

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Christian Aid Sheep’s Head Hike

September 5, 2022

Image of the day



Christian Aid Sheep's Head Hike



What an amazing day .. beautiful sunny day ..no rain .. believe it I got sunburnt again ...120 walkers who walked today were fantastic ...so encouraging this day with all support of so many on the Sheeps Head peninsula communities, Kilcrohane Kilmocomogue Union of Parishes , Local Link, Sheep.Head Way , catering ...just wonderful..thank you so. Much making today such a great day for so many on Christian Aid Sheeps Head Hike

People and places

St Pio cafe opening in Derry

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs) invite all to come and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee at their St Pio Café in Galliagh, Co. Derry.

“We’re planning a campaign starting September to go out in the neighbourhood with leaflets to let more people know about it,” Fr Charles of the Derry Franciscans said.

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The Franciscans are already starting to see “beautiful fruits” from their initiative, Fr Charles added “it’s been very positive”.

Armagh library prints at Dublin Castle

Dr Robert Whan, Director of Armagh Robinson Library, visited the Coach House Gallery at Dublin Castle last week to view an exhibition featuring volumes of prints loaned by the Library.

Titled ‘For the Love of the Master: 25 Artists Fascinated by Piranesi’, the exhibition will run until 18 September.

Speaking about the exhibition, Dr Whan said, “The loaned volumes are part of Armagh Robinson Library’s founding collection, bequeathed by Archbishop Richard Robinson who established the Library in 1771, They form part of the Archbishop’s exquisite collection of over 4,000 sixteenth to eighteenth century prints, still retained in the Library.”

Ordinations to priesthood

On Wednesday at 7.30pm in St Patrick’s cathedral, Trim, the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, Rt Revd Pat Storey will ordain three deacons to the order of priest.

The Revd Marion Keating will continue to serve in the Kells union of parishes, the Revd Philip McKinley will serve in Dunboyne and Rathmolyon parish group, whilst being seconded part-time to Kildare Cathedral Centre of Mission, and the Revd Pat Ryan will continue to serve in Navan union of parishes.

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The Bishop of Down & Dromore has ordained Revd Elaine Pentland and Revd Sabrina Cooke at a service in Down Cathedral on Sunday 28 August. The preacher was the Dean of Down and Rector of LAMP, the Very Revd Henry Hull.



[Revd Elaine Pentland \(above\)](#)



[Revd Sabrina Cooke](#)

Revd Elaine Pentland will continue to serve in Willowfield parish. Revd Sabrina Cooke will serve as curate-assistant of Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP). Revd Cooke has come from the diocese of Cork where she served a deacon–internship in the parish of Cloyne, Cloyne

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Cathedral, St. John the Baptist Church, Corkbeg and East Ferry, with the Very Reverend Susan Green.

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Connor children's ministry resources event



The Bishop of Connor Rt Revd George Davison said it was great to join with children and youth ministry

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volunteers from across the Diocese in Broughshane last Saturday morning for ‘Launch’.

Christina and Victoria had a morning of encouragement, inspiration and resources in store.



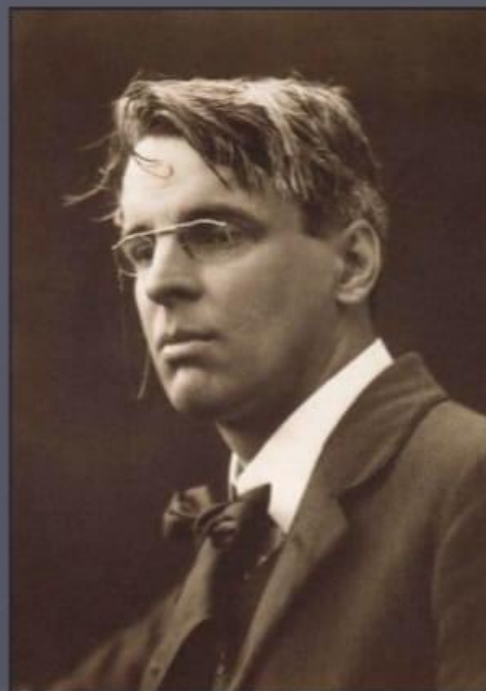
Christina interviews folk from Ballyrashane, Kildollagh, Ahoghill and Portglenone about the work with young people in their parishes.

WB Yeats in Story and Song in Wexford

A "WB Yeats in Story and Song" fundraising event in aid of the restoration of the organ in St. Iberius Church will take

W.B. Yeats

1865-1939



place on Saturday 10th September next at 8pm in St. Iberius Church, Wexford.

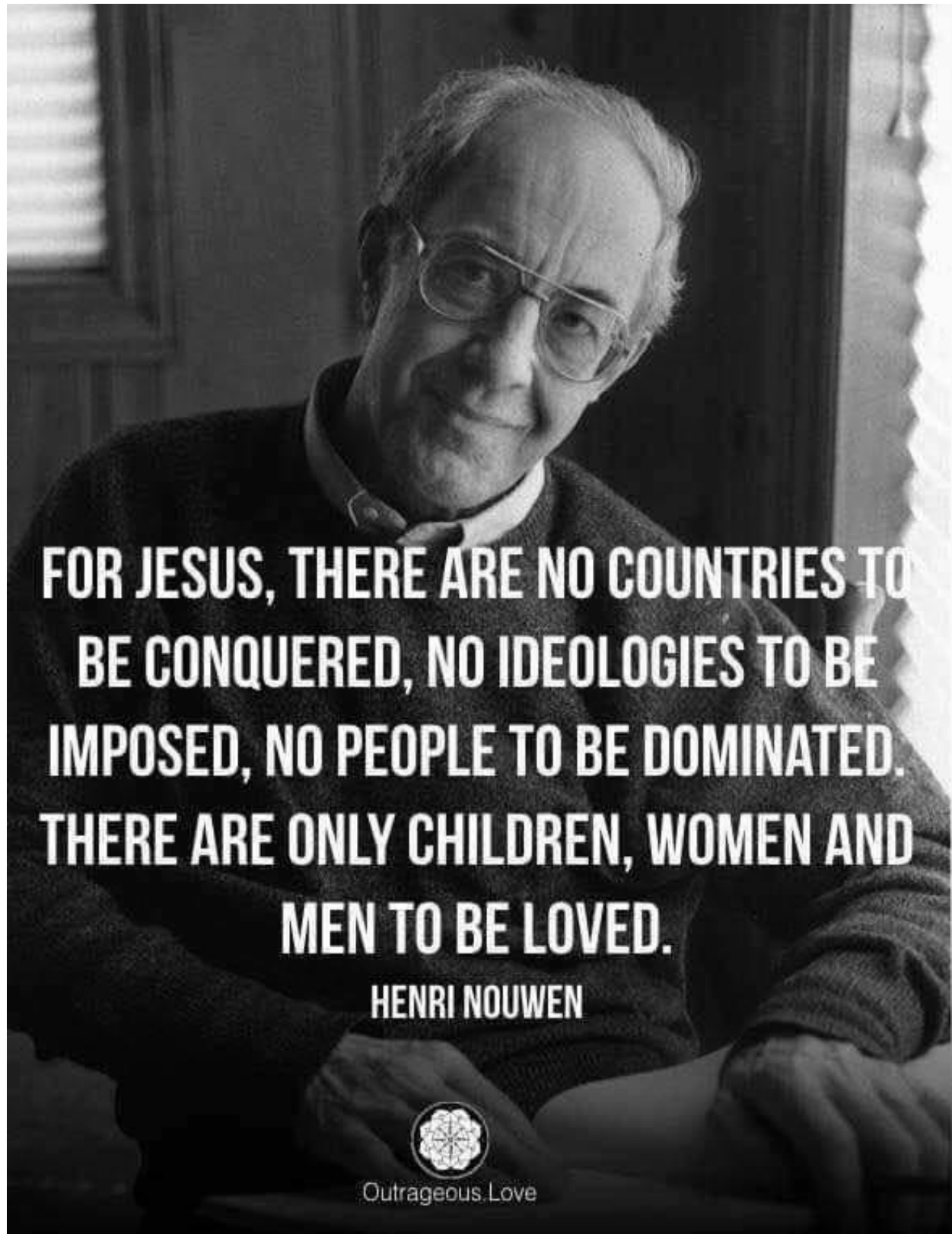
Narrated by Denise Leahy as Maud Gonne. Songs and music performed by Anna Skrine, Gordon and Liz Jones. All are most welcome to attend what promises to be a most enjoyable cultural evening for a very worthy and important cause. The organ in St. Iberius Church is badly in need of restoration and this can only be done by raising funds to be able to do so.

Ireland's foreign exchange students made to live in tents

Foreign exchange students are being forced to live in tents in Ireland as the country's housing crisis reaches a new low.

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Just 851 properties were available to rent nationally on May 1 this year, in a country with a population of over five million, while prospective tenants have queued for hours to view properties in the capital in recent weeks.



Hannes Donat, a student from Leipzig University in Germany, recently moved to Galway on the EU's Erasmus programme to study abroad for a year. Pleading for a room, he posted a picture of his current living situation on Facebook: a modest two-man tent in a field.

Despite having an Irish reference available, a deposit at hand, and a budget of € 700 per month for a single room, Hannes has had no luck in finding accommodation.

The reality of the country's worsening housing crisis has come to light in recent weeks, when a video went viral on Twitter of hundreds queuing to view one rental property in Dublin.

There are currently less than 300 properties available to rent across the capital, according to the Daft.ie website.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

How can we heal divisions by disagreeing well?

In **the 2022 John Stott London Lecture**, Revd Dr Christopher Landau draws on his doctoral research on the New Testament ethics of disagreement to explore how Christians can combine a commitment to love their

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neighbours with a desire to reveal truth – and how that can set the tone for the culture we're in.

During the lecture, he'll explain how John 13:35 offers a Christian foundation for loving disagreement, as Jesus teaches that mutual love within the church is what identifies it to outsiders: 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' Practising love for our neighbours within and beyond the church means we're called to be peacemakers and bridge-builders in every sector of society.

<https://licc.org.uk/events/jsll-2022/>

Youth Group in a Box

As the new school year gets underway and thoughts turn to resuming youth activities in parishes, Dublin and Glendalough's Youth Ministry Officer, Emma Fawcett, has put together a new youth resource.

'Youth Group in a Box' is a new DGYC resource containing four ready-made youth group sessions.

In each 'box' Emma has included everything you need to run a 90 minute to two hour youth group. Each session includes a theme, games and activities, a Bible talk, food and a schedule for the night.

The resource can be adapted to suit the needs of individual groups and age ranges and can be used at any time of the year.

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“Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council aims to support parishes in ministry to their young people,” Emma explains. “However, not every parish has a youth group and sometimes the hardest place is to know where to start, which can be off putting. This resource will give you all the tools you need to do so, as well as providing a framework to continue on with running youth groups. Each session builds on the previous and there are even suggestions for a youth group night out to help build relationships and to create memories together.”

You can sign up for this free resource here:

<https://dgygc.org/youthgroupinabox>

<https://licc.org.uk/events/jsll-2022/>

Christians Against Poverty NI

The CAP Enquiries Team can be contacted on 0800 328 0006 for:

- Free debt advice / Repayment plans
- Budgeting support;
- Sign-posting for Benefits checks;
- Personal support & advice

www.capuk.org

CNI

Perspective

Lets integrate the communities in Belfast and Derry before thinking of a United Ireland - Malachi O'Doherty

What happens if, and when, Ulster says yes?

Most of the adaptations that will have to be made in a new Ireland will be for the purpose of accommodating Northern Protestants. They will be a large minority within the new Irish state and they will be unlike other minorities we have had to make space for or adapt to before - Malachi O'Doherty writing in the Sunday Independent

Nor will the Protestants of the North be like those who adapted to life in the Free State and the Republic.

What makes the Northern Protestants different is that they have a territorial base.

They will know they will have no chance of reclaiming a place within the United Kingdom, but they will be able to assert a British identity within the new Ireland and to mark out territory as their own, from which they can demand recognition and concessions.

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The unionist population already feels beleaguered, but predominates within counties Antrim and Down, extending into the east of Co Derry in the north and across the south of Lough Neagh, through Lurgan and Portadown.

We can't say for sure how large that aggrieved minority will be. Clearly, some Protestants are already adapting to the idea that a united Ireland is inevitable, although they may be wrong in that.

Some will concede that the cause of the union is lost and will accept the new Ireland as their home.

Others will react with greater and lesser degrees of amenability, from retaining a few symbols of their British identity to outright commitment to disrupting the new state.

The assumption that there are a million Protestants determined to be British may not hold now, but supposing only half that number would want to continue to identify as British after unification, it would still amount to 10pc of the island's population.

As a body of people concentrated within definable boundaries in the north-east, they could present their demands for recognition with some force.

They would still be likely to fly the union flag from public buildings.

They would have murals and the old, familiar painted kerbstones to delineate British territory.

They would have among them thousands of young men belonging to armed loyalist paramilitary groups. One recent estimate by the commission for ending paramilitarism estimates there are 6,000 members of just one group, the Ulster Defence Association (UDA).

If tensions had risen during the preparations for a border poll and unification, those numbers would likely have increased.

Those people would have entered the new state wounded and angry, defeated but determined to preserve something of the 'Ulster' they had sought to defend.

That Ulster would, by then, be a cherished myth and, like the Republic of the 1916 Proclamation, real in their hearts. The territories defined by Protestant unionists as theirs would consolidate. Catholics who felt insecure would move out and Protestants who similarly felt insecure in other areas would move in to the British enclave.

A clear boundary would then emerge between that enclave and the rest of Ireland.

Armed groups and vigilantes might patrol that boundary. In times of heightened tension, we might see sectarian murders near that boundary to drive Catholics out and free up houses for Protestant refugees from other areas.

That enclave would characterise itself by a native culture, privileging Orange parades, paramilitary displays and the celebration of public occasions such as anniversaries.

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In most of the rest of Ireland, roads and streets will have dual language signage, English and Gaelic names. The Irish language will be conspicuously absent from the enclave. Travellers around the country and tourists will know immediately that they have crossed in to or out of a territory distinct from the rest of Ireland.

As a minority within the new Ireland, the pro-British Protestants will make demands of the new state for recognition of their rights. They will refuse to fly the Irish flag. They might refuse to be policed by An Garda Síochána and insist a remnant of the Police Service of Northern Ireland should be retained.

If they follow the example of the republican campaigns of 1919/20 and the more recent Troubles, they might attack Catholic police officers or any officer in garda uniform and force the consolidation of a Protestant force.

The Provos and Michael Collins's IRA were each able to invalidate a policing service within days, forcing military intervention.

Loyalists, by killing a few Catholic police officers, could trigger a rush of resignations or calls for transfer to safer areas.

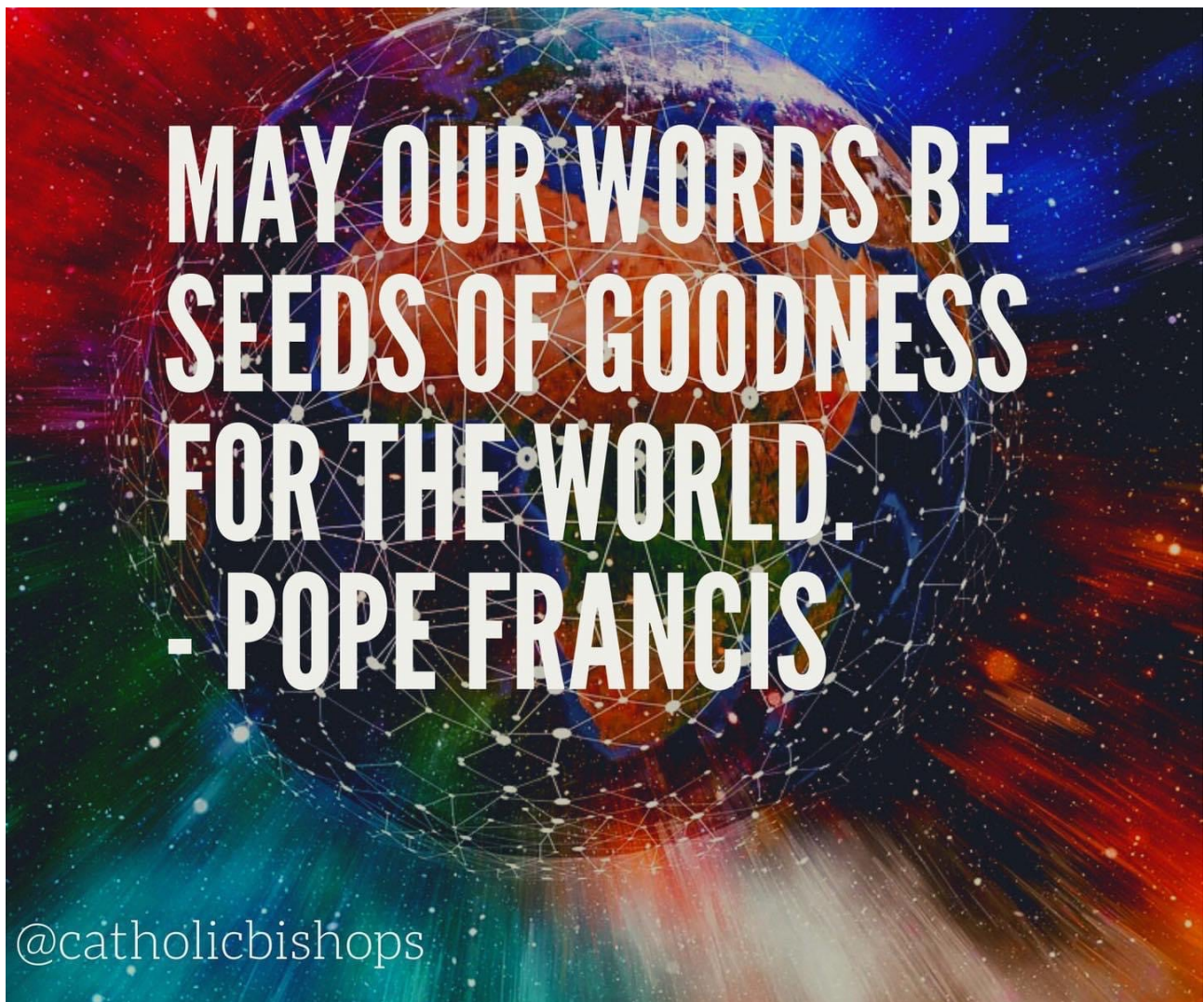
The government of the new Ireland will be challenged on how to respond. At a minimum, it would have to arm gardaí. It might decide on an aggressive suppression of the new movement and try to prevent the maintenance of the enclave. Past experience of, for instance, the No-Go areas

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of Belfast and Derry in the 1970s suggests this can only accelerate ghettoisation.

Or the state might seek to appease Protestant unease by conceding as far as possible to its demands, whatever they might be, and inviting it to play a fuller part.

The difficulty there is that where a territorially definable group refuses to participate in the state and uses even just a low level of violence to make its point, the whole area becomes unmanageable without emergency powers, and those who express the hardest form of resistance ultimately have to be talked to and compromised with.



That was surely the whole lesson of the peace process.

The IRA was only ever a few hundred activists at any one time, with a wider body of people prepared to make common cause with them to some degree. Loyalists will surely start from an assumption that what worked for the Provos and Sinn Féin will work for them, too.

So, anticipating the danger of unification creating a Protestant enclave, what might we do now to prevent it happening?

The first thing we should do is recognise that the problem begins in Northern Ireland. That problem is social and sectarian division. It will not be resolved by Irish unification and it will complicate unification if it comes about.

Before thinking of uniting Ireland, we should be asking how to integrate the Protestant and Catholic communities of Belfast and Derry. Belfast is still divided by peace walls that were to have been dismantled by next year. There isn't the remotest hope yet that those walls will ever come down, even in a united Ireland.

Derry has no peace walls because the division is marked by the River Foyle. Changing the Irish flag and anthem will make no more impression on loyalists and hardline unionists than legalising divorce and contraception did, although it was then-taoiseach Garret FitzGerald's hope that they would.

We may well now be moving rapidly toward a border poll. Brexit and the current shoddy quality of government in

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England make unification tempting for more of us. However much we might desire reconciliation in the North, we might not need it to get 50pc plus one vote over the line.

But then the problems of the North will not have been solved or shelved. They will have been exacerbated and they will be Dublin's to sort out.

Malachi O'Doherty's new book, 'Can Ireland be One?', is published by Merrion Press

Courtesy the Sunday Independent, September 4, 2022

Poem for today

Leisure by W. H. Davies

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—
No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

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No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

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

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