

Church News Ireland

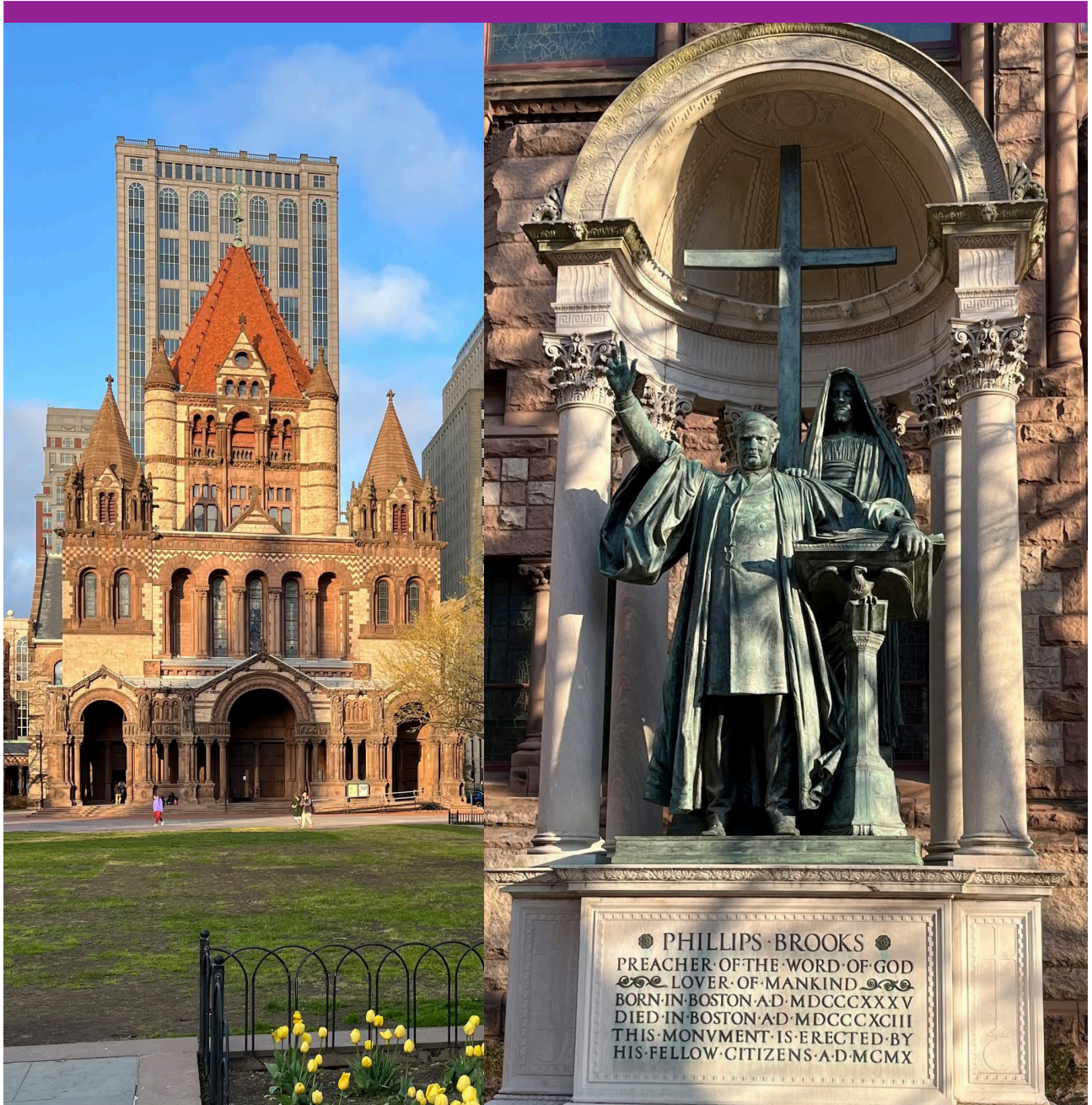
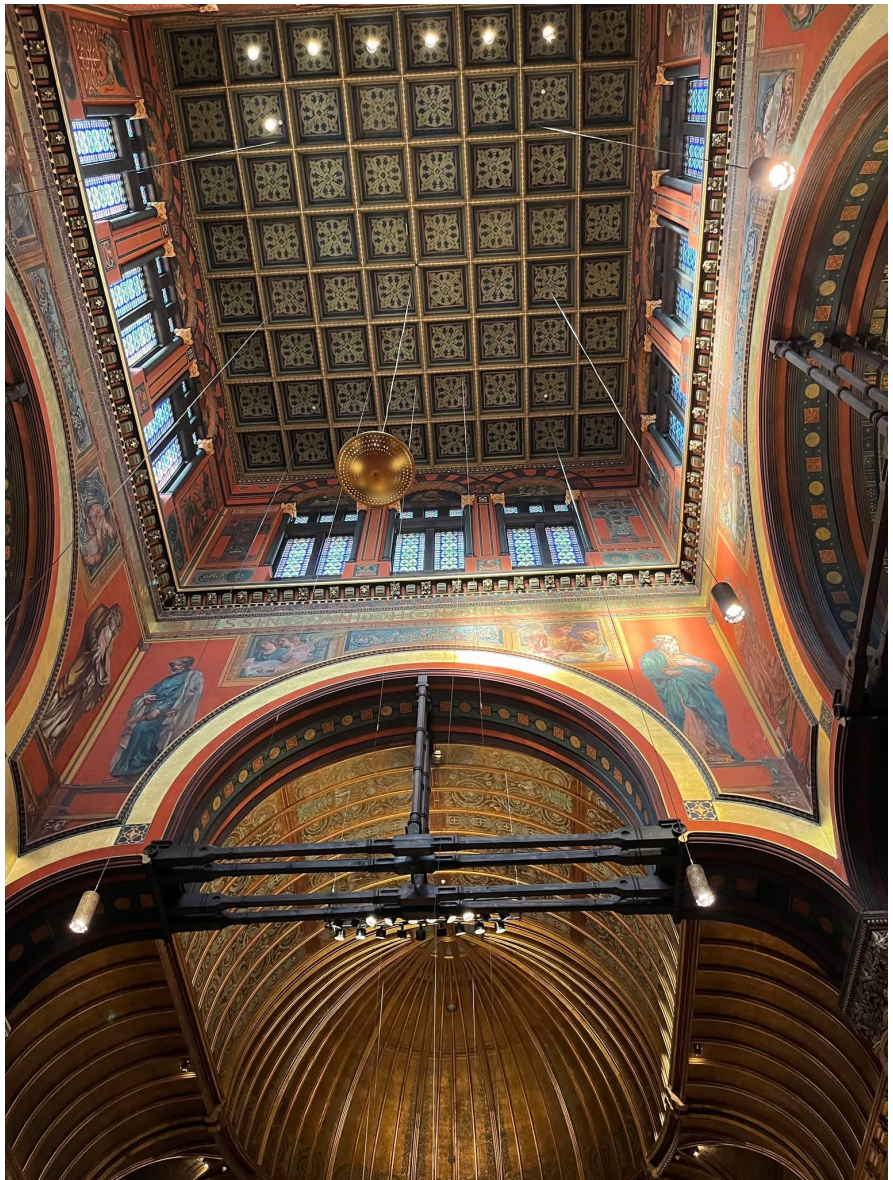


Image of the day – Muscular Victorian

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Muscular Victorian on Copley Square, Boston. Trinity Church, H. H. Richardson's 1877 masterwork, is the only church honoured as one of the "Ten Most Significant Buildings in the United States" by the American Institute of Architects.



Trinity Church in the City of Boston is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

In continuous existence since its founding in 1733, Trinity Church is the third oldest Episcopal parish in Boston, after King's Chapel (1686) and Christ Church (1722). The parish currently has a congregation of approximately 4,000 households. Every Sunday and throughout the week, Trinity

holds services that are celebrated for the quality of their preaching and music.

The current structure is the third building for the parish and stands as the largest building in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, with a seating capacity of 1350 people for weekly worship and for special city-wide events. Voted the finest building in the United States by members of the architecture profession in 1885, Trinity remained the only building from the original list of ten structures when the American Institute of Architects held a similar competition in 1986. Welcoming more than 70,000 visitors each year, in addition to those coming for worship, the church celebrates its commitment to the city and its citizens through scores of outreach projects and the focused activities of Trinity Boston Connects.

Give yourself a treat -

<https://trinitychurchboston.org/history/>

And a second treat - Phillips Brooks

Phillips Brooks (December 13, 1835 – January 23, 1893) was an American Episcopal clergyman and author, long the rector of Boston's Trinity Church and briefly Bishop of Massachusetts. One of the most popular preachers of the Gilded Age, he worked to make the Christian Church more relevant to contemporaries.

Among his other accomplishments, he wrote the lyrics of the Christmas hymn "**O Little Town of Bethlehem**".

He is honoured on the Episcopal Church liturgical calendar on January 23.

In addition to his moral stature, he was a man of great physical height, standing six feet four inches (1.93 m) tall. See Wicki for more!

News

Pope Leo XIV urges ceasefire and humanitarian aid for Gaza in meeting with Israeli President

In a powerful appeal for peace, Pope Leo XIV met privately with Israeli President Isaac Herzog to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the wider Middle East.

The Holy Father emphasized the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid.

According to the Holy See Press Office, the Pope and President Herzog discussed “the political and social situation in the Middle East... with particular attention given to the tragic situation in Gaza.” The statement expressed hope “for a speedy resumption of negotiations so that, with willingness and courageous decisions, as well as the support of the international community, the release of all hostages can be achieved, a permanent ceasefire reached with urgency, the safe entry of humanitarian aid into the



most affected areas be facilitated, and full respect for humanitarian law be ensured” (Vatican News).

The Holy See also reiterated its long-standing position that a two-state solution remains “the only way out of the current war,” insisting that both Israelis and Palestinians deserve security and dignity. The statement confirmed that discussions also included the situation in the West Bank and “the important question of the city of Jerusalem,” a place sacred to Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike.

Beyond diplomacy, Pope Leo XIV stressed the Church’s pastoral concern for all who suffer in the conflict, as well as the vital role of Christian communities in the region. According to the Press Office, attention was given to “the importance of Christian communities and their commitment... to human and social development, especially in the areas of education, the promotion of social cohesion, and regional stability” (Vatican News).

For Catholics, this meeting is a reminder of the Church's mission to be a voice for peace. Pope Leo XIV's call reflects Christ's own heart for reconciliation: to seek justice, to care for the suffering, and to work tirelessly for a peace that respects the dignity of every human person.

Read more: <https://catholiconline.news/world/pope-leo-xiv-urges-ceasefire-and-humanitarian-aid-for-gaza-in-meeting-with-israeli-president/>

Bishop of Warrington resigns, a year after speaking out on assault

The Bishop of Warrington has announced she will step down at the end of September, after being on “extended study leave” since 2023.

In January, Rt Rev Bev Mason identified herself as one of two women allegedly sexually assaulted and harassed by the now former Bishop of Liverpool, John Perumbalath. He resigned as bishop, after the allegations were brought to light by a Channel 4 documentary. He denied any wrongdoing.

Bishop Bev has now written a resignation letter to the diocese, reflecting on a “bruising time”.

“It has now been over two years since I was advised to take ‘extended study leave’ on the understanding that the causative matter would be resolved soon thereafter,” she said.



She thanked God for the work of churchgoers and charities in Liverpool, saying: “I remain deeply proud of the Christ-light in you that is shining across the diocese - of your courage to try something new for the sake of the Gospel, and of your resolve to think and re-think as you listen to the stirrings of the Spirit. Please never lose this!”

Bishop Bev also praised the interim Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Rev Ruth Worsley, saying she is “encouraged and hopeful” for the future of the diocese.

Bishop Ruth said she received the news of Mason’s resignation with a “heavy heart”. “We are thankful for all that Bishop Bev has given in her ministry among us here in the Liverpool diocese. She goes with our love and prayers for the future,” the bishop stated.

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland seeks input on its Draft Strategic Plan 2026-29

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland is developing a new three-year strategic plan and is looking for your input. Consultation is now open

The Commission is seeking your views on all aspects of its future direction, including:

our vision, mission, and values.

our key aims and strategic priorities.

the outcomes we want to achieve.

Your feedback will play a vital role in shaping a final plan that reflects the needs of charities and the communities they serve.

How to get involved

We've launched a 12-week public consultation running from 7 July to 26 September 2025. Here's how you can take part:

Read the draft Strategic plan: You can view the full consultation document or an easy-read version below.

Complete the online questionnaire: Share your feedback through our SurveyMonkey form

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3GLM28K> by 5pm on Friday, 26 September 2025.

Education

Bishop Cullinan gives full support to school secretaries and caretakers

Bishop of Waterford & Lismore Alphonsus Cullinan regarding the ongoing strike by school secretaries and caretakers said -

I wish to express my full support for the school secretaries and caretakers across our schools who are seeking better public service pensions and improved conditions of employment. Both of these roles are absolutely essential for the smooth running of every school. They contribute not only through their work but also through the care, dedication, and presence they bring to the whole school community.

It is important that, as a society, we recognise the dignity of the work of every individual. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us of the fundamental principle of the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Work is not merely about completing tasks or earning a wage; it is a participation in God's creation and an expression of human dignity. Therefore, it is vital that those who serve our schools so faithfully are treated with justice and fairness.

School secretaries are often the first point of contact for families and children, offering a welcoming presence and a listening ear. Caretakers ensure the safety, cleanliness, and proper functioning of the school environment. These



contributions, though sometimes unseen, are invaluable. They create the conditions in which teaching and learning can flourish, and they provide support and reassurance to pupils, staff, and parents alike.

The Catholic Church has long upheld the rights of workers to just wages, secure conditions, and adequate pensions. Pope Leo XIII in *Rerum Novarum* and Pope St John Paul II in *Laborem Exercens* both highlighted the moral obligation to treat workers with fairness and respect, recognising that behind every role is a person made in the image and likeness of God. Injustice in employment is not only an economic issue but also a moral one, for it touches the very dignity of the human person.

I therefore encourage those in positions of responsibility to hear the just claims of our school secretaries and caretakers. To disregard their contribution would be to undervalue the fabric of school life itself. Fair treatment,

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security in employment, and proper pensions are not privileges but rights rooted in the common good.

I offer my prayers and support to all those who serve in these roles and to the wider school communities who benefit daily from their quiet dedication. May our society grow in recognising the inherent dignity of all work and all workers, and may justice guide our decisions in these matters.

+ Alphonsus Cullinan
Bishop of Waterford & Lismore

Cathedral Calls



Residentiary Canon in Canterbury Cathedral

The King has approved the appointment of the Reverend Lindsay Anne Yates MA, BTh, MTh, Honorary Minor Canon in Canterbury Cathedral, in the Diocese of Canterbury, to be a Residentiary Canon in Canterbury Cathedral upon the retirement of the Reverend Canon Dr

Timothy James Neville Naish, BA, MA, PhD.

Lindsay will be collated by the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, and installed by the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Reverend Dr David Monteith, as Canon Residentiary and Precentor at a service of Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral in October (details to be announced soon). The service will be open to the public and will also be available to watch live online via the Cathedral's YouTube channel.

To find out more: www.canterbury-cathedral.org/news

Clergy and ministry

Moderator's busy week on Northwest tour

Final preparations have been made by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Presbytery of Derry and Donegal to welcome PCI's new Moderator, Right Reverend Dr Trevor Gribben, when he makes a week-long tour of the area next week.

Starting this Sunday (7 September), Dr Gribben said he was looking forward to the pastoral visit, as it was "an opportunity to say 'thank you' to those who pastor, lead and serve in our Presbyterian congregations in this part of the world. At the same time, I want to thank those in the wider community who keep us safe, teach and encourage our children and young people, treat us when we are unwell, and provide food for our tables."



Having been installed as Moderator in June, the all-Ireland denomination's senior office bearer, will undertake four such tours of the Church during his year in office. Next week, across his various engagements, Dr Gribben hopes to encourage the local church, but also come alongside those in education, health and farming, and members of the emergency services as well.

Looking forward to the tour, which will be his first, the Moderator said, "In our Presbyterian way of doing things, all of our 500-plus congregations across Ireland are divided up into regional presbyteries, and we have 19 of them. This includes the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal, which is our only significantly cross-border body with 30 congregations in Donegal and 18 in Londonderry. The Presbytery also

includes Leckpatrick Presbyterian, my first congregation as a minister, where I was installed 35 years ago.”

The tour opens this Sunday when Dr Gribben will preach at the morning worship service at **Donemana Presbyterian Church** and conclude with a united evening service in **Glendermott Presbyterian Church** the following Sunday.

Between the two is a packed week of nearly 30 separate engagements, which will also include lunch with the Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, Most Reverend Donal McKeown.

“This is very much a pastoral visit to encourage our Presbyterian church in its mission and ministry in this part of the country. I want to thank the Presbytery for arranging a programme that allows me to do that and see first-hand the work that our congregations are doing, and how that blesses the local community.

“It is also an opportunity to acknowledge what Presbyterians are doing to serve the community in so many different ways, which includes our chaplains in education and health, but also includes so many of our members in their everyday occupations and lives” Dr Gribben said.

Education always features prominently on a presbytery tour. Next week Dr Gribben will spend time meeting staff and students at three schools in Donegal: **Donoughmore National School, The Royal and Priory Comprehensive School, and Convoy Joint National School**, where the

Presbyterian Church is joint patron with the Church of Ireland.

The Moderator will also spend time with **PCI's part-time chaplain at Ulster University's Derry-Londonderry Campus** at the former Magee College. During this visit he will meet Professor Malachy O'Neill, Director of Regional Engagement. At Trinity Presbyterian Church, Letterkenny, the Moderator will meet postgraduate students at the Institute of Technology in the town.

A number of **civic engagements** have been organised, which includes lunch with the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor Ruairi McHugh and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman Niree McMorris. The Moderator will meet the **PSNI** in the City, and hopefully visit **Garda** officers in Letterkenny. A visit to **Kilfennan Community Hub and Foyle Search and Rescue** will also take place, along with a visit to **Altnagelvin Hospital** to meet the chaplaincy team and the North West Cancer Centre. Farms are also on the agenda with visits to **three farms** and farmers attending **Raphoe Livestock Mart**.

Dr Gribben continued, "As a pastor at heart, spending time with ministerial colleagues will be an important part of the tour, especially in the small groups that the Presbytery has arranged, where I'll be able to listen, pray, encourage and be encouraged.

"I am also looking forward to meeting fellow Presbyterians in the pews and preaching on my theme for the year, 'Hope and a future in Jesus'. It is taken from the Old Testament Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 29:1 and 4-14, and verse 11

says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” It is a wonderful promise from a loving God that we all need to hear, for it gives us hope, a hope that is found in Jesus.”

Dr Gribben continued, “God also called His people in the Prophet Jeremiah’s day to seek the peace and prosperity of the city and we do that wherever God has placed us, engaging in the public square and in civil society, and I am looking forward to doing that next week.”

“It will also be a time to say ‘thank you’ to those who pastor our Presbyterian flock in this part of the world, those who keep us safe, teach our children and young people, treat us when we are unwell, and provide food for our tables. It will be a busy week, but I am really looking forward to it,” he said.

Most Revd Ian Ernest grateful for mission of the Anglican Francophone Network

The Most Revd Ian Ernest is one of the contributor's at this week's gathering of Francophone bishops and spouses in Nairobi. Speaking about the significance of the event he said:

‘I am deeply grateful to God that the mission of the Francophone Network is being considered as important to the life and witness of the Anglican Communion. Its influence over the past decades shows how the process of

I am deeply grateful to God that the mission of the Francophone Network is being considered as being important to the life and witness of the Anglican Communion.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION
IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES





**The Most Revd
Ian Ernest**
*Former Director of the Anglican
Centre in Rome and Bishop of
Mauritius*

inculturation in theological training and liturgy has widened the comprehensiveness of our worldwide Church.'

The Most Revd Ian Ernest, is a Mauritian Anglican bishop and the former Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Read more about this week's Francophone gathering:
<http://bit.ly/45KqXQr>

Priest attacked in Downpatrick to require in-patient care ‘indefinitely’ as accused appears in court

(Canon John Murray was recently transferred to Downe Hospital)

A priest who was attacked in Downpatrick last month is to require in-patient care for an “indefinite duration”, according to a social media post by Downpatrick Family of Churches.

Father John Murray was struck in the head with a bottle during an attack at St Patrick’s Church in Downpatrick on Sunday, August 10.

He was hospitalised immediately after, and a man has since been charged with murder and attempted murder after the body of another man, Stephen Brannigan (56), was found at a nearby property on the same day.

Hugh Malone (30), of no fixed address but from the Belfast area, appeared in Downpatrick Magistrates Court today (September 4).

Fr Eugene O’Neill led mass at the church at the end of August and told parishioners that Canon Murray was “comfortable and moving quietly and prayerfully, as is his characteristic manner, towards recovery.”

Fr Murray was due to retire as parish priest of St Patrick’s to be succeeded by Fr O’Neill.

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On Thursday, Downpatrick Family of Parishes posted on Facebook: “We are pleased to say that Fr John continues to make good progress, though he still requires in-patient treatment of an indefinite duration.

“He is now back in Downpatrick, having been recently transferred from the RVH to the Downe Hospital.

“As before, visits are restricted to immediate family and clergy.

“As always both Fr John and ourselves wish to express our appreciation for all the prayers and messages of goodwill, and our gratitude to all the medical staff for their care.”

Events

History Detectives Exhibition is open at North Down Museum

Explore the fascinating stories of Balloo and Killinchy in this new exhibition curated by local historians Leanna Russell, Moira Concannon and Lesley Simpson.

The display features maps, leases, wills, letters, photographs and artefacts – including rare loans from PRONI and National Museums NI.

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.



21 October 1904 – 30 November 1967



From farmers and millers to doctors, shopkeepers and ministers, discover the people who shaped this area, told in their own words.

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The Long Gallery, North Down Museum



4 Sept – 16 Nov



Free admission

This exhibition follows the publication of *Balloo, Killinchy: A Hidden History* and showcases artefacts rarely seen outside national collections.

Pictured at the launch are Mayor of Ards and North Down, Councillor Gillian McCollum, Gawn Rowan Hamilton, Lord-Lieutenant of County Down with curators Lesley Simpson, Moira Concannon and Leanna Russell, beside the Royal Patent issued by King James I in 1622 raising James Hamilton to the peerage as Viscount Clandeboye (on loan from PRONI).



Plan your visit today:

<https://andculture.org.uk/whats-on/history-detectives>

Admission is free!

Resources

Planning ahead for Advent and Christmas?

The C of E's printed and digital resources for the season - including a heart-warming retelling of the Christmas story for children - are now available.

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Find out about all the resources for you and your church at cofe.io/Christmas.

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

