

Church News Ireland

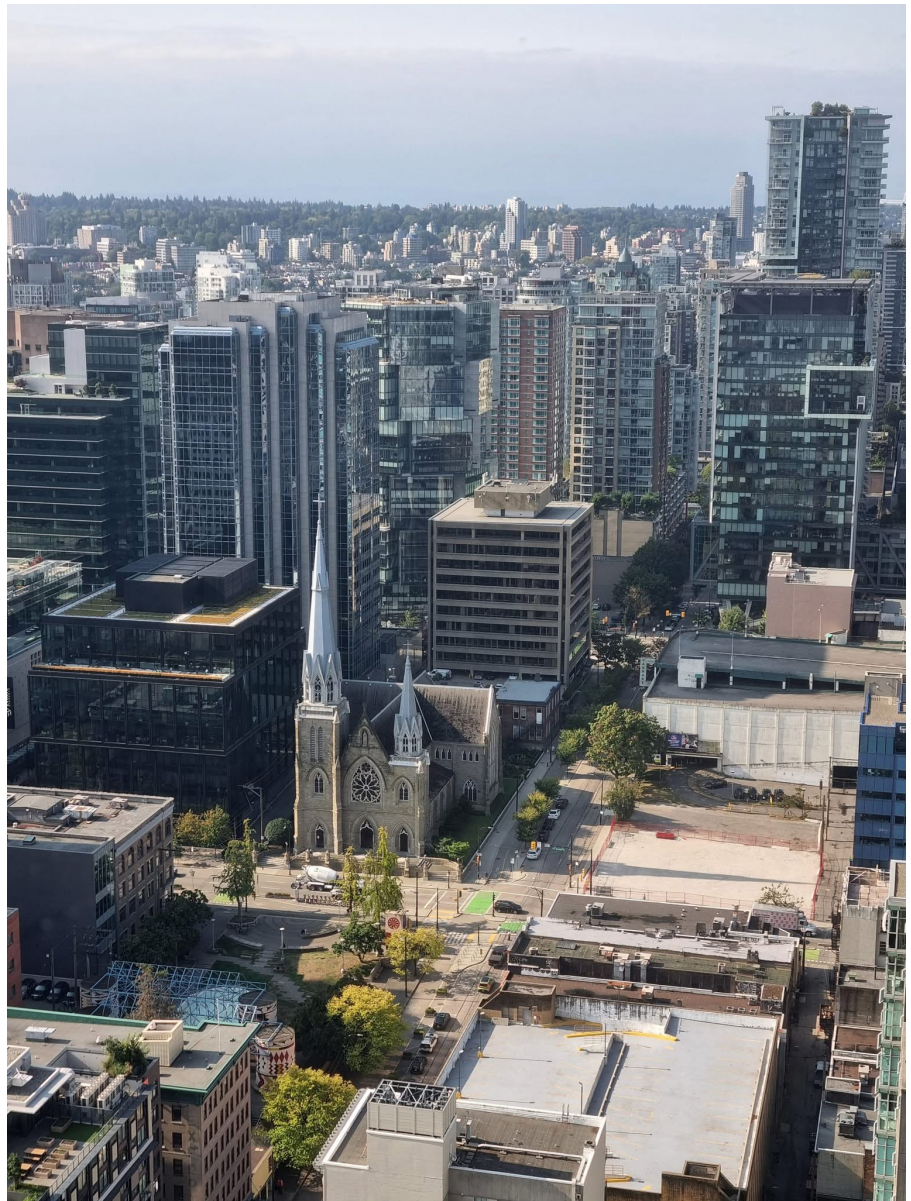


**Image of the day – Holy Rosary Cathedral
Vancouver**

Image of the day

Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver

The rapid growth of Vancouver in the late nineteenth century meant that a larger church was required for its Roman Catholic population.



The Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary was built in a little over a year and opened in December 1900, replacing an earlier wooden church on the site. French Gothic revival in style it is described as

September 10, 2015

resembling
Chartres
Cathedral.
The
architects
were
Thomas E.
Julian and
H.J.
Williams.

Originally a
Catholic
parish
church, it
was elevated
to cathedral
status in
1916.
However,
due to
ongoing debt
issues it was
not consecrated until 1953. Pope John Paul II visited in
1984.



The bell tower houses eight bells, re-cast in 1906. They are one of just a few peals hung and rung in an English style in North America. The organ dates from the 1900 opening. It was restored in 1999 and is by the Karn-Warren Organ Company of Ontario. The stained glass is colourful and plentiful, some of it by the Canadian artist, Guido Nincheri. A

side altar of relics was completed in 2024 — at Holy Rosary Cathedral.

News

120 people tackle Sheep's Head Hike in heavy rain for Christian Aid

Christian Aid want to say a huge thank 'ewe' to everyone who braved the 'baaaad' weather on Saturday to join their Sheep's Head Hike in beautiful west Cork.

Despite heavy rain, we were delighted when around 120 people turned up at Kilcrohane Community Hall in their colourful anoraks and walking boots. Normally there are two routes on offer: a 10.5 km route for more experienced walkers and a 6.5 km route suitable for families. This year, our Church and Community Officer Andrew Coleman and the other organisers decided to offer only the shorter, lower walk in case the rain had made the paths treacherous at the top.

We've had lots of people getting in touch to say how much they enjoyed the walk - and how much they welcomed the hospitality afterwards when tea and sandwiches were served in the hall.

Donations are still coming in, so it'll be another wee while before we know how much was raised but we're grateful to everyone who came along and donated so generously. 🙌

The event, which has raised well over €110,000 since it began in 2009, is made possible by the efforts of a whole team of community-minded people who give their time freely to fill the various roles - leading the walkers, driving the minibuses, making sandwiches and pouring tea, and offering first aid support. Please join us in thanking them for their hard work.

‘Join us, Join in’ – Mothers’ Union reaching out to a fragmented society

The Church of St John the Baptist in Drumcondra was filled with joyful singing on Sunday September 7 for the Diocesan Festival Service of Dublin and Glendalough Mothers’ Union.

The theme of the service, and for Mothers’ Union worldwide this year, was ‘Join us, Join in!’ This theme, the preacher Dean Dermot Dunne said, embodies the mission of Mothers’ Union as they reach out into a fragmented society.

The service was led by the Diocesan Mothers’ Union Chaplain, the Revd Colin McConaghie in the presence of the Rector of Drumcondra and North Strand, Canon Garth Bunting.

Joining representatives of MU branches from around the United Dioceses, was June Butler, Zonal Trustee for Ireland in MU worldwide.

September 10, 2015

The service was interwoven with prayers and connected hymns and Betty, the parish organist, accompanied the singing.

In his sermon, Dean Dunne said the theme of 'Join us, Join in' is rooted in the spirit of our time and in Scripture, especially in St Paul's letter to the Philippians 2 1 - 14 where Paul speaks about community.



Diocesan MU President Ada Lawson, Hazel Ruddock, June Butler, Joy Gordon, Dean Dermot Dunne, Karen Nelson, the Revd Colin McConaghie, Avril Gillatt and Jessica Clarke.

He reminds the Philippians that the true sign of life in Christ is mutual encouragement, shared compassion and unity of

purpose. They are urged to put aside selfish ambition and look to the interest of others. The Dean said these verses were a pattern for Christian living and service.



Clergy and banner bearers outside the Church of St John the Baptist in Drumcondra following the Diocesan MU Festival Service.

“In many ways [these words] are the exact description of the mission of the Mothers’ Union. For over a century the Mothers’ Union has embodied these words in action, creating fellowship, encouraging one another, serving families and offering compassion where it is most needed. Whether it is through supporting parents in the challenges of raising children, reaching out to those in poverty or standing alongside those who feel isolated, Mothers’ Union has shown that faith in action changes lives,” he stated.

He said the theme was both a challenge and an invitation. He said the invitation reminded people that the work of the Mothers’ Union is never complete and always welcomes

new people to be part of its mission and part of a global movement that is bigger than themselves. The challenge is that joining in means action – it is not enough simply to belong, he suggested.

He said that traditionally the invitation to join in was centred on our own church communities and family units within parishes. But this challenge to join in has developed into a whole new concept in today's society, he commented.

“We live in a fragmented world where individualism prevails over community, where selfish interest has led to the isolation of individuals and the growth of loneliness in society. Never before has Mothers' Union been as relevant and needed as now.

“To be effective in its ministry, Mothers' Union must reach out beyond the boundaries of church and into the fragmented society that we experience, to seek out those who are lost, to welcome the stranger and refugee and to be a voice to the voiceless,” Dean Dunne said.

After the service, Diocesan MU President Ada Lawson brought greetings from the All Ireland President Kay Clarke.

She thanked the Rector and the parish, as well as the local branch for hosting the service and for their hospitality afterwards and the Dean for his words of encouragement and wisdom. She encouraged members to come to the monthly Mothers' Union service in the Lady Chapel of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, which take place on the first Thursday of each month.

LGBTQ pilgrims pass through Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica

Members of the LGBTQ community passed through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on Saturday (September 6), taking part in a pilgrimage connected to the ongoing 2025 Catholic Holy Year.

The Vatican has included one event organised by LGBT Catholics on its official online calendar for jubilee year, in an unusual sign of openness by the global Church that attracted criticism from some conservative Catholic commentators.

One pilgrim headed to the Vatican City said that it was his first time walking through the Holy Door.

Earlier in the week on Monday (September 1), Pope Leo gave a high-profile private audience to a prominent U.S. priest who ministers to LGBT Catholics in a possible sign the new pontiff will continue the late Pope Francis' legacy of opening up the Church to the gay community.

Francis, who led the Church for 12 years before his death in April, issued a decree in 2023 allowing priests to administer blessings to same-sex couples on a case-by-case basis, although the Church still only officially recognises marriages between men and women.

The Catholic Church teaches that LGBT people should be respected and that their human dignity must be defended. It

September 10, 2015

also teaches that same-sex attraction is not sinful, but that sexual relations outside marriages between men and women are.

Leo, elected by the world's cardinals in May, has not yet addressed the LGBT community publicly, and also has not publicly commented on Francis' disputed 2023 decree.

Education



Royal Gun Salute at Royal School Armagh

History was made this week at the at Royal School Armagh when a Royal Gun Salute marked the accession of HM The King.

September 10, 2015

The salute was fired by 206 (Ulster) Battery from Coleraine and Newtownards.

MC Patterson Bursaries at Belfast High School

MC Patterson Bursaries have been presented to our top performing GCSE French and GCSE German pupils:

French: Lucy Cosby, Emma Story and Gemma Thompson

German: Charlotte Dallas, Holly Davis and Emma Glover

Many congratulations!

New Chapter Begins at Strabane ✨

It was an exciting start of the journey for our newest Year 8s at Strabane Academy, the GCSE Class of 2030 (how futuristic does that sound?).

They've made the right choice, stepping into a school where kindness, respect, and pride are at the heart of everything we do, just as Mr Johnston reminded us in his inspiring welcome.

New friendships are already forming, and the future is full of big possibilities. Here's to growing, learning, and thriving together. ✨

Welcome to the adventure, Year 8! 💙

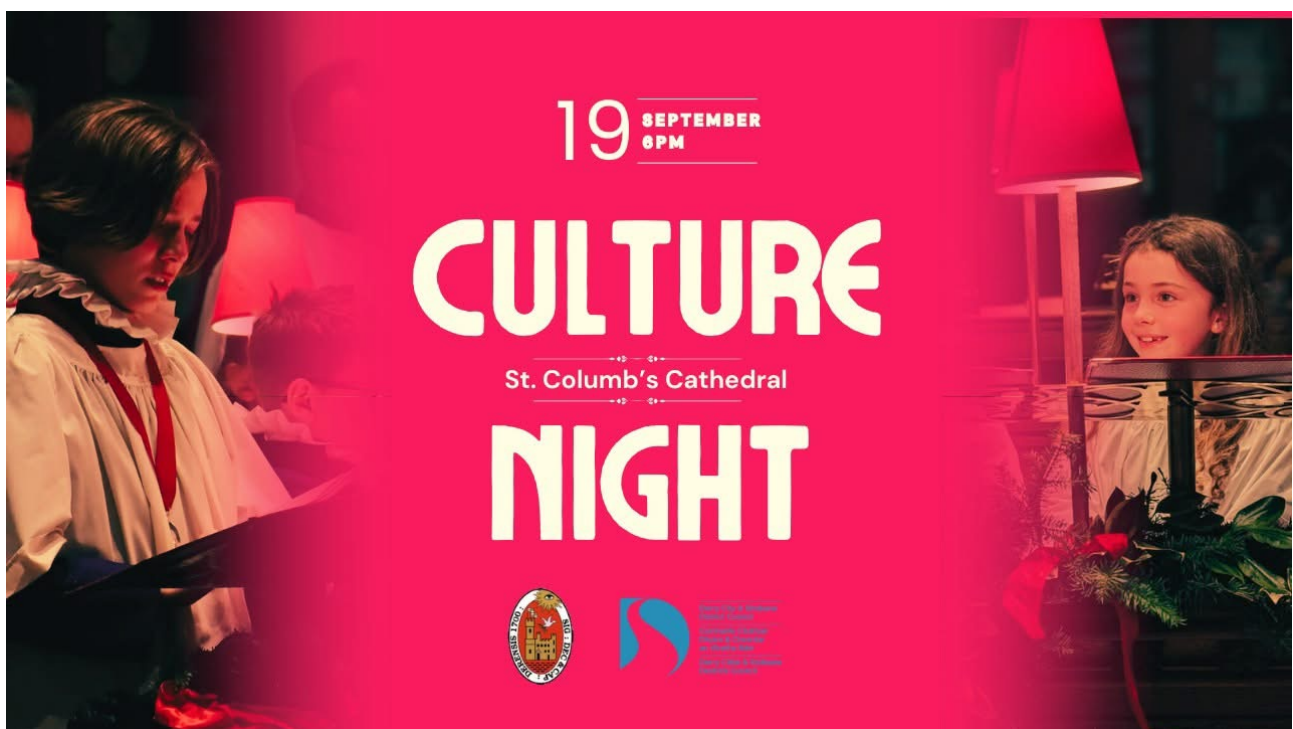
Just2easy workshops support all aspects of primary curriculum

Recently Just2easy hosted a series of workshops as part of the EdIS/C2k Back-to-School Summer Training Week.

The sessions explored the tools and resources Just2easy offers to support all aspects of the primary curriculum.

Thank you to the J2E team for the informative, participatory sessions, all the teachers and educators who attended, as well as the host venues: St Mary's Glenview, Maghera; St Colmcille's Primary School, Carrickmore; and the Ulster University, Belfast.

Cathedral Calls



Culture Night at St. Columb's Cathedral

Join us on Friday 19th September at 8pm for a special Culture Night Concert in St. Columb's Cathedral.

The programme will feature music from the Cathedral Boy and Girl Choristers, along with organ pieces performed by the Cathedral organists, Nicky and Louis. It will be an enjoyable hour of music, showcasing what our choristers sing week by week, with some lighter pieces for Culture Night too.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

If you are interested in joining the Cathedral Choirs, this is the perfect opportunity to hear them in action and speak to us afterwards.

Keep the date in your diary!

LEGO Minifigs love Limerick

LEGO Minifigs have decided to extend their summer vacation at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick!

To celebrate, the cathedral was thrilled to announce that it would be introducing a newly designed activity booklet in the coming weeks — just in time for your next family day out. It's the perfect weekend outing for all ages.

“Over the summer, we've not only loved hosting our tiny brick friends, but we've also absolutely loved welcoming so

September 10, 2015

many of you into the cathedral — for some, it was your very first time stepping into Limerick’s oldest building”.

The photo is a little sneak peek of Saint Mary’s from the Minifigs’ point of view — come see it through their eyes and experience the magic for yourself!



Clergy and ministry

Called to the newly created charge of Rasharkin & Dunloy Presbyterian Churches

Rev James Porter has been ‘called’ to the newly created ‘charge’ of Rasharkin & Dunloy Presbyterian Churches.

Native to the County Antrim village of Connor, James, his wife, Hannah and their young son, Lucas, previously served at Orritor & Claggan congregations near Cookstown. Reflecting on the family's time there, James said: "When I came to Orritor & Claggan we were just coming out of the 'COVID days' which were tough enough, especially as we



had to socially distance, wear masks, we had restricted numbers, laws and regulations changed weekly, even daily.

“However, as the months went on and restrictions eased it was a joy to get to visit and meet with folks from both congregations. We have made many friends over the years and have mostly had a blessed ministry within the congregations.”

James went on to say: “There have been highs and lows along the way but God has been faithful through it all. Even through losing our first child, Eliza, God keep a hold on us, and many from the congregations surrounded us with love, support, and prayer which we will never forget.”

Celebrating 175 years of work and witness in Claggan in 2021 following by 200 years in Orritor just last year were memorable occasions for James. One of the guests to join him on the latter occasion was the then Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. Richard Murray, who was James’ minister as he was growing up in Connor Presbyterian Church.

Meet the Pope’s Astronomer

For the past decade, the astronomer Guy Consolmagno has served as the director of the Vatican Observatory, a research institution dedicated to the study of the heavens and funded by the Holy See.

Consolmagno, an M.I.T.-educated Michigan native, is one of 15 scientists who currently make up the observatory’s

scholarly staff—all Jesuits and, inevitably, all men. The team shuttles between a 17th-century palazzo in Castel Gandolfo, which has been the institution's home since the 1930s, and Arizona, where the Vatican installed a powerful four-million-dollar telescope and an astrophysics facility.

Like research institutions that are not staffed with those who have taken religious vows, the Vatican Observatory has made significant contributions to astronomy and collaborates with scientific colleagues around the globe, including NASA. ("NASA needed help with a mission. The Vatican came to the rescue," read one headline about the partnership.) Researchers at the observatory do not advise the Vatican on celestial matters; they are left to get on with their work, and have nothing to do with doctrine.

But, these days, Consolmagno spends far less time peering through a telescope or a microscope than he once did, and far more time explaining to the public why doing those things is not incompatible with religious conviction. He is constantly on the road, all over the world, giving talks to religious and secular audiences alike, often billed as "the Pope's Astronomer." Consolmagno characterizes the Vatican Observatory as deliberately doing middle-of-the-road science and practicing middle-of-the-road religion. "If people think you have to be a weird kind of scientist to be religious, or a weird kind of religious to be a scientist, then we've missed the point," he told Rebecca Mead. "The point is that our faith—our ordinary faith—fits perfectly with our ordinary, but wonderful, delightful science."

Read the full story:

<https://newyorkermag.visitlink.me/pXWMUm>

Events

Lunchtime Recital Series at St Ann's Dawson Street

This month there is an exciting line-up of outstanding musicians, with programmes ranging from Poulenc and Franck to Bach, Liszt, Ravel, and brand-new intercultural projects.

Thursday, 11 September, 1:20 pm Sulamita Pyvovar (piano) Bach – Prelude from English Suite No. 2 in A minor
Liszt – Transcendental Etudes Nos. 2 & 3 Ginastera – Sonata No. 1

Thursday, 18 September, 1:20 pm Andrew Sheeran (violin/viola) & Caitríona Finnegan (cello) Ravel – Sonata for Violin and Cello Vasks – Castillo Interior Caroline Shaw – limestone & felt
Tuesday, 23 September, 1:20 pm
InTERRActions Project Musicians from Romania and Ireland perform chamber works by contemporary and classical composers. In partnership with the Contemporary Music Centre Ireland and co-financed by the Romanian Cultural Institute.

The Dock Café at First Lisburn

Whether you're after a cosy cuppa, a tasty bite, or just a friendly face, the Dock Café is the place to be.

Step inside and you'll find good coffee, delicious treats, and a space where conversation flows as easily as the tea.



It's more than a café — it's a community table where everyone's welcome, whether you're catching up with friends, meeting someone new, or just taking a quiet moment for yourself. Open on Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon
First Lisburn Presbyterian Church

Poem for today



On An Apple-ripe September Morning

By Patrick Kavanagh

On an apple-ripe September morning
Through the mist-chill fields I went
With a pitch-fork on my shoulder
Less for use than for devilment.

The threshing mill was set-up, I knew,
In Cassidy's haggard last night,
And we owed them a day at the threshing
Since last year. O it was delight

To be paying bills of laughter

And chaffy gossip in kind
With work thrown in to ballast
The fantasy-soaring mind.

As I crossed the wooden bridge I wondered
As I looked into the drain
If ever a summer morning should find me
Shovelling up eels again.

And I thought of the wasps' nest in the bank
And how I got chased one day
Leaving the drag and the scraw-knife behind,
How I covered my face with hay.

The wet leaves of the cocksfoot
Polished my boots as I
Went round by the glistening bog-holes
Lost in unthinking joy.

I'll be carrying bags to-day, I mused,
The best job at the mill
With plenty of time to talk of our loves
As we wait for the bags to fill.

Maybe Mary might call round...
And then I came to the haggard gate,
And I knew as I entered that I had come
Through fields that were part of no earthly estate.

September 10, 2015

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning

Please recommend to your friends