



## **Church of Annunciation in Finglas announces final mass before huge downsize**

One of Ireland's largest Catholic Churches will close its doors next month as it is set to be

demolished and replaced by a much smaller church. The church will be dropping in capacity from 3,500 to 350

The final mass in the present Church of Annunciation in Finglas will be celebrated on October 7 by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

The church's demise comes after a combination of falling attendances and structural problems over the years.

**September 5, 2018**

It is currently able to hold over 3,500 people - but the new site will only have room for 350.

The church opened in 1967 when John Charles McQuaid was Archbishop.

Parish priest Fr Eamann Cahill had previously said they had been struggling with numbers.

In a statement last year he said: "“Following recent research, discussion and much analysis, the parish pastoral council, the finance committee and the parish team agreed that it would be best to replace the present church building with a new church.”

## **Looking to a Future of Prayer, Hope and Imagination at 150th Anniversary of Holmpatrick Church**

Parishioners and friends of Holmpatrick Church in Skerries gathered yesterday evening (Sunday September 2) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the current church building. The church and its grounds were festooned with fantastic floral displays as the church hosted a flower festival throughout the weekend as part of the celebrations.

The service was celebrated by the Rector, the Revd Anthony Kelly. Archbishop Michael Jackson preached and former clergy, Canon Cecil Mills and the Revd Alan Ruffli were in attendance. Worshipers were joined by Fr James Daly and a number of parishioners from St Patrick's Parish, Skerries.

September 5, 2018



**Young parishioners enjoying the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Holmpatrick Parish Church.**

Archbishop Michael Jackson began his sermon with some words of congratulation to the parish for sustaining witness and worship in the church over the past 150 years and for mounting a magnificent and challenging flower festival.

Holmpatrick Parish Church was consecrated on September 2 1868 by Archbishop Richard Chenevix Trench just ahead of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland.

Archbishop Trench and his generation had the task of building up the Church of Ireland after Disestablishment, Archbishop Jackson said adding that in our time, we have a similar task. “We belong to and face into a differently

September 5, 2018



**Canon Cecil Mills, Fr James Daly, the Revd Anthony Kelly, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Alan Rufli at the 150th anniversary of Holmpatrick Church.**

troubled Ireland in which we as church people are becoming all too instinctively sorry for ourselves because of diminishing numbers. Discipleship was never about big numbers; discipleship is about faith and action,” he stated.

The Archbishop suggested that Disestablishment was “significantly unattractive” to the vast majority of Church of Ireland people but was a valiant attempt to pacify Ireland, in the words of William Gladstone. Almost 150 years later that theme continued as, with increasing pessimism, we consider the consequences of a ‘no deal’ Brexit.

**September 5, 2018**

“Movement of people, movement of goods and services, the sharing of culture and capacity will all come under intense threat as 2018 gives way to 2019. The change ahead of us is as seismic as any we have known in our time. The loss of our nearest neighbours to North and to East as fellow-members of The European Union is something of which nobody, I imagine, had thought when the Good Friday-Belfast Agreement was signed – just up the M1 from here, as a further attempt in Mr Gladstone’s words: *to pacify Ireland*. It was an Agreement which presupposed and which was deeply dependent on shared European belonging between Ireland and the UK to the benefit of peace and stability in Northern Ireland in particular after decades of living Troubles,” he said.

Archbishop Jackson said that the church’s anniversary was an invitation to celebrate 150 years of continuity and change. He suggested that there were a number of things that could be learned from the anniversary. He said the future must be a future of prayer, a future of community and a future of imagination. “How else are we to run with the invitation embedded in what those of the era of Disestablishment actually said: ‘Now we are free to shape our own future’?” he asked.

Holmpatrick Church will hold two open days on Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, to which all will be welcome.

## **St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, to mark 750th Anniversary**

St Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, will celebrate the 750th anniversary of the present building with a Festival Service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, 23rd September, at 3.15pm.

September 5, 2018

The guest preacher will be the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford.



The foundation of the first

church on the site is attributed to St Patrick, in 445AD, and the present Cathedral dates from the work of Archbishop Máel Pátraic Ó Scanail in 1268. Of this building, all that remains for certainty is the crypt. The structure was extended by Archbishop Milo Sweetman in the 14th Century. After several centuries of destruction and disrepair, the building owes much to the major restoration in the 1830s under Archbishop Lord John George Beresford, and to further alterations of the east end between 1890 and 1913.

Looking ahead to the Service, the Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said: 'Armagh Cathedral is one of those focal points of Irish Christianity. Prayer and worship have been offered on this site for more than twice the age of the present building. From the original monastery, through cycles of destruction and repair, through Reformation and rebuilding, the Cathedral embodies a remarkable inheritance in Church history. The surrounding graveyard testifies to a great congregation in the Communion of Saints. We will gather on 23rd September

**September 5, 2018**

to celebrate the treasure that we have inherited. We look forward, too, to welcoming Bishop Stephen Cottrell to point us towards our continuing mission in the present and in the future.'

## **Claim C of I community 'torn apart' over school's policy**

The Irish Times reported yesterday that - The [Church of Ireland](#) community is being "torn apart" due to controversy over enrolment policies at a school which is giving priority to children who regularly attend church services, it has been claimed.

The report continues:

Rev [Edgar Swann](#), the former chairman of the board of management at St Patrick's [National School](#) in [Greystones](#), Co [Wicklow](#), has written to the Archbishop of Dublin to say the controversy is bringing the church into "public ridicule" and has called for the current board to be dissolved.

"The matter is damaging the school, which has lost excellent teachers, and it is causing a serious crisis in the parish," he stated.

His intervention follows the resignation of a long-serving principal, Eileen Jackson, at St Patrick's National School in protest over its "parish engagement" enrolment policy.

Parents at the school last week overwhelmingly voted to back the principal and urged the board be dissolved at an extraordinary general meeting of its parent-teacher association.

**September 5, 2018**

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, the school's patron, has refused to dissolve the board of management in the face of calls to do so by parents.

**Right: Bishop of Ossory at Electric Picnic**

He acknowledged that while St Patrick's was facing challenging times, there was no evidence that the board was "dysfunctional".

In his letter to the Archbishop, Rev Swann, the former rector for Greystones, expresses serious concern at the developments.

"I have no wish to interfere in the internal matters of my old parish and school, but I find I can be silent no longer," he wrote.

"I would respectfully suggest that the only way forward here is the dissolution of the board, a time for healing and a completely new beginning. If this does not come from the





**September 5, 2018**

patron, it may well be precipitated by the Minister for Education.

“This matter is damaging the school, which has lost excellent teachers and it is causing a serious crisis in the parish.

“There is a serious feeling among the parent body that no one in authority will engage with them. There is frustration and anger and it is mounting by the day.

“You can of course ignore this letter, but it is breaking my heart to see what is happening and it will not bode well for the school or parish and it brings the Church of Ireland into public ridicule.”

In a statement at the weekend, [Archbishop Jackson](#) said the school ethos and decisions by the board will remain unchanged.

“The board of management will continue to manage the school and the school will continue to educate the children entrusted to its care,” he said.

Board of management sources say the enrolment policy has been in place for four years and feel the controversy is linked to its decision to turn down an extra teacher.

Some sympathetic to the board also feel much parental opposition is linked to a secular agenda.

The parents’ subcommittee of St Patrick’s parent-teacher association, meanwhile, has expressed its regret that the patron had not responded to its request to discuss ways of resolving issues at the school.

**September 5, 2018**

“Respectfully, it is suggested that the patron might wish to hear from all stakeholders before making any decisions or public pronouncements in this matter,” the sub-committee said, in a statement.

## **New Rector in Portlaoise to focus on community**

A new Church of Ireland Rector has been instituted in Portlaoise and his focus is strongly set on engaging with the community.

Rev Peter Tarleton has worked in the University of Limerick, the UK prison service for 20 years and in the parish of Killeshin in the Carlow district for the last seven years.



He is 72 and told the Leinster Express he should have retired by now but the community and parish life has drawn him in again.

Mr Tarleton said his time in the UK was ‘interesting, challenging and rewarding’.

“I learnt a lot from prisoners about values. I find the parish community and church has a lot to offer in terms of community. It is a valuable dimension,” he said.

**September 5, 2018**

The Limerick native is passionate about community values and engagement as well as working in the prison and hospital.

“There is prison and hospital work here and Maryborough National School in the parish. It is about getting to the family and community and urging them to participate in the town community,” he said.

In his 30's, he was struck with a life-threatening illness. He refused chemotherapy and underwent radiation therapy. He turned to homeopathy too and is passionate about healthy living.

The new Rector was appointed by Bishop Michael Burrows and began his work on August 19.

He has five grown up children and six grandchildren. Four of his children are in Australia, the others are in Manchester and Edinburgh.

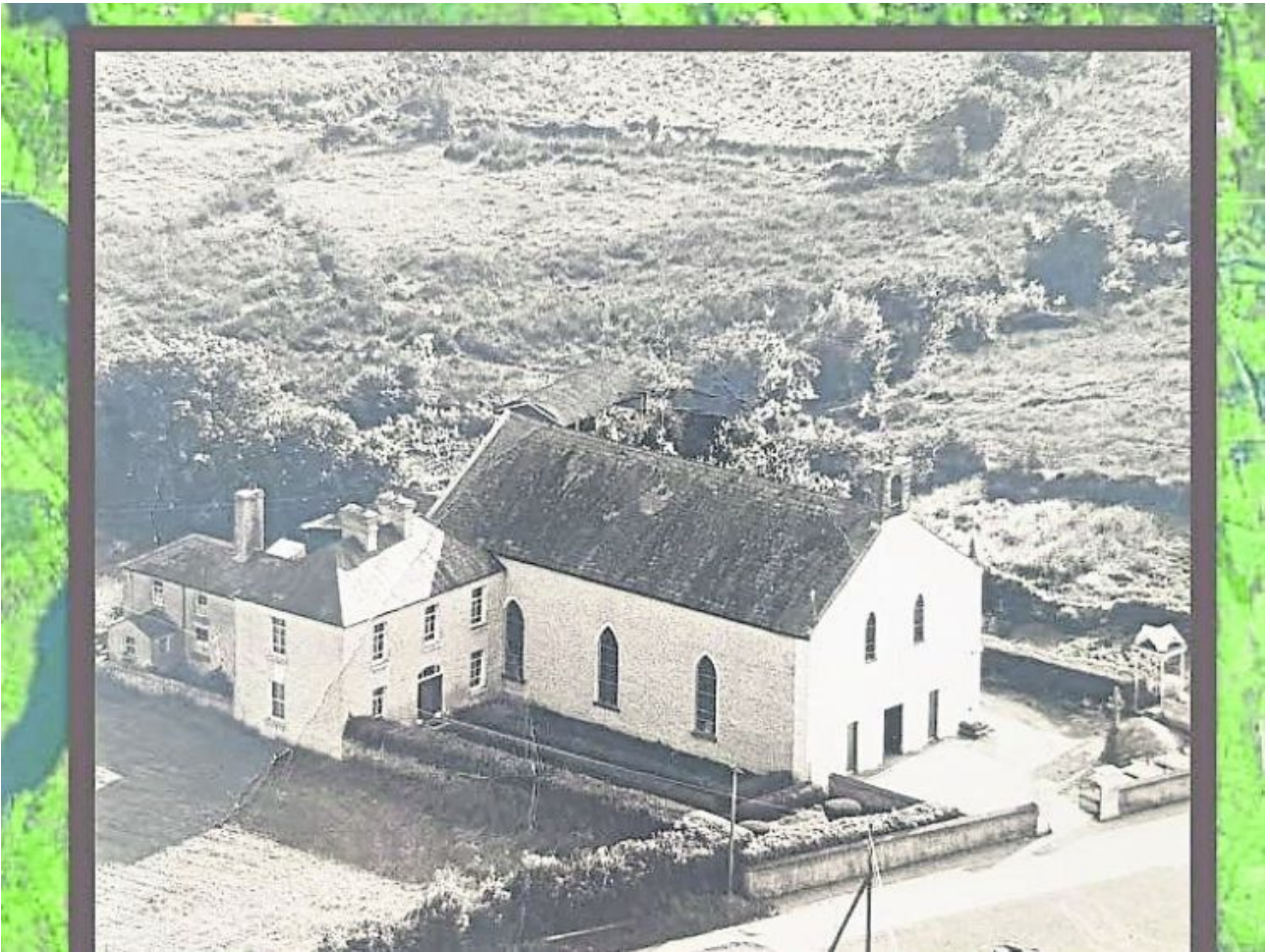
He will work in the broad community between Portlaoise, Ballyfin and the Rock of Dunamase churches and is looking forward to meeting local people. Report in Leinster Leader.

## **Launch of 'Parish of Fenagh 1907' as part of Heritage Week**

The launch of 'Parish of Fenagh 1907' recently took place in Fenagh Visitors Centre.

This is a history of the houses and residents in Fenagh Parish in 1907.

September 5, 2018



The launch took place in conjunction with Heritage Week which included a number of other local events. There were guided tours of Fenagh Abbeys and Church of Ireland and a Ring the Bell workshop took place at St Catherine's Church of Ireland on Saturday morning.

These tours and events proved very popular with locals and visitors and helps to promote Fenagh as a tourist destination.

The Parish of Fenagh 1907 project started back in the summer of 2016 when two local residents, while on a trip around the parish began to reminisce on olden times and the homes and families that were in Fenagh in bygone years. They remembered homes that are no longer there as well as the families that lived in them and the many

**September 5, 2018**

characters from the area. With all this in mind the project was planned and they decided to make a permanent record of the past for future generations.

Fenagh is a parish in South Leitrim made up of 60 townlands. Back in 1901 the population of the area was close to 1,700 with around 400 homes. In order to record this information and to make it available into the future this project was undertaken.

The 1907 ordinance survey maps are the basis for this project.

In order to capture the whole parish, which covers approximately 10,000 acres a number of maps were required.

The maps were joined and mounted for display. With the help of a lot of people, who had the knowledge and history of their local townland the names of the families and people living in the parish in 1907 was pulled together.

The location of each home was marked on the map and a booklet was produced to accompany the map.

The booklet includes all the family names and occupants of each house at the time as well as current residents, if the house is still occupied.

The map is now on permanent display in the Visitors Centre in Fenagh. Booklets which include maps of each townland and family names are available there also.

**September 5, 2018**

The committee and staff at Fenagh Development Company are very grateful to Pat Joe Greenan, his family and all those who contributed to the project for presenting the Parish of Fenagh 1907 Map to Fenagh Visitors Centre.

For further information on this project and on the history of Fenagh please contact the Visitors Centre on (071) 9645590 or visit us at [www.fenagh.com](http://www.fenagh.com) or on Facebook at Fenagh Visitor Centre. Booklets can be purchased here also.

## **News briefs**

**+++Bishop Harold Miller on 'Inner Healing'**- The Rt Revd Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore, will be the guest speaker at the next Interdenominational Divine Healing Service, on Monday 10th September, at 8pm at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Bishop Miller will speak on the theme of 'inner healing' and will bring a message of hope for situations in which there is anxiousness, addiction, a lack of joy, or unforgiveness. All are most welcome, especially those who are attending a healing service for the first time. Prayer ministry and anointing will be offered.

**+++Free school tours of Dublin cathedral** - Schools are back and so is St Patrick's Cathedral, free education programme for primary and secondary schools including; guided tours, workshops and drama sessions. Click the link below for more info! <https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/education-groups/>