

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Tampere Cathedral mural

Image of the day

Tampere Cathedral - venue of Anglican Lutheran dialogue

Mural depicting resurrection. See page 4

News reports

Rev. Richard Coles

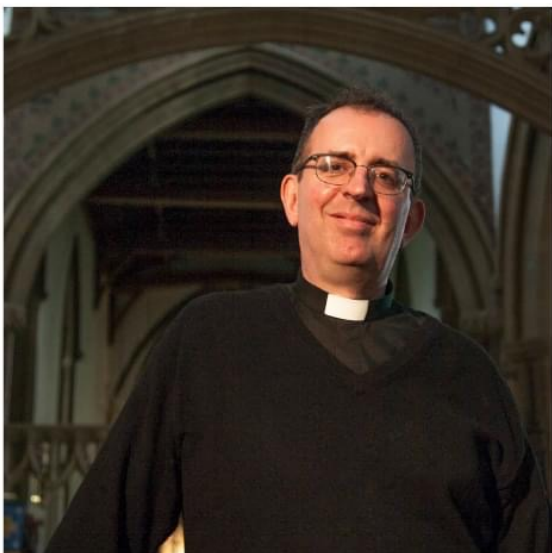
in conversation with Emma Vardy

BOOK WEEK NI

Wednesday 19 October at 12:30pm - 1:30pm
Online

Free

Rev. Richard Coles - Photo credit NMP Live Ltd



Emma Vardy



BBC NORTHERN IRELAND

libraries ni

Read All About It!

Murder before Evensong dialogue at BookWeekNI

Church News Ireland

October 14, 2022

Book your place for Rev. Richard Coles in conversation with Emma Vardy via live stream during BookWeekNI on Wednesday 19 October. 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Reverend Richard Coles is a former Church of England parish priest and broadcaster who co-presents BBC Radio 4's Saturday Live. He is also a prolific best-selling author and was also the instrumentalist half of pop band The Communards more than a quarter of a century ago. In conversation with Emma Vardy (BBC) Richard will discuss his career from pop star to Reverend to author and will talk about his bestselling book 'Murder before Evensong'.

Book a place for the live stream email:
events@librariesni.org.uk

Down, Dromore and Connor Organ Scholars Award service

The Down, Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Board will be holding an Awards Service in St Columba's Parish Church, Knock, on Sunday October 23 at 3.30pm.

The Chairman of the Board, Canon John Auchmuty, will preach, and the organist will be Dr Joe McKee, one of the course tutors.

New scholars who have just commenced their training under the scheme will be welcomed, and certificates will be presented to those who have successfully completed their training. Refreshments will follow the service.

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Porvoo Communion celebrates 25th anniversary



Archbishop Michael Jackson with the Bishop of Tampere, the Rt Revd Matti Repo.

After a number of years meeting on–line exclusively, The Porvoo Contact Group met in person on its first of three days in Tampere, Finland on Tuesday (October 11 2022).

Later it was joined by The Primates of The Porvoo Communion and will continue meeting until October 13. The theme is: The twenty–fifth anniversary of The Porvoo Communion: Portrait, Unity and Vulnerability.

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The PCG Members are lay and ordained members of the constituent churches who discern trends and priorities in their churches. They document and share them as Country Reports. This enables all PCG Members, along with the co-Secretaries and the co-Chairpersons, to get a picture of the changes in church life happening across the Communion. Common themes include the people of Ukraine and church responses, numerical change in church membership, liturgical developments, responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, changes in personnel, priorities in mission.

The PCG Meeting also did considerable planning work for Porvoo Conferences up to and including 2026.

In 2023 the Conference will be held in Madrid on the theme: Life in the Eucharist – the Eucharistic life of our churches.

The host will be Bishop Carlos Lopez-Lozano, well known to members of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

The theme for 2024 is: Environment and Eschatology – Hope for Future Generations and will be held in Sweden. 2025 will take them to Wales where they will celebrate the seventeen hundredth anniversary of The Nicene Creed on a theme connected with orthodoxy.

Those attending the Conference worshipped in Tampere Cathedral where the Archbishop of Dublin was preacher. Following worship with the cathedral congregation, participants received hospitality from the Bishop of Tampere, the Rt Revd Matti Repo and his wife in the Bishop's House.

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
12 OCTOBER 1872—26 AUGUST 1958



Join us at the Pro-Cathedral in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Vaughan Williams' birth.

Saturday 15th October at 6pm Mass

The Cathedral Girls' Choir will sing
The Call and The Song Of The Tree Of Life

Sunday 16th October at 11am Mass

The Palestrina Choir will sing

Mass in G Minor

O Taste And See

O Clap Your Hands

150th Anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams

Wednesday (12th October) marked the 150th Anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams' birth. In honour of this, both the Palestrina Choir and the St Mary's Pro-Cathedral (Dublin) Girls' Choir will celebrate this anniversary by singing his music this coming weekend!

The Irish Catholic


DAVID QUINN
Churches overlooked by Government again
Page 9



CRESLOUGH TRAGEDY
Tributes and prayers
Page 8



MARY KENNY
Are traditional women happier?
Page 5



Thursday, October 13, 2022 €2.50 (Std €2.20) The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper @IrishCathNews www.irishcatholic.com

Parishes left in limbo on energy bill support plans

Chai Brady

Parishes have been left in limbo regarding Government help with the rocketing cost of fuel.

A Government scheme will allow Church-owned properties to avail of additional funds as long as it is being used for a "community service".

In response to a query from *The Irish Catholic*, a spokesperson for the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) gave examples of a community crèche or meals on wheels as activities that would allow parishes to avail of support.

However, *The Irish Catholic* understands there is confusion as to what exactly constitutes a community service and disappointment more support is not being offered, particularly for churches.

Fr John Carroll PP of Barntown in Co. Wexford said: "Any audit of Church facilities will show that a huge number of them are provided at little or no cost to society and social groups, and it's done willingly. The State needs to broaden its awareness of the variety and quantity of services the Church provides, it's starting to wear that the Church is left on this 'last to be considered' list."

Continued on Page 2

Three cheers for the gift of life...



Caollinn (7), and twin brothers Liam and Daniel O'Connor (5) from Artane attend the Irish Kidney Association's 37th Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in Newman University Church at St Stephen's Green, Co. Dublin. Liam received a kidney transplant earlier this year. Photo: Irish Kidney Association/Conor McCabe

KEVIN MCCARROLL
Science behind 10,000 step goal
PAGE 30



IRANIAN CHRISTIANS
Small community amid social strife
PAGES 16-17



NIAMH UÍ BHRIAIN
Appalling outcomes of Ireland's abortion law
PAGE 7



Leave a legacy with the Irish Red Cross – Always There for those in need. Help the Irish Red Cross to be there for vulnerable people.



The Irish Red Cross understands that we are far from a world that is free of conflict and disaster. This is why we work every day to be always there to help those who are most in need throughout Ireland and beyond. You can help the Irish Red Cross to provide crucial support to those in need by leaving a legacy gift in your will.

Help us to be always there by availing of our Free Will-making service today.
Email Frank Phelan at fphelan@redcross.ie or call 01 642 4645

Crois Dhearg na hÉireann Irish Red Cross
www.redcross.ie

This week's issue of The Irish Catholic

In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, parishes have been left in the dark regarding Government help with the rocketing cost of fuel.

A Government scheme will allow Church-owned properties to avail of additional funds as long as it is being used for a "community service".

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Irish bishops called on the Government to extend energy bill supports to churches, warning of “drastic closures” due to rapidly increasing energy costs.

Read this story and all the latest news at www.irishcatholic.com



Shadow of Creeslough tragedy looms over Derry & Raphoe Synod

The shadow of the Creeslough tragedy loomed large over the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Synod, this week, as people remembered the victims and prayed for those affected by last Friday’s disaster, which claimed the lives of 10 people.



Before delivering his Presidential Address, the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, reflected on the events of recent days which had brought heartbreak to Donegal.

Bishop Andrew told delegates that he hadn't expected to be uplifted in Creeslough, when he visited the village on Saturday, and yet, as bleak and desperate as the situation was there, there were "remarkable shoots of love and tenderness breaking through, which touched the heart". As the Bishop spoke, one of the victims, James O'Flaherty, was being laid to rest in Derrybeg.

"I am mindful," Bishop Forster said, "that as we gather and prepare to conduct the business of the diocese, and do the routine but necessary work required to keep the wheels of diocesan life turning, there are people and there is a community not very far from here for whom 'normal life' has

been shattered and put on hold. I am referring, of course, to the people of Creeslough and other parts of Donegal whose lives were visited by tragedy last Friday.

“Ten people died following an explosion at the local service station. Shauna and Robert, Leona, Hugh, Jessica, Martin, James, Martina, Catherine and James. Their ages ranged from 5 to 59. The victims included a mother and son, and a father and daughter.

“I was in Creeslough, on Saturday, with my good friend Bishop Alan McGuckian. I was there long enough to see the rescue operation become a recovery operation as the last vestiges of hope were extinguished for waiting relatives. The pain of that will stay with me forever.

“As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be people of hope and are called to spread the Good News of Christ’s resurrection. And good news has been thin on the ground, recently, but we are people of God’s hope.

“I certainly didn’t expect to be uplifted in Creeslough. And yet, as bleak and desperate as the situation was in the village, there were remarkable shoots of love and tenderness breaking through, which touched the heart: the remarkable compassion and warmth and generosity of the good people of that village; the grim determination of rescue workers – including neighbours – who defied exhaustion in the search for victims and survivors; the prodigious effort put in by the emergency services – firefighters, paramedics and ambulance crews – as they went about their duties in the most challenging of circumstances; and the sheer professionalism and sensitivity shown by gardai. Most

impressive and humbling and indeed heartbreaking of all was the dignity and the faith of some of the relatives I spent time with.

“God’s love is honed by pain and, no matter how dark the morning may be, the light of his love is never extinguished. And as the Creeslough families lay their loved ones to rest – there are three funerals today – I hope they come to see and know clearly the light of God’s love deep within their lives.

“Two of our clergy are not here today because they are attending the funerals of victims of Friday’s tragedy: Rev Liz Fitzgerald, the Bishop’s Curate in the Gweedore Group of Parishes, and the Rev David Skuce – David is the Rural Dean – the parish in which Creeslough is is vacant at the moment and David has been giving support to that parish group.

“David was there through most of the night, on Friday – after the explosion – and most of Saturday, giving comfort and support. Yesterday evening, I spoke to Bishop McGuckian and he commented to me about the support that David has been to the people most directly affected, and said that he was a tower of strength to the clergy who are conducting funerals at this time.

Ladies and gentlemen, all of us are struck by the randomness of such a terrible and awful disaster – and it is truly a disaster. I would ask you all to stand, now, as we observe a moment’s silence.”

After the period of silence, Bishop Andrew shared a prayer for those affected by the Creeslough tragedy.

“Almighty God, father of all mercies and giver of all comfort, deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn. Casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love. Give faith and comfort, O Lord, to the bereaved of Creeslough. Strengthen them to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience, not sorrowing as those without hope but in thankful remembrance of your mercy in the past and waiting for a joyful reunion in Heaven. We remember, today, those who this day, at this moment, are laying to rest loved ones. We pray for the clergy who are bringing care and comfort, most especially for Father John Joe Duffy, the local priest in Creeslough, and Bishop Alan McGuckian and the Rev David Skuce. In times of darkness, help us to see your light; in times of pain, may we know your healing balm; and in times of despair, help us to hold fast to your hope. This we ask in the name of the one who died for us and rose again, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.”

Later in the day, at Synod, one of the Honorary Secretaries, Bill Arnold – a parishioner in Dunfanaghy – which is about 10 kilometres from Creeslough – was given permission by the Bishop to address delegates about the tragedy.

“On Friday, when we heard the news,” Mr Arnold said, “everybody was in shock. We are one community. Dunfanaghy and Creeslough are inter-linked in so many ways: through a doctor’s surgery, football clubs, family relationships. I just want to thank the emergency services for their work, and the volunteers. The Church of Ireland has



played a big part in that, both among the volunteers and also through the Rural Dean, my Rector, the Rev David Skuce.

“The Bishop has said he [Rev Skuce] was there most of Friday night and all Saturday, comforting people, along with Father John Joe Duffy, who is a personal friend of mine. On Saturday, I met Father John Joe. It was all I could do just to give him a big hug. Sometimes,” Mr Arnold said, “words don’t allow you to express your feelings. That was the only way I could do it. I attended two of the funerals yesterday and it was one of the hardest things – I was in tears – especially at the one in the morning, which I found more difficult than the one in the afternoon.”

Mr Arnold paid tribute to the prayerful and compassionate way in which Bishop Andrew had spoken on the media in the aftermath of Friday’s tragedy. “We’re so proud to have

such a caring Bishop,” he said, drawing applause from delegates.

“Just to end on a positive note, if there is a positive note,” Mr Arnold continued, “the Republic of Ireland Women’s soccer team has qualified now for the World Cup in Australia – that’s a great achievement in itself – but the winning goal was scored by a Donegal woman who came on as substitute, she’s actually from Milforr, Amber Barrett.

“Amber Barrett’s grandparents are from Creeslough and she goes there quite regularly and I thought it was a lovely touch when she got down on her knees – in honour of the victims of Creeslough – and she just put her arm on her black armband. Some of you may’ve heard her on the radio this morning, and she spoke with dignity and humility. It was a great credit to her.”

Accord care service to support community of Creeslough

Counsellors who work with Accord, the Catholic marriage care service, have expressed their heartfelt sympathy, solidarity and prayerful support for the community of Creeslough following the horrific explosion in the Co Donegal village on 7 October.

The director of Accord, Mr Tony Shanahan, said, “Accord operates throughout the island of Ireland to support people preparing for marriage, but also for those who need counselling arising from difficulties in their marriage and relationships. The tragic loss of life in Creeslough touches

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all our hearts, and Accord very much wishes to place its professional counselling and emotional support expertise at the service of the community as families, friends and neighbours come to terms with the extent to which they have been impacted, both emotionally and psychologically.

“Since Friday afternoon, it has been so moving to witness the Trojan and fearless work of the the first responders, clergy, emergency and health services, schools and local community organisations across the counties of Donegal and Derry. Accord wishes to contribute to this important collaboration which is supporting the people of Creeslough at this time of pain and loss for so many people.”

Mr Shanahan concluded, “Accord is making its counselling service available to individuals and couples, whose family relationships have been impacted by the Creeslough tragedy, and we are inviting those to contact Accord to avail of our support. This reflects the mission of Accord which is committed to offering professional support to individuals and couples whose relationships may be facing a crisis.”

Accord CLG has two centres in Co Donegal, in Letterkenny and in Inishowen (Carndonagh) where couples and relationship counselling is available in person. Accord also offers this service online. Appointments can be arranged by contacting:

Accord Letterkenny on 074 9122218

Accord Inishowen (Carndonagh) on 074 9374103
onlinecounselling@accord.ie

£15m fund available for C of E parishes and clergy struggling with energy bills

Parishes in the Church of England are now able to access a new grant to help with the cost of living crisis.

The Church Commissioners have announced a £15m fund to alleviate some of the strain high energy bills has put on churches.

Some places of worship have seen their energy bills rise by £14,000.

The Energy Costs Grant will also fund additional payments to clergy and lay ministers struggling to cover their household bills, particularly, energy costs.

John Spence, chair of the Archbishops' Council Finance Committee, said: "The Government has announced welcome support for non-domestic energy users including voluntary sector organisations such as PCCs.

"But in spite of this our churches still face the challenge of significant rises in their energy bills over this winter, and that is why we are announcing the Energy Costs Grant which will be in addition to Government support.

"We will keep the situation under close review throughout the winter. We hope that this new fund will provide some reassurance to churches and worshipping communities."

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The extra targeted help for clergy is in addition of the £3m fund made available earlier this year to help ministers facing hardship because of the cost of living crisis.

The money will be distributed to dioceses across the country which will then help their local parochial church councils.

Alan Smith, First Church Estates Commissioner, said: "The £15 million fund will help churches to remain as centres of worship and pastoral care and will also make a key difference in helping churches to continue opening their buildings for vital practical support for their communities over the winter through social action such as food banks.

"The Church Commissioners are glad to be able to work in partnership with the Archbishops' Council and dioceses to support the work of parishes in the communities they serve."

The scheme is being funded by the Church Commissioners from savings in other categories of expenditure.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Vatican Council Memories by Bishop Michael Smith

Pope John XXIII's announcement on 25 January 1959, just three months after his election as pope, of his intention to

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convoke an ecumenical council came as a great surprise to all.

The Second Vatican Council officially opened on 11 October 1962, welcoming more than two thousand bishops from across the world to Rome for what would become one of the most influential events in the history of the Catholic Church.

In *Vatican Council Memories*, Bishop Michael Smith revisits his experiences as a young student of the Pontifical Irish College in Rome invited to join a small group tasked with creating the official record of the events of the Council. This book offers readers a unique insight into the Council's many remarkable moments, decisions and debates, highlighting the significant figures, including the many Irish participants, who helped shape this historic event.

About the Author:

Bishop Michael Smith is bishop emeritus of Meath and a native of Oldcastle in County Meath. Following an education at the Pontifical Irish College, Rome, he was ordained a priest in 1963. He served in the cathedral parish of Mullingar and as chaplain to St Loman's Hospital. He was ordained auxiliary bishop of Meath in 1984 and coadjutor bishop in 1988.

Vatican Council Memories by Bishop Michael Smith
Binding: Perfect bound (Paperback) Size: 215 mm x 138 mm Pages: 208 pp

Publisher: Veritas Publications. Delivery: Early October
€19.99 | £17.50

Poem for today

Circle Of Life by Carly Nasch

Life is a carousel, always going forward, never going back.
Existence is a hard thing to keep when you stop trying.
To live a life, you must want to live.
To want to live you must find a way.
When all hope is lost, you must stand tall.
When all others retreat, you must prevail.
You are the conscience inside your head.
You create your own destiny.
Life is a very hard thing to keep
When your life does not always go the way you plan.
Fight for your life and the right to keep dreaming.
If you feel you were gifted, share your gift.
If you feel you were cursed, fix it.
As you get older, your life becomes a challenge.
Who are you?
What do you want in life?
What will you be?
What is your purpose in life?
If you worry, these things will turn into burdens.
But if you hold on to them in the back of your mind,
All of the answers will come in time.
Life is a carousel, always going forward, never going back.
Look to the future, not to the past.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com