



## **For sale - Ireland's best known hymn writer's rectory home**

The Rectory in Fahan, Co Donegal, has - naturally enough - housed a long list of Church of Ireland clergymen since it was built in 1822. But for a time in the 1850s it was also home to the woman who penned some of the most popular Anglican hymns we have today.

All Things Bright and Beautiful is perhaps Cecil Frances Alexander's greatest hit. But the Christmas carol Once in

**November 14, 2018**

Royal St David's City is a close second. Altogether, Fanny, as she was known, wrote more than 400 hymns during her lifetime as well as many poems and translations, drawing admiration from the likes of Mark Twain and Alfred Lord Tennyson.

She married Derry clergyman William Alexander in 1850 and they settled at The Rectory, a fine, solid, no-nonsense Georgian house. Her husband rose through the ecclesiastical ranks to become Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, and then Archbishop of Armagh.



Fanny continued to write verse until her death in 1895, channelling the proceeds from her best-known book, *Hymns for Little Children*, into funding charitable institutions, including one for Fallen Women, the Diocesan Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and other local causes. Six of her hymns still feature in the Anglican hymnal today.



**November 14, 2018**

The current owners of The Rectory, the Dorrian family, bought the property in 1975. They had five children and the youngest, Paddy, was two years old when they moved in.

Paddy now lives in London where he runs a busy legal



practice. "Sperrin Law, like the mountains," he says. He remembers The Rectory as being a fantastic place for a family to grow up.

The house runs to 539sqm set out on two storeys over basement. The ground floor has 11ft high ceilings and many original period features such as marble fireplaces, crisp cornicework and ceiling roses, sash windows and shutters.

To the front are the bright and spacious drawing and sitting rooms. An inner hall leads to the dining room while the large kitchen was added by the Dorrians and has country style units and that essential, the Aga. All the necessary working

**November 14, 2018**

rooms for civilised country living are also provided, including a utility room and wet room.

The grounds at The Rectory run to 4.15 acres of lawns, mature trees and two pretty duck ponds. A whitewashed, two-storey stone building and another single-storey building could both be, subject to planning permission, renovated or converted into use as accommodation or an office.

The property sits next to a ruined church and graveyard that contain an early Christian slab known as St Mura's cross. The spot is thought to be the site of a monastery founded by St Colmcille of which St Mura was the first abbot. The gable end of a later church still stands there.

"We were sent around with strimmers when we were kids," says Paddy, "to tidy up the graveyard. There's the ruins of the church too. It is the loveliest thing."

Lovely too are the views to Lough Swilly and the surrounding countryside. The village of Fahan is a short walk away, while the nearest town is Buncrana, about 7km northwards, offering a number of schools, shops and restaurants, including the popular Drift Inn.

The Rectory is within a half hour's commute of the larger towns of both Letterkenny and Derry across the border.

"The Rectory is magnificent," says selling agent Mary Rainey of Sherry FitzGerald Rainey. "It's been maintained over the years - often these old period properties are beginning to crumble, but this is immaculate."



**November 14, 2018**

The Dorrians are of an age to downsize now, and The Rectory has come to market with a price tag of €1.2m, ready for another chapter in its history.

## **PCI launches 2018 World Development Appeal**



**Pictured left to right at the launch of the 2018 Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) World Development Appeal are: Rev Uel Marris, Secretary to PCI's Council for Global Mission, Sarah Roure, Christian Aid Country Manager, Brazil, Deborah Doherty, Christian Aid Ireland Head of Church and Community and Rev Fiona Forbes, PCI's World Development Committee Convener.**

**November 14, 2018**

Launching the 2018 World Development Appeal (WDA), 'Seeking Safety', today (13 November) the Presbyterian Church (PCI) in Ireland is continuing its focus on the challenges of sustainable justice in fragile states, with a particular focus on gender justice and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

Primarily for the church's 535 congregations across Ireland, the annual appeal has been known to raise £500,000 over the Advent and Christmas season. Since it began in its current form nearly 40 years ago, the appeal – in support of the work of PCI's relief and development partners Christian Aid and Tearfund - has raised millions of pounds for projects in some of the poorest communities and disadvantaged places on the planet. This year's featured project focuses on a safe house for women in the city of Ariquemes in north-west Brazil.

Setting the scene at the Belfast launch, the convener of the World Development Committee, Rev Fiona Forbes said, "While this is my first year as convener, each and every year I am always overawed by the generosity of our congregations who give faithfully and prayerfully out of their love for Christ and humanity.

"The work of sustainable development is not simple. It is hard work. It is most often long-term as it seeks to build within communities a shared vision for a future different to that which tradition or cultural norms might dictate. It is a work of faith and courage, of endurance and of hope, and hope is something the safe house provides the women and their children who have sought safety there."



**November 14, 2018**

The 2018 Appeal highlights the work of Christian Aid partner, the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil, which seeks to confront and challenge gender-based violence and, in particular, to prevent and tackle gender-based violence against women, with an emphasis on the important role that faith communities can have in addressing the issue.

Rev Forbes, who is minister of Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church near Lisburn, noted that GBV is particularly pervasive in Brazil. Across the country almost a third of girls and women in 2017 said that they had suffered violence during the previous year and 100,000 women had lost their lives as a result since 1985.

“This year’s featured project, Casa Noeli dos Santos, opened in 2010 in response to concerns over gender based violence in Ariquemes. The safe house has since supported some 1,500 women enabling them to leave behind abusive situations, work through their needs and move forward in their lives,” she said.

“Acting as a gateway to other services for women who find the courage to report abuse to the police, it is a place that they and their children can ‘seek safety’ and not have to return to a violent partner or family member.”

In a specially commissioned video shot in Brazil, Fabiola who has been in the safe house on three occasions, talks about her experience, “I felt very good there, very welcome and safe. I found the support that I didn’t find in my own family’s house and I knew that my children would be safe too...God won’t let us down, he never does, as long as we

November 14, 2018



**Rev Fiona Forbes, Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) World Development Committee Convener (left) with Sarah Roure, Christian Aid Country Manager, Brazil at the launch**

Christian Aid's head of country in Brazil, Sarah Roure, who was in Belfast and has visited the safe house on many occasions, spoke at the launch. Welcoming PCI's support she said, "We really appreciate the support and prayers of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at this time. This Appeal will help us to raise awareness of the practical and transformational work being done at the Casa Noeli safe house and the funding will help to ensure this project will continue to provide a haven for vulnerable women and children at their time of greatest need."



**November 14, 2018**

The 2017 World Development Appeal introduced a new approach to the remit of the WDA, linking together each appeal up to 2020/2021 under a common, overarching theme – the challenges of sustainable justice in fragile states with a particular focus on gender justice and the prevention of gender-based violence.

Rev Forbes explained that as a result of the new approach, the Church will be able to return to the projects during the four year period in order to learn from them. This will enable PCI to see how the work has developed and might continue to develop in the longer term.

“Our new approach will deepen our understanding of the challenges partner organisations they have encountered on the ground. This year, congregations are again invited, as they were last year, and will be in 2019 and 2020, to make this journey of understanding and to take small steps towards long-term transformation in solidarity with our partners in dangerous places like Ariqueemes,” she said.

While Casa Noeli safe house is this year’s WDA featured project, the 2018 Appeal will also support a number of other Christian Aid and Tearfund projects. These consist of projects supported by Christian Aid partners in Angola – including a ‘Promoting positive masculinities’ programme for boys and young men, that focuses on human rights and building positive and healthy behaviours.

This year’s appeal will also continue to fund Tearfund partnered projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

November 14, 2018

## Pope's message for second World Day of the Poor

Pope Francis reminded pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday 11 November about the second World Day of the Poor on Sunday 18 November. He said that a First Aid station will be set up in St Peter's Square where those in need can receive medical care. He also shared his hope that the day will encourage greater attention to the needs of the least and the marginalized.

In his message released for the 2nd World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said we live in a world "which praises, follows and imitates those who have power and riches, while at the same time marginalizing the poor and considering them an object of shame."

The theme chosen for this year's message is "This poor man cried and the Lord heard him". It comes on the heels of the 1st World Day of the Poor which was established by Pope Francis at the conclusion of the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and fixed for the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Pointing out that the World Day of the Poor "wishes to be a small answer which the whole Church, spread throughout the world, gives to the poor of every type and in every land, the Pope pointed out that "often it is the case that cooperation with other enterprises, moved not by faith but by human solidarity, enable us to give assistance which by ourselves would have been impossible.



# World Day of the Poor

## Sunday 18 November 2018

'This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him'



He said that by recognizing that in the immense world of poverty our capacity for action is limited, we are pushed to recognize other forms of assistance and solidarity “albeit that we do not neglect our proper role which is to lead everyone to God and holiness”.

He also spoke of the need to be humble and put aside all forms of protagonism: “Dialogue among the different forms of experience and humility in giving freely of our collaboration, without seeking the limelight, is an adequate and fully evangelical response which we can all give”.

In his message, the Pope also examined the roots of poverty saying it is not brought on by itself, “but is caused by selfishness, pride, greed and injustice”.

**November 14, 2018**

“These are evils, he said, as old as man himself, but also sins in which the innocents are caught up, leading to consequences on the social level which are dramatic”.

He also remarked on what he called a contemporary “phobia” for the poor who are considered not only as destitute, but also as “bearers of insecurity and instability, detached from the habits of daily life and, consequently, to be rejected and kept afar”.

On the other hand, Francis continued, “when we find a way to draw near to the poor, we know that the first place belongs to Him who has opened our eyes and our heart to conversion”.

The poor, he stressed, have no need of protagonists, “but of a love which knows how to hide and forget the good which it has done.”

The Lord, the Pope affirmed, “listens to the poor”, He listens to those “who are downtrodden in their dignity and yet have the strength to look up in order to receive light and comfort. He listens to those who are persecuted in the name of a false justice, oppressed by policies unworthy of the name and intimidated by violence.”

He commented on how so many of our brothers and sisters today find themselves on paths that lead to forms of precariousness: “The lack of basic means of subsistence, marginalization stemming from a reduced capacity to work owing to ill-health, the various forms of social slavery, notwithstanding the progress made by humankind”.

**November 14, 2018**

The Pope said that the Disciples of Christ are exhorted never to nourish “sentiments of contempt or pietism” towards the poor, but they are called “to honour them, giving them precedence, out of the conviction that they are a real presence of Jesus in our midst”.

Pope Francis concluded his message pointing out that often it is the poor themselves who undermine our indifference and said that “the cry of the poor is also a cry of hope which manifests the certainty of being liberated”.

Read the full text of the Pope’s [message for the World Day of the Poor here.](#)

Prayer for the Poor

God of Justice,

open our eyes

to see you in the face of the poor.

Open our ears

to hear you in the cries of the exploited.

Open our mouths

to defend you in the public squares

as well as in private deeds.

Remind us that what we do

to the least ones,

we do to you.

Amen.

## **Southern California Episcopalians respond to wildfires**

At least 11 homes of Southern California Episcopalians have been lost in the raging Woolsey and Hill brush fires



November 14, 2018



**Fire damage to grounds of Epiphany Church, Oak Park, California.**

that displaced some 200,000 residents and burned more than 83,000 acres with flames racing to the driveways and parking lots of parish properties in Malibu, Oak Park and Thousand Oaks but sparing church buildings.

Ten homes of parishioners of St. Aidan's Church in Malibu, and one home of members of Epiphany Church, Oak Park, were destroyed, according to reports from leaders of the local congregations.

Pastoral and practical response continues in a united effort of clergy and laity in the region, joined by Bishop John Harvey Taylor, Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce and [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

**November 14, 2018**

Canon to the Ordinary Melissa McCarthy, together with the diocesan disaster relief task force, chaired by the Very Rev. Michael Bamberger, rector of Ascension Church, Sierra Madre, and dean of diocesan Deanery 5.

Contributions to the diocesan Fire and Mudslide Relief Fund may be made online [here](#). Priority is placed on disbursement of aid to the region's low-income and otherwise most vulnerable who might not otherwise receive relief amid the disaster.

As prayers encouraged by the bishops and clergy ascended across the diocese, firefighters doused the property Thousand Oaks' St. Patrick's Church on Friday, Nov. 9, protecting it from devastation, reported the Rev. George Daisa, rector, who had the evening before been a leader in the city hall prayer vigil responding to the Nov. 8 shooting deaths of 13 at the nearby Borderline Bar and Grill. Sunday services were conducted in the church.

In Oak Park, flames charred landscaping and vegetation around Epiphany Church, located on Churchwood Drive where several homes did not survive the blaze. Neither church buildings nor the congregation's vineyard suffered damage, said the Rev. Greg Brown, vicar. Parishioners were able to visit the church and gather for services.

In Malibu, the Rev. Joyce Stickney, vicar of St. Aidan's Church there, is mobilizing support for profoundly affected parishioners, and also called the sparing of the church buildings and adjacent clergy residence a true miracle. She expressed gratitude for the members of the Malibu Muslim

**November 14, 2018**

community who have called hourly with offers of food, housing and other support for St. Aidan's parishioners.

Stickney added that that Aidan, a seventh-century bishop on this island of Lindesfarne in the North Sea, has been considered a protector against wildfires, his name meaning "fire" in Gaelic.

Due to mandatory evacuation orders still in effect, services were not held at the newly remodeled Malibu church on Nov. 11 but are expected to resume on Nov. 18, Stickney said, with a dedication of the renovated sanctuary set for Nov. 25.

In neighboring communities including Pacific Palisades, parishioners and clergy had "go bags" packed and ready for evacuation on a moment's notice.

The Woolsey fire follows nearly one year after other devastating firestorms in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and the disastrous Montecito mudslide last January. The recent blaze burned concurrently with the Camp Fire in the northern California town of Paradise, where at least 29 persons died, 200 went missing, and 6,700 structures were destroyed. The diocese will continue to monitor and report on congregational and diocesan responses to the fire disaster.

## **News briefs**

### **Enniskillen Armistice 100 service on RTE TV link**

A Service of Remembrance to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War was



**November 14, 2018**

broadcast on RTÉ1, RTÉ Radio 1 Extra and Long Wave 252 on Sunday, 11th November, from St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen. The televised Service is available to view at this link until 11th December.

<https://www.rte.ie/player/gb/show/centenary-remembrance-sunday-service-30006515/10962775/>

### **Advent communion radio broadcast**

A Service of Holy Communion for the First Sunday in Advent will be broadcast live on both Radio Ulster and Radio Foyle, on Sunday, 2nd December, from St Bride's Church, Kilbride, at 10.15am. The Service will be conducted by Canon David Humphries, and will be available afterwards online. A recording of the service will be available shortly after the live broadcast on the BBC Radio Ulster website.

### **Connor institution**

The Rev James Boyd, formerly Vicar of the Parish of Willowfield, Belfast, in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, was instituted as rector of Derryvolgie Parish at a service in St Columba's yesterday evening, Tuesday November 13.

### **Parishioners provide 5 stone of jumpers for Belarus children**

Over 5 stone of jumpers, baby clothes and blankets from Maguiresbridge and Derrybrusk parishioners on the way to school children in Mogilev region of Belarus. Area has 1-15 curies of Cesium 137 per square km. Sharing the same water source through the Dnieper river as Chernobyl.

November 14, 2018

**Facebook - Twitter**

**Click on logo at CNI Home page**

**[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)**

**+ Please share CNI with your friends**

**[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)**

