

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Scrabo from Strangford

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Scrabo from Strangford

View from near Newtownards across upper reaches of Strangford Lough

People and places

Appointment to Church Army Centre of Mission in Cork



The Church Army Centre of Mission, a 3-way partnership between Church Army, the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and The Carraig Centre, has announced the appointment of Sarah-Louise Hockey as Pioneer Evangelist and Youth Worker.

Sarah-Louise has been working as a part-time youth worker for the past two years and will now work alongside Lead

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Evangelist Matt Gould as part of the staff team in Carrigrohane Union.

President of Methodist Church honoured by Cavan County Council



The Rev. David Nixon, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland has been honoured by Cavan County Council.

He was the guest of honour at a civic reception held in the County Council's Headquarters in Cavan town on Tuesday 30th August 2022.

A native of County Cavan, the President was accompanied by relatives and friends at the ceremony. The Rt. Rev.

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Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kilmore the Rt. Rev. Martin Hayes and Rev. Lorna Dreading, Minister of Enniskillen Methodist Church also attended.

The Cathaoirleach of the Council, Cllr. John Paul Feeley and Mr. Eoin Doyle, the Cavan County Council Director of services spoke of the President's devotion to the Methodist Church and his extensive missionary work. They then presented the President with a painting depicting the Church spire in the graveyard in the President's townland of Thornhill.

Armagh Diocesan Healing Service

A Diocesan Healing Service will be held (DV) in Kildress Parish Church (approx 3-4 miles from Cookstown on the A505 road to Omagh - on the right past Drum Manor Forest park) on Sunday, 11th September, 2022, at 3.30pm. Everyone will be very welcome.

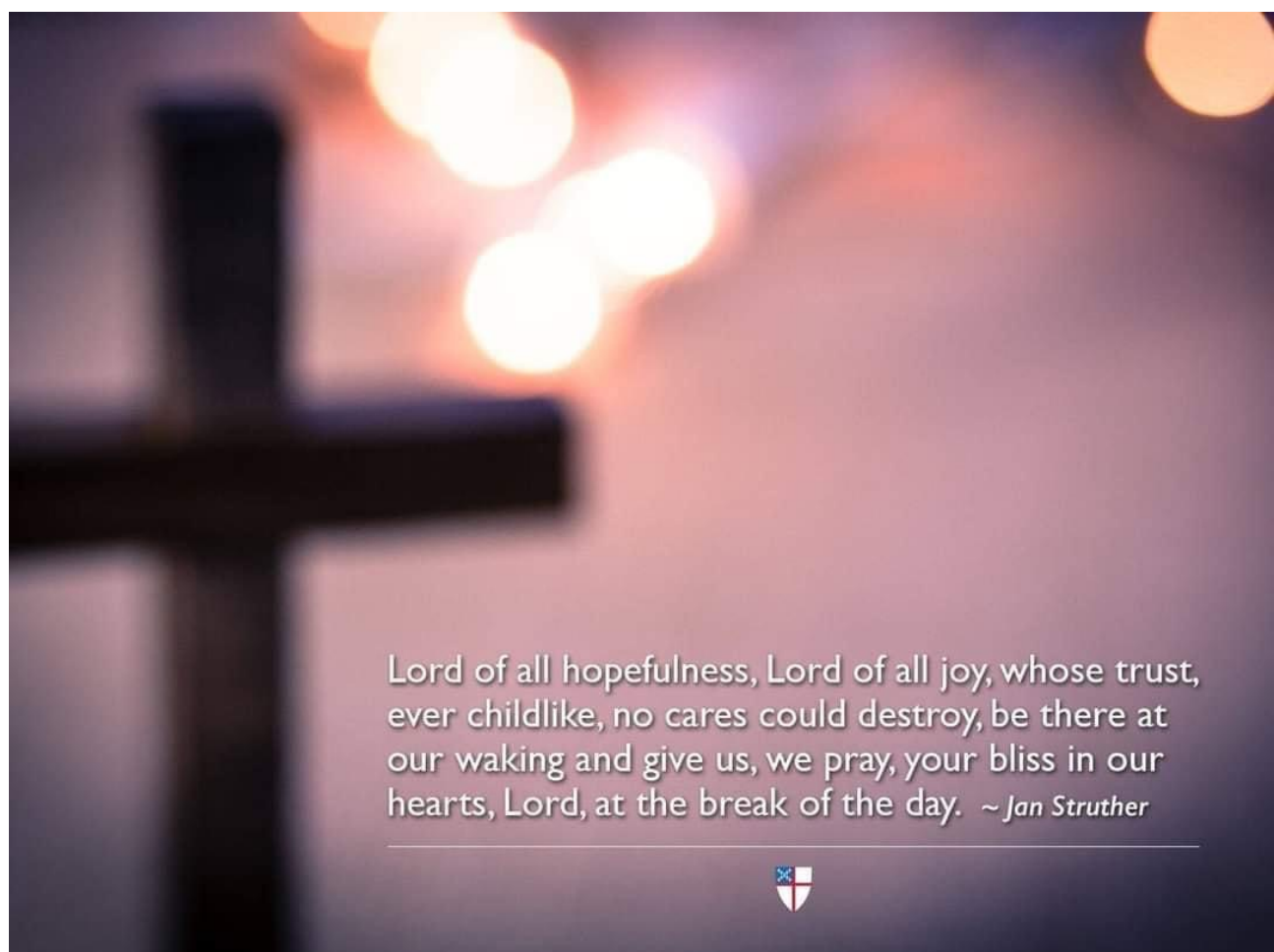
Donemana institution service

A new chapter of parish ministry begins in the Parish of Donagheady next Tuesday 6th September when Rev Capt Richard Beadle is instituted as Rector at a service in St James' Church, in Donemana. If you plan to go to the service, please let the Parish know to give them an idea of numbers.

Major grant to Church of Ireland to support people from Ukraine

The Church of Ireland has received £85,000 (currently equivalent to €99,000) to run a grants scheme on behalf of the Benefact Trust to support people from Ukraine arriving on the island of Ireland.

This grant scheme will assist dioceses and parishes who are supporting Ukrainians in integrating into our society. The grants will be provided through the Representative Church Body with application information to be announced during September.



The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell, said: “On behalf of the Church of Ireland, I would wish to pass on our heartfelt thanks to Benefact Trust for the generous financial support they have provided to help Ukrainian refugees who have arrived here in Ireland. Our partnership with Benefact Trust is also a recognition that, with parishes which together cover the whole of the island, the Church of Ireland is well placed to identify local needs.”

The Trust is one of the largest grant-making charities in the UK and Ireland with the charitable objectives of promoting the Christian faith and other charitable causes; it has been operating since 1972 and its funds are largely derived from ownership of the Benefact Group – a specialist financial services organisation.

The Trust has, to date, provided £1 million to help with the response to the humanitarian crisis in Eastern Europe and with resettlement in the UK and Ireland. The latest round of funding will also fund a grants scheme from the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference for similar projects and help the Irish Red Cross replicate its warehouse model with support services across several location, based on the project which they have been developing at a site in Dublin since April.

Lesley King-Lewis, Director of the Benefact Trust, remarked: “We’re overwhelmed by the level of support churches and charities are providing for Ukrainian evacuees, who are arriving with nothing but the clothes on their back, scared for their futures. We’re proud to partner with these organisations to make a real difference to the

lives of children, individuals and families who have experienced such devastation.”

Presbyterian College to commemorate Luther’s ‘publishing sensation’

One of the world’s greatest publishing sensations will be the focus of an international conference to be held in Belfast this month.

The conference at Union Theological College (UTC) will examine the legacy of Martin Luther’s translation of the New Testament, which celebrates its 500th anniversary this September.

Entitled ‘Martin Luther: Bible Translator, Illustrator & Publisher’, the free to attend two-day event on 12-13 September will bring together a team of experts from Ireland, the UK and Europe. Their research papers will explore aspects of Luther’s September Testament, its context, influence and enduring impact since 1522. The conference will be followed by an autumn series of public seminars at the College entitled, ‘The Bible for All.’

Explaining the significance of the publication, UTC Principal, Reverend Professor Gordon Campbell said, “Five hundred years on, it may seem difficult for us to comprehend the impact of the September Testament, but if you take something like the arrival of the World Wide Web in the mid-1990s and the subsequent revolutionary impact that it had, and continues to have on society and everyday life today, you can begin to get the picture.



Union Theological College

Professor Campbell continued, “Luther’s September Testament in German was a pivotal moment for the Reformation, European history and Bible translation that we believe merits exploring and celebrating. In each conference session our contributors will open up some of its many impacts through time, bringing a collective assessment of the relevance and importance of Luther’s Bible publishing project that offers something for both academics and the general public to get their teeth into.”

With the support of scholars from France, Germany, The Netherlands, England, and Ireland, north and south, each conference session will centre on a key aspect or dynamic of Luther’s influential publication. “Through presentations, conversation and Q&As we will look at how Luther’s work

influenced the development of the Bible in English and other languages. For example, to how it helped shape the theory and practice of Bible translation, and what it did for theology and public theology,” Professor Campbell explained.

“At the time the September Testament appeared, only some scholars, monks and nobles had access to a Bible, usually in Latin. Relatively few people could read, or read well. Crucial, for Luther, was not only the accuracy of his German translation but how it sounded, especially when read aloud in the new reformed churches. Luther wanted the words of Jesus, the Evangelists and Apostles to be heard at the pace and rhythm of everyday speech on the streets, so that it would appeal to listeners’ ears, lodge in their memory and warm their heart for Christ.

“Placing Scripture in the hands of ordinary people and making it more inclusive of German dialects generally, meant that for the first time ordinary folk could read for themselves, or hear life-changing verses in their own heart language, such as John 3:16, which says, ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’. Half a millennium on, providing translations in a people’s heart language is still one of the central principles of Bible translation to this day,” he said.

Bearing this in mind, Professor Campbell expressed his delight that the Bible Society in Northern Ireland, Biblica and Wycliffe Bible Translators are partnering with the College in offering conference attendees the chance to connect Luther’s legacy to Bible publication work today.

Looking forward to next month's event, Catherine Little, General Secretary of Bible Society in Northern Ireland said that today, Bible access is often taken for granted. "We have had the full Bible in our own language for generations because of the risks, hard work and sacrifices made by Luther and his contemporaries.

"All over the world today individuals and communities are still taking risks, working hard and making sacrifices to bring the Bible to people groups who are still waiting to hear God's Word in their own heart language. We want to present our current work against this historical backdrop since the work of Martin Luther 500 years ago brought change that we still feel the ripples of today."

Ricky Ferguson, Ireland Team Leader for Wycliffe Bible Translators said that Wycliffe estimates that 1 in 5 people around the world are still waiting for the Bible in their own language. "We are delighted to be a partner for the Luther Conference, as it celebrates something which is at the heart of the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators worldwide today. Martin Luther understood that in order for people to come to know Jesus, and then to grow in their faith, they needed to have God's word in the language that they knew best – their own," he said.

Named after John Wycliffe, a reformer with a passion for people and the Bible, he was one of the first to translate the Old and New Testaments into English two centuries before Luther. "Today, we carry on the vision of Wycliffe, Tyndale and Luther to see a world where everyone can have the opportunity to know Jesus through the Bible."

Trevor Wilson, UK Partnerships Manager for Biblica, the international Bible society, said that Luther's September Testament was instrumental in making the Bible available for all. "Being involved in this event is important for us as Luther's New Testament paved the way for taking the Bible into the hands of all people and helping to further the Gospel across Europe and beyond, and that continues to be our passion and focus today.

"Reading and understanding the Bible in our own language reminds us that the Bible is timeless and relevant for all generations, cultures and languages. Our role is to continue to see that become a reality today, as there are millions across our world who still do not have the Bible in their heart language," Mr Wilson explained.

In conclusion, Professor Campbell said, "As part of our service to Northern Ireland's academic and educational community, we are looking forward to investigating Luther's achievements and heritage with the help of our contributors. Following the conference, and once their research is complete, we will be working with an academic publisher to make the Conference Papers available. There will also be, our Thursday evening series of public seminars, 'The Bible for All' series where we can explore a number of the themes that come out of the conference," he said.

The conference will also be accompanied by both physical and digital exhibitions, the latter can be viewed now in advance of the conference at www.union.ac.uk where more information is available on registering for the conference.

See Webinars, music resources section later in this issue for details of the organisations involved.

World news

Australian faith-based activists push for climate justice

A multifaith climate advocacy group wants the Australian federal government to commit to a range of meaningful climate actions in the lead up to COP 27.

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change's new campaign Faiths 4 Climate Justice comes ahead of the climate conference in Egypt in November.

It aims to pressure the government to rule out new coal and gas projects and restart contributions to the UN Green Climate Fund, among other measures.

ARRCC community organiser Tejopala Rawls said under the Green Climate Fund developed nations had pledged to donate US\$100 billion annually to poorer countries to help them cope with the realities of climate change and shape their economies.

Despite being a key part of the 2016 Paris Agreement, the financial pledge has not yet been met, Mr Rawls said.

The Paris Agreement, a legally binding global treaty on climate change, had been adopted by 193 countries plus the European Union.

But Mr Rawls said since former Prime Minister Scott Morrison had specifically ruled out making any contributions to the pledge in 2018, Australia's reputation had been tarnished.

Read more: 'God is on our side': Hope and renewal in a climate crisis

He said the ARRCC also wanted the Albanese government to support environmental justice for Indigenous Australians.

"We're asking them to respect First Nations peoples in Australia when they try and stand up against big gas and coal, and to put more effort into the transition for communities where they're currently dependent on coal and gas," Mr Rawls said.

He said Faiths 4 Climate Justice was also part of a global initiative to push governments to sign a treaty to phase out fossil fuels.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would be an agreement by nations to cut their greenhouse gas emissions as well as the coal, oil and gas that they actually extracted from the ground, Mr Rawls said.

The ARRCC has also asked senior faith leaders across Australia and the Pacific to sign an open letter to Prime Minister Albanese.



As a final step before COP 27, it has also organised multifaith services around Australia and the Pacific, including at St Paul's Cathedral and Christ Church Geelong, on October 13.

Mr Rawls said the multifaith group had started in Melbourne in 2017 and had grown to eight local groups around the country with more than 200 people organising actions within their own congregations.

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The number of faith leaders who have also become involved with the ARRCC has quadrupled since it began, he said.

Report courtesy of The Melbourne Anglican

Pope encourages artists to preach Gospel through their work

Pope Francis met this week with international film, media and music celebrities at the first 'Vitae Summit' in the Vatican, and encouraged artists to use their gifts to preach the Gospel.

Participants including Denzel Washington, Andrea Bocelli, Patricia Heaton and Jonathan Roumie held meetings on Thursday and Friday to begin a conversation on how the arts can have a positive influence on society.

The summit was the culmination of several years of meetings with Pope Francis in his Vatican residence, Casa Santa Marta, with the VITAE Global Foundation founder and president Luis Quinelli and his team.

Pope Francis joined participants at the end of the summit and encouraged them to be "preachers of beauty", because he said, "Beauty is good for us; beauty heals; beauty helps us go forward on our journey."

During their conversation, the Pope and those present focused on the need to reach out to young people, communicate the message of the Gospel, and share stories

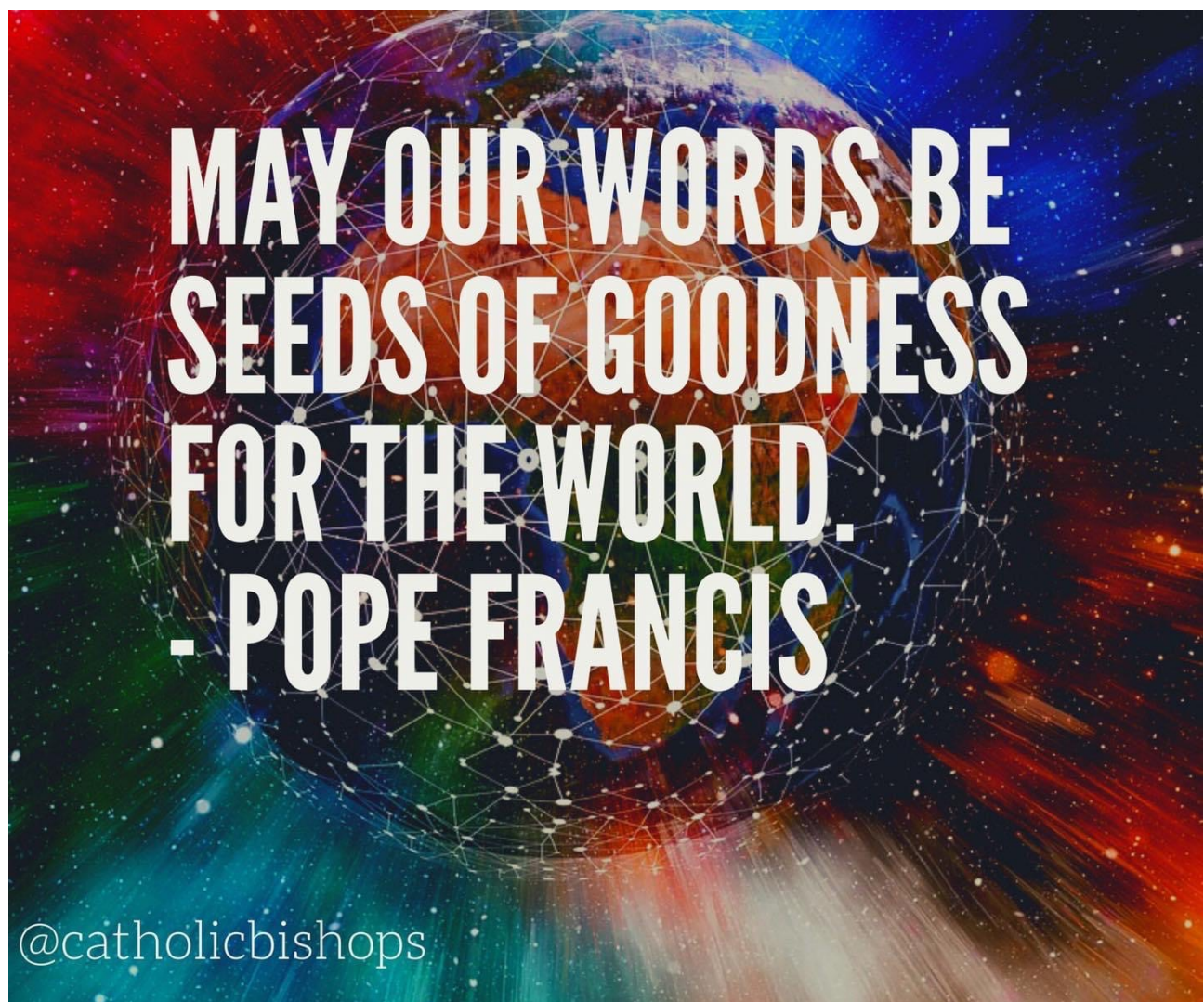
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of witness and accompaniment that stem from an encounter with God.

The Pope pointed to the need to undertake paths of communication that lead to truth, goodness and, particularly for artists, beauty and the path of contemplation.

"A person on a journey is on a quest," the Pope said, noting that art can provide inspiration for those who undertake a journey in the awareness that the Lord is awaiting us.

The Pope also expressed his hope that "art may open doors, touch hearts and help people to go forward."



He also spoke of the need for an ethical conscience for artists. Art, he said, must stimulate "respect for people" and encourage them "to go forward rather than to buy."

"The role of art," he said, "is to put 'a thorn in the heart, which moves us to contemplation, and contemplation puts us on a path."

The following actors, artists and musicians attended: Jessica Oyelowo, David Oyelowo, Edwina Findley, Jonathan Roumie, Patricia Heaton, Eduardo Verastegui, Denzel Washington, Hayley Atwell, Darius Marder, Issac Chung, Pete Doctor, Pauletta Washington, Dan Lin, Marcus Mumford, Andrea Boccelli, J Balvin, Bull Nene, Alessia Cara, Julio Reyes Copello, Eva Cavalli, Alexander Acha and Alejandro Roemmers.

The summit organizers plan to host various international events and initiatives in cities around the world to continue the work begun at this meeting at the Vatican.

Report courtesy of Vatican News.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

‘Martin Luther: Bible Translator, Illustrator & Publisher’ – 12-13 September.
Conference partners

Bible Society in Northern Ireland

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland's mission is 'To reach everyone with God's Word in a language and format that they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God's purpose for their life.' It is one of over 150 Bible Societies worldwide who form part of the United Bible Society global fellowship, raising both prayer and financial support for other Bible Societies around the world; supporting Bible translation, production and distribution, literacy work and Bible engagement and advocacy. It also supports Bible projects in Northern Ireland, helping people here engage more with God's Word. The Bible Society itself was founded in 1804 as British and Foreign Bible Society.

For information see www.biblesocietyni.co.uk

Wycliffe Bible Translators UK

Founded in 1953, the Wycliffe Bible Translators have a vision to see a world where everyone can know Jesus through the Bible. The organisation works to change this through serving local partners worldwide as they bring God's word to their communities in the language which speaks to them best. The full Bible is now available in over 700 languages, and the New Testament in over 1,500 languages. But with 1 in 5 people around the world are still without access to a Bible in their own language. Wycliffe currently has over 360 people from the UK and Ireland serving over 470 million people speaking over 350 languages in over 70 countries. Dependent on God, backed

by your financial and prayer support, specially trained personnel seek to make God's word available to all. For information see www.wycliffe.org.uk

Biblica

Biblica, the International Bible Society, is a worldwide ministry that has been helping people engage with God's Word for over 200 years. Established in 1809 by a group of Christians as the New York Bible Society, it is committed to bringing the Bible and biblical resources to people in a way they understand, so they can be transformed by Christ and inspired to join His mission for the world. During the 1950s, the Society became the publishing sponsor of the New International Version of the Bible, which was completed in 1973. In 1988, it changed its name to the International Bible Society to better reflect its new and widening scope of ministry and in 2009 it became Biblica. Today it partners with like-minded organisations to minister God's Word in 55 countries with a global ministry that continues to include Bible translation, access, and engagement programs. For information see www.biblica

Poem for today

Don't Die With Your Music Still In You by Tina Graves

You came here with a message
You came here with a plan
Somehow you would contribute

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To elevate your fellow man
Everyone of us is unique
No two are ever the same
Your exclusive inner calling
Is your Souls indelible aim...

Music touches everyone's Soul
In so many different ways
Relaxing, enlivening, provoking thoughts
Bringing emotions to everyone's days
If composing or playing music
Is what you came here to do
Share your passion with the world
Don't Die With Your Music Still In You

Books are an unlimited way
To share, teach and inspire
Enabling the use of imagination
They aid to focus your desire
If eloquence through the written word
Is what you came here to do
Share your passion with the world
Don't Die With Your Book Still In You

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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