday on Trinity Sunday, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ Church, Dublin celebrated its patronal festival by re-opening for public worship. The preacher at the 11am Patronal Festival Eucharist was the Revd Dr Sahr Yambasu, President Designate of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

From 2 June onwards, the cathedral’s doors will be opened 30 minutes prior to the services on a ‘first come, first seated’ basis, with a maximum of 46 persons in the congregation. The normal pattern of choral services for the month of June will be 6pm Choral Evensong (doors open at 5.30 pm) on



Thursdays and on Sundays 11am Sung Eucharist (doors open at 10.30) and 3.30pm Choral Evensong (doors open at 15.00).

Watch: Get up and go – David Reynolds gives an update on his fundraising walk for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza

David Reynolds, a Diocesan Reader from Christ Church, Bray, is one of the people who have committed to walking 100 kilometres over three weeks to raise funds for Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza city. He is supporting Dublin and Glendalough Council for Mission's fundraising appeal which runs from May 24 to June 11.

With just over 20 kilometres walked, he visited the Monastic City of Glendalough where he contemplates Acts 8 (Philip

May 31, 2021

and the Ethiopian eunuch) and encourages us to 'get up and go'. You can watch his video below.

You can donate to the fundraising efforts securely via the Christ Church Cathedral website at:
www.christchurchcathedral.ie/al-ahli/.

Once you have chosen the amount you wish to donate you will be given the option to sponsor one of the walkers if you wish to do so.

The latest conflict in the Holy Land has put huge pressure on hospitals and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum has appealed for support for Al Ahli.

The hospital is run by the Diocese of Jerusalem and serves all people of Gaza city, no matter what their religion, gender, social or political background.

Dublin and Glendalough has had a link with the Diocese of Jerusalem for six years and has raised funds for the hospital previously.

Clergy move from Dungannon to Omagh

Dungannon curate-assistant, Rev Graham Hare, has been appointed Rector of the Parishes of Drumragh with Mountfield in County Tyrone, succeeding Rev Ian Linton who moved to Rathfriland and Ballyward in February last year.

May 31, 2021

The news was broken yesterday morning to the Rector Elect's current parishioners in Drumglass (Dungannon) and shared with his new congregations about 30 miles away in Omagh and Mountfield Parish Churches.

Rev Hare, who is 38, is married to wife Hannah and the couple have three young children, Bethany-Joy, Anna-Grace and Lois-Faith. His appointment marks a return of sorts to the Diocese of Derry where, from 2005 to 2008, he was an RE teacher in Lisneal College in Londonderry. He also worked for a number of years as general manager of the independent Christian charity Love for Life, which provides relationship training in schools.

The move to Omagh provides the new incumbent with an opportunity to renew acquaintances with an 'old boss'. After being priested in 2018, Graham served as Bishop Andrew Forster's curate-assistant in Dungannon.

The Rector designate said he was looking forward to this next phase in his ministry. "I'm leaving Dungannon with a heavy heart," he said. "Drumglass is a special place, with great people, but I'm convinced that the move to Omagh is of the Lord and I'm trusting in His sovereign grace. Hannah and I have spent time in Omagh over the last few weeks, getting the feel of the place, and we've enjoyed the warmth of the welcome we've received. I'm really looking forward to meeting and getting to know people, and seeing them come to faith."

Rev Hare will be instituted into his new parishes at a Service in St Columba's Church in Omagh on Friday 2nd July.



Exciting plans for ninth City of Derry International Choir Festival

Acknowledging the most recent announcements regarding Covid-19 guidelines, the Festival organisers say they are “excited to plan for October 2021 and looks forward to further easing of restrictions in the summer and autumn months”. Following a hugely successful online festival in 2020, which racked up over 250,000 views from 50 countries worldwide, the organisers are hopeful this year’s event will feature a programme of both live AND digital concerts, performances, workshops, podcasts and events.

Internationally-renowned guest artists will include the Grammy Award-winning American a cappella ensemble Chanticleer, described as the “world’s reigning male chorus” by The New Yorker, and known across the globe as the “orchestra of voices”. The Festival will also welcome acclaimed conductor and composer Bob Chilcott, award-

May 31, 2021

winning Derry chamber choir Codetta, and the Ulster Orchestra, for a programme of live and live-streamed concerts during Festival week.

The Festival runs from 20 - 24 October 2021

www.derrychoirfest.com

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars



Sing! In Christ alone with Keith Getty

Keith Getty gives 5 Reasons You Should Attend Sing! 2021

In this video, Keith Getty shares 5 reasons to attend the Getty Music Worship Conference – Sing! 2021. Join us in Nashville this September for three exciting days of deep theology, timeless artistry, and vibrant congregational

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

May 31, 2021

singing as we respond to the unparalleled opportunity to reset and renew a commitment to congregational singing, restore our true hope, and reunite the church in Christ-centered worship.

Keith says at the Sing! Conference, you will:

Experience the power of singing together again in harmony with thousands of believers.

Grow deeper in your faith and learn from leading pastors and expositors.

Inspire your imagination through compelling artistry and music.

Equip your ministry team with practical insights for the upcoming year.

Deepen your commitment to the unifying power of the Gospel in individual and corporate worship.

“Register by midnight, June 10, to take advantage of Spring pricing and join us to sing and proclaim that our hope is found in Christ alone!”

See - [[] <https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=aa4cd9a5b4688d5ec76f457cb&id=565780c28f&e=33d184a477>]

Lions fixture schedule

June 26 v Japan (Murrayfield, 3pm, live on Channel 4)

July 3 v Emirates Lions (Ellis Park, Johannesburg, 5pm, Sky Sports)

July 7 v Cell C Sharks (Ellis Park, 7pm, Sky)

May 31, 2021

July 10 v Vodacom Bulls (Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria, 5pm, Sky)

July 14 v S Africa A (Cape Town Stadium, 7pm, Sky)

July 17 v DHL Stormers (Cape Town Stadium, 5pm, Sky)

July 24 First Test v S Africa (Cape Town Stadium, 5pm, Sky)

July 31 Second Test (Soccer City, Jo'burg, 5pm, Sky)

Aug 7 Third Test (Soccer City, 5pm, Sky)

(All times BST)

Inst does Bohemian Rhapsody

What do you do with 100 choral and 60 instrumental musicians when lockdown prevents them from performing live? You take one of the most iconic and challenging songs of all time and give it a unique choral and orchestral makeover.

youtube.com/watch?v=b7ILUJ...

Month of Community and The Big Lunch

NICVA - This year there are more reasons than ever to get together and join in with The Big Lunch!

Online, on the door step, over the fence - it's all about celebrating community connections however you choose!

Register your interest at - bit.ly/3vvrGAq

The Big Lunch - draw for vouchers

Did you know there are 50 x £25 vouchers up for grabs to help you get your the big lunch started?!

May 31, 2021

Find out how to enter the draw here bit.ly/3oX651c

Well done St Feock!

This small Cornish Church of 56 people in the C of E Diocese of Truro gave £1,697 to buy 30,000 jabs for UNICEF 'twin my vaccine' which aims to get 2 billion vaccines to 190 of the poorest countries. More here: bit.ly/3vx1pBR



Pointers for prayer

Holy God,
you spoke the
world into being.
Pour your Spirit to
the ends of the
earth,
that your children
may return from
exile
as citizens of your
commonwealth,
and our divisions
may be healed
by your word of
love and
righteousness.
Amen.

Empowering God,
you gave the

May 31, 2021

church

the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit.

Look upon your church today and hear our petitions.

... *Petitions...*

Grant that, gathered and directed by your Spirit,
we may confess Christ as Lord and combine our diverse
gifts with a singular passion to continue his mission in this
world

until we join in your eternal praise. Amen.

Creator Spirit and Giver of life,
make the dry, bleached bones of our lives
live and breathe and grow again
as you did of old.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole creation.

Come in rushing wind and flashing fire
to turn the sin and sorrow within us
into faith, power, and delight. Amen.

Holy Spirit,

you poured yourself out on the people of the early church,
pour yourself out on us now.

Holy Spirit you set their tongues on fire with languages so
as to speak to one another in ways that could be
understood.

Set our tongues on fire to speak in different languages and
ways so others may hear the good news about Jesus.

Jesus, you said you had to go away so that the Holy Spirit,
the advocate, the counsellor would come and it was so.

Come once again Holy Spirit as the advocate that we all
need, as the counsellor we all need, and as the helper we
all need.

May 31, 2021

Come Holy Spirit, fan your flames of love and empowerment, set us on fire for you once again. Bring life to each of our dry bones.

Amen

Speaking to the Soul

“We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!”
Acts 2:11-13 NLT

I love the carefulness of Dr Luke’s account of the day of Pentecost. He is giving us only a very brief summary of what actually happened on that amazing day, but he doesn’t miss out the fact that many people struggled to work out what on earth was going on! For us it is absolutely clear what a significant day it was, but for many people at the time it was thoroughly perplexing. Some asked genuine questions, and Peter is just about to give them a very full explanation. But other people concluded that the bizarre events could only be explained by alcohol.

When God works in your life in a big way there will always be a variety of responses. Perhaps you have felt led to be confirmed or baptised, or to change your job in obedience to the Lord, or to work for him in another country. Some people will have questions and we should always be delighted by this. I remember the time when an uncle of mine became a minister. He had a well-paid job in the oil industry and lived

May 31, 2021

in a beautiful home in the suburbs. As a minister he lived in much smaller house in a far less attractive area and saw his income reduced enormously. There were inevitably many questions! Such moments give us, like Peter, a superb opportunity for explaining to people what our faith means to us.

But, be warned, there will always be people who will laugh off our experiences. It must have been very hurtful for the apostles to hear that some people thought that they were intoxicated. They had completely missed the point. We should never be surprised by such responses, but patient and gracious as we explain what's going on. It is hardest of all when such reactions are from people in our own families, and we will need special grace to keep our cool and to respond wisely and graciously.

QUESTION

How do you respond when people laugh at your Christian commitment?

PRAYER

Lord God, help me to respond with your wisdom and grace to those who are perplexed by my faith. Amen

