



Reports

North Coast of Ireland featured in Keith & Kristyn Getty's new release of "It Is Well With My Soul"

The official cinematic music video for "It Is Well With My Soul," a new single from Keith & Kristyn Getty, has been released in anticipation of their upcoming album!

This new arrangement of a classic hymn is featured in the upcoming film, Sabina: Tortured for Christ, The Nazi Years, releasing worldwide November 8-10. Watch stunning scenes of the North Coast of Ireland and exclusive footage from the Sabina film bring the hymn's timeless lyrics to life!

Set during World War II, "Sabina" takes viewers on a journey through Romania to discover why Sabina Wurmbbrand, a Jewish Christian, would risk her life to offer a kind hand to German soldiers—enemies who killed her entire family. The film conveys the realities of religious persecution during that era and the cost of following Christ when faith is forbidden. We're honoured to partner with Voice of the Martyrs in supporting this inspiring film that represents the importance of hope in the midst of great loss.

Hear the new recording of It Is Well With My Soul released by Keith & Kristyn Getty at -

[[https://va.lnk.to/itiswell?mc_cid=010b8cbc86&mc_eid=33d184a477]

September 27, 2021

[[] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJI2e9byaFU>]
[<https://va.lnk.to/itiswell>]



Take small hopeful steps to emerge from the pandemic, Bishop Storey

Small hopeful steps as we navigated and emerge from the pandemic was one of the thoughts in Bishop Pat Storey’s Presidential Address to members of the Meath & Kildare synod.

She talked of the challenges that the pandemic had brought. She said “God has taken us through – we have had intensely difficult times, and the isolation has been hard on every single one of us – but we are here, and God is good.”

September 27, 2021

She continued, “As a diocese, we will need time to take stock, feel around for where we are at, and in the new year, edge back into normal parish life. There have been severe challenges to every parish”. She continued, “... I am so proud that you have met them. Our dedicated members of parishes all over the diocese have continued to give financially, to pray for one another, and to give support to those who are struggling.”

The bishop observed how the clergy had learned to operate “in a new virtual world and enduring the limitations of providing pastoral care since March 2020. It has been a new world to navigate, and I am also very proud of how they have negotiated learning new skills, providing public worship differently ...”

Talking of recovery from the pandemic she said, “There is a lot of trauma that will emerge from bereavement, isolation and anxiety ...” She then highlighted the issue of mental health and the diocesan Mind Yourself to help and support those meeting mental health challenges, saying “there isn’t a family in Ireland that doesn’t have someone who does not always enjoy good mental health, and we must be a diocesan family who cares for the sick in all its forms.”

Bishop Storey also welcomed new members to the diocesan clergy team: to Alan Robinson, Yvonne Hutchinson, James Reid and Alan Melbourne who were ordained as priests, and Philip McKinley, Marion Keating and Pat Ryan who were ordained as deacons.

You can download the full text of the Bishop’s address by clicking a link at -

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September 27, 2021

[[] <https://meathandkildare.org/news/prevaling-through-strong-winds-diocesan-synod-meets-virtually/>]

Gestures are very important in the search for reconciliation in Ireland - John Cushnahan

In the search for peace and reconciliation, heads of state, as well as elected politicians, have also made important gestures to assist progress, John Cushnahan writes -

As President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, on a visit to Northern Ireland in 1993, shook the hand of Gerry Adams. This was regarded as an “historic” gesture in the search for peace.

As the United Kingdom's head of state, the Queen has also made courageous gestures. In 2011, she attended a wreath-laying ceremony in Dublin's Garden of Remembrance on the first day of her historic state visit.

In what was described as a hugely symbolic gesture reflecting a new era in relations between the two countries, the Queen bowed her head as she laid a wreath at the memorial for those who died fighting for Irish freedom, before observing a minute's silence.

Then, in 2012, in a further spirit of reconciliation, she shook the hand of the former commander of the IRA, Martin McGuinness, despite the fact that the IRA had murdered Lord Mountbatten, who was a member of the royal family.

They shook hands at a private meeting at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast, involving a group of seven people, including Irish President Michael D Higgins and Northern Ireland's First Minister, Peter Robinson. They later shook hands in public. In 2015, her son Charles shook hands with Gerry Adams.

Gestures are important and all these gestures were warmly welcomed throughout Ireland at the time.

By accepting the invitation to attend a religious service organised by all the four main Churches in Ireland, President Higgins would have added to the many gestures he has already made in the search for reconciliation.

John Cushnahan is a former leader of the Alliance Party and former Fine Gael MEP

Bishops speak of ‘remorse’ over abuse at church schools

Roman Catholic bishops have expressed their “profound remorse” for the treatment of Canada’s indigenous population at the residential schools the church ran across the country.

The move came months after the discovery of more than 1,000 unmarked graves at the sites of three schools operated by the church as part of Canada’s forced assimilation programme.



“We acknowledge the suffering experienced in Canada’s Indian residential schools,” the bishops said following a plenary meeting in Cornwall, Ontario.

“Many Catholic religious communities and dioceses participated in this system, which led to the suppression of indigenous languages, culture and spirituality, failing to respect the rich history, traditions and wisdom of indigenous peoples.

“We acknowledge the grave abuses that were committed by some members of our Catholic community; physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and sexual.

“We also sorrowfully acknowledge the historical and ongoing trauma and the legacy of suffering and challenges faced by indigenous peoples that continue to this day.”

September 27, 2021

The statement added that representatives of Canada's indigenous population would meet Pope Francis in Rome in December.

Canada's treatment of the indigenous population has scarred the country, with critics describing the assimilation programme as "cultural genocide".

At least 4,100 children disappeared from the schools. Later estimates suggest that the figure could exceed 10,000.

News briefs

New Rector of Taney announced

The Revd Nigel Pierpoint has been appointed Rector of Taney Parish in the Diocese of Dublin. Nigel currently serves in Taney as Curate. The announcement was made in both Christ Church, Taney and St Nahi's during services this morning. He succeeds Canon Robert Warren who retired in March of this year.

The Revd Nigel Pierpoint

Born in Santry and the youngest of three boys, Nigel grew up in the Church of Ireland tradition as a chorister in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. He is married to Anne and they have two children, Claire and Stephen, as well as son-in-law Andy and two grandchildren Henry and Nora. Anne works in Rathdown School as registrar.

Nigel was licenced as a Lay Reader for Dublin and Glendalough in 1995. He commenced training in the Church

September 27, 2021

of Ireland
Theological
Institute in
2013. He was
ordained
Deacon in 2015
and Priest in
2016. He has
served in Taney
since his
ordination to the
Diaconate.



‘It is a great
honour to have
been appointed
to Taney,’ Nigel
comments. ‘I
have served the
parish since

September 2015 as a Deacon, I was appointed Curate in
2016 and now the Archbishop has appointed me a Rector. I
am both honoured and humbled that the nominators have
entrusted the parish into my care and I can assure all
parishioners of my continued support and prayers for them.

‘I am truly blessed and I ask God’s blessing on me as I
continue my work in Taney Parish albeit in my new role now,
as Rector. I am very much looking forward to continuing my
ministry in this wonderful and vibrant parish. Please pray for
Anne and I as we transition to the Rectory, as I will continue
to pray for the community of faith that is Taney Parish.’

Ni grant for woodland

Last chance to apply for government grant to plant a woodland on your farm, private or public land, closes 10pm Thurs. 30 Sept 2021. The grant covers all costs to plant a woodland. Includes tailored advice, ground preparation, cost of trees, planting, weeding, monitoring & protection. You can employ a contractor to do all or some of the work. If eligible, you'll also get an annual payment for 10 years a fencing grant too, to protect the newly planted trees from stock.

Farmers, private land owners or public sector organisations in Northern Ireland can apply if you have 0.20 hectares (half acre) or more. See advice from those who've done it.

[[] <https://www.myni.life/nature/grant-for-landowners-to-plant-trees-on-their-land/>]

Arts and Creative sector grants

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities, have opened a new recovery funding programme, co-designed to support individuals in the Arts and Creative sectors retain valuable skills.

The Creative Individuals Recovery Programme (CIRP), worth £5 million, offers individuals the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £2,000 each. The programme is now open for online applications and will close at 12noon on Wednesday 6 October 2021.

Find out more: [<http://artscouncil-ni.org/news/5million-recovery-fund-to-support-individuals-in-the-arts-creative-sectors>]



Emma Fawcett - New Youth Ministry Coordinator appointed in Dublin and Glendalough

Dublin and Glendalough Youth Council has announced the appointment of Emma Fawcett as Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator. Emma took up the role at the beginning of September.

Emma has been involved in youth work at both a local and national level for over 15 years. After completing a MA (hons) in Management with Marketing in Heriot–Watt University, Edinburgh, Emma moved to Dublin to take up a role as a Youth Pastor in Dundrum Methodist Church. In 2015, Emma joined Scripture Union Ireland as Camps and Volunteer Manager, and has been involved in the national ministry of IMYC for over a decade.

September 27, 2021

A keen musician, Emma has led worship at events and conferences throughout the island of Ireland. She loves having chats over a cup of (good) coffee and is always keen to go on another surfing trip out West.

Announcing Emma's appointment, chairperson of DGYC, the Revd Alan Breen said: "I am thrilled to welcome Emma into her role as our new Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator. Emma comes with a wealth of experience, wisdom, maturity and a grounded foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. In our conversations already I am encouraged at the depth of heart and desire to have a kingdom mindset undergirded with prayer. Emma inherits a well established ministry that Susie Keegan has passed on and as a Council we are enthusiastic as to the direction that Emma will bring and the encouragement and challenge that will be brought to our diocese. Please support Emma in prayer and action in however you can."

Emma added: "I'm excited about this new opportunity to serve God and have an impact on the youth work within the dioceses. I will be in touch with clergy and those engaged in youth ministry soon to introduce myself and see how I can support ongoing youth ministry, and hopefully bring about some new opportunities. However, if you need any assistance before then, do not hesitate to send me an email at dgyc.office@gmail.com."

Emma takes on the role following the departure of Susie Keegan in July. Alan paid tribute to her saying: "In the last couple of years Susie has reestablished the focus, heart and drive for supporting parishes where asked, in developing faith and life skills for youth, youth-leaders and

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September 27, 2021

clergy. Her integrity and passion has been a model for those that have served alongside her. She brought a holistic view and ethic to ministry which has been deeply encouraging and challenging. Susie has brought sustainability and a vision for our Diocese. We as a council pray blessings for her and husband Paul as they continue to love God and love those around them in all they are and do.”

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

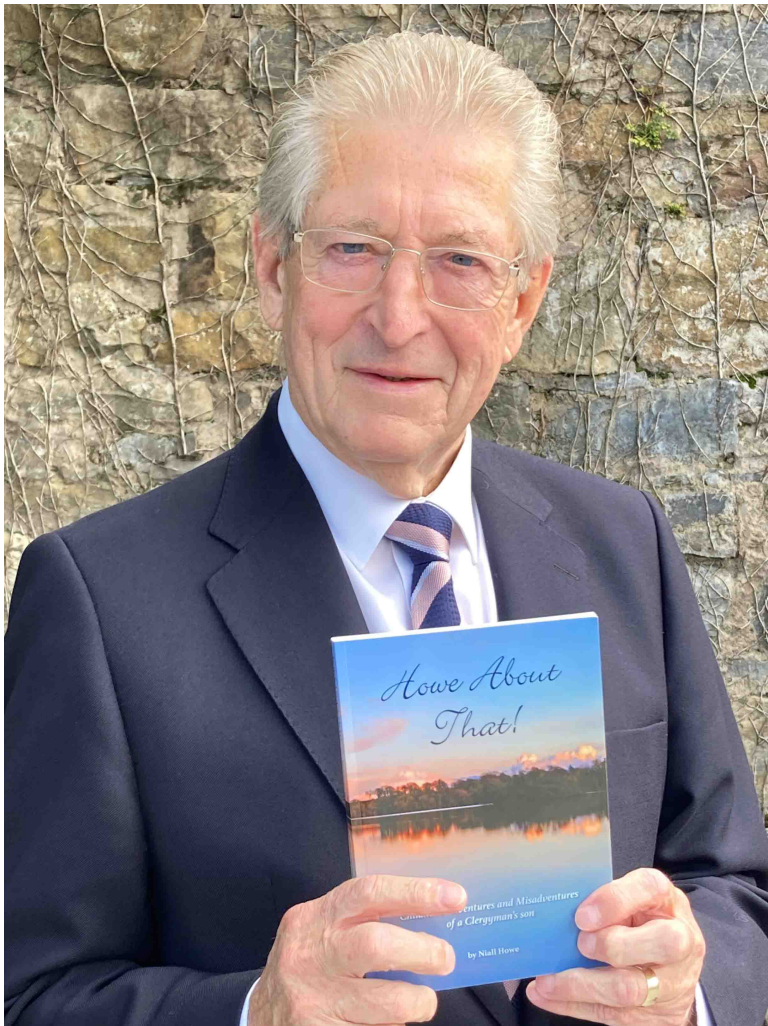
New book looks at life growing up in a rectory family

Niall Howe, author of the book, 'Howe About That!' A member of a well-known rectory family in Clogher Diocese has written a book about his adventures and experiences during his childhood.

Niall Howe, the eldest in the family of Chancellor George Reginald Howe and his wife, Mary, has published his book, 'Howe About That!' which documents the family's historical roots, the childhood days in various rectories and later school life.

Recalling his father's early days in ordained ministry in Belfast, Niall explained how it was during the heydays of shipbuilding at Harland and Wolff and Luftwaffe bombing raids on Belfast.

Niall's father was subsequently appointed Curate-in-charge of the Parish of Drumkeeran, Tubrid, in North Fermanagh,



an area which provided him with plenty of opportunities to fish and shoot.

Revd Howe was also a keen gardener and beekeeper too.

As Niall (photo left) describes in his book, “Life around the rectory was never dull” and “Drumkeeran was a wonderful place for us kids to grow up. I have such happy memories of my

childhood there.”

The book takes readers to a simpler lifestyle of the late 1940's, 50's and 60's when the home comforts people take for granted today were not experienced then.

There are some detailed descriptions of Niall's experiences at school; he attended six different primary level schools - and the mischievous antics he got up to as he grew up.

The family's sojourn of 12 years at Drumkeeran ended in 1957 when Revd Howe was appointed Rector of Rossorry Parish, on the outskirts of Enniskillen, marking the beginning of “an exciting new adventure” for the children.

September 27, 2021

The book charts Niall's progress to grammar school in Sligo.

In an epilogue, Niall said; "I found the experience of reflecting on my journey from my earliest childhood memory to the point where I left school to be quite cathartic!"

He searches deeply to describe his own family relationships acknowledging that while his father was a strict disciplinarian it was, he believes, his way of equipping his children with a moral compass for life's journey ahead.

While Niall did not follow his father into the church, he displays a real understanding of theology and messages for everyday occasions. He uses short quotations from the Bible to preface each chapter.

Niall dedicates the book to his wife, Beryl and their children, Tanya and Jonathan and his wife, Christine, thanking them "for being a wonderful blessing to me and an example of God's love and kindness to all those you encounter." It is also written in memory of his parents.

At least 25 per cent of all proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to Fields of Life, a Christian charity working in poor areas of Eastern Africa where it helps to change lives, transform communities and builds hope.

Copies of the book are available from Rossorry Parish Office (email: rossorryoffice@btinternet.com); from the Parish Office at Hillsborough (admin@hillsboroughparish.org.uk; Tel 028 92688839) or by contacting Niall by email; niallhowe@outlook.com.

Perspective

Why practical need for Irish cannot be created out of nothing by Malachi O'Doherty

It's a bit late to quibble about the forthcoming Irish language legislation. It is due to go through Westminster next month because unionists were not prepared to pass it in Stormont in this mandate, even though they had agreed to that in the New Decade New Approach deal by which Stormont had been restored after a deadlock.

We haven't really had, and won't have, a thorough discussion about an Irish Language Act, in terms of what it will contain and what need there is for it. The need is plainly a political need. Sinn Féin insisted it would not govern without one, therefore there has to be one. If so minded, they could have pulled the same stunt for Swahili or Esperanto.

The point of the legislation is to make Irish an official language of Northern Ireland, much as it is in the Republic. In fact, according to the constitution, Irish is the first official language of the Republic.

This is paradoxical in a country where it is so little spoken. Most of the entire media output there is in English, from cinema and television and radio broadcasting to newspapers and magazines.

September 27, 2021

Furthermore, some of the greatest champions of Irish language promotion have said that the drive to make it an official state language has damaged the language and actually made it unpopular.

That is not what was planned by the founders of the Irish nation. They believed that Ireland would not have established itself as free and independent until the language was common currency, not just the 'first official language' but the language spoken by ordinary people on the bus, in the workplace, in the pub and in the home.

The trouble is that a language of officialdom is not the language spoken on the bus.

A recent Irish language documentary film on the BBC, Séamus Ó Grianna: Saol Corrach looked at the life of Ó Grianna, a native Irish speaker from Rannafast in Donegal who had supported De Valera in the Civil War believing that he would revive the spoken Irish that he knew and loved and was nurtured in as a child. He turned against government management of the language, believing that it was being destroyed and made into something so unlike his native tongue that it would be better that all such efforts just stopped. He argued in the end that Irish should not be taught in the Gaeltacht areas because people were still having to migrate for work and would be better able to find work if they spoke good English.

The new act will create lots of jobs for translators of legislation and government reports which are often difficult to read even in English and which only lawyers and specialist researchers will bother to read anyway.

September 27, 2021

There will be a culture fund but it could be bigger if the nonsense of translating official documents could be dropped.

No one needs Irish for communication because everybody who speaks it is bi lingual and most probably speak English better than they do Irish.

The legislation will repeal an Act of 1737 to allow Irish to be spoken in courts, which will create the absurdity of those who choose to make their case in Irish having their words translated into a language they speak adequately themselves.

It will be a brave Irish language campaigner who resists breaking into English to clarify a point if the translator has difficulty. A comedy sketch on this is just begging to be written.

The way to promote Irish is to provide people with an incentive to learn it. The usual incentive for learning a language is the need to be understood. That doesn't apply to Irish. If you can't think of the words for broccoli quiche when ordering in the Culturlann cafe then you can just say it in English and, if they have it, they'll bring it to you.

Most of the section of the NDNA on language is about rights and identity and the use of the language by public bodies, making forms available in Irish.

Will Irish speakers themselves be asking for these forms once the novelty has worn off? In the 2016 census in the Republic, nearly two million people answered 'yes' to being able to speak Irish to some extent but only eight thousand completed the census form in Irish.

September 27, 2021

The motives for learning Irish now are assertion of identity or personal love of the language, such as Linda Ervine of Turas has expressed.

She has said, 'it is in us because it is all around us and is the language of our ancestry and place names. Something naturally draws us to it. For me there just was this overwhelming desire to get this language.'

You can not legislate that feeling into people's hearts.

You certainly can't appeal to that love through legal documents and reports. You need to do it through poetry and music and wit.

If the point of the campaign for an Irish Language Act has been to provide a brand or logo establishing that Northern Ireland is Irish, then street names would do that and be a lot cheaper than creating translation jobs that real lovers of the language will find tedious and, because unnecessary, demoralising.

Do lovers of Irish really aspire to salaried drudgery?

The ubiquity of English can not be reversed so a practical need for Irish can not be created. That is a fact we have to live with.

As for Ulster Scots: Don't start me.

Courtesy Belfast Telegraph, September 21, 2021

Poem for today

A September Day by Francis Duggan

A thing of such great beauty to behold
The wattles resplendent in their blooms of gold
The first week of September and Spring is in the air
And in the green park daisies bloom everywhere,
On a day like this 'tis good to be alive
To start your car and go off on a drive
So great to live to see another Spring
To hear the nesting wild birds chirp and sing,
Were I a poet I would write a simple lay
For to celebrate this beautiful Spring day
To celebrate the beauty i can see
Where the Goddess of Spring has spread her greenery
And the wattles laden in their golden flowers
Look resplendent in these mild September hours.

Speaking to the Soul

See daily post on site

