

Church News Ireland



Image of the day

The White Rocks at Portrush

News reports

Methodist Ordained Ministry formation

Last week the Methodist Church held the first of five Intensives which are part of its Ordained Ministry Formation programme.

During the week the student ministers engaged in the first Unit of the new Foundations for Mission and Ministry programme available through MCI's partnership with Cliff College. These Intensives will provide an opportunity to study, reflect, pray, laugh, discuss, eat, and worship together.

Find out more at: bit.ly/FFMAM

Presbyterian Historical Society events

An online Talk about the treasures of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland.

Today, Friday 9 September, at 7.30 pm - on Zoom
Treasures of the Presbyterian Historical Society

September 9, 2022

Book a place for the Zoom session, by emailing phsilibrarian@pcinet.org

Tomorrow, Saturday 10 September, 11 am - 12 noon - at Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast
A Talk on the Resources of the Presbyterian Historical Society, with a tour of the Exhibition Area in Assembly Buildings, and other features of the building.
Places limited, so book your place now by emailing phsilibrarian@pcinet.org

Record number of candidates for permanent diaconate to start at Maynooth

In this week's issue of The Irish Catholic, the record number of candidates for the permanent diaconate starting in Maynooth this autumn is a "welcome sign of hope" for the Church in

Fr Ron Rolheiser: A biblical formula for forgiveness – Page 35

The Irish Catholic

MARY KENNY The family that eats together stays together Page 5	MICKEY ROURKE The rosary saved my life Pages 16-17	SHANNON CAMPBELL Chaplaincy as a powerhouse for vocations Page 7
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Thursday, September 8, 2022 €2.50 (Std €2.20) The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper @IrishCathNews www.irishcatholic.com

Record numbers train to be permanent deacons

Ruadhán Jones

The record number of candidates for the permanent diaconate starting in Maynooth this autumn is a "welcome sign of hope" for the Church in Ireland. However, this comes as just a handful of new seminarians will enter the Irish college this autumn.

Later this month, 31 candidates for the permanent diaconate – mostly married men – will begin their three-year training programme in Maynooth. However, worryingly for the future this will be greater than the total number of candidates for the priesthood resident in the national seminary. The Irish Catholic understands there will be 23 seminarians in total studying in Maynooth this year.

As the Church in Ireland faces a challenging future, the new national director of the permanent diaconate Fr Edward McGee told The Irish Catholic he believes the "varied pastoral apostolates" permanent deacons undertake can help foster the "vibrant and life-giving" faith communities envisaged in Vatican II.

Alongside the emergence of new ministries in catechesis and pastoral care, "permanent deacons provide a vital support within parishes and dioceses alongside bishops and priests", Fr McGee told The Irish Catholic.

Already, over the past 10 years, roughly 120 permanent deacons

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'Take up your cross and follow me...'



A cross and a crown of thorns is placed on Bro. Conor Quinn CP during his recent final profession as a member of the Passionists at Holy Cross Abbey in north Belfast. See Page 12



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As the Church in Ireland faces a challenging future, the new national director of the permanent diaconate Fr Edward McGee said he believes the permanent deacons can help foster the “life-giving” faith communities envisaged in Vatican II.

Read this story and all the latest news at www.irishcatholic.com

WCC Youth demand climate justice

"If you're for climate justice, say 'AMEN!'" was the chant as young people led a protest marching through the Brunnen exhibitiozone at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany.

"The protest was organized by people from around the world," said Helena Funk of Germany, one of the organizers. "They were all different ages, from a variety of confessions."

The chants, songs, and slogans painted on signs, arms and faces drew attention to the call for urgency in addressing the climate crisis. "The climate crisis knows no race, knows no gender, knows no region, knows no colour, knows no status-you name it. The crisis affects the people who are already the most vulnerable," said Jessica Bwali from Zambia in her speech to the crowd.

Bwali was just one of the many speakers who shared their personal stories and experience of the impacts of climate

change. "The stories of people's own lives, their own experiences, showed the face of the climate crisis, from Syria to Zambia to the Pacific," said Funk. These stories ranged from calls to end local pipelines to an end for deep sea mining to access to water.

"The idea is to amplify the call by young people for climate justice," said Collins Shave from Zimbabwe, another of the organizers. "We want this to be prioritized as a key issue for the assembly. This was a priority for the Ecumenical Youth Gathering. Young people want the leaders to address the climate crisis."

The youth are calling on the WCC and member churches to "call it a crisis and act accordingly", to communicate clearly about the climate crisis, and to listen to young people and make use of their gifts in engaging in climate action.

The protest was joined by local climate activists from Karlsruhe, as well as from Green Faith and other groups.

Moderator congratulates new Secretary of State

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr John Kirkpatrick, has congratulated Northamptonshire MP, Chris Heaton-Harris, on his appointment as Northern Ireland's 24th Secretary of State.

"The call to public service, especially to political office, can often be onerous, especially in uncertain and challenging

times. On behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, I would like to offer my congratulations to Mr Heaton-Harris on his appointment and assure him of my prayers, along with the prayers of many in our Church across the island of Ireland,” Dr Kirkpatrick said.

“Mr Heaton-Harris assumes this office, along with his Cabinet colleagues, at a time when the UK is facing some of the most trying and complex domestic issues, especially the increasing impact of the cost of living emergency alongside the energy crisis. On top of these, as Secretary of State he will have to deal with the unique issues which confront Northern Ireland, including matters relating to the Northern Ireland Protocol and the continued lack of a functioning Executive.”

In a letter to the newly appointed Secretary of State, Dr Kirkpatrick said “Last September my predecessor said that the power-sharing arrangements which exist in Northern Ireland, ‘while not by any means perfect, are precious.’ As a Church, we deeply regret that circumstances are such that parties have not found themselves in a position to re-form the Assembly and Executive, especially at this time of mounting hardship so that significant issues like the cost of living emergency, healthcare reform, education and a budget, can be addressed.

“It is my hope and prayer that working with your colleagues in Government, along with local parties, and the Irish Government, you will be able to facilitate the necessary steps that create the circumstances whereby devolution can be restored,” he said.

Dr Kirkpatrick concluded his letter by saying, “Earlier this week, in a letter to the Prime Minister, I said that the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 13:4 that the ‘one in authority is God’s servant for good.’ While the issues you face are many and varied, as you get to grips with your office, I am also reminded that Jesus calls us to go the extra mile. In that, you can also be assured of my prayers and those of many in our Church.”

Archbishop McDowell’s welcome to new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

From the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell:

‘I extend my best wishes to the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Chris Heaton-Harris MP, and assure him and his family of the prayers of the Church of Ireland as he takes up this new appointment.

From his recent time as Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, he will have an understanding of the differing nuances and perspectives on the Protocol and the related issues for Northern Ireland and our island as a whole.

I trust that he will work for the common good for all who live and work here, and will make progress on helping to build good relationships between neighbours in the region and across Britain and Ireland.’

Three priests to be ordained in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, has announced that he intends to ordain three new priests to serve in the diocese.

The Ordination Service will be held on Holy Cross Day on Wednesday 14th September in Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork and will commence at 8 p.m.

The three people who are to be ordained - one man and two women - are all currently serving as deacons in the Diocese. The Reverend Jean Carney is serving as curate-assistant in Douglas Union of Parishes, with Frankfield. The Reverend Richard Dring is serving in the ordained local ministry in Carrigaline Union of Parishes. The Reverend Carole Pound is serving in the ordained local ministry in the Abbeystrewry (Skibbereen) Union of Parishes. As priests, they will continue to serve in those places.

The three candidate priests, together with the clergy of the parishes entrusted with their on-going training, have travelled to spend the coming days before the ordination on retreat with the brothers at the Community of the Resurrection - a community founded in 1892, rooted in the Anglican tradition, and formed in a Benedictine round of worship, ministry and hospitality which is based at Mirfield in West Yorkshire.

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The Ordination Service on Wednesday, 14th September in St Fin Barre's Cathedral at 8 p.m. is open to members of the public. The preacher will be the Venerable Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, who will shortly leave the Diocese to become Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.



Parish gets new Prime Minister and new Rector

Tuesday 6th September was a momentous day in Donemana, according to the local Rural Dean, Rev Canon Paul Whittaker.

It was a day on which the local Church of Ireland Parish of Donagheady got a new Rector and a new Prime Minister, he said.



The new incumbent – in Donemana, not in Downing Street – is Rev. Capt. Richard Beadle, who was instituted by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, at a service in St James' Church on Tuesday evening. The new Rector's wife, Pauline, was in church for the service but the couple's three children, who study in England, were unable to be there. Bishop Andrew said the congregation's prayers were with the Beadle children.

Members of the Manorhamilton Group of Parishes, in the Diocese of Kilmore, which Rev Beadle had overseen as Bishop's Curate since his ordination in September 2017, made the long journey to Donemana for the institution. The new incumbent paid tribute to his immediate predecessor, Rev Dr Robin Stockitt – who retired just over a year ago – for all he had done to build up the parish.

The preacher, the Archdeacon of Ardagh, Venerable Hazel Hicks, caught the congregation's attention very quickly when she likened ministry – for parishioners as well as clergy – to the 'hokey-pokey'. The children's song always finished with



the words, 'Put your whole self in', Archdeacon Hicks said, and it reminded her of the instruction from the apostle Paul, in the first reading, from Romans Chapter 12: 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.' "To present or offer our bodies," the Archdeacon said, "is St Paul's way of saying to put your whole self in."

Earlier in the service, Bishop Andrew Forster said it was his great pleasure to welcome the congregation to a special and important service in the life of the Parish of Donaghedy and in its distinguished history. It was, he said, a special

night for Richard and Pauline, and their family, as they took a new step of faith and of service in Donemana. The Bishop welcomed clergy from the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches who were in St James's for the service.

Bishop Andrew acknowledged how difficult it was for Richard and Pauline to leave the people they had served faithfully and loved diligently, in Manorhamilton, but said he was glad that Donemana was where God had called Richard to be in the next phase of his ministry.

Welcoming the new Church of Ireland incumbent, the local Presbyterian minister, Rev Dr Seth Wright, assured Rev Beadle that he wasn't coming to a "rural backwater": local farmers were rearing lamb for export to France and beef that would end as far away as China; the people of Donaghedy and Donemana were warm and welcoming, he said.

The Roman Catholic Parish Priest, Fr Eamon McDevitt, said there were a lot of positive things happening in the village, and he invited the new Rector to come to the local Men's Shed to see the great work that was being done there to tackle mental ill health.

The Methodist minister, Rev Marlene Skuce, assured the new incumbent that there was also great craic to be had in Donemana. There was healing power in Denet Valley, she said, a real sense of community and a real sense of joy.

Rev Beadle thanked the clergy from other Churches for attending his institution, as well as those former parishioners

of his who had travelled all the way to Donemana for the service. The new rector said he would be building on the work of the 14 previous rectors of Donagheady

Church of England publishes feedback to Living in Love and Faith, revealing Anglicans views on gender and marriage

The Church of England has shared feedback from people who have taken part in its Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process.

LLF resources were published in 2020 and given to Anglican churches to help members learn and pray together as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Around 6.400 people responded mostly with a questionnaire. Others submitted artwork and were invited to give their thoughts in a focus group discussions.

The 95-page report entitled Listening with Love and Faith is accompanied with a more detailed technical report and an essay entitled Friendship and the Body of Christ.

Listening with Love and Faith, full of numerous quotes and stories from respondents, said there was a strong desire for the Church to be more inclusive in regards to same-sex marriage.

It stated: "A persistent theme in the survey answers was same-sex marriage. Most of the comments on this theme

expressed hope that the LLF Course might contribute to the 'acceptance of same sex marriage' or 'blessing of same sex partnerships'. This came up in focus group discussions as well."

Rev Canon Rosie Harper, a campaigner for LGBT issues in the Church and trustee of the Ozane Foundation, said the report stated nothing new for her and described the LLF process as "inherently abusive process".

"On what planet do you think it's acceptable to spend five years talking about whether it's okay to be gay or not? It's just inherently abusive. So I feel bad about it from that point of view. And then the interesting thing is, it's come out sort of really vanilla. It confirms what we already know that there's a breadth of opinion, that there's a strong desire for change, that people are looking for some decisive leadership from the bishops".

The report said that while many questionnaire respondents hope that the LLF process will help church members will gain greater openness to others' views and that diversity of opinion in the church will be respectfully acknowledged, others expressed concern that the course will "lead people astray from the Bible." Some spoke of their traditional "values [as] under threat".

Rev Dr Ian Paul, a member of the Church of England Evangelical Council, told Premier the juxtaposition of views in the report is was intrigued him.

"On page 91 and 92... what you have there is a story about moving forward, honouring faithfulness and commitment,

The report showed a clear consensus for bishops to give clear leadership on the issues discussed

which says we must recognize and bless same sex relationships. And then immediate on the next page, a story about moving forward with confidence and compassion. And so there's somebody saying... if we're going to really care for people, we've got to actually take the biblical view the teaching of Jesus that marriage is between one man and one woman," he said.

“So there you have it, in two pages, two completely opposite views, one of which is primarily only driven by, I think, a concern to be welcoming and perception of the Church and a sense of felt affirmation.

“The other is really based on a consideration of what scripture teaches. Is his scripture good enough for the Church? And I think there you have the problem we've got in the Church of England. You've got two entirely different, and I would say, entirely irreconcilable ideas.”

The report showed a clear consensus for bishops to give clear leadership on the issues discussed.

The Church said on its website: “These and the LLF resources will support the bishops in their ongoing discernment process as they seek to discern what they believe God is saying to the Church of England today.” The bishops’ reflections will be brought to the February 2023 sessions of General Synod for decision-making.

Tribute - Bill Turnbull (1956-2022)

The Songs of Praise presenter was unashamed of his Christian faith

Bill Turnbull's broadcasting career spanned several decades. He fronted many popular BBC shows before spending his latter years as a presenter on Classic FM, Matthew Napier, of Songs of Praise writes

His family have paid tribute not just to a “remarkable broadcaster” but a man who “brought warmth and humour into people’s homes”.

I knew him as a presenter on Songs of Praise, which he worked on from November 2012-2015. By that time he was already a household name as co-host on BBC Breakfast.

Born in Guildford, Bill studied at Cardiff University before joining the BBC as a reporter on the Today programme in 1986. By the time he joined the Songs of Praise team, Bill was living in the north west, as a result of BBC Breakfast's move out of London to shiny new offices at Media City in Salford Quays.

A Christian from childhood, Bill was a great fit for Songs of Praise. He would occasionally lead Evensong at his local church, and clearly enjoyed hosting the show. He was excellent at whatever you threw at him. He remarked that it was good to be out and about again filming on location rather than being in a television studio the whole time. Perhaps he missed his early roving reporter days.

Bill presented a number of programmes for us, including an episode from Holy Island in Lindisfarne. He hosted a Songs of Praise Big Sing concert at the Royal Albert Hall in front of an audience of 5,000 and presented a live Songs of Praise Remembrance programme from Aldershot. He was completely at ease in whatever situation he was in and he put the contributors he was interviewing in the same mood as well.

Bill was as witty and charming off camera as you might expect. On one occasion I had the pleasure of going to his house in the Buckinghamshire countryside to record some voice overs for Songs of Praise. Bill met me at the front door wearing sunglasses, despite the fact it was winter! Apparently they helped with a condition he had, completely unrelated to his later cancer diagnosis, whereby he couldn't read his lines in print or on auto cue. So, well before the invention of Zoom I had to speak the lines to him and then record him saying them back to me. I remember he and his wife Sesi were excellent hosts and we shared some delicious home made soup around the kitchen table, surrounded by honey pots and honey making equipment - Bill was a very keen bee keeper! They appeared very much in love with Sesi teasing Bill about how it was a shame she couldn't see his dazzling blue eyes behind his sunglasses!

One year after his time at Songs of Praise came to an end, Bill also stepped back from fronting BBC Breakfast. In an interview with the Radio Times, he mentioned his faith and strong beliefs, expressing his disappointment that many Britons are "embarrassed" by their beliefs.

“When we lived in America it was the exception not to go to church. Church was absolutely packed and it was wonderful. But here there’s something about our culture that makes people feel as if they have to apologise for having faith,” he said.

“Sometimes here if you express a belief in God, people will say: ‘Oh I’m sorry, I just swore.’ They treat you as if you’re lily white. That’s just ridiculous. I’m as human as the next person – my friends certainly know that.”

He added: “I prefer the fact that [in the US] you don’t have to apologise for being religious. I don’t know why people want to make you feel so awkward about having belief. I don’t understand it”.

No doubt his successor on BBC Breakfast, Dan Walker, would agree with Turnbull’s perspective. In a later interview, Walker told Premier Christianity, his Christian faith is what makes him tick.

Four years ago, Turnbull revealed he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He died at his home in Suffolk last week. He was 66.

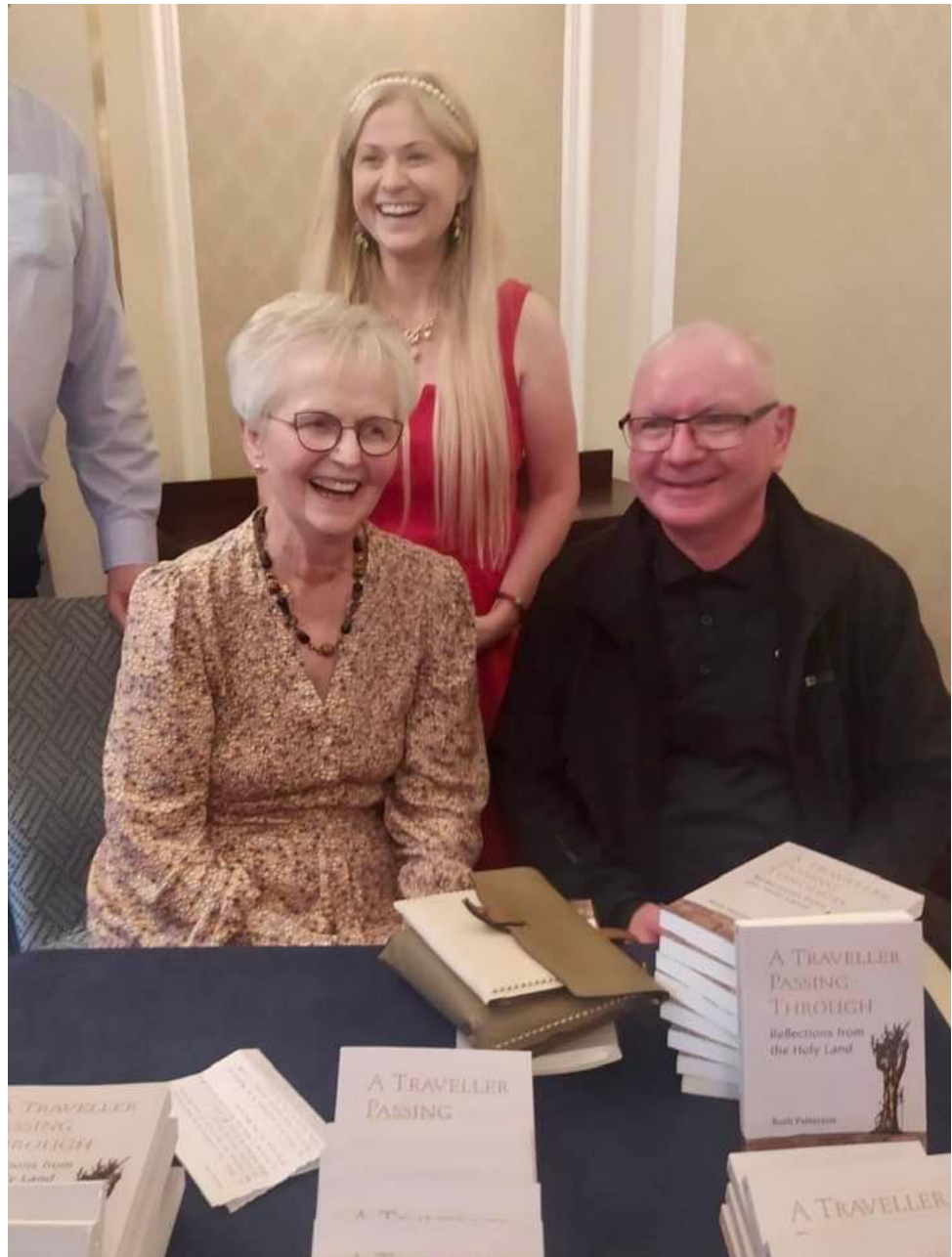
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A Traveller Passing Through: Reflections from the Holy Land by Ruth Patterson

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In *A Traveller Passing Through* Ruth Patterson invites us to accompany her in our imaginations to places in the Holy Land that have significance in the life of Jesus. Her beautiful reflections takes the reader on a



pilgrimage to these places and beyond to the experiences and encounters they inspire, opening the door to a deeper appreciation of our own brokenness and belovedness, and to the gift of exploring the mystery and wonder of the spiritual journey.

About the Author:

Ruth Patterson is a Presbyterian minister and the director of Restoration Ministries, a non-denominational, Christian organisation committed to peace and reconciliation. In 2003

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she was awarded an OBE for her efforts in reconciliation. Her previous publications include *The Gaze of Love* (2016) and *Looking Back to Tomorrow: A Spirituality for Between the Times* (2009).

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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
