

St Columbanus

Ballyholme



When in Rome.....
Architect Appointed
Anois
A Service of Remembering

..On the way together..



The Parishioner

November 2014

The Church is open every weekday morning for private prayer and meditation

The Rambling Rector

A recent obituary for fearless American comic Joan Rivers recalled her own words following the death of her husband. She said there are two kinds of friends: "and both mean very well. One group doesn't want you to grieve at all – 'Come on, come on. It has been a week and a half since you lost Joe. Enough!' The other kind never want to see you be anything but grieving. 'Your husband is dead only eight years, and you're wearing a red dress?'" As this month of Remembrance reminds Christians, death may not be the worst thing that can happen to us. But for those we leave behind it probably will be. Well-meaning friends try so hard to get it right. While like most clergy we aren't trained grief counsellors, Alistair and I call as often as we can with bereaved parishioners, especially over the first twelve months. For some not quite so involved in church family life, unfortunately we can prove a painful reminder of loss. For others for whom faith and worship are precious, hopefully we are a loving reminder of the Light of the World that shines in the darkness.



SED

2014 St Columbanus Concert Announced

Friday November 21st will see Bangor Abbey play host to a concert to kick off a weekend of events to celebrate Bangor's most famous Saint, Columbanus.

Following on the back of the success of 2013, this year's concert is packed with fabulous acts both local and international.

Some of the acts include local groups, The Farriers, The McGinn sisters, and David McCann who is one of Bangor's finest singer/songwriters and a very talented guitarist. David Lennon who is also another stalwart of the local music scene for over 30 years, has a rich repertoire of traditional songs. Described by RTE as "the best of Irish culture" and back by popular demand, are Ards Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann. Performing alongside Ards CCE will be, The Smyth sisters a trio of award winning festival dancers. Adding a unique twist to this year's concert will be Marianne McShane, a native of Bangor but now residing in America.

The theme of the concert is, 'Journey of a Single Day', a title to reflect the work of Columbanus and his fellow Bangor saints, including Gall, who departed Bangor circa 590AD and spread the word of Christianity throughout much of modern day Europe including, France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

The events are taking place on the Feast Day weekend of St Columbanus and are echoed across those European sites where Columbanus left his legacy.

Other events taking place over the weekend include, on Saturday 22nd at St Comgall's Parish Church, Brunswick Road, Bangor, a special children's story telling event with international story teller Marianne McShane along with two historical lectures on Columbanus and Ireland's Early Christian Heritage.

On Sunday 23rd there will be an ecumenical service held in First Bangor Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Bangor at 7pm.

For concert tickets, priced only £10, and more information on the weekends programme, contact Bangor Tourist Information Centre on 028 9127 0069, tic@northdown.gov.uk or log on to northdowntourism.com for more details.



October in the Lagan Valley



Just a little bit early for the full glory of the autumn colours in the Lagan Valley Regional Park but a glorious sunny day showed off the park in all its beauty. The last time we did this walk it was spring of 2012 and the difference was so marked.

The 4,200 acre Lagan Valley Regional Park runs for 11 miles from Stranmillis to Union Locks west of Lisburn and is a wonderful area for all sorts of activity and was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1965. Our party of 15 met in the Belvoir Forest Park. The estate was the former home of a plantation family, the Hills. The last owner was Sir James Johnston, the Lord Mayor of Belfast in 1917/18. It is unique in that it is a working forest within a city. Sadly thousands of its larch trees have recently become affected by an outbreak of *Phytophthora ramorum* leading to the felling of about 6,500.

We headed down to the Lagan through Corbie Wood and crossed at the Lock Keepers House, one of the few cottages still standing beside what remains of the 26 mile, 18th century Lagan Canal, which was abandoned in 1950. Of interest was the *Industry*, an old barge or lighter, now moored in the canal close to the cottage. It used to transport coal in the 1870s on the Lagan canal from Belfast Harbour and worked on the canal right up until at least the 1940s.

From there we took the path through Clement Wilson Park across the Lagan and then on to Shaw's Bridge via the 'Burma Road', thus called because it was constructed out of rubble from bomb damaged buildings after the WW1. It runs along the course of a former mill race that led from the River Lagan to a factory at Newforge. At Shaw's Bridge we watched several canoeists on the rapids. The bridge is named after Captain Shaw who built an oak bridge in 1655 to transport Cromwell's guns across the river. The present five-arch span bridge was built in 1709. On along the towpath then, to Gilchrist Bridge and on through Edenderry village to the Giant's Ring. This chambered grave is believed to be over 4,000 years old and unusual in that it is surrounded by an earthen ring. From there it was off to Terrace Hill for our picnic lunch. The long gone Terrace Hill house was originally owned by Frederick Russell who had a bleach green and flour mill in nearby Edenderry. The National Trust volunteers have done a great job restoring and replanting the Rose Garden, and we enjoyed our picnic lunch at there.

After lunch we set off down 'Freddy's Steps' (built by Frederick Russell) to the Minnowburn, famous for its beech trees, stunning in the autumn. From there it was a couple of miles back along the towpath to a welcome break at the Lock Keepers Inn before heading back to the Belvoir car park. The walk was very varied – forest paths, the Canal towpath, the riverside, fields, a short road and all in a peaceful environment within a few miles of Belfast city centre.

Whilst our outing was about 6 miles, the Park has several access points from where you can do shorter walks in a beautiful environment within easy reach of Bangor. For more info visit www.laganvalley.co.uk or you can buy a map at the offices beside the Lock Keepers Inn.

Our next walk on November 1st is in the Kilfeaghan Valley in the south west Mourne. It's about 6 miles on a country road, mountain paths and forest tracks with a gradual climb of about 900 feet in 3 miles. Meet at 8.30 (**Please note change of time**) in the church car park.



Appointment of Architect September 2014

At the Select Vestry meeting in September 2013 Alistair and Ian Foster were asked to take forward the process for appointing an architect. A sub-committee was formed which included: Ian Foster, the two Glebewardens, Geoff Hewitt and Stephen Baker, Ivan Humphreys (Electrical Engineer), Christine Rankin (Architect) and James Perry (Quantity Surveyor). Lawrence Manogue (retired architect) also provided assistance in Stage One. The method by which the Select Vestry agreed to appoint an architect was a two-stage Design Competition, as follows:



1. Stage One - Pre-qualification Questionnaire



Architect's Appointment Committee

Following an advertisement in the November 2013 Parish Magazine, nine architectural firms expressed interest in entering the Design Competition. Alastair Coey Architects, Consarc, Gordon McKnight, Hall Black Douglas, Kennedy Fitzgerald, Knox & Markwell, Mark McCullough Architect, Wittaker & Watt, Turkington & Magowan Early in 2014 the nine firms, and their associated design teams, were asked to complete a Pre-qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). All nine firms completed and submitted the PQQ. Based on the responses to the PQQ, the Sub-committee produced

a short list of four firms to move forward to stage two of the process. The short list was approved by the Select Vestry in February 2014.

The four qualifying firms were (in alphabetical order): Consarc, Hall Black Douglas, Kennedy Fitzgerald, Knox and Markwell.

2. Stage Two - Design Competition and Fee Tender Submission

At the end of May 2014 the qualifying firms were invited to prepare a comprehensive design scheme proposal based on the Parish design brief (which was posted on the parish website and also appeared in the September 2014 Parish Magazine). Along with preparing a design scheme, the firms were to tender their professional fees for the project. The tender bids were submitted to the Parish at the end of August 2014.

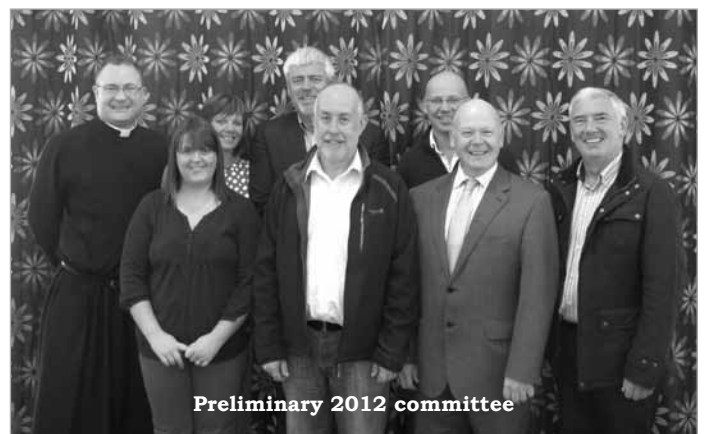
Through September the Sub-committee assessed the submissions, and on 23 September 2014 the four firms presented their schemes to the Sub-committee. Marks were allocated to each firm for quality (design) and price (tendered professional fees). A marking scheme commonly used in the construction industry for the procurement of professional services was applied

Recommendation

The Sub-committee has now completed Stage Two of the process and recommend to the Select Vestry that Architects Knox and Markwell be appointed as project architect.

Thanks

A word of thanks goes to the members of the Sub-committees for their time, effort and diligence in working through the process.



Preliminary 2012 committee

Way Forward

Whilst endeavouring to meet the aspirations of all its user groups and interested parties the Parish will, in the end, be constrained by its total project budget (to include 10% gift to designated good causes), which was agreed by the Select Vestry in September 2013 at £1.25 million.

Now the recommendation has been accepted and approved by the Select Vestry it will enter into a formal contract with Knox and Markwell. The services required from the architect will be as the R.I.B.A. Standard Agreement 2010: Schedules (2012 revision) as amended for this project. Knox and Markwell will be asked to prepare plans in consultation with the Parish to include a public presentation.

To enable a structure to be built between the Church and Parish Centre the existing NIE sub-station needs to be relocated. During the process to appoint an architect the Sub-committee became aware that there is currently a waiting time for such a structure to be relocated. Therefore, it is recommended that the Select Vestry instruct the architect to investigate the relocation of the sub-station without delay.

Once a final plan has been agreed the architect will submit an application for planning permission and also seek approval from the relevant Church of Ireland bodies.

The Select Vestry will task a finance working group to prepare a financial plan.

A Prayer for Restoration 2016

Father, we thank you for our beautiful and beloved Church St Columbanus
and for those whose prayers and generosity bequeathed it to us.

Open our hearts in faith and trust that we may give
in the same spirit of gratitude and sacrifice as those who went before us.

By your Spirit, guide and direct our plans
to preserve and enhance your house of prayer
for our own generation and those who will follow after us.

To the glory of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



CMJ IRELAND

Rev Aaron Eime
Director of the Heritage Centre
Christ Church Jerusalem

Will be speaking on
“The Command to Remember”
in the Kajaido Room
Monday 10th November at 7.30pm

Aaron is a gifted Bible teacher exploring the
Hebraic Roots of the Christian Faith
All Welcome

Turned into...?

The Sunday School story was about Lot's wife who was turned into a pillar of salt. One little boy's arm shot up. "Yes, Jeremy?" said the teacher.

"Please, Miss," said Jeremy, "My Mum looked back once when she was driving home and she turned into a lamp post."



Don't mention the war!

When asked not long ago by the *New York Times* to name humanity's worst invention, author Peter Watson replied, "Without question, ethical monotheism... This has been responsible for most of the wars and bigotry in history."

Replying in his book *Atheist Delusions*, David Bentley Hart begs to differ:

"Now, as a specimen of the sort of antireligious chatter that is currently chic, this is actually rather mild; but it is also utter nonsense. Not that there is much point in defending "monotheism" in the abstract (it is a terribly imprecise term); and devotees of the "one true God" have certainly had their share of blood on their hands. But the vast majority of history's wars have been conducted in the service of many gods; or have been fought under the aegis, or with the blessing, or at the command of one god among many; or have been driven by the pursuit of profits or conquest or power; or have been waged for territory, national or racial destiny, tribal supremacy, the empire, or the "greater good"; or indeed, have been prosecuted in obedience to ideologies that have no use for any gods whatsoever (these, as it happens, have been the most murderous wars of all)."

Health & Hygiene Workshop

If you use the parish kitchen in any capacity, we hope you will attend a Health & Hygiene workshop in the parish centre in the New Year (date and time to be confirmed).

Everyone is welcome to what should be an informative and entertaining presentation from the local council authority.

To register your interest, please contact Karen at the Parish Office (91274912)



Christmas Bazaar

The date is
6th December
10am - 12.30.

Donations of gifts, books etc can be left in the Parish Centre from Monday 24th

November (no earlier). Good quality items. Nothing sharp, broken or dirty. Please check that all items are suitable before donating.
Many thanks, Jade



Word & Worship

A relaxed evening service with contemporary Praise and Bible teaching.



Special guest Canon Tom Keightly
Subject: "Keeping the Rumour of God Alive"

**Sunday 2nd November in the
Kajiado Room 6.30pm**

Followed by Coffee and biscuits



explore

Revd Dr Heather Morris
Superintendent of Home Missions
Methodist Church in Ireland



Session 1

Tues 18 Nov 10.30 am
Wed 19 Nov 8pm (Kajiado Room)

Session 2

Tues 26 Nov 10.30 am
Wed 27 Nov 8pm (Kajiado Room)



Just Older Youth

God says...

You say.....

It is impossible
 I am too tired
 Nobody loves me
 I can't go on
 I can't figure things out
 I can't do it
 I can't forgive myself
 I can't manage
 I'm always worried and afraid
 I feel all alone

God says.....

All things are possible (Luke 18:27)
 I will give you rest (Matthew 11: 28-30)
 I love you (John 3:16)
 My grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9)
 I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3: 5-6)
 You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)
 I forgive you (1 John 1:9)
 I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)
 Cast all your cares on me (1 Peter 5:7)
 I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

The Wednesday Club

We were very fortunate to have for our speakers this month, Will and Alison from Abernethy Butters. They brought with them an old fashioned churn to show us, but used a slightly more modern one to demonstrate for us how their butter was made. They do supply shops all over Northern Ireland - Mawhinneys in Main Street, is our nearest stockist.



They also sell their butter to Fortnum & Masons in London, and to the chef Heston Blumenthal among others. We all tasted a piece of bread and Abernethy butter, and as an extra treat, some fudge, both of which we were able to buy after the meeting. Margaret Kerr was our lucky winner of the monthly draw. Our next meeting will be on the 5th November – see you there.

Sue



Three lovely ladies enjoying their Monday morning coffee.





Gideon returns to Uganda

I was so happy to come back to my house in Uganda, and see my bedroom and my toys and all my friends again. Everyone thinks that I have got taller – soon I will be the same size as daddy. (My daddy sometimes rubs his tummy when people say that and he says “I hope not!”)

The last couple of weeks have been exciting. My goat Kijange had twins but one of them died. He was a boy. The other twin is a girl and I called her ‘Frisbee’. I thought of the name all by myself. Mummy said that it was a good one.

She (Frisbee, not Mummy) has a white coat with brown and black patches. She is very tiny. At first her mummy would not let her feed when she was hungry. Daddy says that goats can be stubborn. Daddy had to hold Kijange so that Frisbee could get some milk. The first days she was very wobbly when she tried to walk but now she is strong. It makes me laugh when she licks my legs looking for milk. Daddy says that the way she follows us around is like a puppy.

Joyce is going to give me a piglet soon. Then I will have a cow, a piglet and 2 goats. I will be like Old MacDonald had a farm. This week Kabandize and Mugisha made a pen for me so that we can keep the animals safe.

This week my new



teacher Lisa came. She has brown hair and wears glasses like daddy. Mummy and I went to the airport to collect her. We stayed in a hotel. It rained too much so I wasn't able to go to the swimming pool when we were waiting for Lisa to arrive. I was so excited that she was coming I wasn't too disappointed. Mummy said that it was as cold as Ireland! I told my daddy that it might snow like it does in Postman Pat.

Lisa has been getting the classroom all ready for us to start school. It has been good fun having school with mummy but now Lisa is going to be my teacher.

I wasn't allowed in to the classroom on Friday to see

what my new teacher has

been organising, so I am very excited to be able to start again at school on Monday morning.

Mummy and I have made a castle and some armour and a lance. I am ready to fight any enemies who come to our house. We have been reading a book called ‘Soldiers of the Lord,’ my favourite story is about a boy named Gideon – the same name as me! God helped him to win a big fight over many bad men with only 300 soldiers. God helped them to win.

We had some visitors for dinner last night and they brought us some jam made by my jaaja in Bangor. Daddy was so happy, so was I. Yummy!!! They also played with my cars and read me stories.

Mummy says that it is time for me to go to bed now. I will write again soon.



Gideon

Ballyholme Parish Church
Christmas Bazaar
 on
Saturday 6th December 2014
 in the Parish Centre
 from
10am - 12.30pm
 Admission £2 including light refreshments
 Children Free




FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT
A SERVICE OF REMEMBERING
SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2014 at 6 30 pm

In my experience there is no heartache like bereavement. But **we** have a hope. For 2000 years the hope and light of Christ have offered comfort and strength in the face of all death's cruellest blows: grief, loss, shock, loneliness, separation, guilt and pain.

In Church this year, on the evening of December 7th, we will all share in a special service which will provide a lovely opportunity to remember our loved ones who have gone before us. We will remember them, reflect on their passing and give thanks to God for the love we once shared with them during their lives, and indeed the love we continue to share.

As people arrive in Church that evening there will be a special sheet of paper on which you are invited to write the name, or names, of anyone dear to you who has died over the previous twelve months, or longer. There are no restrictions on the time period; God's time is eternal. The names can be added to the sheet either on the evening of the service or in the preceding weeks when the sheet will be available at the Parish Office.

At the remembrance part of the service; we will simply read out, before the Cross of Christ, all the names we have received.

Also, as you come into the Church you will be invited to lift a pebble from The Font. You can think of this as being symbolic of the person you wish to remember; you may take the pebble home with you or you may return it to The Font after the service. The pebbles remaining in The Font will later be returned to Ballyholme beach and given back to the sea.

The Church will be beautifully decorated with candles; the Church Choir will be in attendance and there will be wonderful music and hymns. We would love you to join us for this very special service.

As a Congregation you are warmly invited to attend. Also, as a Congregation you are asked to encourage and invite anyone whom you feel might benefit from the service to attend.



Rev'd Michael McDonald-Woodhall

Stuck for an extra Christmas present idea?



Kiwoko Hospital £10 Gift Cards
 available soon in the Parish Office



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Six members of the branch travelled on the 08.00 am Enterprise to Dublin to meet some of the members of our link branch, Malahide for lunch, and also to see what the Dublin shops had to offer. Of course, morning coffee was to be the first stop in Dublin, but unfortunately the train having gone slowly for some distance, had a breakdown at Dundalk. After a delay of half an hour we had to change to another train and eventually arrived in Dublin at 11.30 am. Luckily, we had decided to bring a mixture of goodies with us for breakfast, so when we arrived in Dublin we didn't really need the coffee after all. The five members from Malahide had got on the same train but we didn't actually meet up with them until 12.30 pm. Having enjoyed a lovely lunch in Debenhams in Henry Street and a great chat and catch up, we parted company at 2.30 pm and agreed that we would meet again in Belfast sometime in the near future. We returned to Belfast on the 7.00 pm train from Dublin, and can you believe it, the same thing happened on the way back and we eventually arrived in Bangor at 11.15 pm. We all agreed that we had a great day and much laughter!!! The following morning the Mothers' Union was responsible for serving tea/coffee between the morning services.

On Monday 6th October we held our monthly meeting in the Parish Centre when we were delighted to welcome Anne O'Kane from Cancer Focus Well Aware. Anne was thrilled to see such a large number of ladies present. She spoke for an hour without a note and had she gone on for another hour nobody would have objected. She was so easy to listen to, and I can honestly say, I doubt if anyone took their eyes from her face.

By all accounts those present said that they were so glad they had come to hear her speak and were now more aware of how to look after themselves and to treat their bodies with respect.

We are hosting the Area Service on **Monday 3rd November** in the Church at 7.30 pm. Please note the time. This will involve the local branches in the area attending followed by supper in the Parish Centre. We look forward to welcoming the Diocesan President, Diocesan Secretary and Area Secretary when they and the various branch leaders will take part in the Service.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner £20 will be held on **Monday 1st December** 7pm for 7.30pm at Lorne. Please put your names down if you haven't already done so.

Ruth Ruttle (Branch Leader)

FWO Boxes and ID numbers



Owing to an ever increasing number of parishioners giving electronically (speak to Kelly in the office if you would like to pursue this option) fewer boxes of envelopes need to be ordered from our suppliers. This is a good thing, saving the parish money and the planet paper, however it does mean the time has come to reallocate ID numbers for everyone.

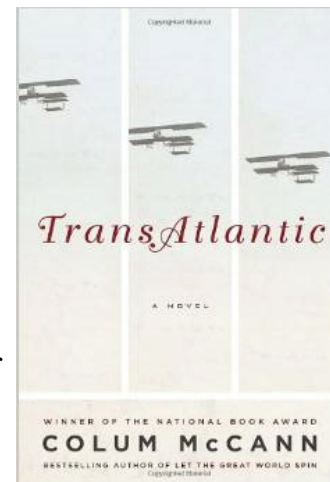
When you collect your box of envelopes you will need to look for your surname rather than your number. To give you some idea of the take up of electronic giving and its knock-on effect we now need one hundred fewer boxes this year, but to keep the old ID numbers would have meant ordering the full five hundred.

Thanks for your patience with the changeover and we hope to introduce a simple token system on Sundays whereby people who are giving electronically still have something to drop onto the plate.



Transatlantic by Colum McCann

The first part of the book relates the story of three crossings of the Atlantic at different periods of time. The journeys are made by known historical figures. Alcock and Brown, RAF men trying to get over the war make the first nonstop transatlantic flight in 1919. Frederick Douglass, a runaway slave, who later becomes a major political figure in the fight to abolish slavery, comes to Ireland in 1845 just as the famine begins. In 1998 Senator George Mitchell arrives to begin his heroic efforts to lead Northern Ireland's politicians and paramilitary groups towards a peace agreement. Before Alcock and Brown leave, they are given a letter to deliver written by Emily Ehrlich. The opening of this letter, nearly one hundred years later, helps to thread all the events, real and imagined, together. These three stories are well researched and I found them interesting and instructive. I must admit that although I had heard of Douglass, I knew nothing of his history. The three stories are linked together in the next sections of the novel by the fictional account of the lives of four women, beginning with Lily Duggan, a young maid inspired by Douglass to go to America. Although these women's lives are on a smaller scale than those of the historical, non-fictional characters, I felt that their stories seemed almost more important to the author. There is also a local interest for us as one of them comes to County Down and indeed even Bangor is mentioned.



I have never read a book comparable to this but I found the blend of fiction and non-fiction and the moving between different time settings very enjoyable.

WMB



The first thing on the list of things that I love is - I love my family, my friends and I love God, definitely. I love huggle buggles and kisses from my Mummy and Daddy. I love watching the clouds and seeing pictures in them. I love being outside in nature and looking for squirrels, stones, sticks, leaves, pinecones, crab shells, feathers. My Mummy once made a heart on a leaf for my Italian friend Sara. My favourite food is spaghetti bolognese. I love music and my current favourite song is 'Everything is Awesome' from the Lego Movie. I love riding my bike and doing skids. I love any technology - i phone, i pad, xbox, ds - and I like adventuring and building best. I love watching films - the 'Lego Movie' and 'Help, I'm a fish' are my favourites. I love lizards because they are cute little things. I caught a baby one on my holidays in Tuscany but I let it go again. I don't like to hurt God's creatures. I love ice-cream - especially chocolate and strawberry. I love my life and there is nothing more important than love.

Kenton Redmill Age 6



Wedding

Said the parson at the wedding:
Don't be nervous,
for you see
Everything that's
said or done
You say or do it after me.
Wilt thou take and wed
this woman
And endeavour
to be true?
But the bridegroom,
much embarrassed
Only stammered,
'After you!'



Rome

National Pilgrimage in honour of St Columbanus

*A European year of celebration begins
and the Rector is present at the start to represent us*

Wednesday 8 October

Having led the Intercessions at our 10.30 Kajiado Room Communion service, by the time the congregation had finished the prayer of humble access I was en route to Dublin Airport. I hope no one was too startled when they opened their eyes and discovered I was gone. Gathering at check-in were 87 other pilgrims led by Fr Joe Gunn, Parish Priest of Bangor. Other ecumenical invitees included from Bangor Abbey Canon Ronnie Nesbitt and his wife Carole and Diocesan Reader Gifford Savage. Another friendly face was Liam Perry, principal of St Columbanus College chaperoning six of his senior pupils.

A three hour flight later and we stepped out into the warm darkness of the eternal city. After a late-night pasta near our base at the Hotel Olympic, it was time to turn-in and recharge for Day One of a packed spiritual schedule.

Thursday 9 October

There is a lot to see in Rome. Everywhere. Bridges, fountains, obelisks, never mind basilicas, churches and ancient Roman ruins around every corner. In sharp contrast to all the grandeur, we began at a place with a simplicity which hushed us all. The Catacombs of the martyr St Sebastian are one of Rome's several enormous underground cemeteries. 80,000 bodies laid to rest in a 13 mile rabbit-warren. Dating back to the third century, we toured the caves and niches which temporarily housed the remains of both St Peter and St Paul during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian. The basilica back at ground level was refreshingly airy and spacious and was the venue for the opening Mass of the pilgrimage.

I led the Intercessions and Bishop of Down and Connor Noel Traynor spoke of the symbolism of what we had just experienced, the spiritual driving force behind so much of Columbanus' ministry: God's victory over human failure and life's apparent meaninglessness. In the afternoon, after the church of San Pietro Montorio where the Irish Earls are entombed (1607, O'Neill, O'Donnell and all that), we were received at the Irish Embassy. The Irish Ambassador spoke enthusiastically about the year of Columbanus, and his hope that at the end of it Columbanus will be named co-patron of Europe.

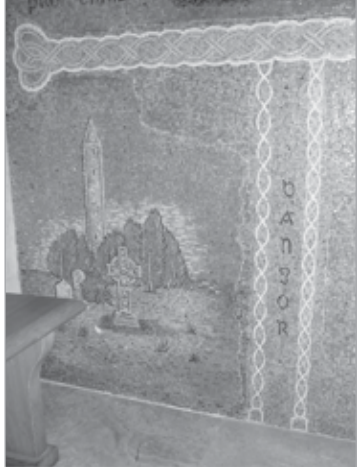
After several speeches (and several tray bakes) I presented copies of the October magazine to both the Irish Ambassador to Italy and the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See. It was the least I could do.



Friday 10 October

Breakfast at 7.15 followed by a route march to the Vatican. The venue for Mass was the tomb crypt of St Peter's Basilica and the celebrant was the Bishop of Killaloe, Kieran O'Reilly (Columbanus was probably born on the border of Munster and Leinster). Bishop Kieran named "gratitude, enthusiasm and confidence" as the spiritual hallmarks of St Peter the apostle. In making these our own, he called us to work out our discipleship in the light of Pope Francis's recent words "every Christian is a missionary".

After the service we processed 50 yards or so to the Irish National Church, a stone's throw from St Peter's tomb and, like our own church in Ballyholme, dedicated to St Columbanus. In the centre of the reredos of this tiny, green-hued chapel appear the words "Bangor" and "Bobbio". At 5pm it was the opening service of the Columbanus Anniversary year: Ecumenical Vespers at the Church of San Clemente. A former



Archbishop of New Zealand David Moxon, now Anglican Representative to the Holy See, brought greetings from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

That evening we were special guests at the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, for a concert by The

Priests hosted by the International Friends of Columbanus. Old and young, you would all have loved it.



Saturday 11 October

I left first thing to catch the 11.50 return flight to Dublin and be back where I should be in Ballyholme for Church on Sunday. The rest of my party stay on until 15 October and look forward later today to Solemn Mass in St John's Lateran. St John's is known as 'The Mother Church of the World' because it was the first Christian place of worship built after Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan in 313AD (which established universal freedom of religion). This service, celebrated by the Cardinal Vicar of Rome, was due to include the arrival of the relics of St Columbanus direct from Bobbio.

In life, Columbanus did not fulfil his wish to visit Rome. He could never have imagined that 1400 years after his death, so many Christians from his homeland would travel there to be sure that he finally got there.

SED



John Darragh
Junior Youth Worker

Invites you to a
Coffee, Cake and Art Sale
In the Parish Centre

on
Saturday 8th November
10.00 – 4.00pm



All proceeds in aid of Abaana & B.G.S trip to Uganda

Anois!

“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now.” – Matthew 6:34b (MSG)

Twenty-seven young people, three leaders, a coach and a lot of snacks set out on their way to Kilkenny, to the ‘Anois’ youth residential. For weeks beforehand, there was great debate amongst the young people on how to pronounce Anois... which is the Irish word for ‘Now’ (phonetically, we say ‘Anish’).

With great food, clean showers, karting, zipline, engaging teaching and worship, great fun was had by everyone who attended. Pranks were played amongst the young people and the craic was mighty (as teenagers say!) but they really gelled together in proper friendship, growing in faith individually and as a group.



I spent some time reflecting on the word anois, or now, and thought about how significant that is. Jesus talks about not worrying about tomorrow, but focusing on today. Sometimes we can spend so much time stressing about the past and worrying about the future that we really miss what God is doing and saying in the present. This half term presented the young people with a moment in time where they could focus in with all of their minds and hearts on what God was doing in, through and around them, right then and there.

Jade

Kids' corner

Something you mightn't know about me: I am really scared of planes. I love being in far off places, but I'm not so great with the getting there part. Everybody is scared of something, even the biggest and tallest of us! Maybe we're scared of the dark, or of heights or speaking in front of everybody in our school assemblies.



There was a day, a long time ago, when Jesus and his followers were sailing across Lake Galilee. It had been a long day, and so Jesus fell asleep on the back of the boat while the others steered the boat. Until suddenly, a huge storm began! The thunder crashed and the lightning struck all around them; the waves grew bigger and faster until they were coming up over the side of the boat! The disciples were so frightened as they got their buckets and tried to throw the water back into the sea, but Jesus was still fast asleep. So they shouted at him until he woke up – but he wasn't worried! He stood up and told the waves “Ssh!”



The waves grew smaller and smaller and stopped until the whole sea was smooth. The storm that seemed so scary before calmed at Jesus' voice. The disciples were completely boggled, and Jesus turned to them. “Why were you afraid? Didn't you know that I would look after you?”

Jesus is bigger than the sea and the storms; he is bigger than the darkness and all of the frightening things that we are scared of. He is Lord over everything, so we don't need to be afraid of anything!

Laura



Three words belief, faith and trust. You can't deny it everyone has something they want to achieve in life whether that is a dream job, an exotic holiday or even something as small as a fitness goal. For me ever since I huffed the entire road home after watching Brian O'Driscoll run in a fabulous try against France in the 2005 six nations all I wanted to do was to play outside centre for Ireland to ensure that the Irish Rugby team would never lose again.

To this day I still have dreams about replicating that moment however this is becoming more increasingly unlikely. It obviously isn't the path that God wants me to go down, however after "yeah I'll give that a go" moment I have found myself in triathlon chasing a new dream of winning the Olympics.

I found out after a short time in the sport that life as an international athlete isn't as glamorous as it's made out to be although it has its moments and I wouldn't change it for the world. Through triathlon I have found that my faith has had to become stronger than ever, it has tested me.

Sometimes God does test our faith, just as He tested the faith of the ancient Israelites by allowing them to go through hard times in the wilderness, "in order to know what was in your heart" (Deuteronomy 8:2). For me these tests have come through sport ever since I began competing I have had constant knocks and failures. He tests us because we don't know how strong we are and we'll only realise it when times of testing come. The psalmist prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts" (Psalm 139:23). All those days of doubt and sadness are there only to make us stronger and prepared for what God has planned for us.

Back to those three words belief, faith and trust although all these words are linked I use them when praying in times of hardship or when I'm struggling to see what it is that God has planned. Belief; in yourself, have belief in your abilities and the talents that God has given you, know that you are capable of achieving anything you set your mind to. Faith; in others, have faith in your friends, family and whoever God gives you to guide you in the right direction. They are there to help you in times of hardship use them. Finally trust, this is the most important as trusting God gives you belief in yourself and gives you faith in those around you, trust that God has a plan for you and that he will always have your best interests at heart. Work through the hard times and let God do his thing.

Harry Speers



After the first meeting of the 'Friends of Columbanus' recently, we started to think of ways to publicise our Saint as this is a very important year for us. I decided to write an 'Odyssey of Columbanus', 'Comgall and the Abbey', also 'St. Gall and his Bear'. It is now a book of poems '8 Irish Saints', and these are on sale in the Parish Office for just £5 each. Any sold there will earn £1 for the Church.

For those interested I also translated them into French and they are in A4 form. These were sent to St Coulomb and Luxeuil and have been circulated in France.

Marsden FitzSimons



A man said he had to sell his old Hoover last week, because it was just gathering dust.

A Cheshire vicar has two cats. Their names are Ancient and Modern – because they are both him.



Can you do anything that other people can't?

Sure, I can read my own handwriting.

OUR WORSHIP

Sunday 2nd November

4th Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 All Age Service
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 Word & Worship Canon Tom Keightley

Wednesday 5th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 9th November Remembrance Day

3rd Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
11.30 Parish Communion
6.30 Deanery Cafe Church St. Galls, Carnalea

Wednesday 12th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 16th November

2nd Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Morning Worship & Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer
6.30 United service in Ballyholme Methodist

Wednesday 19th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 23rd November

Sunday before Advent

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Parish Communion & Children's Church
11.30 Morning Prayer
7.00 St Columbanus Festival Service
1st Bangor Presbyterian

Wednesday 26th November

10.30 Holy Communion - Kajiado Room

Sunday 30th November

Advent Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion
10.00 Wholeness & Healing
11.30 Wholeness & Healing
6.30 Taize for Advent



FUNERAL

17th October: Kenneth Hearn, late of 2 Robinson Crescent



November

2nd: In memory of Joan Wright

9th: In memory of Dorothy Reid

16th: Margaret Horner

23rd: Pat Todd

30th: Jackie McCabe



Children's Church Helpers November

9th: Emma Darragh,

Jacqui Devlin, Heather Dickey, Gail Kerr

16th: Caroline & Mark Larmour, Deborah Galbraith, Gillian Fletcher

23rd: Heather Glasgow, Nikki Gullen, Emma Hamilton

30th: Debbie Hunter, Allison Jamison, Trish McGuigan



November

3rd: No crèche

9th: Heather Glasgow Helen and Patrick Crothers

16th: Violet Davidson, Angela MacCartney, Christine Boyd

23rd: Katherine Newman, Paula McIlwaine, Catherine Darragh

30th: Julie Monaghan, Betty Singleton, Elaine McNamara



November

2nd: Edna Morrison, Gillian Fletcher, Carole Majury

9th: Pat Adair, Irene Bell, Patrick Crothers

16th: Michael & Sharon Hatch, Jan & Tony Carver

23rd: Karen, Ann, Kelly

30th: Gillian & Geoff Young, Susan Stockton

Parish Office: 91274912
Rectory: 91274901
Curatage: 91271922
Prayer Line: 07531806167
Transport: 07599794968
Church Readers
Rota:
John 91467243
or
Freda 91467624

