

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Parish church at Binevenagh**

## Image of the day

### Parish church at Binevenagh

Binevenagh (from Irish: Binn Fhoibhne, meaning 'Foibhne's peak')<sup>1</sup> is a mountain in County Londonderry. It marks the western extent of the Antrim Plateau formed around 60 million years ago by molten lava. The plateau and steep cliffs extend for over 6 miles across the peninsula of Magilligan and dominate the skyline over the villages of Bellarena, Downhill, Castlerock and Benone beach. The area has been classified as both an Area of Special Scientific Interest and as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The total area of the AONB is 138 km<sup>2</sup>. - Wikipedia

## News reports

### C of I guide responds to cost-of-living crisis

**A new leaflet from the Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission highlights sources of help and support for households responding to the cost-of-living crisis.**

This is available in versions for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and guides readers to where they can seek help when they are experiencing problems with debt



and personal finances, energy and household costs, and buying food.

Parishes are welcome to download and print the leaflet, which gives room for including local information and words of encouragement and compassion, either on a space provided for this purpose or as an insert.

Hard copies of the leaflet will be made available to dioceses during the month of October, for sharing as they consider best.





All related resources, including templates for posters to highlight the leaflet, are provided below at the end of this article.

In its introduction, the Commission's Chair, Archbishop Michael Jackson, writes: "I hope that the information that is to be found in this booklet is helpful and useful. My plea is that, if you think it is going to be helpful, you use it as much as you need to."

"The circumstances of everyday living are spinning out of the control, and indeed the grasp, of more and more people. Escalating prices mean escalating hardship."

“Coping from month to month now means coping from day to day. These contacts are designed to help you, and anyone with whom you wish to share this information, in coping discreetly and on your own terms. People who never thought they would be in such a position as this are making choices to exclude essentials from their lives, not luxuries.

“If this is where you, or any of your friends and neighbours, find yourselves please seek help sooner rather than later. Help is there, and I hope that you will make the contact to connect with a source of help who will be ready to listen to and support you.”

Leaflet and related resources for parishes and other ministries - Link at -  
[\[https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11507/cost-of-living-leaflet-highlights\]](https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11507/cost-of-living-leaflet-highlights)

## **Russia's war in Ukraine is 'unacceptable' - Pope**

**The Pope has called Russia's invasion of Ukraine "unacceptable".**

In comments to a group of Jesuits, Pope Francis also described it as "repugnant, senseless aggression, barbaric" and "sacrilegious", according to the National Catholic Reporter.

He said that the "victim" of the conflict was Ukraine but he also said it was important "to investigate the dynamics that



developed the conflict" and steer away from simplistic interpretations.

"There is a war underway, and I think it's wrong to think of it like a cowboy movie where there are good guys and bad guys. And it's wrong to think that this is a war between Russia and Ukraine and that's it. No. This is a world war," he said.

Commenting further, the Pope claimed that "international factors" had "helped provoke the war".

He quoted the concerns of an anonymous head of state who apparently told him last December that "NATO had gone barking at the doors of Russia without understanding that the Russians are imperial and fear insecurity on their borders".



## **New Girls' Choir in Derry**

Congratulations to the newly formed St Columb's Cathedral Girls' Choir who sang beautifully at their first service yesterday morning for the Harvest Festival. The Girls' Choir, directed by Nicky Morton, sang 'Thou Visitest the Earth' by Maurice Greene.

## **Events this week**

### **Dublin law term begins**

On Monday at 10.15am Morning Service on the occasion of the commencement of the Michaelmas Law Term will be held in St Michan's church, Dublin, where the preacher will be the Bishop of Clogher, Dr Ian Ellis.





## Organist retires after 30 years of service

Congratulation to Mr Randal Henly who retired yesterday after 30 years as organist at St. Mary's church, Howth. At a packed service for Harvest, thanks were expressed to him, and his last voluntary was a stirring rendition of Widow's Tocatta from Organ Symphony no 5, to which he received a well deserved standing ovation. The parish owes a huge debt of gratitude to both Randal and Daphne for all that they have done for the parish.





Principal with the Head Boy and Head Girl Foyle College paying their respects at the the service marking the life and Witness of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in St Columb's Cathedral

### **Limerick recital**

In St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, on Tuesday at 1.15pm there will be a lunchtime concert by pianist, Connor Willcox, who will play music by Mendelssohn and Liszt.

### **Dublin & Glendalough's Diocesan Synod**

In Taney Parish Centre the Archbishop of Dublin will preside at the Dublin & Glendalough's Diocese Synods while on Thursday he will preach at Evensong, at 5.15pm, in Trinity College Chapel.

## **Choral Compline Sandford**

Choral Compline, a short service of Evening Prayer, will resume at Sandford Parish Church, Ranelagh, on Friday at 6pm.

## **Archbishop Martin welcomes appointment by Pope Francis of Irish CEO on Safeguarding to Commission for Protection of Minors**

Archbishop Martin of Armagh in a statement - I welcome the announcement today by the Holy Father Pope Francis of the appointment of Ms Teresa Devlin, CEO of the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, as a new member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. This Commission serves as an independent institution connected to the Holy See, with an advisory function at the service of the Holy Father.

I am aware that Pope Francis seeks to appoint those people from around the world to this Commission, who have demonstrated a deep commitment to safeguarding and to developing wide expertise and best practice. I congratulate Teresa on her appointment.

Teresa has worked with the National Board since 2009 and took up the post as CEO in January 2015. Teresa's appointment is therefore also an international recognition of the work of the National Board and the significant contribution it has made to assist the Church in Ireland to

put in place robust child safeguarding measures. Working with the National Board Teresa has adopted a professional and supportive, but challenging approach, always insistent that we in the Church continually monitor, evaluate and review our policy and practice in this area.

Teresa's appointment also gives me the opportunity to thank the many hundreds of women and men who work at parish and diocesan level throughout Ireland ensuring that all activity in the Church is carried out with the utmost attention given to safeguarding best practice for children and vulnerable persons.

I have worked with Teresa over the last twelve years and am familiar with her determination to support the Church in ensuring that the pastoral environment is always safe for children; that all allegations are immediately reported to the relevant statutory authorities and are processed fully in accordance with civil and canon law; and, that those who have been harmed as a result of abuse are responded to with care and compassion.

I am confident that Teresa will work positively with the Commission and bring her extensive experience of working with the Catholic Church in Ireland to the sharing and development of safeguarding best practice initiatives across the global Church. It is also my hope that Teresa's presence on such an important international body will help bring back to Ireland fresh insights for the benefit of safeguarding in this country.

**CNI**



## Unique piece of Scotland's religious history saved after £2m restoration

**A unique piece of Scotland's religious history has been preserved thanks to a £2m restoration project.**

The 16th century heraldic ceiling of St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, comprises 48 coats of arms including that of Pope Leo X, King James V of Scotland, Henry VIII of England and many of the royal houses of Europe.

An exquisite piece of medieval carpentry that attracts visitors from around the world, it was commissioned in 1520 by Bishop Gavin Dunbar and survived the turbulent years of the Reformation.

It was due to mark its 500th anniversary in 2020 when worrying signs of deterioration were detected, including a mysterious white substance on the shields that turned out to be stearic acid produced by the breakdown of linseed oil used to treat the ceiling.

"Without investment now, it would have led to a situation where it would have been very hard to maintain," said St Machar's minister Rev Sarah Brown.

To show off the newly restored ceiling in all its glory, new lighting has been installed by Malcolm Innes Design.

St Machar's is the oldest building in Aberdeen still in use and its ceiling is an important part of its legacy for Rev Brown.

"It represents how central the church was in both Scottish and European history and I suppose that legacy still lives on with the number of visitors who come from all over the world to see the church and particularly the ceiling," she said.

"For me, that's what it signifies, that sense of people 500 years ago investing in a faithfulness that is still being lived out."

The ecumenical thanksgiving service yesterday was attended by 250 guests including Church of Scotland, Catholic and Scottish Episcopal clergy, former Moderator and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen Sir Iain Torrance, and representatives from the consulates of some of the countries represented on the heraldic ceiling.

Rev Brown hopes the celebrations will inspire many more people to come and visit the cathedral.

"Having this opportunity to open the doors is something quite special especially after having been forced to close during Covid and I hope this weekend lets people know that the cathedral is open year round and that this is a space they can enjoy," she said.

"It's also a great opportunity to invite some of our neighbours and some of the groups and community projects and just offer them the chance to see what St Machar's looks like in all its glory."

## In the media

### Time to be radical: bring back grammars - Graham Brady

**For those who truly care about social mobility and educational merit, this is the moment to end the ban (in England)**

When Rab Butler introduced the 1944 Education Act, bringing free grammar school education to the whole country, it unleashed a wave of social mobility that went on for the next 25 years. Britain became a more open, meritocratic society with more state school pupils making their way to the top of the professions: judges, permanent secretaries, Cabinet ministers and captains of industry. Then, as grammar schools were closed and replaced by comprehensives, this progress stalled.

Thankfully, some schools and some education authorities stood firm and we are now able to compare outcomes in the remaining selective and partially selective areas with the rest. The picture is of selective and non-selective schools working together and serving their communities well.

Unsurprisingly, where grammar schools remain, most people want to keep them – but where they don't already exist you aren't allowed to have one due to a legislative prohibition introduced by the Labour government in 1998. That ban on any new academically selective schools has had a particularly perverse effect in areas where the education system remains wholly selective. For instance, in



Kent, Buckinghamshire or Lincolnshire, rising population or the building of new housing developments can mean that the remaining grammar schools are not always in the same places as the children.

This led a few years ago to the Weald of Kent girls' grammar school jumping through endless hoops to establish an "annexe" in Sevenoaks to save local girls a long bus journey to school. The boys remain less fortunate. Where annexes aren't possible, children can simply find themselves excluded from the opportunities that exist elsewhere in the county. This is the outcome of arbitrary prohibitions: not a drop-off in demand but good schools forced to become more and more exclusive.

We have come to expect areas with grammar schools to dominate the league tables for GCSE and A-level performance, but they are better than comprehensive areas on some more surprising metrics too, including diversity. Sutton Trust research has found that the hundred most socially exclusive state schools in England were all comprehensives. That results in selection by house price, rather than by a transparent and meritocratic admission process.

The same research also found Trafford, where grammar schools remain, to be the only local authority area in the North or Midlands to make the top 20 for entry to Russell Group universities. How's that for levelling up the North?

Meanwhile, the Education Policy Institute a few years ago published its figures for the "attainment gap" by constituency. Chesham and Amersham performed best and

my Altrincham and Sale West constituency was second. Far from failing children from less affluent backgrounds, here we see modern selective areas delivering the best outcomes for everyone. Similarly, Northern Ireland's selective system scores highly on public examinations and has very low numbers coming out of school with no qualifications at all.

In highlighting these points, I am not advocating a wholesale reorganisation of schools across the country – that would be costly and disruptive. But we know that selective state schools can offer an opportunity to children from all backgrounds that might otherwise only be available to those whose parents can afford to go private.

So the new Government should do three things: lift the blanket ban on new grammar schools, end the prohibition on academic selection for new free schools and academies, and allow independent schools coming into the state sector as academies to retain their selective admission arrangements. These changes would not be a revolution but a route to a more diverse choice of state schools, better able to cater to the full spectrum of aptitudes and abilities found among our children.

With our new Prime Minister determined to drive higher economic growth, we need to make sure that people have the best opportunities to achieve their full potential. The time to act – and to be radical – is now.

*Sir Graham Brady is the Conservative MP for Altrincham and Sale West, and chairman of the 1922 Committee.  
Comment courtesy The Daily Telegraph.*

## **New policies to ensure that the authentic Catholic Faith is taught in Irish schools**

In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, Church leaders have moved to ensure that those teaching religion in Catholic schools have a good grounding in Catholic theology.

It comes after the teaching council lowered the level of understanding of Catholicism necessary to be employed to teach religious studies at second level.

New policies next year will ensure that the authentic Catholic Faith is taught in Irish schools.

Read this story and all the latest news at [www.irishcatholic.com](http://www.irishcatholic.com)

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

### **Autumn Issue of Search**

**The autumn issue of the Church of Ireland journal, Search, edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley, will reach subscribers shortly.**

The late summer was dominated for many church people, both in and beyond the Anglican Communion, by the



question, “Will this Lambeth Conference see the break–up of the Anglican Communion as we know it?” Breakaway threats from the traditionalist side of the communion against the churches which are more open to new insights had become increasingly intense since the foundation of Gafcon and the Anglican Church of North America. Would this be the time when a definitive split would come about? And if so, would that mean a split in the Church of Ireland? As you will read in this issue, those fears were not realised, but the challenges remain. Archbishop John McDowell and Bishop Michael Burrows reflect on these issues.

Concern for the climate emergency now seems to be the uniting preoccupation of the Communion, so Canon Andrew Orr, chair of Eco Congregation Ireland, contributes a reflection on climate friendly initiatives in the local church and the impact these can have on the wider society and our future. Inspiring worship offers a spur to such activity, and to this end Mark Duley shares his experience of providing the indefinable yet powerful musical element of liturgy. And in tune with this global view of our responsibilities, Archbishop Michael Jackson considers how we can worship along with people of other religious traditions around the world, growing in mutual respect and openness to fresh insights into our sacred scriptures.

On the home front, there has been increasing anxiety of late about healthy structures for decision–making in the Church of Ireland and the recognition of the laity as spiritually gifted members of the body of Christ. William Olhausen provides theological reflections on governance in today’s church.

Finally looking back a full century to the Civil War, two noted historians, Brian M. Walker and Ian d'Alton reflect on how the challenges of those times may impact us today. A Liturgica pondering "The Lord be with you" and a selection of book reviews bring this autumn edition to a close.

Those who wish to subscribe to Search or wish to order separate copies should contact the Honorary Treasurer, Michal Denton, at [subscriptions@searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org](mailto:subscriptions@searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org)

## Poem for today

### Ode To Autumn by John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find

Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozy hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too, —  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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