

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Irish Church leaders  
at Queen's funeral service**

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## Image of the day

### Irish Church leaders at Queen's funeral service

L-R: The Rt Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick (Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland), The Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev John McDowell (Church of Ireland), The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, The Most Revd Eamon Martin (Roman Catholic), and the Rev David Nixon (President of MCI)).

Along with 2000 others, the leaders of the main Churches in Ireland attended the funeral service for the late Queen Elizabeth II on Monday 19th September, 2022.

They were seated near the High Altar in Westminster Abbey.

Commenting on the ceremony, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland spoke of the beauty of the Liturgy, the singing of the Abbey Choir and the sermon preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury which he said was a simple and clear Gospel message.

## News reports

### Presbyterian moderator: Overwhelming sense of praise and worship at Queen's funeral service

**The Christian message in Queen Elizabeth's funeral service was at times "overwhelming" the Presbyterian moderator has said.**

Along with a number of other church leaders, the Rt Revd Dr John Kirkpatrick took part in the State Funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Speaking to the News Letter afterwards, he said: “I think today has been a very successful and impressive completion to the planning, of the years and years that have gone into this, and I would imagine that if the Queen was observing that she would be saying that it was perfectly what she would have wanted – the type of funeral that would have displayed and reflected both her and her faith and her nature.

“That service, while it had all the additional elements in terms of having the bigger music, the bigger venue, it had the bigger crowd, but there is a sense in which that service was like many an Anglican funeral service for the ordinary church member on any given day.

“It followed the Church of Ireland prayer book and that in a sense is what she would identify with – that while she had great responsibility, she also had great humility, and that was a lovely thing in the service.

“It was very balanced. It had a great note of victory in it – in the face of death, which is the one thing which every world view has to confront and every person, our mortality, if you have a sense of hope and victory in death, that is a world view that is something real, and her world view was Christian, and founded on the resurrection and the Gospel, and that came through so wonderfully. That was a massive

sense of hope to give to people in our culture and in our country at this time.”

The moderator said he was conscious that he was there representing Presbyterians right across the island of Ireland.

“So I do my best to keep my inner thoughts and emotions to myself but, to be honest, the sense of praise and worship was overwhelming. The trumpeters and everything in that building is very powerful – it touches your spirit deeply.”

“I live in the moment, because that is the only way to go through these times, because they are quite surreal at times when you realise that you are just a few feet from the King, and from the coffin of the late Queen”.

## **The funeral service of Queen Elizabeth II**

**The service was conducted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle MBE, Dean of Westminster.**

The sermon was delivered by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The service was sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey and the Choir of the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, (Joseph McHardy, Director of Music) under the direction of James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey.

Before the service, the tenor bell was tolled every minute for 96 minutes, reflecting the years of Queen Elizabeth II's life.

Read more here: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/09/19/full-order-service-funeral-queen-elizabeth-ceremony-details/>

## Canon travels to London to say goodbye to ‘dear Queen’

**Royal enthusiast the Rev Canon Derek Kerr, has returned from London where he watched the procession which formed part of the funeral service of Queen Elizabeth II on September 19.**

Derek, rector of Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion, told Belfast Live that making the trip was ‘really important.’

After taking his Sunday morning services – attended by a UTV camera crew – Derek and his friend, Moneymore Presbyterian Church minister, the Rev Jonathan Sloan, boarded a plane from Belfast to Luton Airport.

Although they didn’t arrive in time to attend the Queen’s lying in state at Westminster Hall, they were able to secure their spot outside Buckingham Palace and join the crowds also paying their respects.

“It was really important to be there,” Derek told Belfast Live. “For me and many others around us, we were there to pay our respects to a woman who gave us everything.

“Jonathan and I had made a promise that we would go to the Queen’s funeral. Logistically we didn’t think we’d make it, but we were at the top of the Mall at around 6.30am

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where there were already fantastic crowds there to say goodbye to our dear Queen.



The Rev Canon Derek Kerr and the Rev Jonathan Sloan outside Buckingham Palace on the day of the Queen's funeral.

“Suddenly the barrier around Buckingham Palace was opened and we got to stand just opposite the Palace. It meant that the King and the other members of the royal family and, more importantly, Her Majesty's coffin, were very close.”

On The Mall and in front of Buckingham Palace where Derek and Jonathan were standing, the Queen's funeral was played through tannoys to the wide range of ages gathered there.

“The atmosphere was just amazing and I’ve never heard London so quiet in my life,” Derek added.

“The stillness and silence at the palace was such a tribute in itself. This was a time for private thoughts and everyone was so dignified.

“We weren’t in a position to see the King or other members of the Royal Family close up but I realised this was a good thing because we weren’t there to wave at them or be jolly.”

Derek has travelled to London many times to see the late Queen and members of the Royal Family. He has been a Royal fan since he was just a boy, and last May put his extensive Royal collection on display in Drummahaire Parish Church as part of the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee.

## **East Glendalough School celebrates opening of new sports hall**

**Years of planning, fundraising and hard work came to fruition on Friday afternoon (September 16) with the official opening of East Glendalough School’s wonderful new sports hall.**

The sports hall, which will be a fantastic resource for both the school community and the community of Wicklow, was dedicated by Archbishop Michael Jackson. The ribbon was cut by both the Archbishop and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris.



Archdeacon of Glendalough Neal O’Raw, EGS principal Craig Petrie, chair of the board Geoffrey Perrin, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Minister Simon Harris, Rector of Wicklow and Killiskey Jack Kinhead and EGS vice–principal Viv Wier at the opening of the new EGS sports hall.

The guests who gathered in the new 1,350 square metre hall to celebrate the milestone included current and past students, staff and people involved in the school’s 35 year history. All four principals were present – Peter Shearer, Christopher Woods and Alan Cox joined current principal Craig Petrie.

Archbishop Jackson noted that the sports hall was being opened a day after the death of former Rector of Wicklow, Canon Stanley Pettigrew, who was one of those involved in founding East Glendalough School. He said that this involvement of generations of people helped build a sense

of community in the school which breeds confidence in the lives of students past and present.

Before dedicating the building, he applauded everyone who helped make the construction of the new sports hall happen. “People have donated. People have done the hard graft. Now this building will be here for the enjoyment of all,” he said. Included in the dedication was a prayer for citizenship and he observed that school life was not just about academic endeavours but about learning to be citizens.

Minister Simon Harris said that the day of celebration provided an opportunity to say thank you. He thanked the school for its contribution to the wider community and all the staff for their work over the past two years in particular. “It has been an extraordinary time for education. We have come through an extraordinarily difficult number of years and I want to thank everyone in East Glendalough for keeping the show on the road in terms of meeting the educational and wellbeing needs of young people in this area,” he said.

The Minister also thanked the board of management, the chairman Geoffrey Perrin and his team. He commended Mr Perrin and Mr Petrie for their determination in getting the sports hall built. He said the incredibly generous school community had brought them to the point of opening the building. He singled out the schools PE teacher, Mr McGettigan, noting that he had spent his entire PE teaching career providing innovative, useful and versatile instruction in a sports hall a third of the size of the new building. He wished him well as he continued to provide education in the new state of the art facility.

He praised the school on its recent sporting success noting that it would make some quite envious with the girls winning Leinster and All Ireland titles in sevens rugby last year. Last year also the girls' team won, on their first attempt, Leinster and All Ireland GAA titles. Mr Harris spoke of the importance of exercise and sport in contributing to well being and development of young people.

Geoffrey Perrin, said that as a school which prided itself as a centre of excellence in the areas of academic, social, spiritual and physical development the board had been aware that they had struggled to meet these high standards in physical education. "We are finally there and for a non fee paying school to raise €1.5 million has been some achievement," he remarked noting it was only 10 years since EGS opened its astro pitch.

The fundraising was helped by the trustees of the Assembly Hall in Wicklow town as well as a sum left in a will. "But it has been the support from the school community that has been so crucial and constant [...] So to all of you thank you for digging deep and, as I see it, for never losing faith. There were of course the dark days, the set backs – the policy of the DES was not to build sports halls, we hit planning problems, we couldn't get lottery funding, our applications for sports capital funding hit unexpected snags, Covid virtually stopped a great deal of fundraising and all the while the cost of materials kept rising. We have a few more things to do but I am confident we will achieve these before long," he stated. He paid tribute to Mr Petrie and vice-principal Viv Weir for their dedication.

Mr Petrie said the campaign continued and the next job was to get the sprung wooden floor and the changing rooms. He thanked Gym Plus for the donation of equipment and everyone who had given financial as well as previous boards, parents' associations and staff. He thanked Ms Wier and her team for organising the opening and his colleagues and the board for their support.

“It has been a labour of love to get this building up and running. I was checking the minutes this morning and on 13 September 1999 Geoffrey chaired his first meeting of the board of management. Two months later there is a note that a group of parents were putting together a group to look at building a sports hall. And so over a generation the work that goes on in this place culminates in something like this. It is a testament to the community of East Glendalough School that in the fullness of time these things happen [...] At this moment and at this time this group of people leave this legacy behind for all of those people to come, for the people who come through the doors as students of our school, for the people who come through those doors from our community. East Glendalough continues to be a beacon in this place and a place where we are privileged to be part of a community,” he concluded.

## **24/7 Quiet Room dedicated in Down parish**

**The Bishop of Down and Dromore visited St Mary's, Kilmoody and Killinchy Parish Church on Sunday 18 September to preach at a special service of thanksgiving for Her Majesty The Queen.**



Mrs Dorothy Hawe, The Rector, Revd Dr Stanley Gamble, Bishop David, Mr Michael Lagan, and Mrs Linda Cooke

The bishop also dedicated a newly restored Quiet Room and a new door.

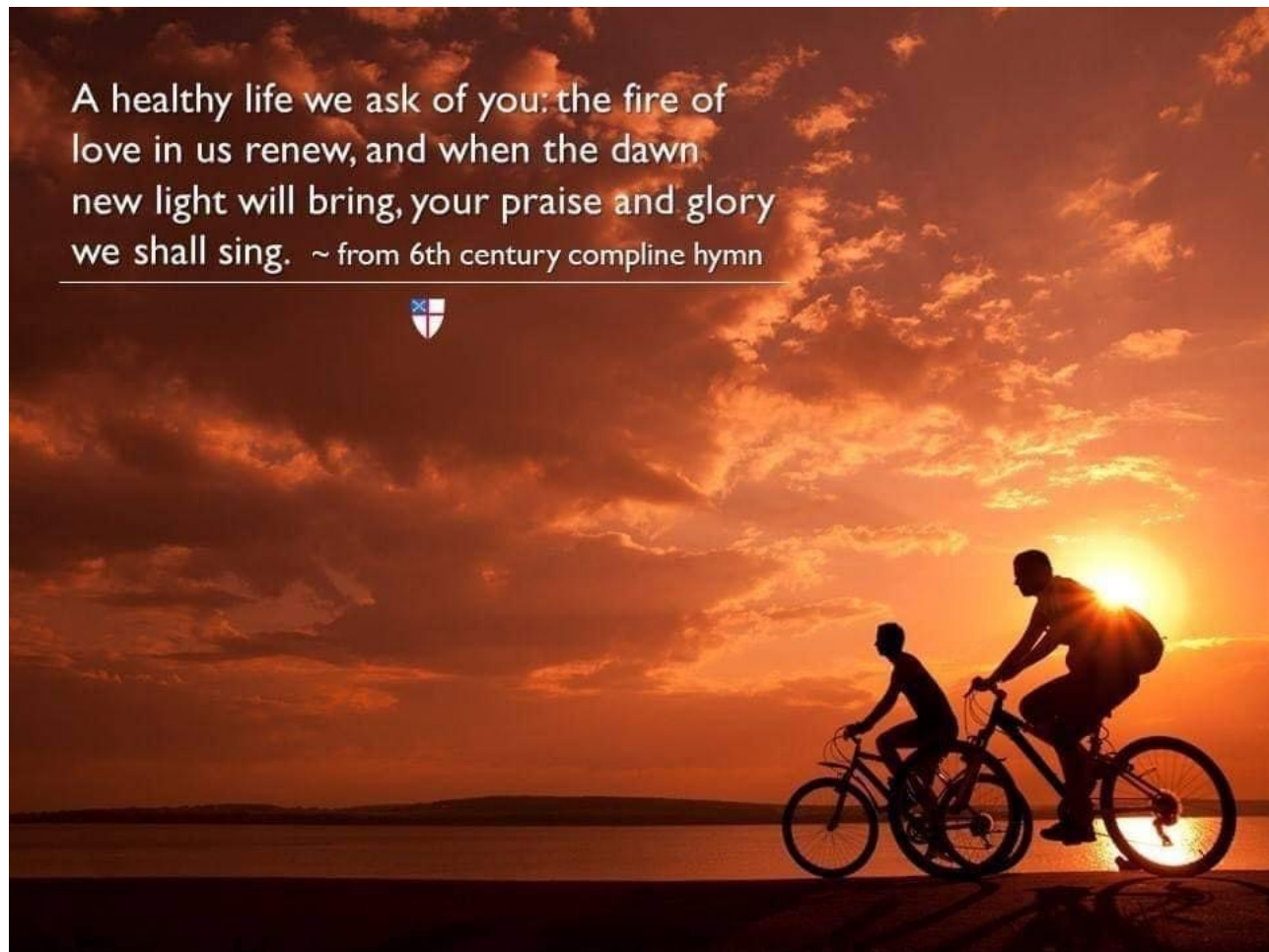
The title of his sermon was “Everyone”. Expounding 1st Timothy Chapter 2, Bishop McClay spoke about the need to pray for everyone and to do all that we can so that everyone comes to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. He said that Christianity was truly inclusive in that it was for everyone but that this was based on the exclusive claims of Christ of being “the way, the truth, and the life.” He said that he truly believed that the late Queen was the way she was in life because the spirit of Christ lived within her.

After the service in St Mary’s Kilmoody, the bishop dedicated the newly restored Quiet Room in the grounds of the church.



## The newly restored Quiet Room

During lockdown, work commenced to transform what was an old hearse house into a place for prayer and quiet reflection. It is open 24/7 and provides a place to retreat, relax and reflect.



A healthy life we ask of you: the fire of  
love in us renew, and when the dawn  
new light will bring, your praise and glory  
we shall sing. ~ from 6th century compline hymn



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In Killinchy Parish Church, Bishop David dedicated a new door in memory of the late Olive Donaldson. The door was presented to the church by her son, Brian Donaldson. The bishop spoke about how in scripture Jesus was the door and of his wish that many people would come through the doors of our churches and find salvation and healing in Christ.

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



### The story of Thomas Cranmer for young readers

Thomas Cranmer – The King's Ambassador is the latest book written by the Rev David Luckman, a member of staff in Lambeg Parish.



# OPEN NIGHT MUSIC

*A selection of  
Choral and Organ Music*

*Saint Columb's Cathedral*  
*Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 at 7.00pm*  
*Admission Free*



*By the  
Choristers of  
St Columb's  
Cathedral*

*Organ:  
Derek Collins  
Nicky Morton*

**Funded by Derry City & Strabane District Council**



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The book, aimed at children aged 10-14, is published by Trailblazers series of Christian Focus Publication. It is an introduction to the life and ministry of the man who spearheaded the 16th century English Reformation, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.

From humble origins in Aslacton, England, Thomas Cranmer rose to prominence and power in the court of King Henry VIII. He sought to use his influence for the glory of God and the advance of God's kingdom in England. This path was dangerous for Archbishop Cranmer. He often experienced persecution and rejection from his peers, but he had the affection of the two Kings of England under whom he served (Henry VIII and Edward VI), which gave him a certain degree of protection during his ministry.

David said: "Ultimately Thomas Cranmer was the ambassador of King Jesus in the realm of England, and this ministry would cost him everything."

David has a passion for Church history. "Over the years, I have been interested by the incredible story of Thomas Cranmer as a trailblazer for church reform in England, which began during the reign of King Henry VIII," he said. "The Trailblazers from Christian Focus Publications is an excellent biographical series for children, and it seemed right to have a book about Thomas Cranmer alongside other Christian trailblazers, such as Martin Luther, Helen Roseveare and Jack Turner.

"Hopefully this book will encourage young book lovers to dig deeper into the rich Christian heritage of the past for

themselves. I have found that learning about the difficulties and successes of other people's lives and ministries can be a great encouragement and help when things are tough going at times."

He added: "I hope the book will inspire readers to faithfulness in Christ; to patiently endure hardships for Christ's sake; and to remember that even when we get things wrong – and we can get things wrong badly at times, as Archbishop Cranmer did towards the end of his life – that it is by Christ's grace alone and not our merits that we are saved to eternal life."

Copies of Thomas Cranmer – The King's Ambassador can be purchased directly from Christian Focus Publications, Amazon, or any Christian bookshop.

David's first book, Jack Turner – Truth In The Arctic, was published in January 2022. He is currently working on his next book, Adventures In Acts, for publication next year.

## Poem for today

### September by Hilaire Belloc

I, from a window where the Meuse is wide,  
Looked eastward out to the September night;  
The men that in the hopeless battle died  
Rose, and deployed, and stationed for the fight;  
A brumal army, vague and ordered large  
For mile on mile by some pale general;

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I saw them lean by companies to the charge,  
But no man living heard the bugle-call.

And fading still, and pointing to their scars,  
They fled in lessening clouds, where gray and high  
Dawn lay along the heaven in misty bars;  
But watching from that eastern casement, I  
Saw the Republic splendid in the sky,  
And round her terrible head the morning stars.

This poem refers to the battle of Sedan, fought on 1 September 1870. It was a crushing defeat for France under Napoleon III, and decided the result of the Franco-Prussian war. Over 17,000 Frenchmen were killed or wounded, and 21,000 were captured.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this sit

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## Church News Ireland

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