

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Pets blessings and Harvests



Image of the day

Pets blessings and Harvests

Many churches held blessings for pets on the same Sunday as their Harvest Festivals



News

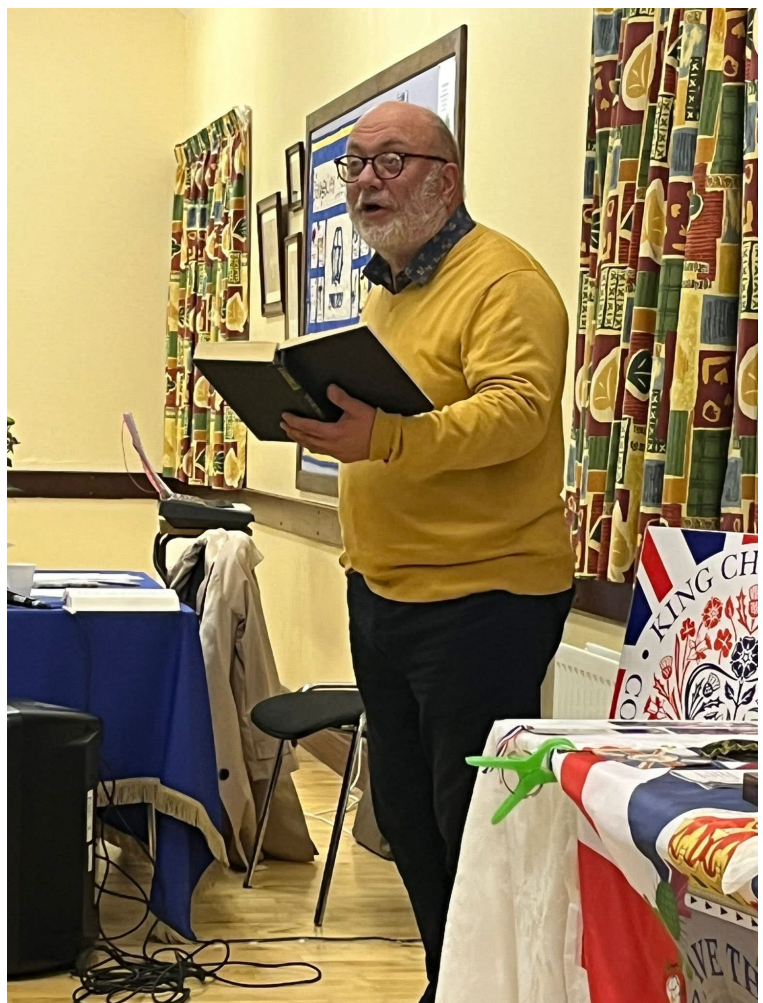
Pudding Party and All Things Royal at Visitors Night in Ballygawley

Ballygawley Mothers Union writes - We had a fabulous Visitors' Night in Ballygawley this evening!

Thank you to Revd Derek Kerr for delivering a very informative and captivating talk on All Things Royal; his knowledge and wit shone through from beginning to end.

Thank you too, to all those who came along to join in fellowship with us in Ballygawley MU.

And to our own ladies,



October 15, 2015



the Pudding
Party was a
complete
success,
your desserts
were
outstanding!
Thank you.



Thanksgiving for Many Gifts in Narraghmore and Timolin

On Friday evening (October 10) Archbishop Michael Jackson had the opportunity to visit the churches in both Narraghmore and Timolin. Both parishes have carried out significant work to the interiors of these stunningly beautiful churches.

In Narraghmore the avenue approaching the church has been completely resurfaced.

Inside, new heaters have been installed, new carpet has been laid, cushions and kneelers for the pews have been repaired and renewed and corner cushions have been donated. A new curtain has been made and donated to surround the organ. All the work complements the church and has been made possible through the efforts and donations of parishioners.

While there, the Archbishop met those involved in the effort and prayed with them. He blessed the work for the use and enjoyment of all who come to the church in the future and the visit concluded with all present saying the Lord's Prayer together.

The Archbishop then moved from Narraghmore to Timolin where he celebrated Holy Communion and preached. He was also invited to dedicate refurbished pew cushions and kneelers and a newly installed sound system.



Parishioners in Narraghmore who gathered with the Archbishop to review the renovations at the church.

In his sermon he drew out aspects of many types of thanksgiving: for the harvest of the land and the sea where we are so dependent on the care and providence of God; for the harvest of generosity shown so amply in the gifts for dedication; for the harvest of community, recognising the pivotal place that Timolin church plays at the heart of the local community; and for the harvest of faith that underpins our joy in believing and our willingness to serve God and our neighbour.

The Archbishop drew attention to the value of a weekday Harvest Thanksgiving as it connects us with our everyday



Lay Reader Philip Hendy, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Ken Rue at the Harvest Service in Timolin.

discipleship and to the life-giving expression of thanksgiving for Harvest Home set within a celebration of Holy Communion which is a thanksgiving for the real presence of God in the body and blood of Jesus Christ in our lives and in our motivation to service of God's people and God's creation.

In both churches Archbishop Jackson thanked the Revd Kenneth Rue, the select vestry and all parishioners for their devotion to God and their care for their parishes.

Lay Reader Philip Hendy, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Ken Rue at the Harvest Service in Timolin.

Bishop McGuckian welcomes Pope Leo's first major document, I Have Loved You

The first Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Leo XIV was published in Rome on October 10.

Entitled *Dilexi Te – I Have Loved You* it is addressed to all Christians and follows from the last encyclical letter of the late Pope Francis on the love that flows from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Leo notes that much of the letter was prepared by Pope Francis in the final months of his life and that he is happy to make this document his own.

Welcoming the publication of this first major document of Pope Leo's pontificate, Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Chair of the Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, said that it provided a comprehensive overview of the Church's teaching, tradition and practice in hearing and responding to the cry of the poor over the centuries, as well as a serious call to action in our own times.

The document places the Church's teaching in the context of God's eternal love for all, made manifest through the life of Jesus Christ. It then brings this to light through the lens of Scripture and history, to the teachings of the Church Fathers, the lifestyle of poverty and conversion embraced by Saint Francis of Assisi and others, to the documents and outcomes of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, and more recently, the writings of various Popes and, notably, the declarations by various bishops' conferences, notably in Latin America.



Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ is Bishop of Down and Connor and Chair of the Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

The various forms of poverty in our world are referenced – from material poverty to loneliness and isolation, war, migration and indifference. The Pope also refers to the importance of caring for creation and its link to poverty and the vulnerable. In addition, the spiritual poverty of our world is highlighted, noting that when we open ourselves to the poor and the suffering, we re-discover our own need for mercy and discipleship – to be poor with the poor. Love for the Lord means love for the poor.

“Ultimately, this document speaks of love that becomes a mission, a mission that moves us from places of comfort to works of compassion and service in closeness with those who are poor. Pope Leo speaks of us being “asked to enter

into the heart of God, who is always concerned for the needs of his children, especially those in greatest need.” (Dilexit te 8)

“The Holy Father is very clear that in dealing with the various forms of poverty in our world today, we need to be committed to eliminating the structural causes of poverty and related afflictions. He rightly notes that this cannot be delayed because “society needs to be cured of a sickness which is weakening and frustrating it and which can only lead to new crises”. (Dilexit te 94)

“At the same time, the Pope states that no Christian can simply regard the poor as a societal issue alone. The poor are part of us all, part of our Church family too and in need of accompaniment on our journey to eternal life. In this regard, he reminds us of the words of Saint John Paul II who taught that ‘the preferential option for the poor, namely the Church’s love for the poor, is essential for her and a part of her constant tradition, and impels her to give attention to a world in which poverty is threatening to assume massive proportions in spite of technological and economic progress.’ (Dilexit te 104)

“Pope Leo speaks of Christian love breaking down barriers and bringing together those who are distant, uniting strangers and reconciling enemies. The Church, he says, sets no limits to love and this is what our world needs today.”

The text of the Pope’s document is available here - https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html)

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Education

Primate opens new Sixth Form Centre at Coleraine

Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, Most Reverend John Mc Dowell, was in Coleraine on Friday last to open Coleraine Grammar School's Sixth Form Centre, and to speak at prizeday and present awards.

HM Lord Lieutenant was present and later said "The musical accompaniment was superb".



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Mr William Oliver MBE DL Chairman of the Board of Governors (Photo above) delivered a stirring tribute to parents, headmaster, staff and pupils and looked forward to the future of the school now fully settled in its splendid campus at Castlerock Road.

Antrim Grammar School pupils in Military Musical Spectacular

Three Antrim Grammar School pupils, Cadet Sergeant Deborah Bell, Cadet Sergeant Louis Onion and Cadet Corporal Esther Bell, performed in the pre-show of the Military Musical Spectacular in July 2025 as part of the National Band, Drums and Pipes of the Army Cadet Force.

Selected through a national application process, they played on Horse Guards





Parade in London from 15th to 17th July, entertaining crowds ahead of the main event by the Household Division.

All three are members of the Band, Drums & Pipes of the 1st (Northern Ireland) Battalion ACF, based in Antrim. They had an unforgettable experience performing alongside top cadets from across the UK, forging friendships and lasting memories.

You can follow the band's journey and performances on Facebook.



Good Relations Week 2025

Primary schools have been getting into the spirit of Good Relations Week 2025 by participating in “Exploring Cultural Diversity” workshops.

Pupils from Mill Strand Primary School in Portrush learned about India with their facilitator, Coleraine Chronicle.

First-ever Veterinary Nursing degree students in NI

Ulster University has welcomed the first-ever Veterinary Nursing degree students in Northern Ireland. Across

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four years, thirty future professionals will combine clinical skills with real-world experience.

This marks a major step forward for animal care education and veterinary health right here in Northern Ireland.

Read more: <https://ow.ly/MEGU50X9LQX>



Bangor, Bobbio & Brescia schools explore the Colomban Way

Italian exchange programme Part 2 started well today with 41 Italian students and their teachers from Bobbio & Brescia arriving at host school, Bangor Academy.



Students were guided round the biggest school in Northern Ireland, taking part in many lessons.

Part of the Peregrinus Project, supporting the Colomban Way, from Bangor to Bobbio, they made friends and learned about our education system.

Tour of the Walled Garden and treated to ice cream in the cold, they're ready for more excursions and fun events this week.

Cathedral Calls

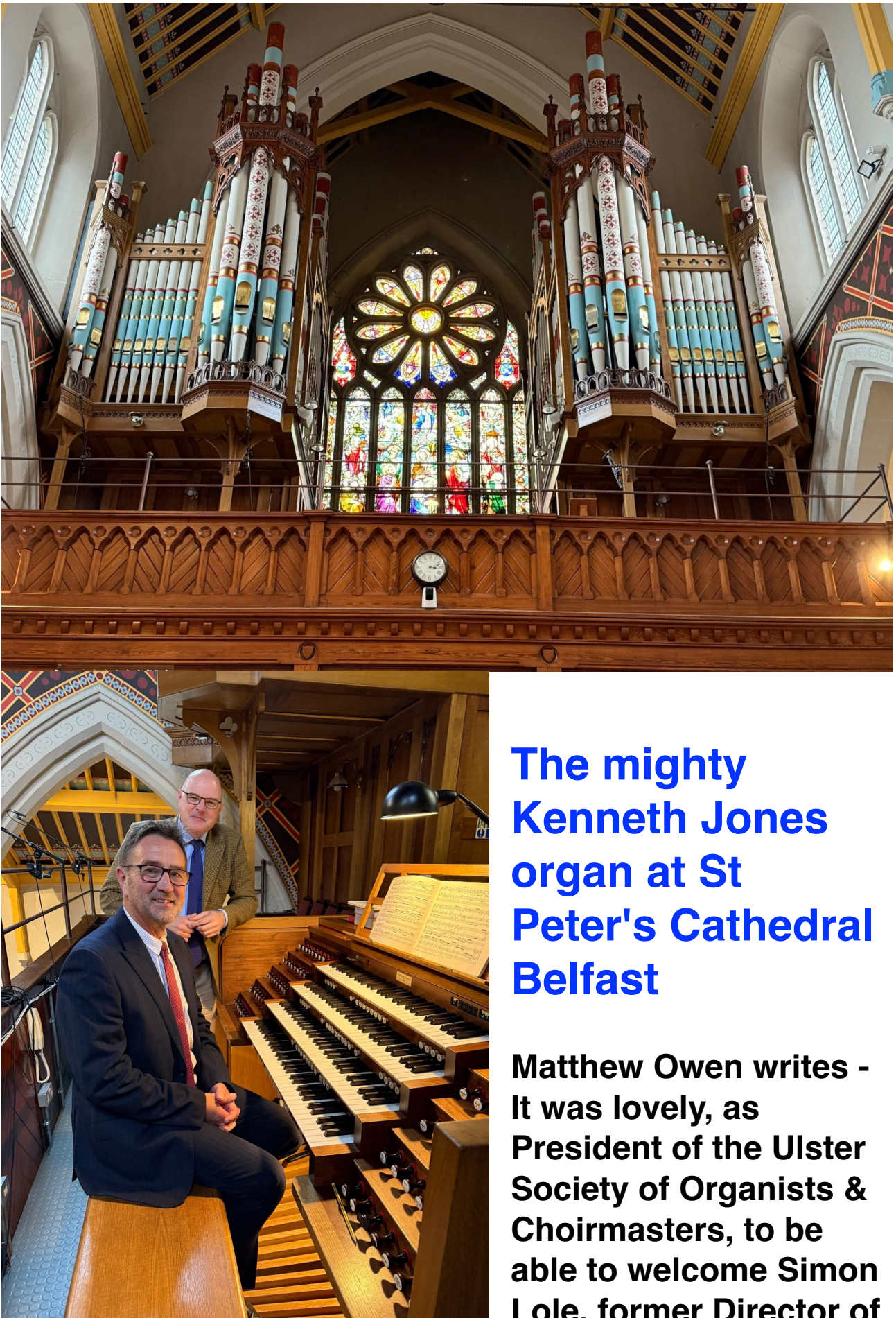
Sing we merrily at St Patrick's



Sing we merrily at St Patrick's

**Nothing like a rousing piece of C V Stanford
Members of the Past Choristers & Past Pupils
Association of St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin, joined
forces with the Cathedral Choir on Sunday afternoon for
Evensong.**





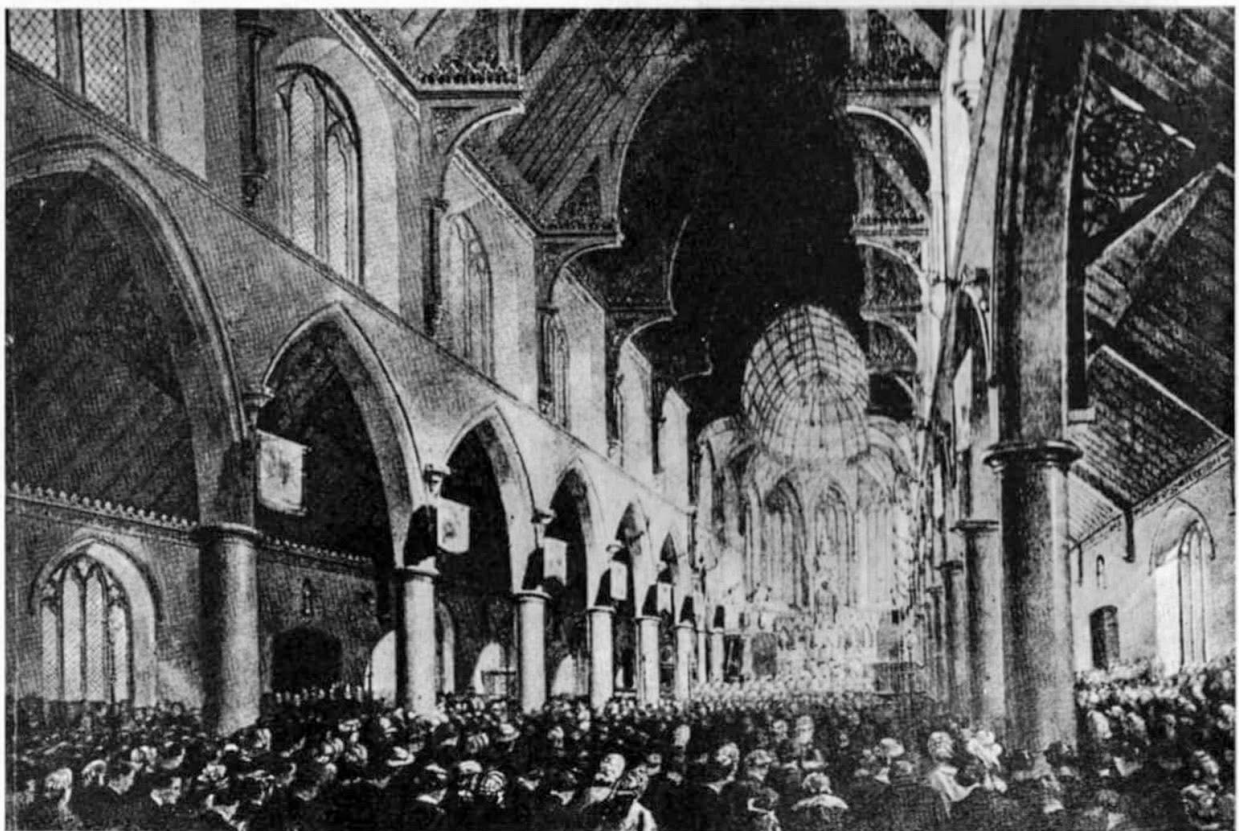
The mighty Kenneth Jones organ at St Peter's Cathedral Belfast

**Matthew Owen writes -
It was lovely, as
President of the Ulster
Society of Organists &
Choirmasters, to be
able to welcome Simon
Lole, former Director of**

October 15, 2015

Music at Salisbury Cathedral and Sheffield Cathedral, to give the USOC annual guest recital and after dinner speech.

The venue this year was St Peter's Cathedral Belfast (Music at St Peter's Cathedral), with the mighty Kenneth Jones organ. Thank you, Simon, for your lovely playing and for entertaining us at dinner; a wonderful afternoon and evening!



*SOLEMN DEDICATION OF ST. PETER'S PRO-CATHEDRAL,
14th OCTOBER, 1866*

St Peter's Cathedral celebrates a special milestone

October 15, 2015

On 14th October 1866, St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast was solemnly dedicated — a beacon of faith, hope, and community for 159 years.

As the cathedral marked the Anniversary of its Dedication, thanks were offered for all who have worshipped, served, and found peace within its sacred walls.

May St Peter's continue to be a place of prayer, welcome, and witness to the Gospel in Belfast.



Dean's two installations today

The Venerable Katharine Poulton will be installed in both the Cathedrals in Meath & Kildare, today Wednesday 15th October. St Bridget's Cathedral, Kildare at 3pm and St Patrick's Cathedral, Trim at 7pm.

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All are welcome to come and celebrate Archdeacon Katharine's new role within the Diocesan family.

Clergy and ministry

Cathedral Dean recognised alongside Britain's most prestigious women

The Dean of St Davids Cathedral will take a seat alongside some of Britain's most successful and influential women, at the Women of the Year Awards.

Very Rev Dr Sarah Rowland Jones has been invited to join event, in recognition for making “an outstanding contribution” to the community she serves.

Previous winners include the artist Tracey Emin, and musician Joan Armatrading.

The awards ceremony is volunteer-led and headed by Paralympian Baroness Tani Grey Thompson.

Dean Sarah said she was “incredibly proud” to have her work recognised in this way.

The Bishop of St Davids, Dorrien Davies, said: “Dean Sarah is a force for good in our community and that of the cathedral. This recognition is richly deserved.”

Events

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Thelma Hopkins

16/03/1936-10/1/2025



Sunday 12th October at 3pm

Service of celebration for Thelma Hopkins at Ballylesson Parish Church

At 3pm this Sunday Ballylesson Parish Church will have a service of celebration for Thelma Hopkins (Former Olympian and World Record Holder). She also had 40 caps playing Hockey for Ireland.

Also present will be her friend Lady Mary Peters and Victoria College Junior Choir.

Refreshments afterwards in the hall.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thelma_Hopkins_\(athlete\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thelma_Hopkins_(athlete))

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

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www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning

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