



Image of the day - Royal Army Chaplains Department

News Reports

COP26 art installation created by students goes on display in Edinburgh Church

An art installation, created by high school pupils and themed on the environmental crisis, was unveiled during yesterday's Sunday service at a Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Five students from Holyrood High, a Catholic school in the east of the city, have worked in partnership with Richmond Craigmillar Parish Church over the last few weeks to create the work.

They have been doing it as part of the school's 'caritas' or charity outreach and the exhibition will be open to the public during COP26.

For the ambitious piece, the church space has been divided and two separate futures post-COP26 have been imagined.

These alternative timelines lead up to the sanctuary which has been covered with large curtains.

Participates are invited to walk the path and discover what lies beyond the veil.



Zoe Divito, one of the students, said: "As a result of this project we feel very strongly about raising awareness about COP26 to the wider community."

Hannah Lovie, who also helped to make the installation and whose great-aunt is a much-loved member of the church, said: "We are very grateful that we have had this opportunity as it's our future that's at stake."

The project co-ordinator Mark Birkett said: "We are at a crossroads.

"We can choose to continue down a path that will lead to destruction and suffering for ourselves and for others, or we can choose to begin walking down a new path of renewal and hope.

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"We invite you to a pilgrimage where you will experience both possible futures, all the time getting closer to the mystery that resides in the sanctuary.

"One of the great difficulties we face is imagining a different world.

"I hope the art installation can, in a small way, aid in this process of spiritual revival."

Speaking about the display, Rev Liz Henderson, who is the minister of Richmond's Craigmillar, said: "The church looks amazing.

"It's wonderful how everyone around the church has got involved.

"Mark and the team have created a display that looks at climate change for a spiritual perspective."

Bishops to pilgrimage to Knock in memory of pandemic victims

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a particularly difficult time for those who have lost loved ones and have often had to cope with their grief without many of the usual spiritual and community supports.

To pastorally support everyone who has suffered the pain of bereavement during the pandemic, and in the context of the month of November as the traditional time when we remember our dead, on next Sunday 14 November at



3.00pm, the Bishops of Ireland will undertake a pilgrimage to the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock. The bishops will concelebrate Mass for all those who have died in our country during the pandemic, and for their families. At the Mass the bishops will also offer prayers of thanksgiving for all those who so selflessly sacrificed so much during the pandemic. This Mass will be live-streamed on www.knockshrine.ie and broadcast on the RTÉ News Now digital television channel and online.

The bishops invite everyone to join with them in prayer on this solemn occasion.

Apology Today's edition encountered IT problems which resulted in several news reports being lost.

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People and places

12th Canon for Christ Church



Canon Lesley Robinson was installed as 12th Canon to the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, yesterday (Sunday November 7) by the cathedral's Dean, the Very Revd Dermott Dunne.

The installation took place during the Service of Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir. It was attended by members of Canon Robinson's family and friends as well as a group of parishioners from Clontarf where she has been Rector since 2013.

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Lesley is Rural Dean of Fingal and chairperson of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Oversight Committee as well as chairperson of Dublin Bereavement Support Service. She is also involved in Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council, the Diocesan Council for Mission, the Ministry of Healing and is an honorary Chaplain to the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Canon Robinson was appointed 12th Canon in succession to Canon Kevin Brew who retired during the summer. Canon Lesley Robinson with her daughters.

Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod will be held online

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton, announced on Monday that the annual Diocesan Synod, involving clergy and lay representatives from the Diocese, will not be held in person as originally planned, but will now take place online on Saturday 27th November at 11 a.m. instead, using video conferencing facilities.

Writing to the clergy and lay members of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Synod, Bishop Colton explained that one of the responsibilities of the Bishop of the Diocese is to summon the annual Diocesan Synod and, in so doing, to decide when and where it will meet.

Bishop Colton said: 'When I planned this year's meeting for 27th November and arranged for it to be held in person in the Rochestown Park Hotel, I was looking forward, after an extended period of not gathering in a way that is so vital and

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energising for our life and fellowship as a Diocese, to being in the same room with you all once again. I fully expected that I was safe in choosing what was then a distant date.'

'We now know, however, that the trajectory of the Coronavirus Pandemic is more volatile and complex than we anticipated. From news reports we know that we are still not living in a settled and safe period. Moreover, we are all, particularly those of us in certain age groups, being urged to take personal responsibility and to restrict our contact with one another.'

'Taking all this into account and being conscious of my pastoral responsibility as your Bishop, I have decided not to pursue a course that might be imprudent or which might lead you into jeopardy. I have decided, with disappointment it has to be said, that the wise course of action is that we should not meet in person this year, once again, but that a brief functional meeting should take place using video conferencing facilities instead.'

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Faith Under Fire - film testimony from Iran

Coming 18 November 2021, Faith Under Fire – three films featuring the inspiring testimony of Iranian Christian, Motjaba Hosseini. From the Diocese of Down and Dromore in association with Open Doors UK & Ireland.

See link -

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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[[] <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2021/11/coming-soon-faith-under-fire>]

Perspective

Marx would be proud - Groucho, that is by Eilis O'Hanlon

Sinn Féin's partial acceptance at last of the Special Criminal Court is purely tactical, and there's still one thing it'll never change its mind about, writes Eilis O'Hanlon in the Sunday Independent

Sinn Féin has always been deeply wedded to Marxist ideology; but the Marx it follows these days isn't Karl, author of the Communist Manifesto, but the comedian Groucho, who famously declared: "Those are my principles, and if you don't like them, well, I have others."

The latest example is the decision, following a vote at the party's recent ard fheis, to drop its longstanding opposition to the use of non-jury courts.

It's been coming for a while now. There was no commitment to abolish them in the manifesto on which Sinn Féin ran in the most recent election, and, last time there was a vote in the Dáil, SF TDs abstained rather than opposed. At this rate, they're surely only a few years away from being the Special Criminal Court's biggest supporters.

There have always been principled reasons to oppose non-jury courts. The UN and the Irish Council of Civil Liberties

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have both at various times raised concerns about suspending the right to jury trial or the broader use of emergency powers by governments.

Of course, SF shares few of these genuine concerns. Even last week, the only situations in which it could envisage using non-jury trials were ones involving what former IRA bomber Gerry Kelly called "organised crime gangs, who are bringing nothing but hurt, especially to the most vulnerable in our communities". As if terrorists don't do the same thing.

Hence the repeated use of the phrase "exceptional cases". The party only intends to look kindly on non-jury courts in certain situations, reserving the right to object when their friends and financiers are in the dock.

This qualified support was also tied to a promise of judicial reform, including of the Special Criminal Court. That could mean anything, up to and including abolition. That's how it will be sold to the hard men on the ground, without whose begrudging approval this couldn't have happened.

Clearly, though, there has been some movement by SF on this issue, and it would be churlish of those who have long condemned republicans for not backing the institutions of the State to grumble now that they have, in name at least. That would simply provoke the sulky riposte that they're damned if they don't and damned if they do. But they should allow their critics a roll of the eyes at least.

Former SF Kerry councillor Toiréasa Ferris did more than that. The daughter of IRA gunrunner Martin Ferris, who was himself jailed by the Special Criminal Court, rejected the

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party's move as "cute hoorism", adding: "I call it electoral expediency and power at any cost."

She's not wrong, is she? At the last election, both Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil cited the party's stance on the Special Criminal Court as a deal breaker when it came to entering coalition. Now that barrier has been removed. And there may be nothing at all wrong with that. Political maturity means abandoning dogma that no longer serves the broader interests.

SF has done it many times. It didn't even used to believe that the government in Dáil Éireann was the legitimate authority in Ireland.

Now it does. Or says it does. It used to believe the Provisional IRA was the real Óglaigh na hÉireann, not the defence forces. Now it says it doesn't. The party's longstanding Euroscepticism has also dissolved and left no trace; it's been memory-holed, as if it never existed.

All this is progress of a sort. There is more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner, and all that. But when it happens again and again, with scarcely a whimper of dissent, because SF members are used to doing what they're told is best by the leadership, some cynicism is justified.

It seems SF will promise voters anything to break down the last pockets of resistance from voters suspicious that the party's heart remains only semi-constitutional. A house for all within the first term of a Mary Lou government. The planet saved at no extra cost in carbon taxes. Cheap rail

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links to every corner of the island. Free this. Cheap that. They're the ultimate opportunists. Should they ever get into power, which is inevitable one day, and then, equally inevitably given the extent of their promises, fail to deliver, they will simply head into the following election blaming their coalition partners.

SF has it all figured out. In any coalition, the smaller party gets the blame. Labour. The PDs. The Greens. It's happened to them repeatedly. The solution? Don't be the smaller party. But are they really any different to other parties in that respect? During the leaders' debate at the last election, then taoiseach Leo Varadkar said putting Micheál Martin in charge of the economy would be "like asking John Delaney to take over the FAI" again.

It was a neat quip, but of course he didn't mean it. It was just a line.

FG and FF have both spent years declaring that Ireland's 12.5pc corporation tax rate was central to the country's success. Now it's been dropped and they all agree blithely that it was no big deal anyway.

This is what causes the view that politicians don't really believe in anything — and it's increasingly difficult to find arguments to persuade the disillusioned that they're wrong.

That's another reason why SF's criticisms of the Government's new Climate Action Plan ring so hollow.

The Government is simply doing what has long been agreed at a higher level needs to be done — and SF would do exactly the same in power.

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The idea they would oppose the global world order on climate change, in order to save people here at home from bearing the economic costs of massive environmental packages that threaten to dwarf all other spending commitments for decades, is absurd.

And they'd likely get away with that, too, making Groucho Marx proud.

Ferris might declare voters want "people standing by principles and doing what they said they would", but in truth there is little evidence of that.

Those who stand by their principles at whatever personal cost may win a little respect, but they generally don't win many votes.

This won't be SF's last about-turn on issues it previously held to be sacred; but the one thing it almost certainly will never change its minds about is that the IRA were the good guys during the Troubles.

Everything else can be ditched to serve the cause, but not that. That says everything about who's really in control of Sinn Féin. The rest is noise.

Poem for today

Autumn

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
(1807 - 1882)

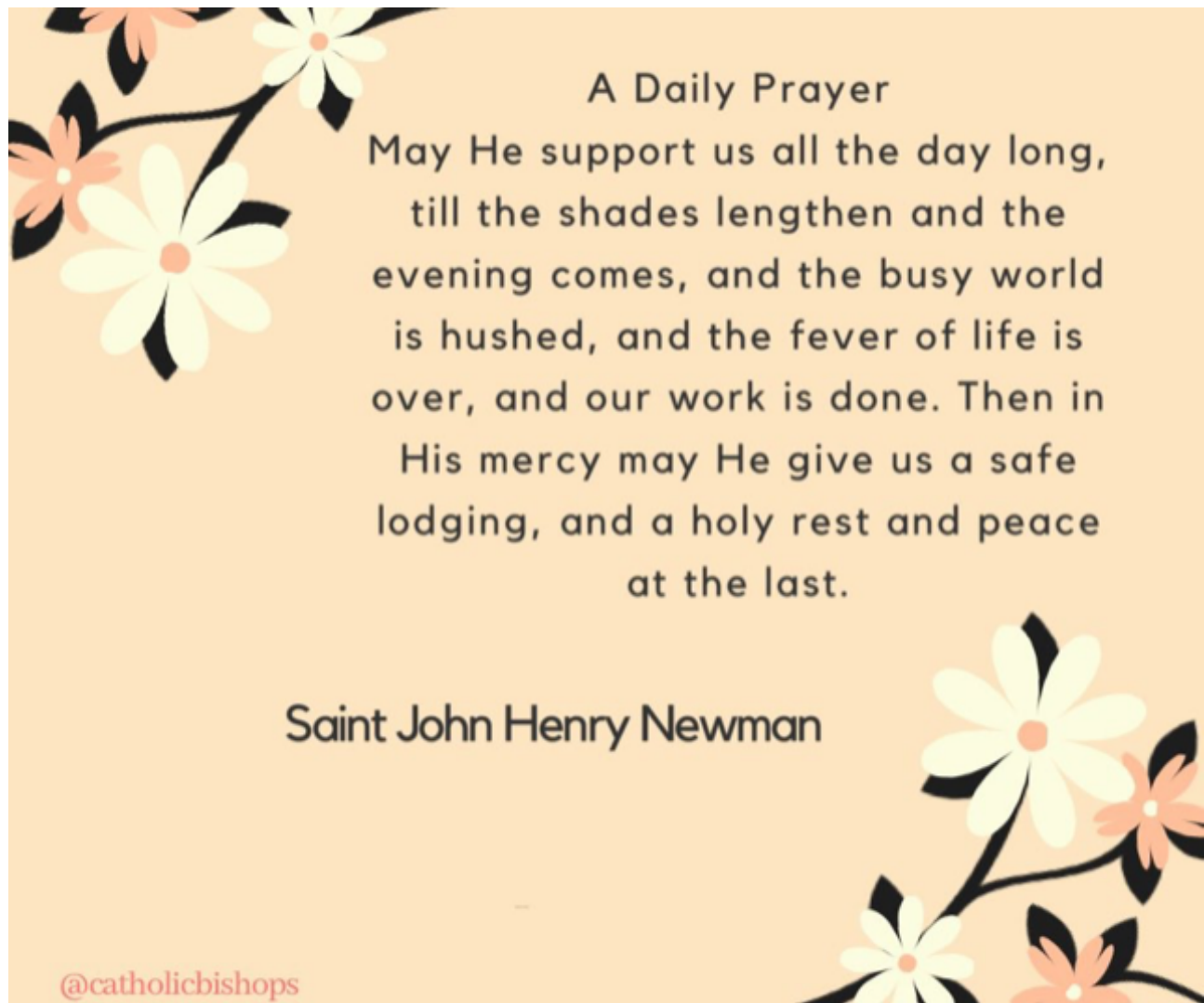
With what a glory comes and goes the year!
The buds of spring, those beautiful harbingers
Of sunny skies and cloudless times, enjoy
Life's newness, and earth's garniture spread out;
And when the silver habit of the clouds
Comes down upon the autumn sun, and with
A sober gladness the old year takes up
His bright inheritance of golden fruits,
A pomp and pageant fill the splendid scene.

There is a beautiful spirit breathing now
Its mellow richness on the clustered trees,
And, from a beaker full of richest dyes,
Pouring new glory on the autumn woods,
And dipping in warm light the pillared clouds.
Morn on the mountain, like a summer bird,
Lifts up her purple wing, and in the vales
The gentle wind, a sweet and passionate wooer,
Kisses the blushing leaf, and stirs up life
Within the solemn woods of ash deep-crimsoned,
And silver beech, and maple yellow-leaved,
Where Autumn, like a faint old man, sits down
By the wayside a-weary. Through the trees
The golden robin moves; the purple finch,
That on wild cherry and red cedar feeds,
A winter bird, comes with its plaintive whistle,
And pecks by the witch-hazel, whilst aloud
From cottage roofs the warbling blue-bird sings;
And merrily, with oft-repeated stroke,
Sounds from the threshing-floor the busy flail.

O what a glory doth this world put on

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For him who, with a fervent heart, goes forth
Under the bright and glorious sky, and looks
On duties well performed, and days well spent!
For him the wind, ay, and the yellow leaves
Shall have a voice, and give him eloquent teachings.
He shall so hear the solemn hymn, that Death
Has lifted up for all, that he shall go
To his long resting-place without a tear.



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