



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry resting after surgery

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is resting comfortably following surgery on Tuesday, July 31. According to the presiding bishop's family



and his medical team, the surgery went well, as had been expected. Bishop Curry is resting, and a full recovery continues to be anticipated.

On July 25 Curry shared [news](#) that he had recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer and would be having surgery to remove the prostate gland.

The Episcopal Church said that Bishop Curry and his family are touched by the outpouring of prayers and well wishes.

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In their thankfulness, they ask for privacy during his recovery.

The Presiding Bishop anticipates resuming his duties in September.

Pitch perfect: Papal Mass choir will total 3,000 singers

A choir of up to 3,000 people from across all 26 dioceses will sing at the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park for Pope Francis later this month.

Many more will contribute to the congregational singing with their own parish choirs in the corrals spread across the Park.

The closing Mass of World Meeting of Families 2018 will take place on Sunday 26th August at 3pm. Pope Francis will celebrate this Mass, which is expected to have a congregation of 500,000 people including 15,000 visitors from overseas.

On Saturday, 2,000 members of the Papal Mass choir took part in the first large-scale rehearsal in Dublin and did a full run-through of the music for the closing Mass of WMOF.

Spokeswoman for WMOF2018, Brenda Drumm, told CatholicIreland that the music at Saturday's rehearsal was "uplifting". She commended the generosity of all of those who have been rehearsing at diocesan level over the past few months.

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While individuals and choirs have been rehearsing together locally in their dioceses for a number of months, this was the first time that the countrywide group was brought together.

Commenting after the rehearsal, liturgical music coordinator Derek Mahady said he was heartened by the work and effort that each diocese has put into the preparation of the music for the Papal Mass.

“The coming together of so many voices in song has given all of us involved in leading the music a sense of how uplifting it will be for all those families gathered for the closing Mass of WMOF2018 with Pope Francis,” he said.

Organisers of WMOF2018 have announced the full details of the Liturgical music and the music team for the Papal Mass. The music team includes:

- Derek Mahady as liturgical music coordinator
- Dr John O’Keeffe as conductor of the core choir and orchestra
- David Grealy as organist
- Amy Ryan and Dominic Finn as assistant conductors of the massed choir

The music chosen for the Papal Mass will place an emphasis on congregational singing, so many of the pieces will be familiar to those in the congregation of 500,000.

Irish music and composers feature prominently throughout the Mass.

The opening hymn is “A Joy for All the Earth”, the official hymn for WMOF2018, written by Ephrem Feeley.



Practice makes perfect for Papal Mass Choir in Phoenix Park

Well-known liturgical composer Fr Liam Lawton has composed a new Psalm for the Mass which is called “The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor”.

Two pieces by Ireland’s most renowned liturgical composer, Seán Ó Riada, feature as the Penitential Rite/Kyrie (“A Thiarna Déan Trócaire”), and the Lord’s Prayer (“Ár nAthair”).

Fintan O’Carroll’s “Celtic Alleluia” with an enhanced verse by Ronan McDonagh will be sung as the Gospel acclamation.

The Apostles’ Creed will be John O’Keeffe’s own composition of the same name, while Fr Pat Ahern’s “A Thiarna Éist Linn” will be sung between the prayers of the faithful.

As this is a World Meeting of Families there will be a number of international composers featured in the Mass. “Caritas et Amor” by Z. Randall Stroope has been chosen

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for the presentation of gifts, and three pieces from Jean-Paul Lécot's *Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes* will feature as the gloria, sanctus, and doxology/amen.

The Communion hymns will be "Ave Verum" (William Byrd), "The Last Supper" (Bernard Sexton), "Come Feast at this Table" (Ian Callanan), "Anima Christi" (Mon Marco Frisina), and "Bí Íosa im Chroíse".

And finally, the anthem to Our Lady will be "Go mBeannaítear Duit, A Mhuire" by Peadar Ó Riada (son of Seán), and the recessional hymn will be "Jesus Christ, You Are My Life" by Mon Marco Frisina.

Organisers have said that tickets for the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park on August 26 will be issued by email as a print-at-home ticket on 10 August.

AQE transfer test office confirms "unprecedented" demand for this autumn's test

An unprecedented number of children will sit the transfer test this autumn in Northern Ireland.

Huge demand for this year's "11 Plus" is being fuelled by an explosion in the number of primary seven children born in a 2007-2008 baby boom, which had the highest birth rate in almost 30 years.

The AQE Office, which oversees the Common Entrance Assessment mostly needed for entry to non denominational state grammar schools, has confirmed there was a 20%

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increase in test applications before schools broke up for summer.

Soaring demand has put pressure on office staff who have struggled



over the summer to work through piles of applications.

Although there is no central office for the alternative GL Assessment, which is mostly used by Catholic grammar schools, a source from one school has confirmed they too are dealing with "more applications than ever."

The centres which accommodate both tests have already been filled even though the deadline for applications is several weeks away, on Friday, September 7.

Stephen Connolly, joint chief executive of AQE, said although there had been a 20% hike in applications before the end of June, he did not expect the final number to be as high.

He said: "Interest generally seems to be higher but it may be that in general parents are making sure their forms are in early to ensure their places in their first choice assessment centre.

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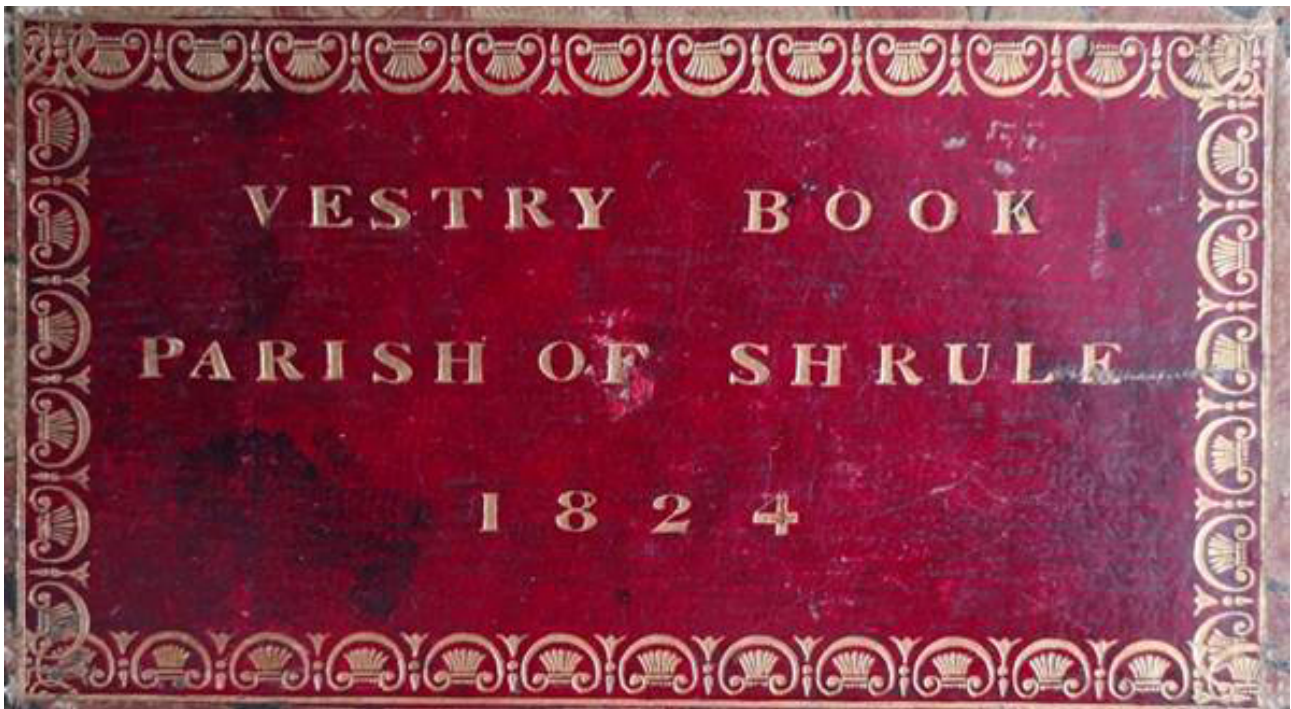
"Registration closes in early September, so parents have plenty of time to register."

The AQE test will be held on Saturday November 10, Saturday, November 17 and Saturday, December 1, and the GL assessment will be held on Saturday, November 17, with a supplementary GL assessment on Saturday, December 8.

Parish records from Shrute arouse fresh interest

The C of I's Representative Church Body Library currently holds 1,114 collections of parish records covering a variety of time spans (some dating back to medieval times, but most from the late 17th Century onwards) and containing a wide variety of sources relating to a multitude of human-interest stories. In spite of the loss of approximately 500 collections of early registers in the tragic fire at the Public Records Office of Ireland during the Civil War in 1922, more material survives than is often supposed. As regular researchers of the Library's resources will be aware, insights into the detailed lists of the collections held by the Library (colour-coded yellow) and indeed parish registers throughout the island are available through this online resource: <http://bit.ly/2JBSJ46>

As the colour-coded list reveals, a massive amount of material has been transferred from the local custody of parishes to the Library's central holding, where it is systematically organised. Founded in 1931 when the Church of Ireland accepted from Miss Rosamond Emily Stephen (1868–1951) her gift of the Library of the Irish Guild



of Witness, the Library of the Representative Church Body began its remit as a reference library of printed books. Further history about the Library is available [here](#).

However, its archival and curatorial responsibilities soon evolved in the context of the PROI tragedy in 1922 with the Library becoming the focus of the Ecclesiastical Records Committee of the General Synod, by providing a home for stray church records. The record-keeping function was sporadic until the 1960s, when amalgamations of parishes and dioceses led to a marked increase in archival activity and the need to keep the Church's records safe. The Library's archival role was formalised in 1981, with the appointment of an archivist, and agreement with the Director of the National Archives followed designating the Library as the official place of deposit for all Church of Ireland registers in the Republic – those predating Disestablishment being national archives, and thus belonging to the state.

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The very first collection of parish materials that actually came into the custody of Representative Church Body in 1926 (before it had a library) is that for the County Longford parish of Shrule. Additional materials were transferred from local custody in 1985 and again during 2012–2013, and have been accessioned as parish collection or P.001. For the complete list of this material, please see this [link](#).

In this month's Archive of the Month, Dr Miriam Moffitt brings a professional historian's perspective on the content of this particular collection and the array of supporting resources also available in the RCB Library that shine a light on the story of this particular Church of Ireland parish, and its community.

As well as focusing on the surviving content of the Shrule parish record collection itself, including baptismal, marriage and burial registers, the minutes of the vestry and select vestry meetings, preachers' books, and sundry other materials, she supplements this with detail on the additional information available from such sources as diocesan visitations, magazines and the clerical succession lists, documenting the lives of individual clergy who served in a parish, as well as the rich and now searchable *Church of Ireland Gazette* which has been digitized and is available to 1936 inclusive [here](#).

The RCB Library continues to encourage local clergy and others to transfer non-current records from their parish provenance to the Library's permanent and secure centralised custody and thus keep them safe and accessible for future generations. Parish no. 1 is profiled [here](#).

News briefs



+++Newry in Kenya - A team of 7 from Newry Presbytery led by Rev Stuart Finlay (above) arrived in Kenya yesterday. They will be travelling north to Tuum where they will be visiting the Cowans and leading youth camps. Please pray for the team over the next 3 weeks.

+++BBC Morning Service from Charles Wood Festival of Music - BBC Radio Ulster's Morning Service on Sunday, 19th August, will be broadcast from the Charles Wood Festival of Music and Summer School at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh. The programme will be available afterwards [here](#).

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+++Representatives at Rome Youth Synod - Bishop Donal McKeown and Archbishop Eamon Martin will be the Irish Catholic Bishops_Representatives at Synod 2018 "Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment." For more info visit: [http://www.derrydiocese.org/component/easyblog/entry/news/youth-synod-rome-3rd-28th-october-2018-working-document?Itemid=549 ...](http://www.derrydiocese.org/component/easyblog/entry/news/youth-synod-rome-3rd-28th-october-2018-working-document?Itemid=549)

+++Wedding dress festival - Manorhamilton parish is holding a wedding dress and christening robes festival, with a vintage cars display, this weekend (4th-6th August).

+++Teddy Bear Service in Kenmare - St Patrick's Church, Kenmare, will hold its annual Teddy Bear Service (followed, of course, by a BYO Teddy Bear's Picnic) at 12.00noon on Sunday, 12th August.

+++St Molua's Day Service - On Sunday, 12th August, at 3pm, St Molua's Church, Magheracloone, will hold its St Molua's Day Service.

+++Thanksgiving at Waterville - Eight years ago, the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Waterville, would have been, by any sensible measure, a candidate for closure. A well-meaning but misguided renovation in the 1960s left faded pink-washed walls, a dry-lined ceiling, a vestry with a rotting chipboard floor, and heating provided by Calor Gas cylinders in the main aisle. It was not unusual for ministers at the monthly service to find themselves the sole members of the congregation; in the summer months seasonal visitors boosted numbers by a few every now and then.

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In contrast, on Sunday July 29th 2018, a congregation upwards of 80 people enjoyed an ecumenical service of thanksgiving for the work, mostly done by local volunteer craftsmen, which has transformed the building into a house worthy of the God whom we worship within it. Local clergy – the Revd Brian Rogers and the Revd Michael Cavanagh – were joined by Fr Gerard Finucane, PP of St Finian's, Waterville; sisters Maddy and Maeve sang a close-harmony setting of the 23rd Psalm, and after the service the home-made cakes and biscuits added to the sense of celebration.

The renewal of St Michael's has not happened overnight – rather the vestry and local community have worked together to implement a pragmatic strategy which enables the building to become a resource not just for the Church, but the wider community.

This co-operation has been key to what we now enjoy. Starting with the relationships created by the offer of use of the building for the annual Charlie Chaplin film festival, and building a shared desire to see St Michael's as a part of the Waterville Heritage, a leasing agreement has now been agreed between the RCB and the IRD (Integrated Resource Development Waterville) initiative, strongly supported by the South Kerry Development Partnership, allowing the building to attract external grant funding.

In conjunction with generous financial support from legacies and local people, this has enabled a complete renovation. Restored stained glass windows are mounted on hinged brackets to allow natural daylight if required (and if the sun shines!). The fibreboard lining has been removed revealing a beautiful oak-beamed roof. A new floor in the

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vestry and at the rear of the chancel complements the original tiling. Complete redecoration, including new doors, restoration and revarnishing of the pews, inspired a local resident to donate a set of very comfortable pew cushions; a new heating system ensures that the congregation don't have to shiver through winter sermons; striking contemporary lighting and a state-of-the art sound system support the worship environment.

In all of this, St Michael's continues as a place of worship, but also provides opportunities for the establishment of a Local Heritage Centre, and a venue for a wide range of cultural activity. The lease model points the way to making sure that 'seasonal' churches, with a small resident population but nonetheless a very real ministry to visitors, can be supported with grant funding to proclaim the Gospel in surroundings that are worthy of Him.

+++Presentations to departing Dunfanaghy rector -

Dunfanaghy Parish Hall was packed last weekend, as the parishioners of Dunfanaghy, Raymunterdoney and Tullaghobegley gathered to bid farewell to their departing Rector, the Rev David MacDonnell.

The outgoing Rector is taking up a new position as Dean of Ossory and Rector of St. Canice's Cathedral Church in Kilkenny.

Members of the MacDonnell family travelled to Dunfanaghy for the farewell event, which took place after the regular Sunday morning service of Holy Communion in Holy Trinity Church. They were joined by Fr Martin Doohan of Holy



Cross Roman Catholic Church and the Reverend Andrew Watson of Dunfanaghy Presbyterian Church.

The event was hosted by Churchwarden, Patrick Knowles, who paid tribute to the Rector's "truly inspirational ministry" and to his leadership of the Holy Trinity Church restoration project. Mr MacDonnell had been with them for four and a half years, Mr Knowles said, and in that time had done so much for and with his parishioners. "His ability to mix with people – from the very young, right through to the older members of our congregation – is a great talent," Mr Knowles said. "He is a brilliant people person. He has a wicked sense of humour and whatever problems or issues have arisen during his time here didn't seem like problems or issues as Rev David has dealt with them in what seems like a stress-free kind of way – a great skill, indeed, and one of which I am personally very jealous.

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“In addition to his people skills, Rev David has put his focus keenly on our parish church, where his greatest achievement must surely be the overseeing of our recent renovations, specifically the repointing of both the exterior and later the interior of the building. In addition to this, the beautiful new tiled floor you see today and the increase in available space at the front of the church is extremely innovative and brings our church forward in time, while still retaining its original charm and beauty.”

Presentations were made to the Rector on behalf of the local badminton and bowling clubs, Holy Trinity Choir, the Ladies Guild, the National School and the National School Parents' Association, the parish workers, and the parishes of Ray, Killult and Holy Trinity.

Mr MacDonnell was also presented with a Celtic cross made by Cathal McGee on behalf of the parishioners of Holy Cross Church. Their Parish Priest, Fr Martin Doohan, spoke about the “great bond of friendship” that existed between all three clergy in the town, and also of the great community spirit in the area. He thanked Mr MacDonnell for his friendship and wished him well in Kilkenny.

The Reverend Niall Johnston then gave a blessing before the guest of honour took the floor. Mr MacDonnell said that this group of parishes was his first post as Rector and that he had intended to stay longer in the area; but the post in Kilkenny had come up and he had decided to take it. The Rector gave thanks for all the gifts that he had received and said they were deeply appreciated. He thanked the parishioners and community of Dunfanaghy for their initial welcome and continuing support over the four and a half

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years he had served in the town. He thanked his fellow clergy for their friendship and support during this time, too, and concurred with Fr Doohan's remarks about the great community spirit that existed in the area. The Rector concluded by wishing the parishioners of Dunfanaghy, Raymunterdoney and Tullaghobegley well in the future.

Drawing the event to a close, Patrick Knowles assured Mr MacDonnell that he would be very much missed when he finally left. "Our loss is Kilkenny's gain," he said. "Please come back and visit us when you can – you are always welcome here. For now, you leave us with our prayers and our grateful thanks for your truly inspirational ministry."



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