

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide

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St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide

On Saturday The Archbishop of Canterbury preached at a morning Choral Eucharist celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Diocese of Adelaide. Report page 7

News reports

Pope and Irish church leaders respond to Creeslough tragedy

The Pope and Church leaders in Ireland are among those paying tribute to the community and emergency services after an explosion at a petrol station in County Donegal left nine people dead.

The blast happened on Friday afternoon at the Applegreen service station and convenience store in the village of Creeslough about 30 miles from the border with Northern Ireland. The explosion ripped through cars and nearby buildings

Ten people were killed in the explosion which demolished a filling station and a number of apartments in the village on Friday afternoon. A teenage boy and girl, and a girl of

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primary school age were among those who lost their lives. Four men and three women also died..

Among those gathered overnight at the scene cordon were relatives of people believed to have been in the buildings at the time.

Rt Rev Alan McGuckian who is the Bishop of Raphoe, said even the police have been taken aback by the community spirit :

"We see more clearly than ever before the power of a good community. I heard from the Garda (Ireland's National Police Service) that at the very beginning they were astounded at how readily and quickly members of the community raced up and were doing all in their power to try and help."

Rt Rev Andrew Forster, Bishop of Derry & Raphoe. following Friday afternoon's explosion said -

"My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the terrible tragedy in Creeslough. The community there will be scarred by this incident for many years to come.

"I ask people to keep the bereaved and injured in their prayers, and to remember, too, members of the emergency services - and the people of Creeslough - who have been doing their utmost to save lives. We, as a community, owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

Presbyterian Moderator, Very Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick, offered his prayers and heartfelt sympathy saying, "I ... want to express the heartfelt condolences of the Presbyterian



Bishop Andrew Forster of Derry & Raphoe (right) spent much of the morning and early afternoon in the village of Creeslough, along with the Bishop of Raphoe, Most Rev Alan McGuckian. The two church leaders met relatives who had lost loved ones, emergency and rescue service workers, and local people who had helped in the rescue effort.

family to everyone who has lost loved ones and to assure those who have also been injured and traumatised by this awful tragedy of our prayers, especially those who are still awaiting news.”

Reverend Paul Linkens, Clerk of Presbytery of Derry and Donegal said, “This afternoon’s explosion in Cresslough has come as terrible shock. Our thoughts and

prayers are with those who have been injured and their families who are understandably shaken and worried by what has happened, especially those who are still awaiting news of their loved ones. As the emergency services continue to work into the night with skill and determination, we give thanks for their commitment and perseverance and continue to pray for everyone caught up in this heart-breaking incident.”

The Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd John McDowell; the Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson; and the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, The Right Revd Andrew Forster in a joint statement said -

"On behalf of Church of Ireland people across this island, we wish to express our sympathy to all who have been bereaved as a result of the tragedy in Creeslough, in County Donegal. Our hearts also go out to those who have been injured and to their families, along with the assurance of our prayers in the weeks to come. May all who have been affected in any way by the tragedy know the presence of the God of all comfort very near to them.”

The **Irish Prime Minister, Micheal Martin** said it was the 'darkest of days' for Donegal and Ireland :

"My thoughts and prayers are today with those who have lost their lives, and those injured in the devastating explosion in Creeslough. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to their family, and friends, and to the entire community of Creeslough, on this darkest of days for Donegal and the entire country.”

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Letterkenny Rugby Football Club

paid tribute in social media to a member of their club who was killed in the tragedy.



The Club said

- We are heartbroken

to say our worst fears have been confirmed. Leona Harper tragically lost her life yesterday in Creeslough.

Leona was a talented rugby player and an important part of our U14 girls team.

To Leona's parents, Hugh and Donna, her brothers Anthony and Jamie, and all of her team mates, we offer you our deepest condolences and support.

There are no words that feel strong enough at a moment of deep sorrow such as this.

Rest in peace, Leona. 💔



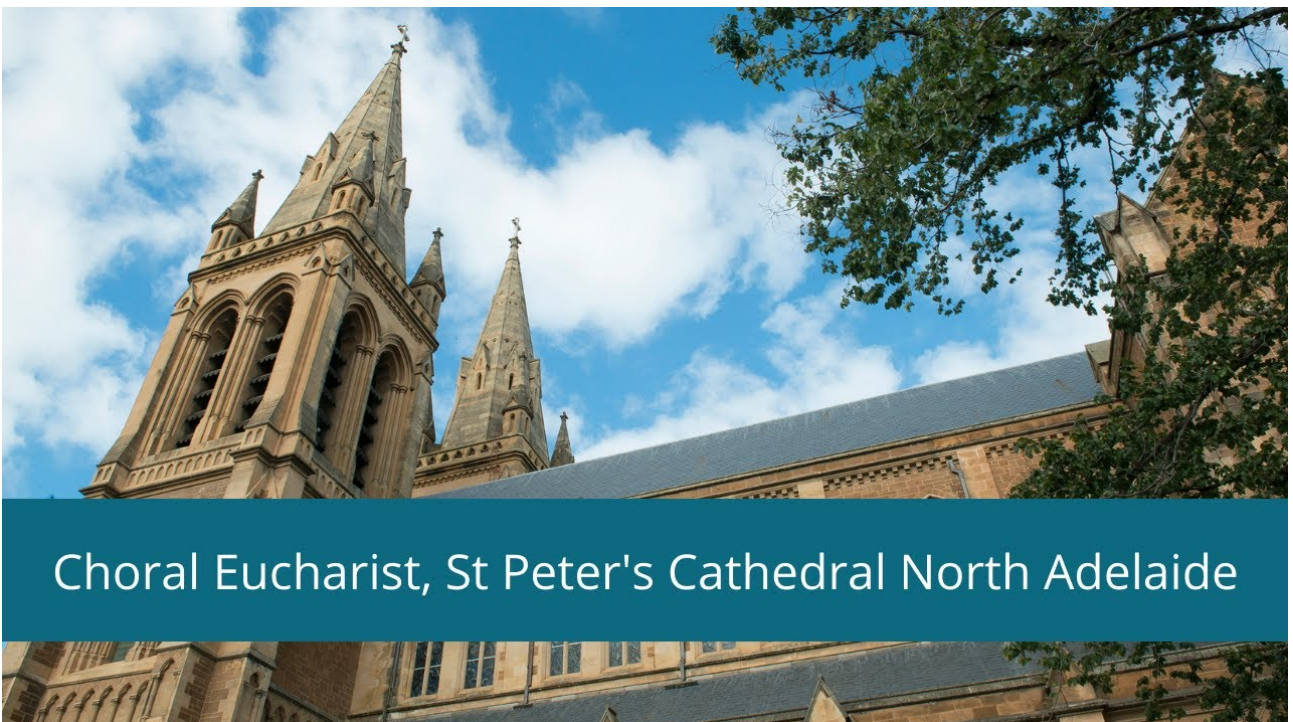
Archbishop of Canterbury's great morning in Adelaide

The Archbishop of Canterbury said on Saturday that he had a “Great morning in Adelaide seeing the work of Anglicare SA who provide care and support for those who are ageing, vulnerable or marginalised.

Archbishop Welby who is on a tour of Australia said, “These projects are the hands and feet of Jesus in this city, respecting and valuing every person as made in the image of God.



“As with the tree I planted in the community garden, I pray these projects grow as they share God’s love with the people in this area.”



Choral Eucharist, St Peter's Cathedral North Adelaide

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The Archbishop preached at a morning Choral Eucharist celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Diocese of Adelaide.

The celebrant was the Archbishop of Adelaide and Primate of Australia. The Governor of South Australia was present.

The Archbishop and Mrs Welby, along with the travelling party, were also fortunate to experience some Australian fauna up close prior to the service.

Christmas gifts at Armagh Cathedral



If you are looking for gifts for friends and family at Christmas, come up to the Armagh Cathedral shop. From prints by local artists to Celtic/Irish themed China mugs. Cathedral Christmas cards will be available soon. Everything is reasonably priced and all profits go to the

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Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral, who help the Dean and Chapter with Cathedral expenditure. The Cathedral is open from Thursday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm each day. The Cathedral is also open every Sunday but the shop isn't.

Healing Service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

Friday at 1.00pm. Next Friday it is welcome back the Revd Dianne Matchett, Rector of Kildress and Altedesert.

Disruption due to the fire....if coming in car, approach from Waring St, then Donegall St is one way, then turn down Talbot Streetj

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Steve Stockman reviews “A Traveller Passing Through - Reflections from the Holy Land” by Ruth Patterson

I have never been to the the Holy Land, well not the real one anyway! There are a few streets around Fitzroy but that's not where Ruth is writing about.

Yet, as a preacher, every Sunday I imagine Holy Land scenes. Bethlehem, Galilee, Nazareth, Capernaum,

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Jerusalem and the places of Jesus journey's in between. If the Lord spares me, to quote my Granny, I would love to see those places where Ruth stood in 2018.

For the time being, Ruth's book will do.

A Traveller Passing Through; Reflections from the Holy Land is what it says in the tin - the reflection of a pilgrimage. There is a diary feel to it. So we start, usually in the morning on a bus! And we go places. Holy places. I loved it.

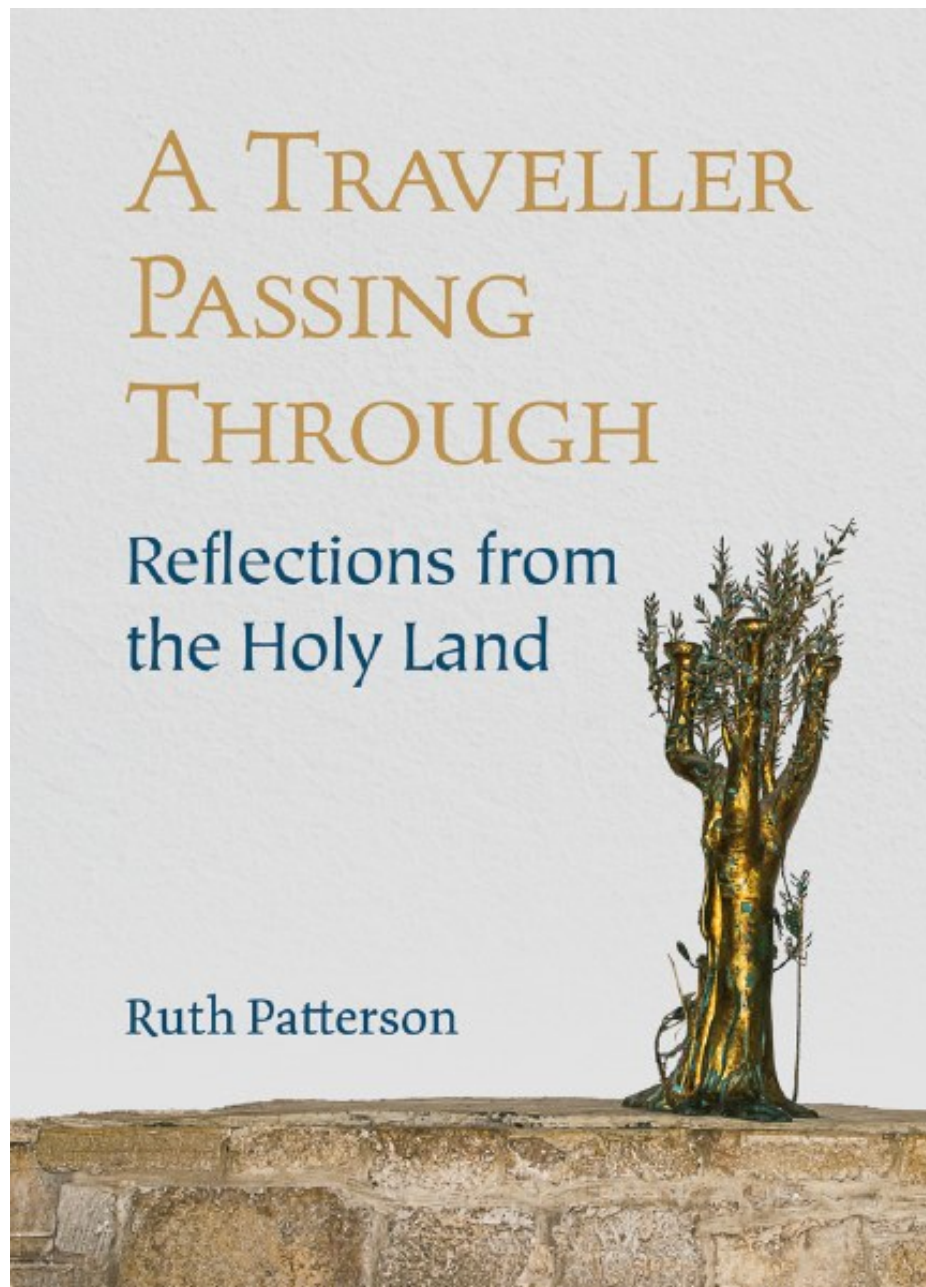
Yes I loved Galilee, on the lake. I mean "The sea Of Galilee is tranquil, sparkling blue. We have already been on a boat trip that gifted us with a glimpse of the eternal 'now' of presence." Oh, I'm jealous. Somewhere else on its shore, the sand between her toes.

Those last words are very Van Morrison who can get into a near spiritual rant on stage - the eternal NOW... the eternal NOW.

I have to admit I was kind of put off the busyness of Bethlehem and Jerusalem but the hustle and bustle has to be a big part of it!

I loved the poetic, imaginative energy of Ruth's writing. For example at Jesus birth she has out on the hillside with those marginalised shepherds and writes,

"When we hear the familiar words, we are, in a timeless moment, transported back to that night when the heavens blazed with stars and the night was filled with a song of hope that reverberates down the centuries and awakens



hardened hearts or minds imprisoned by scepticism to the thought that maybe, just maybe it happened. Maybe, just maybe, this world is more than we know. Maybe, just maybe, there is a spiritual dimension, there are armies of heaven's angels under the command of God whose nature is always love."

WOW!

Or at the other end. In the Upper Room, doubling as the place of Jesus washing feet, the Last Supper and hiding after the crucifixion ... the disciples leave it for the ascension and Ruth writes,

They too leave the Upper Room, as we did. I have an image of the unstoppable energy spiralling outwards through Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the endless beyond.”

There are threads running through the reflections. Awakening and Unlearning are but two. Ruth Patterson has an amazing awareness of our inner terrain. She has a real gift at seeing the right questions that faith asks of our lives - Who are we? Why are we here? Who is Jesus? How does he make a difference?

I will illustrate it with a close look at my favourite chapter, as I pull this launch into an epilogue or sermonette.

Ruth might be surprised but my very favourite chapter was the one around and in Jericho. The bus hasn't even got to Jericho before Ruth is painting pictures.

The heat of the sun. The rugged terrain. Rocky. Dry. Dusty. The isolation. The vulnerability of a traveller on a journey that Jesus knew well. I feel she has taken me there. I am checking I don't get dust on my trousers.

Ruth sees the Good Samaritan Inn and it leads us into that favourite parable of Jesus. What's not there Ruth is asking again. She wants to know what happened the wounded man, how did the hotelier care for him. Did the Samaritan return. Like a good TV series ending - what happened next?

Oh I'd like then to go on into Jericho and sit below Zacchaeus' Olive Tree and see how he has to "come down" and "let go". I'll leave that for you because I want to end back in the Good Samaritan bit.

Ruth preaches on something I never have - the Inn. She opens up the Gospel importance of hospitality and I believe she is really onto something. She writes, "The whole concept of hospitality is at the core of the Gospels, hospitality between us and God, between the alienated parts of our own inner beings, between ourselves and others, and between ourselves and all creation"

I am so annoyed that I started this chapter this week because on Sunday I had just ended a series of preaching where I looked at sin as a pushing away of God, neighbour, enemy, creation and self. The Gospel, Ruth is showing us, in its love of neighbour, enemy, self and creation draws in. To an Inn. A Welcome Inn.

Ruth asks, "Am I an inn? Am I, in my very self, a resting place of safety and hospitality for others? Is generosity a way of life for me? Have I been attentive to my own inner journey on which I am called to the creation of the beloved community within that I am always prepared to let go and unlearn in order to embrace or be embraced by the stranger, the unseen guest, and be the mystery of the sacred now?"

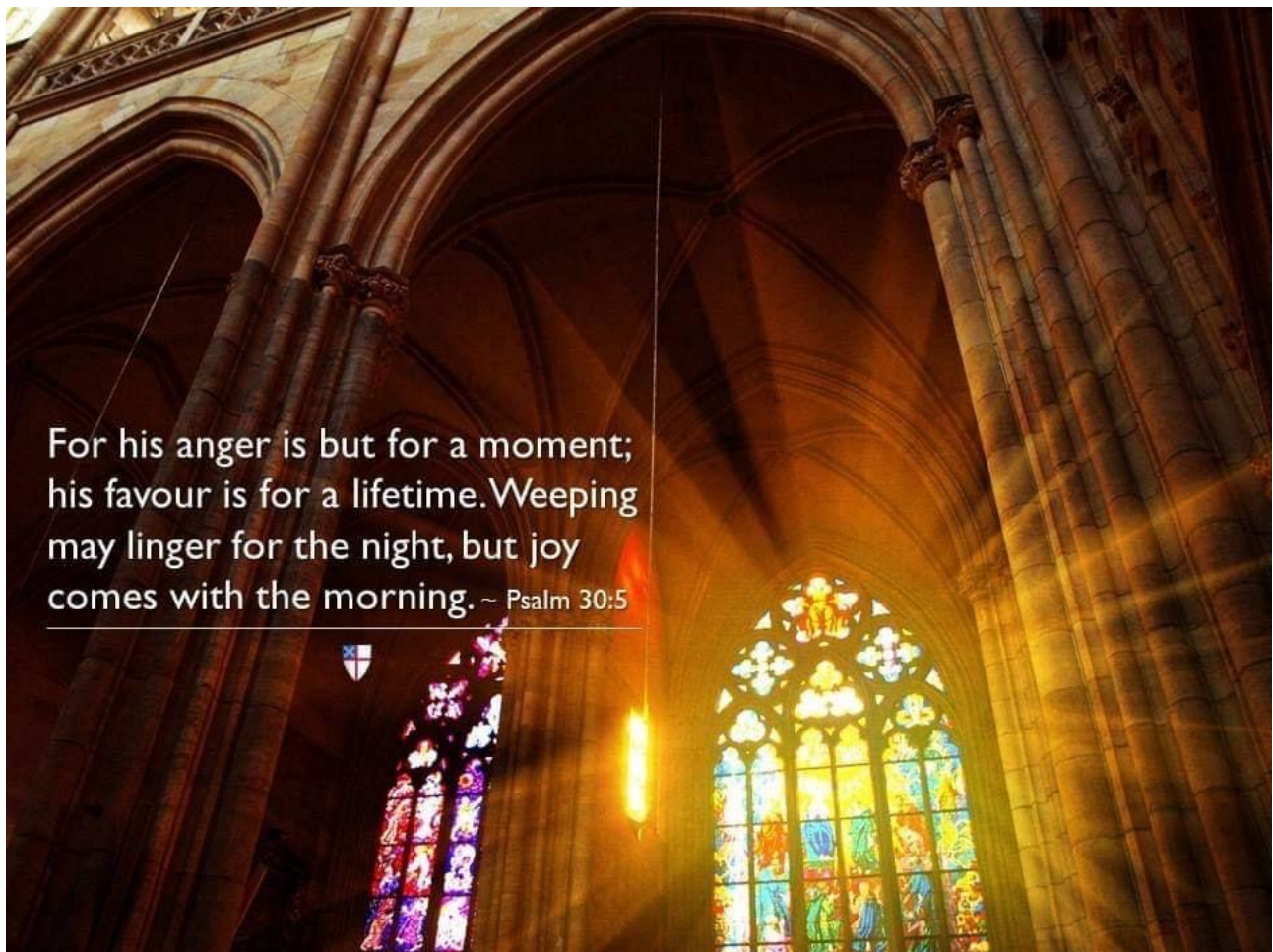
There's Van Morrison again. There's that inspiration to stretch your imagination again? What's not there? Or what are we not seeing? There's also challenge there. Ruth's

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poetry takes us to the far reaches of the Universe and eternity but also asks every day ordinary questions of how we live as a result. THE SACRED NOW!! THE ETERNAL NOW!!

A Traveller Passing Through is a pilgrimage to three places - geographically the terrain of Holy Land... places that open up the terrain of the Biblical text... which leads us to explore the terrain of our inner most places of soul. Ruth has been the last of these maybe better than anyone else on our island for a long time. The inner. Sin pushing away BUT the `Gospel hospitality welcoming in.

I highly commend it. Read it... and read it again... you'll grab something new every journey through



For his anger is but for a moment;
his favour is for a lifetime. Weeping
may linger for the night, but joy
comes with the morning. ~ Psalm 30:5



Clotworthy House, Antrim

This fine stable block and coach house with its imposing Jacobean revival style facade of coursed rubble basalt and Tardree granite dressings, was built c1843 by the 10th Viscount Massereene as part of his creation of Her Ladyship's Pleasure Gardens which necessitated the removal of the original coachyard at the rear of the Castle. It is believed to have been designed by Charles Lanyon who would later gain fame as the designer of such iconic buildings in Belfast as Queen's University, Crumlin Road Gaol and Courthouse, and the Palm House in Botanic Gardens. Source- visitantrimandnewtownabbey.com

Perspective

How we miss him - celebrating the Arch's 91st Birthday

A year ago, on 7 October 2021, a frail Archbishop Desmond Tutu marked his 90th birthday by attending a service at his beloved St George's Cathedral followed by a party with family and close friends at home.

He had entered the final straight of his journey... it was the last birthday he spent on earth. For 22 years he had waged a public battle against prostate cancer, wanting people to learn from his experience, teaching lessons about living until the very end.

He was a human role model who understood with great clarity the interdependent and interconnected nature of our species. His guiding philosophy was of one family of God, from which none are excluded regardless of colour, culture, belief, gender, sexuality, geography...

He passed away the day after Christmas, on 26 December 2021.

Although dearly missed, his spirit of Ubuntu, and the values he embodied, live on in all he encountered over an extraordinary 50+ years of servant leadership.

His ethics live on through the programmatic work of the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation. And his teaching will continue to resonate across the world through a global

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archiving initiative led by the Archbishop Tutu IP Trust, in partnership with universities in South Africa, the United States and the United Kingdom.

We celebrate the Arch today even as we continue to mourn him and miss his infectious humanness.

We thank Mrs Leah Tutu and the Tutu family for sharing their husband and father, for supporting and enabling his astonishing life of service and good example.

This statement was released for Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Chairperson of the Archbishop Tutu Intellectual Property Trust.

Poem for today

October by Hilaire Belloc

Look, how those steep woods on the mountain's face
Burn, burn against the sunset; now the cold
Invades our very noon: the year's grown old,
Mornings are dark, and evenings come apace.
The vines below have lost their purple grace,
And in Forreze the white wrack backward rolled,
Hangs to the hills tempestuous, fold on fold,
And moaning gusts make desolate all the place.

Mine host the month, at thy good hostelry,

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Tired limbs I'll stretch and steaming beast I'll tether;
Pile on great logs with Gascon hand and free,
And pour the Gascon stuff that laughs at weather;
Swell your tough lungs, north wind, no whit care we,
Singing old songs and drinking wine together.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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