

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Killaloe in Derry

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Killaloe in Derry

Tamlaghtard Parish Church, outside Limavady, resounded to the sound of pipes, bugles and the drum on Friday evening at a fundraiser with a difference – a performance by the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment.

The event was organised to raise monies for St Cadan's Church, which lies on the western slope of Binevenagh, and for its sister church, St Lugh's in Aghanloo. Proceeds will go towards restoration work in both buildings and towards parish funds.



The Rector, Rev Rhys Jones, told the audience of his happiness and pride at having the band in Tamlaghtard Church. He thanked the bandmembers for making the journey “all the way up here to be with us from County Down” to be with them. “I want to thank them on a separate level,” he said, “for the fact that they wear the uniform of our great, great country. I want to thank them not just for being here but for serving our country; they are servicemen and women first.”

Rev Jones expressed his gratitude to the congregation, too, for coming to “the wilds” of Tamlaghtard. “I know for many of you that this is the middle of nowhere. But that’s fine. This is one of – if not the – most beautifully located parishes in the Diocese, and you can come here in daylight and say, ‘The minister was right – it’s stunning’.”

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The band's programme included Nimrod, from Elgar's Enigma Variations (especially for Rembrancetide); a stirring rendition of the regimental march, Killaloe; the hugely popular Highland Cathedral; an Irish Blessing; and a number of traditional Irish melodies.

News reports

Minister accused of stealing over £10k from his church and hospital group granted bail

A parish minister accused of abusing his position to steal over £10,000 from his church and a hospital grouping appeared at Lisburn Magistrates Court yesterday (Friday), Paul Higgins reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

Rev Adrian McLaughlin (48), who's currently on "gardening leave" from his role at St Colman's Parish Church, confirmed he understood the six charges of fraud by abuse of position.

The minister, with an address at Church Avenue in Dunmurry, faces five counts relating to St Colman's Parish Church and one relating to money intended for the Royal Victoria Hospital Liver Group on various dates between October 15, 2016, and October 1, 2018.

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While the prosecution did not open any of the alleged facts of the case, the particulars of the offences accuse Rev McLaughlin of:

r Writing out a £10,000 cheque to himself,

r Taking a £1,000 donation for himself,

r Taking £520 from two complainants who had made donations and one who paid to use the church hall, and

r Pocketing donations from a funeral held at the church but intended to go to Royal Victoria Hospital Liver Unit Group at a time he was “constructive trustee of the said monies for



Limavady parish church choir

the benefit of the RVH Liver Unit Group”.

Papers and statements submitted by a PPS lawyer formed the basis of a prima facie case against the minister which was conceded by defence counsel Aaron Thompson. The court clerk told father-of-two Rev McLaughlin he had the right to comment on the charges and to call evidence on his own behalf, but he declined.

Freeing the minister on his own bail of £500, District Judge Rosie Watters returned the case to Craigavon Crown Court and scheduled the arraignment to be heard on December 6.

Process starts to make Fr Willie Doyle a Saint

The Roman Catholic Church has given permission for the process to start to make Father William Doyle SJ MC a Saint.

This extract is from a Presbyterian newspaper written in 1917 and talks of the great respect felt towards Fr Willie Doyle.

On 1st September 1917, the Ulster Presbyterian newspaper 'The Weekly News' said this of Father Doyle in an obituary: "God never made a nobler soul..

...Fr. Doyle was a good deal among us. We could not possibly agree with his religious opinions, but we simply worshipped him for other things. He didn't know the meaning of fear and he did not know what bigotry was. He

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was as ready to risk his life and take a drop of water to a wounded Ulsterman as to assist men of his own faith and regiment. If he risked his life looking after Ulster protestant soldiers once, he did it a hundred times in the last few days

... The Ulstermen felt his loss more keenly than anybody, and none were readier to show their marks of respect to the dead hero priest than were our Ulster Presbyterians."

Read more here:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/history/2022/10/27/irish-priest-killed-in-first-world-war-put-forward-for-canonisation/>

Glasgow and Bethlehem host Joint Advent Service

A joint Advent Service between Glasgow and Bethlehem is to be held on 3 December.

The ecumenical service at Glasgow Cathedral (St Mungo's or High) will have a simultaneous link to the same service in the Church of St Catherine, Bethlehem.

The Christian communities in the two cities of Bethlehem and Glasgow, have enjoyed a Municipal Twinning Agreement since 2007.

The combined service of Readings and Carols will be led by local leaders from the Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church and the Scottish Episcopal Church in Glasgow and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, The Episcopal Diocese

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of Jerusalem and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Bethlehem.

There will be a reception in the Cathedral supported by the Lord Provost's Office after the service along with a chance to see the '50 Faces of the Holy Land' exhibition.

The service is free to attend and walk-ins on the day are most welcome, however, to assist with planning for the reception catering, those intending to attend are asked to register here.

European Central Bank President rings Dublin cathedral bells

The Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, welcomed the President of the European Central Bank, Christine



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Lagarde to the cathedral last week as part of her trip to Dublin.

Following her welcome by the Dean President Lagarde enjoyed a tour with the cathedral's Head of Learning and Interpretation, Dr Ruth Kenny, including ringing the cathedral bells.



Episcopal Ordination of Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

The Episcopal Ordination and Consecration of the Rt Revd Adrian Wilkinson as the Church of Ireland's next Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory took place yesterday (Sunday)



afternoon at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Report to follow in tomorrow's CNI

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Still Points - Living a Mindful Meditative Way by Brother Richard Hendrick

A Guide to Living the Mindful Meditative Way

About the Book:

In a changing and uncertain world, we all seek a sense of security, inner peace, happiness and belonging. In *Still Points: A Guide to Living the Mindful Meditative Way*, Brother Richard shows us how, by following a daily spiritual practice of 'still points', we can discover a deeper sense of meaning and unconditional love in the world around us, allowing us to live happier and more authentic lives.

Through moments of meditation, poems and reflections, along with his own story of spirituality, Brother Richard takes us through the fifty-two weeks of the year and a journey through Christian meditation and touchstones, and explains how we can all live our lives held by love, and with peace in our hearts.

About the Author:

Brother Richard is a Capuchin Franciscan priest-friar living and working in Ireland. His poem 'Lockdown' went viral in the early months of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and was translated into 26 languages and shared widely on traditional and social media throughout the world. Currently based in Dublin, Brother Richard teaches Christian meditation and mindfulness with the Sanctuary Spirituality Centre in inner city Dublin.

Product Details:

Binding: Hardcover

Size: 224 mm x 146 mm | Pages: 192 pp

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Still Points Living a Mindful Meditative Way

by Brother Richard Hendrick

€17.99

[\[https://www.veritasbooksonline.com/still-points-living-a-mindful-meditative-way-9781399700665-48568/\]](https://www.veritasbooksonline.com/still-points-living-a-mindful-meditative-way-9781399700665-48568/)

Perspective

What a speech by Pope Francis!

Pope Francis - You can have flaws, be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you.

Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments.

To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity.

Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life.



Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified. It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us.

To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple.

It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes".

It is to have the courage to say "I am sorry".

It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you".

It is to have the ability to say "I love you".

May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness ...

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That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter a lover of wisdom.

And when you make a mistake, start all over again.

For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance.

Use your losses to train patience.

Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity.

Use pain to plaster pleasure.

Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence.

Never give up Never give up on people who love you.

Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show.*

(Pope Francis).

Poem for today

Be in our midst - an inspiring new hymn by Ally Barrett

This year there was a wonderful, joyful Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the 20th century's Coventry Cathedral Diamond Jubilee.

www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

An inspiring new hymn, was sung.

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Be in our midst and gather us together,
and let your loving-kindness be our guide,
Help us discern your image in each other,
and walk with humble footsteps by your side.
Send us to work, O Lord, Almighty Giver,
'Til all who thirst and hunger now are filled,
Let justice thunder like a mighty river,
And let the storms of strife and conflict now be stilled.

Grant us that peace beyond the mind's discerning.
Help us to live the truth that sets us free.
And may the Spirit's fire within us burning
help us to become who we are called to be.
In eager longing for your new creation,
a world reshaped by love and hope and grace,
with Christ the Prince of Peace as our foundation,
we'll build your kingdom now in this and every place.

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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

