

C of I welcomes additional €70Million For Primary School Improvements

The Church of Ireland Board of Education (Republic of Ireland) has greatly welcomed the announcement by Minister Ruairí Quinn yesterday day of the allocation of an additional €70 million to primary schools for school improvements.

This announcement comes only three weeks after the announcement of Budget 2014 which saw the pupil teacher ratio in schools remain unchanged.

Commenting on today's announcement, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Chair of the Church of Ireland Board of Education (RI) said: "This is tremendous news for schools, many of which operate in older buildings which is reflective of the involvement of the Church of Ireland in primary education over two centuries. I know that many of our primary schools have found the reduction in income a particular challenge. The inability to carry out minor maintenance works has also caused frustration among school Boards of Management. Minister Quinn's allocation



of additional funding, both through the Minor Works Scheme and the Summer Works Scheme, will ease anxiety in schools across the country. It displays to me that Minister Quinn has been listening to the concerns expressed by schools, parents and the education partners on the issue of funding. Taken with his protection of the pupil teacher ratio in Budget 2014 it is a further affirmation by Minister Quinn of the important role primary schools hold in our society. On behalf of Church of Ireland Primary Schools I compliment Minister Quinn on this achievement and greatly welcome this announcement."

The funding will address the shortfalls caused to schools through the withdrawal of the minor works grant in 2011. The additional funding will also allow schools to complete small scale projects through the summer works scheme. Further details are available at: <http://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2013-Press-Releases/PR13-11-07.html>

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Wobble On the Walls and meet Pudsey

BBC's Children in Need mascot - Pudsey will visit St Augustine's church in Derry tomorrow. "The wee church on the wall" is holding its annual Sale in the parish hall on Saturday 9th November from 10 o'clock to 12pm.



Not only will the Sale dovetail with BBC Children in Need Pudsey's Wobble On the Walls. It will also see the official handing over of the Big Weave Tapestries. These were created by the thousands of visitors to The Big Weave in St Augustine's early on this summer. This will take place at 12pm.

The Sale will be Rev Pat Storey's last before her move to Meath and Kildare. It has become a real feature for Saturday morning shoppers in the city. It is a wonderful opportunity for shoppers to take a well-earned coffee break, with coffee and scones included in the £2.50 admission price.

St Augustine's has made its mark over the years with food – everything from amazing baking, St Augustine's Deli chutneys and not to mention its very own cook book A Knife A Board and A Blender. What makes the event even more attractive is that admission for children is free. There will be a great variety of crafts and stalls St Augustine's well known chutneys will be on sale.

Rev Pat Storey, the Rector of St Augustine's said, "We love to open our doors to our friends and neighbours in the city for the Sale. This will be my last before moving from St Augustine's and it has been great to be part of an amazing team of people that make events

like this happen".

St Augustine's Church is situated in Palace Street, on the city walls.

The Sale takes place in the adjacent Church Hall on Saturday 9 November, beginning at 10am and closing at 12pm. www.sainttaugustines.co.uk

Priest threatened with hammer during armed robbery

A priest threatened with a hammer during an armed robbery as he was praying in church has been left badly shaken.

News Letter - Fr Peter O'Kane was saying the Rosary in St Colmcille's Church in Holywood on Tuesday evening at around 6.20pm when he was approached by two men.

The men forced him into the sacristy and then the nearby parochial house where they held him as they searched the property.



Fr O’Kane was able to escape from the men as they returned through the sacristy.

They took money and Fr O’Kane’s mobile phone.

While he was not physically injured, the priest was left badly shaken according to colleague Fr Eddie McGee.

“He was left very distressed by the whole thing,” said Fr McGee, spokesman for the Diocese of Down and Connor.

This is the third incident targeting religious representatives in the past two weeks.

Two nuns were assaulted at their convent in west Belfast last month.

And just last week Fr Dermot Moloney was assaulted with a hammer and locked in a bathroom of his parochial house after disturbing intruders in his parish office in Jonesborough.

Fr McGee said it is alarming and concerning that such a vulnerable community is being targeted in this way.

North Down MP Lady Sylvia Hermon said she was “utterly disgusted” after hearing of Fr O’Kane’s ordeal.

“I’m utterly disgusted by the news that parish priest, Father Peter O’Kane, was threatened with a hammer and left traumatised by callous robbers, who obviously cared not a jot about him or his church in Hollywood,” said Lady Hermon.



After the Confirmation Service in St Mary's Church, Doneraile, May Maddix and Hannah Ijisesan - mothers of two of those confirmed - had their photo taken with the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton

“Churches of all denominations are places of worship, peace, safety and sanctity, but these robbers violated

every single one of these.

"I find that truly shocking, and have offered my prayers for Father O'Kane and his parishioners to find strength and courage to overcome what must have been a dreadful ordeal."

Ulster Unionist North Down MLA Leslie Cree condemned those behind the latest incident.

"These are clearly two very dangerous individuals who need to be caught as soon as possible before they can endanger anyone else," said Mr Cree.

North Down DUP MLA Gordon Dunne said local people are angry about what has happened.

"Holywood enjoys very good neighbourly relations and an attack like this is an attack on everyone within the community.

"I am deeply concerned that there are people out there who threaten and steal from members of our community. The local community finds such illegal and immoral behaviour absolutely repugnant.

"I want to extend my sympathies to the priest and the local congregation who have suffered at the hands of these criminals."

Fr McGee said Fr O'Kane has been comforted by the support of the community since the attack.

Dublin Lock-Out Centenary Symposium Cancelled

The 'You Can't Eat a Flag' symposium, organized by the Church of Ireland Historical Commemorations Working group, to reflect on the 1913 Dublin Lock-Out, which was to take place in Liberty Hall, Dublin on 16 November 2013 has been cancelled.

Bishop elect on God Slot

RTE The God Slot will feature an interview with Bishop Elect, the Revd Pat Storey, tonight Friday, 8 November 2013.

www.rte.ie/radio1/the-god-slot

Building Blocks Children's Ministry Conferences

It's still not too late to book for one of these two important annual Children's Ministry Conferences which aim to provide inspiration, ideas and resources for Sunday School teachers or anyone who has a ministry to children.

The keynote addresses will be given by John Hardwick, an inspiring speaker, author, children's song writer and story teller.

Saturday 16 November 2013 – Wellington Presbyterian Church, Ballymena

Saturday 23 November 2013– All Hallows college, Drumcondra, Dublin

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Full details about the conferences including seminars and booking arrangements can be found on the Building blocks website –

www.buildingblocks.ie



Concern at sharp rise in alcohol-related deaths

The number of people who died from alcohol abuse in Northern Ireland increased by 40% in under a decade, it has been revealed.

Almost 300 people succumbed in one year and thousands more were admitted to hospital, social development minister Nelson McCausland said.

A Responsible Retailing Code for drink was launched a year ago, with an independent complaints panel to monitor compliance. The team led by former senior policeman Duncan McCausland has upheld complaints against two nightspots linked to drinks promotions.

Minister Nelson McCausland said: "While there has been a welcome reduction in overall consumption of alcohol over the past few years, harmful use of alcohol continues to place a significant burden on our public health - it is estimated to cost Northern Ireland up to £900 million per year."

In 2010, 284 people died directly from alcohol misuse, an increase of 40% since 2001.

In the financial year 2011/12 there were 7,767 admissions to acute hospitals with an alcohol-related diagnosis.

The Democratic Unionist added: "As social development minister, I cannot allow alcohol to be sold or supplied in an irresponsible manner and recent measures that I have taken forward reflect my commitment to taking firm action to address the issues associated with the misuse of alcohol."

Steps taken include introducing powers to restrict low cost drinks promotions, like all you can drink for £20, which encourage excessive consumption. Nelson McCausland has proposed that breaches of codes of conduct be taken into consideration when premises apply to courts to have their drinks licences renewed. He is also considering introducing minimum unit pricing.



Choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

On CNI tomorrow

Irish and GB News Bulletins

Second news review of the 10th World Council of Churches Assembly in Korea.

Prayer for Today

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.