

Church News Ireland

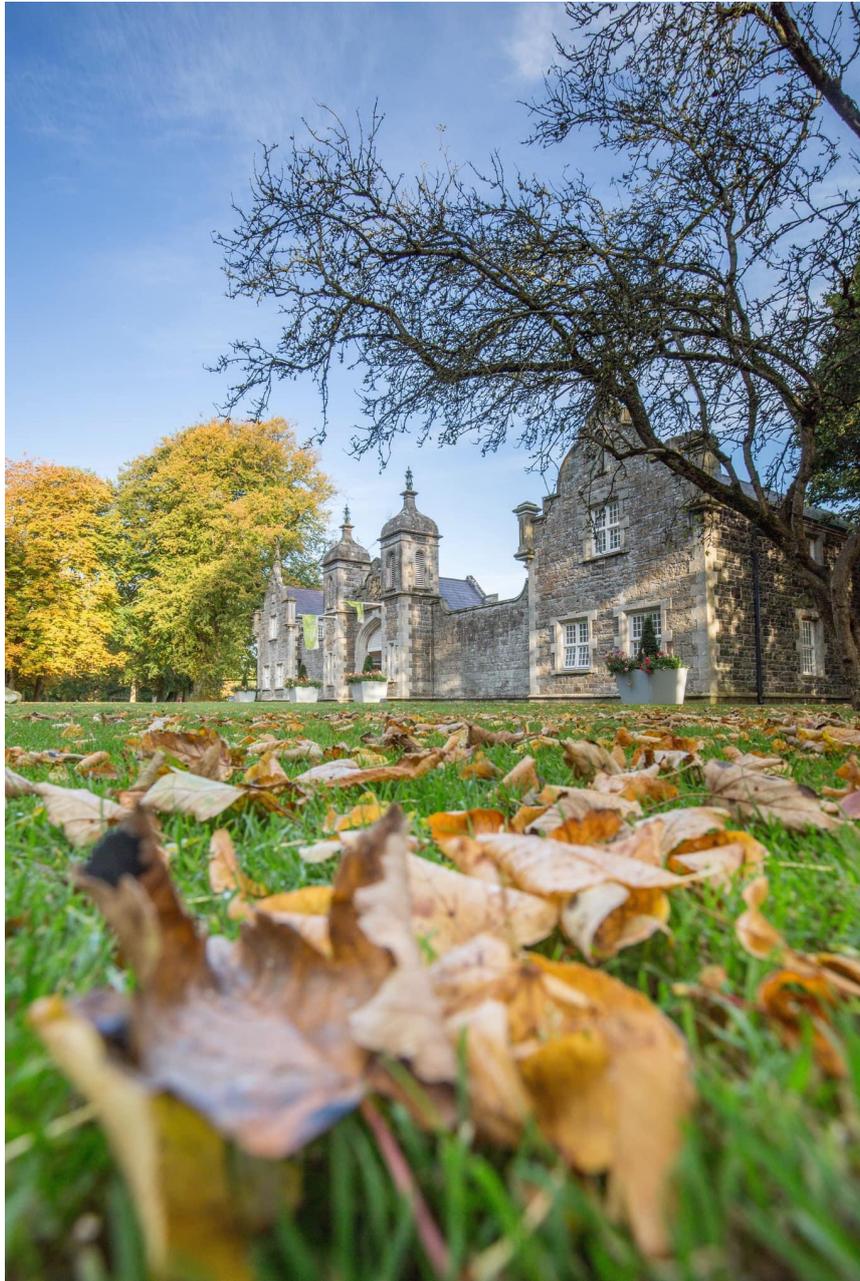


Image of the day – An Antrim autumn

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By W.B. Yeats

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day

An Antrim autumn



News

Methody's Senior Prize Day

Methodist College, Belfast held its Senior Prize Day at the Whitla Hall, Queen's University. MCB posted - It was great to see our Methody community come together to celebrate our pupils.



There were amazing performances from the Senior Choir, the Chapel Choir, the Band and Orchestra.

A special thank you to our guest speaker former pupil and political correspondent, **Carl Dinnen**, who shared his experiences at Methody and provided insightful tips for our pupils for their future careers. Carl also delivered a Q&A

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with our Upper Sixth Politics pupils which provided invaluable knowledge. Thank you for taking the time to spend with our pupils today.



A Garrison Harvest

Belleek Church was beautifully decorated for Harvest Thanksgiving last Friday night. The special preacher was Rev. Edwin Aiken, Curate of Enniskillen Cathedral.

Gordon Fitzpatrick from Kesh sang a great selection of Gospel songs from 'Westlife' to 'Johnny Cash'.



A lovely supper was served in the Wark Hall afterwards. “Thank you to all the members of our community who came along for the celebration and to Rachel, Caroline and Donna who did the decorating of the church”.





New arrival in Ards

N'towards is one of a number of councils in the UK which accepted the offer of a Paddington seat for their community. It is already being well used...and not just by children.

Queens Students meet the author

Last week Lyndsey and Vicky from the Presbyterian Chaplaincy at Queens were able to take a couple of their students to the Irish Women's Conference in Assembly Buildings.

The girls group Bible study at the chaplaincy is currently reading through "In His Image" by Jen Wilkin, so it was a

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blessing
 to hear
 her in
 person
 open up
 God's
 Word to a
 packed
 room of
 women.

It was an
 added
 bonus to
 meet and
 chat with
 her after!



Random acts of kindness - A Blessing Bag

Keep a "Blessing bag" in your car in case you see someone in need. You can make these up with items from the Dollar

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Tree such as gloves, thermal socks, beef sticks, crackers, candy bars, toothpaste, toothbrush, wipes, deodorant, snacks and other items that may help someone who is homeless or in a bad way. It is just a thoughtful, inspiring thing to do. Random acts of kindness .
Credit - Annette Fuller



Celebration of musical talent in Ahoghill

A wonderful evening with the Seven Towers Male Voice Choir at a fundraiser in St Colmanell's Ahoghill.

A packed house enjoyed a great mix of singing, poems, traditional Irish music and even some dancing. What an entertaining celebration of musical talent.



Catholics urged to lobby MPs to stop assisted dying law

THE UK's most senior Catholic has called on churchgoers to lobby their MPs to vote against a proposed Bill on assisted dying.

Cardinal Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster, warned that legalising assisted dying “risks bringing about for all medical professionals a slow change from a duty to care to a duty to kill”.

His letter will be read in churches this weekend, urging parishioners to write to their MP to block the proposed law

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Bishop Alan McGuigan of Down & Connor attended the ecumenical vigil on the anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council with Sr Pat Murray and Sr Mary Barron.



change. Labour MP Kim Leadbeater's Private Member's Bill is due to be formally introduced in Parliament on Wednesday. Details of the legislation will be published ahead of the first full debate and vote on Nov 29.

Campaigners for assisted dying argue the law will reduce suffering and increase personal dignity in death.

But in his letter, Cardinal Nichols claimed that evidence of a slippery slope was "clear" in every country where assisted

dying had been legalised. “This proposed change in the law may be a source of relief to some. But it will bring great fear and trepidation to many, especially those who have vulnerabilities and those living with disabilities,” he said.

Methodist Statement on the Thirtieth Ceasefire Anniversary in Northern Ireland

As the thirtieth anniversary of the Combined Loyalist Military Command ceasefire in Northern Ireland approaches, the Methodist Church in Ireland remembers those affected by the violence across our island, particularly those who suffered the loss of loved ones and those who were significantly injured during the troubles.

While this significant moment thirty years ago marked a new era of peace in Northern Ireland; we recognise that many challenges remain to this day. We condemn criminality and intimidation where it still exists in our communities. Instilling fear and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals has no place in our society.

While we acknowledge that it remains a complex problem, we would warmly encourage further engagement and meaningful dialogue working towards the complete end of paramilitary structures in Northern Ireland.

As we reflect on the past, we thank God for the healing and reconciliation that has taken place and we encourage all our members to commit afresh to the work of peace and healing.

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We pray for the future of this island, north and south, for the generations to come; that God would continue in his transformational work to help us all work together for the shared future we long for in which all can flourish.

Cathedral Calls



Ely Rehearsal

Rehearsal getting underway for Cathedral Choir Open Day service at 4pm

Christ Church Dublin choir vacancies

October 14 2024

CCD have vacancies in its renowned choir.

Get in touch for more details and to apply -

<https://buff.ly/3ZKspzG>



Kildare Cathedral promotion

Across Co Kildare and beyond...

... you will see the details of the cathedral displayed on these wonderful Tourist Information Boards from Discover Ireland.

Clergy and ministry



Priest-in-charge of Christ Church Kilmore

The Revd Dr Claire Aylward has been introduced as



Priest-in-charge of Kilmore & Inch Parish.

The joint Parishes of Kilmore and Inch welcomed Rev. Dr Claire Aylward. as



she was introduced as Priest-in-charge of the Grouped Parishes of Kilmore and Inch last Thursday night (10 October).

It is Claire's first parish charge, and she moves there from the curacy of St James' Thorley in the Diocese of St Alban's. Claire's training rector, Revd Gaz Tracey, gave the address and the congregation was joined online by viewers from St James' and around the world.

Gaz encouraged the parishes to join Claire in the adventure of following Jesus. "It won't always be easy," he said, "but if we stay the same, we will see the same."

External Examiner's report on C of Theological Institute

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CITI was delighted to receive the annual External Examiner Report (MTh) from Prof Jessie Rogers.

Prof Rogers is the current External Examiner, in relation to the Masters in Theology

Professional Course, and with her permission and CITI it is made available here.

<http://dlvr.it/TF8Q3d>



**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**

Dublin Area Junior Quaker Meetings

Visitors are always welcome to join us for Junior Meeting



JUNIOR MEETING

We invite Parents and Young People (from newborns to young teens) to join us for Junior Meeting

**Churchtown Meeting 11am - 2nd Sunday each month
Monkstown Meeting 10.30am - 3rd Sunday each month
Rathfarnham Meeting 10.30am - 4th Sunday each month**



The wide-ranging topics covered in Junior Meeting include those of a Quaker and Biblical nature as well as various social and environmental issues.

You'll find full details for each Meeting here:
<https://buff.ly/4dNNrkS>

In the media

Bishop of Clogher announces new initiative in presidential address - Impartial Reporter

The Bishop of Clogher has announced a new initiative to promote vocations in the church, Ryan Morwood reports

The Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis made the announcement during his presidential address at the Clogher Diocesan Synod on Thursday, September 26.

During his address, Bishop Ellis reviewed changes in clerical personnel over the past year, highlighted the impact of global conflicts on communities, and spoke of the need for positivity in church work.

He also emphasised the importance of denominational education in schools and reported on the Diocesan Review of parish structures.

Bishop Ellis is the joint patron of Monaghan Collegiate and recently became chair of the Board of Governors of Enniskillen Royal Grammar School.

He spoke about the vital link these roles create between the church and the wider community.

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In his address, Bishop Ellis also spoke about the Diocesan Review, which is the most important change process in the diocese.

He explained that the last review took place in the early 2000s during Bishop Michael Jackson's episcopacy.

The Diocesan Council has decided that 2024 is a good time for a comprehensive review of the structure of parish organisation across the diocese.

A review team, comprising members from every rural deanery in the diocese, has been set up and is already conducting consultations in parishes.

An online survey has also been opened to allow any Church of Ireland member of the diocese to submit their views.

The review team will analyse the responses from the various consultations and report to the Diocesan Synod in 2025.

Bishop Ellis also expressed gratitude for the work of the Holy Spirit in calling Peter Booth from Ardess parish to the ordained ministry.

Bishop Ellis ordained Mr Booth in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, on September 8.

Mr Booth will serve a year as a deacon intern in Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale parishes.

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Bishop Ellis has also announced plans for a vocation conference in the new year.

The conference aims to present the full range of responses to the call of God on the life of every baptized member.

Bishop Ellis expressed his gratitude to Archdeacon Paul Thompson for his support and practical approach to challenges faced in parish and diocesan life.

He also thanked Lord Ben Stephens for his role as Diocesan Chancellor and for his expertise in addressing legal queries.

In his recent pastoral letter, Bishop Ellis addressed issues such as street protests, the rise of hate crime and intimidation, and the spreading of fear around topics of racial diversity and immigration.

The letter, signed by all bishops serving in Northern Ireland, thanked clergy and parishioners for their hard work in caring for all neighbours, often in challenging circumstances.

It concluded by encouraging practical ways to put into practice the teaching of the Parable of the Good Samaritan and to stand with those in need.

Bishop Ellis's address at the Clogher Diocesan Synod highlighted various important aspects of church life, from education to community care, and set the stage for future developments in the diocese.

As the church navigates these changes, the bishop's leadership and vision will be crucial in shaping the future of the diocese.

Poem for today

The Wild Swans at Coole

By W.B. Yeats

The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;
Upon the brimming water among the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.
The nineteenth autumn has come upon me
Since I first made my count;
I saw, before I had well finished,
All suddenly mount
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings
Upon their clamorous wings.
I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,
And now my heart is sore.
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,
The first time on this shore,
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,
Trode with a lighter tread.
Unwearied still, lover by lover,
They paddle in the cold
Companionable streams or climb the air;
Their hearts have not grown old;
Passion or conquest, wander where they will,

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Attend upon them still.
But now they drift on the still water,
Mysterious, beautiful;
Among what rushes will they build,
By what lake's edge or pool
Delight men's eyes when I awake some day
To find they have flown away?

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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