



Writer of screenplay *Victoria* final speaker at Cork history festival

The closing speaker of the 2019 West Cork History Festival will be screenwriter and novelist Daisy Goodwin, who wrote the hugely popular TV series *Victoria* on the life of Queen

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Victoria. Daisy will speak about writing *Victoria* and her own West Cork connections.

Daisy is the great-great-great granddaughter of the Rev Robert Traill, a former Rector of Schull. A complex character, he was a defender of the tithe system. He is best known, however, for his steadfast work among those of all denominations afflicted by the Famine. He raised funds for their relief, administered care, and ultimately paid with his life, when he succumbed to typhus in April 1847. He is depicted in *Victoria* and Daisy will no doubt speak about him in her contribution to the Festival.

Details of the full programme of this year's West Cork History Festival are [HERE](#).

Shortage of Derry priests could lead to duties being shared

Priests could have to cover more than one parish because of a fall in numbers. Derry Diocese is reportedly considering a shake-up in the way it ministers to parishes to address the shortage.

A drop in new ordinations and an increasing number of priests reaching retirement has meant that where a parish could once have had three priests, it will now have just one.

The diocese, which straddles three counties, is considering measures which could see one parish priest covering a number of parishes or priests taking on work across several parishes.



The need to adapt the role of clergy in parishes was first muted in the diocesan document *God is Love*, which lays out a plan from 2018 to 2021. It includes ways in which the laity could be more active in their parishes and carry out duties traditionally done by the clergy.

The developments were reported in the *Ulster Herald*.

Fr Paul McCafferty, the vicar general of the Derry Diocese, told the *Herald*: "Bishop Donal McKeown has initiated discussions around a pastoral vision and how to accommodate it around the fact that there will be a smaller number of priests.

"It is important to stress that this is still at the very early stages of consideration and is a medium-term project for the diocese. The models will also ensure that individual parishes retain their identity."

One of the models would mean one parish priest covering a number of different parishes, he explained.

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The second would see a group of priests coming together to share responsibilities around different parishes.

Fr McCafferty added: "In each model the aim is to ensure we continue to do our very best for all our parishioners and their parishes. At the moment we are simply exploring these options but the reality is, things are changing fundamentally due to reduced number of priests."

Bishop McKeown outlined in the God is Love document the way in which the drop in priests could be addressed.

He said: "As each parish community develops its own capability it can take responsibility for pastoral priorities and take the first steps towards addressing those priorities, whether using their own resources or working co-operatively with neighbouring parishes." [Donna Deeney](#) in the Belfast Telegraph

Public briefing on restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

St Patrick's Cathedral is hosting an information evening next week to highlight the restoration of the roof which is due to start shortly. Dean William Morton is extending an open invitation to all to come along on Wednesday next, July 24, at 7.30pm.

This roof restoration will be the first major undertaking at the cathedral since the Guinness restoration in the 1860s. This restoration process will take around two years to complete and will cost €9 million.

The Restoration of the High Roof will address the following issues:



Nail Sickness: Nails used to fix the slates over the years have corroded and in many cases actually disappeared. As a result, slates slip down the slopes.

- Water Entry: During the hurricanes of 2015, two holes appeared in the roof large enough to fit a car through. These holes allow water to enter the cathedral making it difficult to protect the building for the long term.
- Split and over sized lead-lined gutters: The lead lined gutters are over sized in comparison to current standards and have split in many places. They now need to be re-laid to current falls and steps.
- Failing pitched repairs: Temporary repairs are now starting to fail and a comprehensive repair is needed.

Join the Dean and Cathedral Architect, John Beauchamp, for a question and answer session during this information evening. Plans to secure the future St Patrick's Cathedral

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for generations to come will be outlined and there will be information on how you can support the work.

All are welcome to attend.

Cathedrals need to be creative to survive says Dean

The Dean of Liverpool has said that Cathedrals need to embrace creativity in order to remain open.

According to comments published in Liverpool Cathedral's annual review this week, the Very Reverend Sue Jones has argued that a Cathedral's survival is dependent on the number of visitors they are able to attract.

The review came after an installation by Luke Jerram entitled 'Museum of the Moon' in the Cathedral's Great Hall last month got over 200,000 visitors.

In her review, Very Reverend Sue attributed increased footfall to the range of activities showcased at the venue and their effectiveness to engage with culture, citing The Knife Angel - a memorial to those affected by knife crime - and the funeral of British comedian and singer Sir Ken Dodd, as examples of engaging with their local community.

She said: "Cathedrals that fail to adapt will fail to thrive, fail to survive. We owe it to future generations to prevent this from happening. I intend Liverpool Cathedral to thrive into the future."

She added: "Liverpool Cathedral is one of the pioneers in creatively thinking for the future."



"I've seen a cathedral community that cried with the city, cheered with the city, fed the city and prayed for the city," said the Dean.

The review argues that creativity is vital to a cathedral's engagement with and service to its local community.

"We say we were built by the people, for the people to the Glory of God.

"To live up to that we have to help people encounter us. And as they encounter us they should encounter a great welcome and encounter a God who knows and loves them."

A number of other cathedrals are using innovative concepts to engage with the public this summer.

Norwich Cathedral will be installing a 40 ft Helter Skelter within the building's nave from August.

Canon librarian at Norwich Cathedral, Doctor Peter Doll agrees that creativity is key to cathedrals, telling Premier: "Creativity is part of the DNA of cathedrals and always has been. One way we might describe it as is 'conversion of life'. If we want to relate to the world around us nothing can stay

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Christ Church Cathedral Choir sang the Choral Eucharist at St. Thomas Church 5th Ave, New York, yesterday at 11 am.

the same because the world around us changes all the time."

Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire has unveiled a signed Banksy sculpture depicting a large crucifix with hooks, which it hopes will attract visitors. 'The Grappling Hook' was created in 2017 as a "powerful statement" on the political and religious struggles in the West Bank. The piece will be on display until the end of September.

Christian Aid appeal for support for South Asia flood survivors

Christian Aid is appealing for support to help millions of people who have been displaced, as monsoon rains cause

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Two of the people whose homes have been flooded by especially severe monsoon flooding in India

extreme flooding and devastation in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The most vulnerable have been hit the hardest, the charity reports. Children are particularly affected, with widespread damage and closure to primary schools.

Shivani Rani, Christian Aid's Emergency Programme Officer for South Asia, said:

“Huge numbers of families have been affected, many uprooted and living either in government organised camps or in makeshift shelters. Lack of food, clean water and sanitation are serious issues here with many people stuck in their houses in inaccessible villages.

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"Minority communities, including Dalit groups are the most vulnerable, often unable to access vital food, water and sanitation.

“Climate change is making weather more extreme and more unpredictable. The poorest people are hit the hardest. The death toll continues to rise”.

The charity says 6.3 million have been affected in India, across 42 districts with Bihar, Assam and Uttar Pradesh states most affected. Heavy rains and flooding have caused people to lose their homes. Many villages are marooned by water, making it difficult for people to reach safer locations. Communication systems are highly disrupted.

Christian Aid has helped people in India, Bangladesh and Nepal to prepare for disasters over several years but is appealing for much needed support to respond to the scale of need.

[Support Christian Aid's flood appeal](#)

July 20/21 - Today in Christian history

July 22, 1620: Led by John Robinson, a group of English Separatists who had fled to Holland in 1607, sail for England, where they would board the Mayflower.

July 22, 1822: Gregor Mendel, the Austrian monk and botanist who discovered the basic laws of genetic inheritance, is born.

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July 22 - News briefs

+++ A new International Meeting Point project - together with North Belfast Presbytery, has been launched. It aims to provide practical assistance to the asylum seeker families living in the area & to reach them with the gospel

+++ A Dublin Camino - The annual diocesan pilgrimage, the Glendalough Camino, will take place on Saturday September 14. The Camino has been growing from strength to strength and over 100 people joined the full pilgrimage from Hollywood to Glendalough along St Kevin's Way last year.

The pilgrimage has traditionally taken place on a Sunday but has been moved to a Saturday this year following feedback from clergy of the dioceses. The new day will facilitate clergy taking part in this diocesan event with their parishioners.

As usual pilgrims have two options. They can either undertake the full Camino route from Hollywood to Glendalough, a distance of 30 kilometres, or they can join shorter routes from the Wicklow Gap down to Glendalough, or around the monastic city itself. All participants on all the routes are invited to attend the short closing service which takes place at the stone ring fort on the shores of the Upper Lake in Glendalough at 5pm.

Those undertaking the full pilgrimage should allow six hours to complete the route. A pilgrim's blessing will be given in the ancient St Kevin's Church in Hollywood at 9am on Saturday morning after which they will set out. A bus will be provided to bring people back to Hollywood. Those wishing

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to avail of this bus service must register and provide contact details before departing.

Pilgrims planning to walk from the Wicklow Gap or around Glendalough may depart from St John's Church in Laragh which acts as a hub for the Camino throughout the day. Parking will be available locally and there will be a bus to bring people to the Wicklow Gap or the Monastic City at regular intervals throughout the day.

A full timetable will be available on the diocesan website at www.dublin.anglican.org/about-us/camino-de-glendalough nearer the time. Updates will also be available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DublinandGlendalough

July 22 News Links

Lord Alton: Abortion law imposed on N Ireland by UK Parliament

Catholic News Agency

Catholic **News** Agency ... Lord Alton: Abortion law imposed on N **Ireland** by UK Parliament ... The British Parliament is imposing its will on the citizens of Northern **Ireland** by passing legislation ... Lord Alton spoke with CNA at a side event of the Ministerial to Advance **Religious** Freedom, held at the U.S. ...

Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland says there must be proper local scrutiny of abortion law

Premier

After MPs voted to move forward with plans to legalise abortion in Northern **Ireland**, Christians and campaigners against Down's syndrome abortions ...

Free Church seeks talks with SNP's Ian Blackford after he votes to legalise abortion in Northern ...

Press and Journal

The Skye **church** attended by SNP Westminster leader Ian Blackford is ... he voted to legalise abortion and same-sex marriage in Northern **Ireland**.

Robert Miller: I recall the words of a bursar in the Church of Ireland student centre at Queen's: 'Go ...

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Belfast Telegraph

The archdeacon of Derry, the Venerable Robert Miller (48), is married to Alison and they have three children — Rachel (20), Laura (18) and Peter (13).

Historian says Varadkar has breached letter and spirit of the Belfast Agreement

Irish Times

Raised in **Ireland**, the son of a German mother, he is the grand-nephew of a Irish communist who became a Russian spy, dying later in a Russian ...

Sex-text Tory MP Andrew Griffiths finds God and joins Pentecostal Church after scandal

Mirror.co.uk

He said: "I am a Christian who has newly found faith. All too often I have heard the words, 'Oh, they're do-gooders' and a **Church of England** vicar sent ...

We'll not accept gay marriage – Ghana Methodist Church

GhanaWeb

According to the **Church**, the attempt by **the British** conference to sample votes on ... At a **press** conference today, the Presiding Bishop, Most Rev.

Polish abuse scandal: Victims take on the Catholic Church

BBC News

By Adam Easton BBC **News**, Warsaw ... priests, despite sex abuse scandals in the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**, the USA and neighbouring Germany.

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