

Church News Ireland

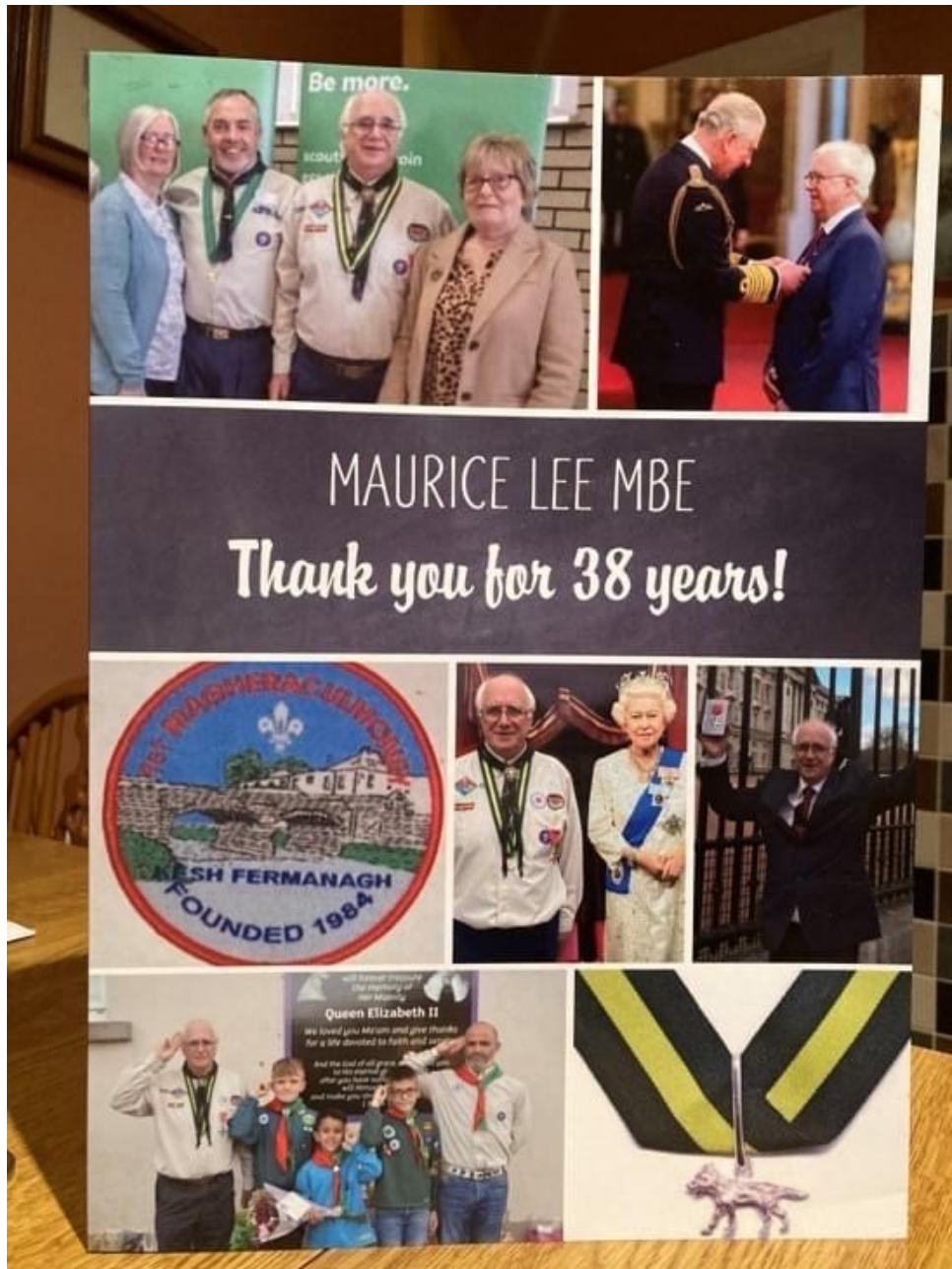


Image of the day – Award for Clogher scout leader

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Image of the day

Silver Wolf Award for Clogher scout leader



Ardess Parish has congratulated Maurice Lee on this outstanding achievement.

On the evening of the Promise Awards, 1st Magheraculmoney Scouts acknowledged Maurice Lee's award of Silver Wolf and his service to 1st Magheraculmoney Scouts with a special presentation. Pictures of Maurice Lee with leaders and helpers and Rev

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Abraham Storey, celebration cake, card presented and special Silver Wolf placard.

News reports



Outdoor bookstall in Dundela church grounds

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St Mark's Dundela has a new outdoor bookstall in the grounds of the church.

“Feel free to browse and borrow as you wish. And perhaps drop off any books gathering dust in your own homes? Thanks to @stcolmcilleschurch for donating the bookshelf and to Lionel for adapting it to outdoor weather!”

Mansion house crib upset features in The Irish Catholic

In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, the removal of the traditional nativity scene from the Mansion House in Dublin has prompted priests to ask: "What's the point of Christmas without Christian symbols like a crib?"

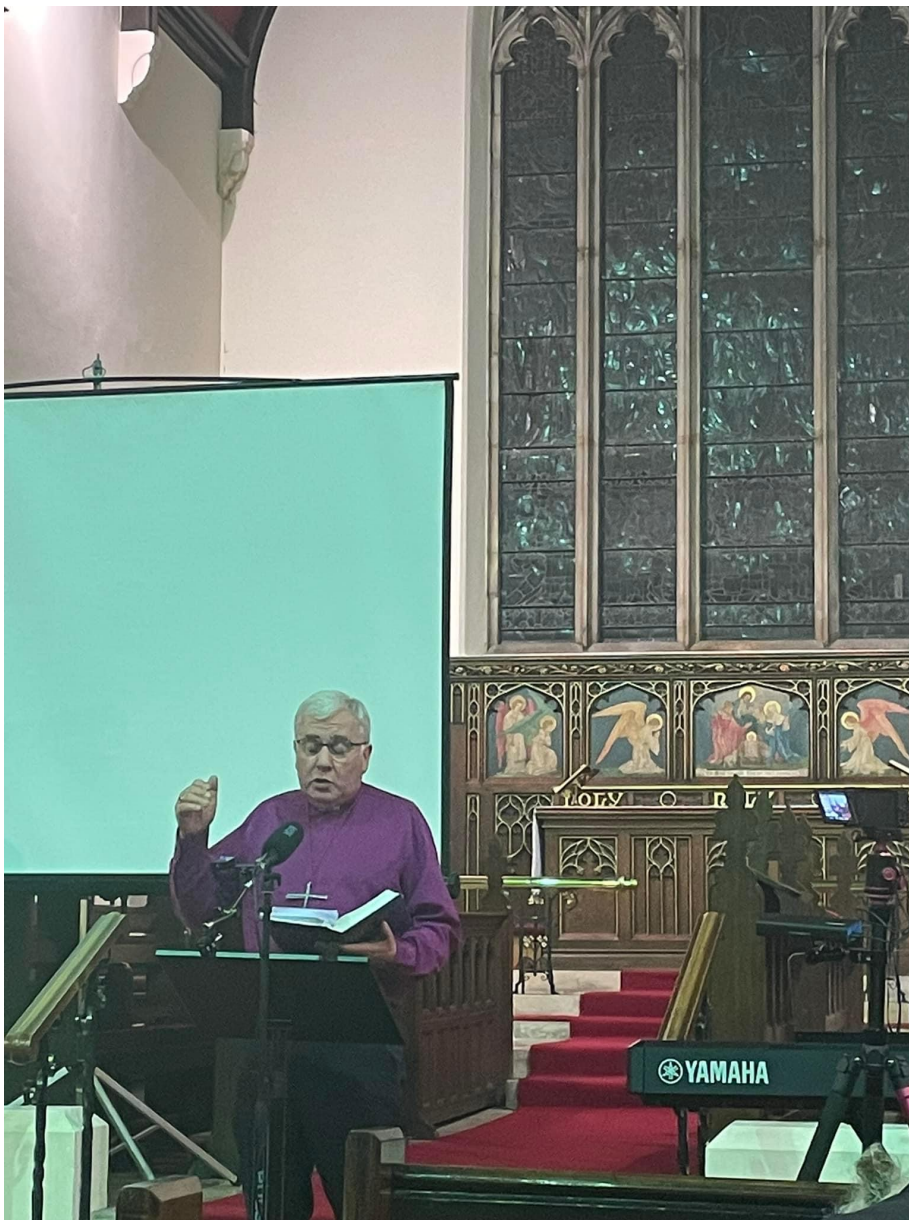
Fr Aquinas Duffy called the decision “unbelievable” and disappointing, adding “anything to do with Christmas and religion is anathema.”

See this story and other news at www.irishcatholic.com

Job Vacancy for a Pioneer Evangelist in Sligo

This exciting new role will work alongside the Lead Evangelist at Sligo Centre of Mission to help develop fresh expressions of Christian community.

As a team, the Centre of Mission is looking to build on and pioneer new forms of community within the Sligo, North Leitrim and Bundoran, and beyond, as appropriate.



Bishop David McClay spoke on the power of God to heal at Inter-denominational Divine Healing Ministries service in St Patrick's Ballymacarrett on Thursday night.

In this role, you will explore what communities are appropriate for young people and those in need, supporting the planning and facilitating of local services. This will enable more time for evangelism throughout the week. This role will specifically look to provide support in the digital aspects of the work, which have grown significantly over the recent period.

This role will also help to develop the work of the COM by creatively and effectively sharing faith to those who come to holiday in Bundoran from around the world. The work will be

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heavily focused in the Bundoran during the summer period and more focused in Sligo and North Leitrim during the winter season. This enables networking and communication with existing ministries and the pioneering of new ones using the GRACEUP values of Church Army as a benchmark.

As this role will look to support and enable people's faith journey, the successful candidate will be someone who prioritises their relationship with God and is comfortable with different styles of church. You will need to be an energetic and outgoing person, who is able to take the initiative and will be at ease in the local context.

Full advert and apply here  <https://bit.ly/3TxSBaU>

Archbishop of Armagh calls for balanced decisions in moment of difficulty for Northern Ireland

A statement on November 3 from the Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland:

'A few months ago, I wrote an article in the Belfast Telegraph pointing out that the difficulties arising from Brexit, the Northern Ireland Protocol and the looming cost of living crisis were coming together to create a moment of real jeopardy for these islands and for Northern Ireland in particular. I had also suggested that working together, rather than pushing for more extreme remedies, would provide the

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basis of a longer-term solution and longer-term relationships.

'I mentioned then, that there were people of ill will who, insofar as



they represent anything, represent drug dealers and extortionists, whose only contribution to civic life is to exploit people's fears and concerns at a time of crisis. Although such people may fly under old paramilitary flags of convenience, they are simply criminal gangs, seeking to shore up their influence in the communities which they terrorise. They form no part of a democratic society, nor are they part of the democratic culture which is the foundation of all stable democracies. "Sound and fury, signifying nothing" as the world's greatest dramatist reminds us.

'At a time of such sensitivity, it is of ultimate importance that those in government or in any elected office distinguish which voices (no matter how forcefully reasoned) carry a sense of responsibility and hope, and those which offer only unprovoked malice and fear. Not only what we decide and do, but the voices we listen to in arriving at our decisions mark us out as either an evolving, civilised society or a morally empty and broken polity.'

Bishop of Oxford backs gay weddings in the Church

Senior cleric apologises for his views being ‘slow to change’ as he breaks ranks from official stance

The Bishop of Oxford has become the most senior Church of England cleric to back same-sex marriage.

The Right Rev Steven Croft said he wanted to acknowledge the “acute pain and distress of LGBTQ+ people in the life of the Church” and that he was sorry his views on same-sex marriage were “slow to change”.

In his declaration, which breaks ranks with the Church’s view on this issue, he said clergy should be able to bless and marry gay couples.

The 65-year-old, who sits in the House of Lords, made his declaration in an essay, *Together in Love and Faith*, which was issued to colleagues this week. He said: “I need to acknowledge, right at the beginning of this essay, the acute pain and distress of LGBTQ+ people in the life of the Church.

“I am sorry that, corporately, we have been so slow as a Church to reach better decisions and practice on these matters.

“I am sorry that my own views were slow to change and that my actions, and lack of action, have caused genuine hurt,


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disagreement and pain. I remain on a very steep learning curve.”

However, speaking of those he described as holding “more conservative positions”, he said he did not want to see people feeling excluded as a result of any possible changes to church doctrine.

He wrote: “They are sisters and brothers in Christ. It would be a tragedy if a journey towards inclusion for one group of Christians became an experience of exclusion for another.”

The Bishop of Oxford is the only serving diocesan bishop to publicly call for the Church of England to embrace gay



HILLSBOROUGH
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NOVEMBER 2022 - FEBRUARY 2023

An open invitation to everyone in the community.

The cost of living crisis means everything is getting more expensive, food, household bills and fuel. If you're feeling the chill, come along to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Welcome Area on Tuesday mornings and warm up with tea, coffee, books, board games and good company!



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marriage. Anglican churches in Scotland, as well as the United States, already marry gay couples.

Meanwhile, in April, the Archbishop of Wales said same-sex weddings could be held in its churches within five years, adding that the clergy should “welcome people, where they are, who they are”.

The Bishop of Oxford’s comments come as Church of England bishops consider whether to recommend any changes to the traditional doctrine that states only opposite-sex couples should marry, and that gay people should remain celibate.

In February, the bishops will present their findings to the General Synod which could pave the way for a historic vote following decades of division.

Responding to Right Rev Croft’s comments, Jayne Ozanne, an LGBT campaigner and member of the General Synod, said: “At last we have a senior diocesan bishop who is finally willing to break the self-imposed collegiate silence of the English bishops and call for an end to the manifold injustice in the way the Church of England treats LGBT+ people. Bishop Steven must be applauded for setting out clearly what he believes and being one of the few serving diocesan bishops to risk the wrath of the conservatives by saying in public what so many whisper in private.

“The truth, however, is that Anglican bishops around the world have got to this point years ahead of the Church of England, and so many will rightly wonder why it is taking so

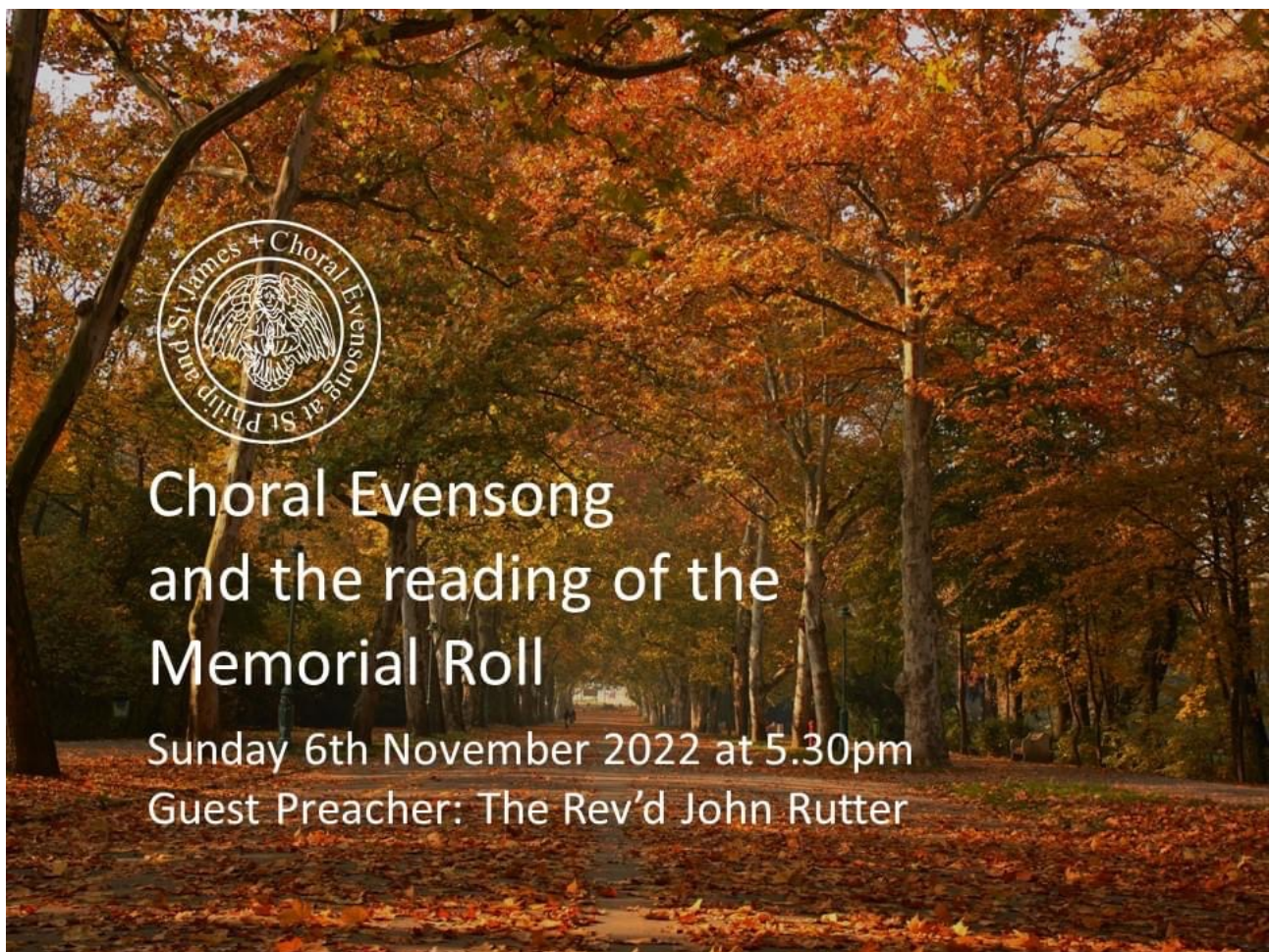
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long for English bishops to do the right, just and biblical thing of recognising the sanctity of love in all its forms.

“I hope that this brave prophetic step will encourage others to be open about their own views.”

The Next Steps steering group for the church’s Living in Love and Faith discussion, responded to Right Rev Croft’s essay last night.

A spokesman said: “This is one of many contributions to the work of the Church of England and adds to the resources on this issue.”



Memorial Choral Evensong in Hollywood

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The service of choral evensong in the Church of St Philip and St James, Holywood, on Sunday 6th November at 5.30pm will also include the reading of the parish's memorial roll for 2021-2022. The Rev'd John Rutter is the guest preacher.

Welby praying as bishops meet to discuss what's next for Living in Love and Faith

The Archbishop of Canterbury says he is praying for "fruitful" conversations as the College of Bishops met this week to discuss the next phase of Living in Love and Faith (LLF).

LLF is an extensive dialogue taking place across the Church of England about marriage, gender, relationships and sexuality.

It has been underway since 2017 and parishes have spent the last two years in a process of discussion using a suite of resources prepared by the LLF team - a group formed of Anglicans from a wide spectrum of beliefs around these issues.

Feedback submitted by parishes and published in September found that comments in support of the acceptance of same-sex marriage outnumbered those against.

The College of Bishops is meeting this week to consider proposals for a way forward.

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Commenting on their gathering, Archbishop Justin Welby said on Twitter, "As the College of Bishops meets over the next three days I'm looking forward to fruitful, energising and honest conversations. I pray we may be open to the presence of the Holy Spirit, that we might listen and learn from each other, and hear God's call for God's Church."

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, asked Anglicans to pray for "this important work".

The outcome of their meetings will be presented to the next meeting of the Church of England's parliamentary body, the General Synod, in February 2023.

Pope Francis visits Bahrain

Pope Francis set off yesterday morning on his Apostolic Journey to the Kingdom of Bahrain, marking his 39th Apostolic Journey abroad and the 58th country he has visited as Pope.

Pope Francis accepted the invitation to visit the country extended by the King of Bahrain, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and by the local Church. During his visit, he will participate in the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue and bring his closeness to the country's small Catholic flock.

Before leaving for the airport, Pope Francis met with three Ukrainian refugee families hosted by Italian families at Casa Santa Marta.

One of them is the wife of an Orthodox priest, along with her two children aged 18 and 14, from the Kropyvnytskyi region,

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150 km from Mykolaiv. Her husband and adult son have remained behind in Ukraine. The second family is a 30-year-old mother with two daughters aged 4 and 7, who fled the partially



occupied city and region of Zaporizhzhia; while the third family is a 53-year-old woman with a severely disabled 13-year-old son and a 73-year-old mother from Kyiv.

The refugee families were accompanied by the papal almoner, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski.

Due to knee pain, the Pope did not make the usual rounds among the journalists on the papal flight, but instead asked them to come up for a greeting.

Pope Francis said the Apostolic Visit to Bahrain is "an interesting trip" from which "good news" can emerge.

During his All Saints Day Angelus address on 1 November, the Pope expressed his hope that "every meeting and event might be a fruitful opportunity to promote, in the name of God, the cause of fraternity and peace."

In an interview with Vatican Media, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said the Pope's Apostolic

Journey is a sign of hope and dialogue in a tragic moment in history.

Cardinal Parolin stressed that "in a world characterized by tensions, oppositions, and conflicts," the Pope's visit and the events in Bahrain in which he will participate are "a message of unity, cohesion, and peace."

On Wednesday afternoon Pope Francis paid a visit to the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major to entrust his visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

According to a statement by the Holy See Press Office, the Holy Father spent some time in prayer before an icon of Maria Salus Populi Romani. This was the 100th time he has visited the Basilica since the start of his pontificate.

PM scraps plan to move UK embassy away from Tel Aviv

Rishi Sunak has scrapped plans to move the UK embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Downing Street has announced.

The Prime Minister vetoed the controversial idea, drawn up by Liz Truss, who ordered a review into whether Britain should follow Donald Trump's lead by relocating its diplomatic mission.

The former US president moved his country's embassy to Jerusalem in 2018, resulting in riots in Gaza.

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Ms Truss pledged to consider doing the same in a letter to Conservative Friends of Israel during the Tory leadership contest.

She then discussed the idea with Yair Lapid, the outgoing Israeli premier, on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.

But the proposal was formally declared dead in the water by Downing Street yesterday.

“It has been looked at. There are no plans to move the British embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv,” a spokesman said.

Husam Zomlot, the Palestinian ambassador to the UK, welcomed the announcement.

“[The] question about the location of the UK’s embassy should never have been asked in the first place,” he said.

Poem for today

The Sea-Cliffs of Kilkee by Aubrey De Vere

Awfully beautiful art thou, O sea!
Viewed from the vantage of these giant rocks
That vast in air lift their primeval blocks,
Screening the sandy cove of lone Kilkee.

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Cautious, with outstretched arm and bended knee,
I scan the dread abyss, till the depth mocks
My straining eyeballs, and the eternal shocks
Of billows rolling from infinity
Disturb my brain. Hark! the shrill sea-bird's scream!
Cloud-like they sweep the long wave's sapphire gleam,
Ere the poised osprey stoop in wrath from high.
Here man, alone, is naught; Nature supreme,
Where all is simply great that meets the eye,—
The precipice, the ocean, and the sky.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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