

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Harvest St Ann's Dublin**

## Image of the day

### Harvest St Ann's Dublin

Harvest thanksgiving in the historic church in Dawson Street

## News reports

### Evangelical Alliance prayer breakfast with Philip Yancey

**The Evangelical Alliance recently held a prayer breakfast with Philip Yancey went earlier in the week.**

Reporting on the event EA said it was in a word fantastic!

“We co-hosted the prayer breakfast with our friends at the Genesis Network and were able to secure Philip Yancey because of a kind offer and partnership with Prison Fellowship.”

Around 250 leaders in commerce and business gathered to share breakfast together. We heard from Professor Karise Hutchinson who challenged us to think about how the most important ability of a leader is responsibility and how this bridges the gap between present reality and what is



**The Friends of Armagh Cathedral**

invite you to an evening about

*The life and times of  
Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander*



**Hear of her inspirational Hymns  
& enjoy a sumptuous supper by Joanne Loughran**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7pm  
St. Mark's Church, Crozier Hall, The Mall, Armagh**

**Tickets: £20**

**For further details & booking form contact:**

**Mary on (028) 38871982**

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possible. The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tina Black encouraged us to reflect on the Moto of Belfast “Pro tanto quid ret rib u amus” which is based on Psalm 116 and translates roughly as “Having received so much, what shall I give in return?”

Philip Yancey spoke with great humility, skill and love for the gospel which has changed his life so profoundly. His talk included stories which ranged from Prime Minister John Major to the Vikings and Gordon Wilson who lost his daughter in the Enniskillen bomb. He spoke directly to the two audiences in the room, Christians and those who didn't know Jesus yet, and challenged both about how they would live together and serve the peace and prosperity of this place we call home.

The event was prayerful and prophetic in the best sense, an act of witness to the presence, grace and goodness of God in the public sphere - a humble and gracious but direct and countercultural challenge to the powers of this age, bearing witness to Jesus as Lord.

EA concluded its comment saying - pray with us that in the days ahead that many of those present may come to know Jesus for themselves if they don't already.

## **Presbyterian Church Moderator, Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick to see war relief efforts**

**Presbyterian Moderator the Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick travels to Hungary and eastern Ukraine this week to see at first-hand the ongoing work of European partner**



## **denomination the Hungarian Reformed Church, as it supports Ukrainian refugees in the country.**

The Hungarian church has worked with the displaced persons humanitarian initiative in Transcarpathia, in western Ukraine, since Russia's genocidal invasion eight months ago. Dr Kirkpatrick will also see how the Irish Presbyterian church has boosted the ongoing effort in the region.

Due to the Covid pandemic, this is the first overseas tour a Presbyterian moderator has undertaken since 2019. Over five days Dr Kirkpatrick and his wife Joan will be guests of the Reformed Church in Hungary (RCH) in the capital Budapest.

Transcarpathia lies 260 kilometres east of Budapest and 800 kilometres west of Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

Since the war began, Irish presbyterians responded to the emergency by giving a significant £1.3million to the relief effort. The amount raised from congregations from across Ireland has been distributed equally between the denomination's relief and development partners Christian Aid and Tearfund, and the Reformed Church of Hungary, through its relief and development wing,

Hungarian Reformed Church Aid has supported refugees who have fled to Hungary and internally displaced people in Ukraine fleeing the conflict in other parts of the country.

Dr Kirkpatrick thanked the Irish Presbyterian congregations who had contributed so wholeheartedly to the special Ukrainian appeal last March.

St Philip and St James  
Holywood Parish Church

Hollywood  
Music Festival

Belfast Operatic Company presents

**SONGS FROM  
THE SHOWS**

**Saturday October 22nd 2022  
at 7.30pm**

**St Philip and St James Church**  
71 Church Rd Holywood

EST. 1960  
**BELFAST  
OPERATIC  
COMPANY**

**Tickets £15**  
Available from:  
Pauline - The Parish Office  
71 Church Road 028 9042 3622  
or [www.hollywoodparishchurch.co.uk/songs](http://www.hollywoodparishchurch.co.uk/songs)  
or Debbie - Hollywood Music Festival 07759 068 822

“The generosity of our congregations across Ireland has led to one of the largest amounts raised for an Irish Presbyterian church appeal in living. memory”, he said. “It is a wonderful demonstration of the faithfulness and kindness of our people, even in these uncertain economic times at

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home, I am looking forward to seeing how it has blessed people both in Hungary and Transcarpathia.”

After arriving in Budapest on Monday, Dr Kirkpatrick and his wife travel to Ukraine to see the relief effort in the south west of the country. They will meet senior representatives of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, including leader Bishop Sándor Zán Fábrián to discuss the impact of the war and humanitarian response to it so far.

They will also visit congregations to see work of the various education and social welfare bodies. “At our Presbyterian General Assembly in Belfast in June the Ukrainian conflict and the refugee crisis was brought close to home when we heard from Rev Dr Zoltán Literáty, a minister born and raised in Transcarpathia,. He told us 500,000 people had fled to the province from eastern and southern Ukraine,” said Dr Kirkpatrick.

"While in Hungary we will also meet Dr Károly Czibere, president of Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, who briefed our General Assembly in Belfast by video. The ongoing work of the Hungarian churches to help and support those caught up in this unnecessary tragedy continues.”

## **Creelough book of condolence at St Patrick's Cathedral**

**A book of condolence is open and available to sign at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.**

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Those willing to pay their respects are welcome to do so. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and community of Creeslough who have been affected by this devastating loss”.

## **C of I Advent Retreat to be conducted by Church’s Ministry of Healing**

**The Church’s Ministry of Healing: Ireland will lead this year’s Advent Retreat at the request of the Commission on Ministry.**

This is the first year that the retreat has been in person since 2019, and the theme has been chosen to reflect this. The retreat takes place in Mount St Anne’s Retreat Centre, Portarlinton, Co. Laois, and is open to anyone who needs rest, healing, and quietness at this time of year.

The theme is ‘The light shines in the darkness’ (John 1:5). The organisers comment, “As one church year ends and a new begins, take time apart to rest in the light of Christ, to restore you on your journey and help you share his light with others”

The retreat runs from the evening of Thursday 10th November to lunchtime on Saturday 12th November, and the cost is €150, which includes accommodation and meals.

Ms Carol Casey is this year’s retreat facilitator. Carol is a diocesan lay reader and a spiritual director. She facilitates quiet days and retreats for the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer and also for Contemplative Outreach Ireland. She is



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a guest retreat director at Manresa, the Jesuit Centre of Spirituality in Dublin. Carol has been a member of the board of the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland. She helped develop and present the training programme for prayer ministers and both instigated and shared in the running of Wellspring, the one day retreats organised by CMH:I over several years.

Please contact [catherine@ministryofhealing.ie](mailto:catherine@ministryofhealing.ie) to book or with any questions

## Death of history-making Bishop Mary Adelia McLeod

*Bishop Mary Adelia McLeod blesses the people at her consecration while the Rev. Harrison M. McLeod, one of her sons, holds the liturgy booklet.*

**The Rt. Rev. Mary Adelia Rosamond McLeod was a daughter of the South — a native of Birmingham, Alabama; graduate of the University of Alabama and Sewanee; and archdeacon of West Virginia — before she made history on a snowy All Saints Day in Vermont. McLeod was consecrated in 1993 as the ninth Bishop of Vermont and the first woman to lead a diocese. Douglas LeBlanc writes in *The Living Church*.**

McLeod, who returned to West Virginia in her retirement, died in the state's capital city, Charleston, on October 12. She was 84.

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“I really just bring myself, warts and all,” McLeod said at a news conference after her consecration. “I think people are ready to accept me for who I am.”

Her consecration service included a challenge, as was common in those early days of women serving as bishops. Jane Shipman of the Episcopal Synod of America said that ordaining women to the priesthood and episcopate was “contrary to Holy Scripture and the tradition of the Episcopal Church.”

McLeod served for eight years, and the small diocese registered growth at 49.5 percent from 1991 to 2001. She served as secretary of the House of Bishops from 1998 to 2001.

“She was always encouraging to me,” said the Rt. Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Vermont’s 11th bishop. “I’m trying my best to continue her work of empowering and supporting lay ministry, promoting inclusion, strengthening our stewardship, improving transparency around our financial resources, and encouraging the ministry of women.”

In 2000, as Vermont’s legislature was debating same-sex marriage, McLeod released a pastoral letter, “Let the Church Be the First to Issue an Emancipation Proclamation.” She wrote that “homosexual persons choosing to live together in a life-long union are not committing a sin” and that “God’s great gift of love and expressing that love cannot and should not be denied for those among us who happen to be homosexual.”

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She contributed to the books *A Voice of Our Own: Leading American Women Celebrate the Right to Vote* and *Women's Uncommon Prayers: Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated*.

The bishop is survived by her husband, the Rev. Henry (Mac) McLeod III, who studied alongside her at Sewanee and served with her as co-rector of two churches; as well as five children; and eight grandchildren.

One of couple's sons, the Rev. Dr. Harrison M. McLeod, has served as rector of Christ Church in Greenville, South Carolina, since 2008. He stood at his mother's side in 1993 when she blessed the congregation as Vermont's new bishop.

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

### **Glorious Goddesses of Ancient Ireland!**

#### **About the book:**

A beautifully illustrated children's book celebrating nine Irish goddesses. The goddesses depict a diverse range of ages, shapes and sizes, each with incredible stories: Áine, Aisling, Boann, Brigid, Danu, Ériu, Gráinne, the Cailleach and the Morrigan. Written in an accessible style with fascinating facts and amusing tales, this book will appeal to a wide range of readers. It can be pitched in the industry as a gift



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book/tourist book and as an educational resource. Paula McGloin's captivating illustrations highlight the goddesses' diversity as well as emphasising their ingenuity, power and magnificence.

### **About the Author and Illustrator:**

Karen Ward PhD, lives in Dublin city with her husband and loves to feed the birds in their little garden. As a psychotherapist, she helps people with their mental health and teaches others to do the same. Karen was the holistic presenter on RTÉ television's Health Squad for many years as well as BBC's Last Resort. *Glorious Goddesses of Ancient Ireland* is her first children's book. Her other titles include *Change a Little to Change a Lot* (Merlin, 2009) and *The Secrets of Ageless Ageing* (Beehive Books, 2022). She thinks Irish goddesses are amazing.

Paula McGloin is an Irish illustrator known for her vibrant illustrations inspired by wildlife, folklore and storytelling. She has won awards for her illustrated books and creative work for animation. She has illustrated four books including *Adventures in Philosophy* by Brendan O'Donoghue and *All Through the Night* edited by Marie Heaney. She lives in West Cork with her husband, Michael, and a cat called Gatchino.

*Glorious Goddesses of Ancient Ireland*  
by Dr Karen Ward, illustrated by Paula McGloin  
Binding: Paperback with French flaps. Size: 250 mm x 17 mm  
Pages: 40 pp. Publisher: Beehive Books. €14.99  
[\[customercare@veritas.ie\]](mailto:customercare@veritas.ie)

## Perspective

*If half the country votes for Sinn Féin,  
fair enough. But no one gets to say they  
weren't told*

**Sarah Carey**



**There's a scene in *The Sopranos* when Carmella goes to see a therapist. After all, it's not easy being married to a mob boss knowing your lifestyle is funded by violence and criminality.**

The therapist was blunt. He told her to walk away from her marriage without taking a single cent since all the money

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was tainted. He wouldn't take payment for the session. Unless she did this he would never see her again.

Carmella was outraged. He didn't care. The point, he told her, was that she could never say she wasn't told.

It's become a creed of mine. No one gets to say they weren't told. Sinn Féin is riding high in the polls. Government seems inevitable. The younger generation are all signed up.

But I agree with Fintan O'Toole, I will never vote for them, because I remember what they did.

And if some have forgotten or don't care or "contextualise" murder or "reimagine" republicanism; and if the young women on the soccer team thought it was only a song; and if half the country votes for Sinn Féin anyway, fair enough.

Just as people have every right to elect Trump and Tories and the far right in Italy, so do they have the right to elect Sinn Féin. The election of bad governments is not a threat to democracy. It is democracy. But no one gets to say they weren't told. It was the same with Haughey. They were warned and they did it anyway.

So let's look at this week's events.

There's Jonathan Dowdall, the former Sinn Féin councillor, who has been photographed with Mary Lou McDonald. Already convicted and imprisoned for torturing a man, he appeared as a star witness against Gerry 'The Monk' Hutch over the gangland killing at the Regency Hotel in 2016.



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In a normal party it'd be simple enough to claim Dowdall as a bad apple. But in February, Claire Byrne asked Matt Carthy on her RTÉ1 show if Sinn Féin would rule out appointing people with criminal convictions as advisers if they got into power.

He refused point blank to do so. Could we all stop for just one second and absorb that?

When new governments take power the media makes a massive fuss if someone's sister or cousin gets a job as a secretary. Yet Sinn Féin will not rule out appointing criminals to these jobs.

Why do they want the right – why do they need the right – to give jobs to criminals?

Then there's Shane Ross's new book. In it he asks how Mary Lou McDonald funded the renovation of her half million euro home in Cabra.

It's a fairly straight forward question and I'd be genuinely stunned if she doesn't have a straightforward answer.

It's inconceivable that a potential Taoiseach couldn't explain how their house was financed, especially someone as savvy as McDonald.

But when Ross asks the question, what is the reaction? RTÉ Radio 1 organises a pre-recorded interview in which he claims, the subject is entirely banned, and then ditches the interview anyway. This is mad. I've been bullied off Twitter by Sinn Féin trolls, but when every other broadcaster

cheerfully interviewed Ross without any preconditions what possible excuse can RTÉ have for refusing to air an interview in which they didn't even discuss the house?

Then there's "Up the Ra".

In a stream of non sequiturs, Una Mullally said in The Irish Times it's patronising to accuse the soccer women for not knowing what they were doing; they weren't thinking deeply about what they were singing, but that doesn't mean they were shallow. She says we mustn't "patronise" young people for their "engagement with republicanism".

Is it too patronising to explain to the soccer women that the awful scenes in Creeslough this week used to be a common occurrence in this country? But they weren't accidents. They were planned. Would it be too patronising to list the atrocities from Enniskillen to Warrington when people, including children, were blown to bits and thousands still live with appalling injuries and trauma?

Would that be too much "engagement" for the not-deeply-thinking, non-shallow young people who may or may not know what they're doing when they sing songs celebrating terrorists who blew up children?

Of course Michelle O'Neill says there was no alternative to the hell they inflicted on people and Mary Lou McDonald said it was all justified.

They are both wrong.

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In every survey and every election, right up until the Belfast Agreement the overwhelming majority of people in the North, including nationalists, rejected republican violence and voted for the party of peace, the SDLP, over Sinn Féin. The people who lived through it knew there was an alternative and there was no justification for any of it.

O'Neill and McDonald's insistence on justifying it exposes a grotesque moral framework. How will this be applied in government?

In summary: Sinn Féin refuses to rule out appointing criminals to government jobs. The state broadcaster refuses to air an interview about McDonald and Sinn Féin's leaders tell us terrorism was justified.

One-third of the people appear not to care because they think Sinn Féin will build more houses, though I bet they won't and even if they do, I don't believe self-interest trumps murder.

But Carmella went back to Tony and people will vote for Sinn Féin. When the price for it has to be paid – because a price always is paid – no one gets to say they weren't told."

## Poem for today

### Especially When The October Wind by Dylan Thomas

Especially when the October wind  
With frosty fingers punishes my hair,



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Caught by the crabbing sun I walk on fire  
And cast a shadow crab upon the land,  
By the sea's side, hearing the noise of birds,  
Hearing the raven cough in winter sticks,  
My busy heart who shudders as she talks  
Sheds the syllabic blood and drains her words.

Shut, too, in a tower of words, I mark  
On the horizon walking like the trees  
The wordy shapes of women, and the rows  
Of the star-gestured children in the park.  
Some let me make you of the vowelled beeches,  
Some of the oaken voices, from the roots  
Of many a thorny shire tell you notes,  
Some let me make you of the water's speeches.

Behind a pot of ferns the wagging clock  
Tells me the hour's word, the neural meaning  
Flies on the shafted disk, declaims the morning  
And tells the windy weather in the cock.  
Some let me make you of the meadow's signs;  
The signal grass that tells me all I know  
Breaks with the wormy winter through the eye.  
Some let me tell you of the raven's sins.

Especially when the October wind  
(Some let me make you of autumnal spells,  
The spider-tongued, and the loud hill of Wales)  
With fists of turnips punishes the land,  
Some let me make you of the heartless words.  
The heart is drained that, spelling in the scurry  
Of chemic blood, warned of the coming fury.  
By the sea's side hear the dark-vowelled birds.

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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