

# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – Queen's Hub Easter mission**

April 11, 2024

## Image of the day

### Queen's Hub Easter mission

**Members of The Hub at Queen's University Belfast had an amazing week serving alongside St Aidan's Parish Church, St Simon's Parish with St Philip's, Drew Memorial and St Mary Magdalene Parish Church.**

The members from the joint C of I and Methodist Church centre delivered 2000 leaflets, helped clean up in and around the church, ran 2 Kids Clubs, a Community Fun day, a Night of Story&Song, a Quiz night, a Big Breakfast, joined the church families for a bring&share meal and





## Holy Communion.

They made 50 flasks of tea and coffee, gave away hundreds of chocolate eggs, served a lot of burgers and hotdogs, and made many, many toasties! “We’ve had so much fun!”, they said.



“The biggest joy for us has been to help open the doors of the church and welcome in the community, and to share Jesus with people, young and old!”

They expressed thanks to Ross, Barry and the church family for having them for the week this.

Thanks indeed to



God for every single one of these incredible students who served Jesus during this week so willingly and selflessly..

## News

### **Celebrating the Great Lent with the Romanian Orthodox Church in Dublin**

**Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Vicar of St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, Canon Paul Arbuthnot, were welcomed by members of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Dublin on Monday evening (April 8) to mark the Great Lent.**



They joined the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at the St John the Baptist Missionary Centre at Drimnagh Castle.

The Great Lent is the most important fasting season of the church year within many denominations of Eastern Christianity. It is intended to prepare Christians for Pascha (Easter).

Members of the Orthodox Tradition fast on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays throughout The Great Lent. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is a liturgy which is celebrated on the weekdays of Great Lent. After the service in the St John the Baptist Missionary Centre.



Following the service, Archbishop Jackson said it was a great pleasure for him and Canon Arbuthnot to mark the Great Lent with members of the Romanian Orthodox community in Dublin.

“We were given the opportunity to share fully in the act of worship and the fellowship which followed,” he commented. “Many thanks to Father Caelin Florea along with his priests and deacon and the priest of the Georgian Orthodox Church in Dublin for a wonderful evening of ecumenical hospitality.”

The invitation follows the installation of the Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of Western and Central Europe, Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph, as an Ecumenical Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in February. Fellowship after the worship.



## **New study shows church involvement in schools has a positive impact on children**

**A recent Diocese of Guildford study has highlighted the positive impact of church involvement in schools.**

It found that children are more inclined to ponder life's significant questions in environments where spirituality is fostered.

Emma Coy, mission enabler for children and families at the Diocese, noted, “Children and young people face pressures and levels of anxiety we have never seen before... The space we create for them to ask big questions... has a massive impact on their inner life.”



**Somme museum visitors - The Somme Museum** welcomed the ladies from Ballyhenry Presbyterian Church, Glengormley. They went on a guided tour of the trenches with Tom followed by a nice cup of tea and shortbread.

Rev Canon Jane Whittington, schools officer for Christian distinctiveness at the Diocese, added, “Sometimes we want to give neat and clever answers to these big questions, and often there isn’t one... That’s why this space is important, where children can explore their own experiences... Where children are encouraged to reflect and think deeply, they are inspired to grow and challenge themselves in new ways.”

The research also uncovered that church visits help students feel closer to God. It suggests greater church involvement leads to a stronger spiritual connection among the children.





**Long Tower remembers** - Fr Stephen Ward CC presents Archdeacon Robert Millar with a donation towards vital repair work for Christ Church, Derry, from proceeds raised at their recent Gala Concert in St Columb's Hall featuring The Priests and Margaret Keys - just a gesture of gratitude in loving memory of Bishop Hervey and the Church of Ireland community who kindly donated to the building of Long Tower 240 years ago

Based on its findings, the study made 20 recommendations aimed at fostering church-school partnerships. These include encouraging church and school leaders to invest in their relationship and suggesting churches create reflective spaces for children.

April 11, 2024

The Diocese of Guildford is now taking steps to implement these recommendations, supporting leaders in nurturing spaces for spiritual development.

Lucy Moore, head of the growing faith foundation, reflected on the significance of this research: “It has been a privilege to support the Diocese of Guildford in this exciting research... this piece of work highlights valuable challenges and opportunities for churches and schools as they work together to support the flourishing of all children, young people, and their households.”

This initiative is part of a broader effort by the Church of England’s Growing Faith Foundation to explore effective church-school partnerships and their role in supporting children's spiritual development.



**PCI endeavours** - Toni Bassett (above), community outreach worker, West Belfast Special Project. Pray for connections and relationship building with people from all nations residing in the area. Give thanks for the interest shown at the recent Council for Mission in Ireland (CMI) evening in Ahoghill and pray that people would continue to remember the work in West Belfast.

April 11, 2024

# Cathedral Call



## Out of the Ashes at York Minster

**This year York Minster is marking 40 years since the 1984 fire with an exciting array of activities and events:**

📖 Service of Commemoration

🔨 Out of the Ashes - a brand-new exhibition

April 11, 2024

📸 On this Spot - a photo trail

👤 Guided Tours - Free tours with a focus on the 1984 fire

🔥 PHOENIX - A sound and light projection

Discover the full story and find all the details at:  
[yorkminster.org/fire](http://yorkminster.org/fire)

## Busman's holiday Irish Cathedral-style



Last week, a group of staff and volunteers from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, visited Saint Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower, Kilkenny. They were welcomed warmly and shown around by expert guides, drawing on the many similarities between their two ancient buildings. Those who dared even got to climb the round tower!



They also visited the Medieval Mile Museum and Kilkenny Castle. The visitors returned home thankful for the hospitality received.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Thy Kingdom Come is uniting millions of Christians in prayer

“In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.” - Archbishop Justin Welby



Thy Kingdom Come is uniting millions of Christians in prayer, and with just one month to go, we invite you to join us as we Light up the World in Prayer from May 9th - 19th.

Find out more and add your star to the prayer map here:  
[www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld)

## Alpha at All Saints Antrim

**Starting on the 22nd of April we will be running the Alpha course in the Parish Centre for 8 sessions. It will start at 7.15pm and we aim to finish at around 8.45pm.**

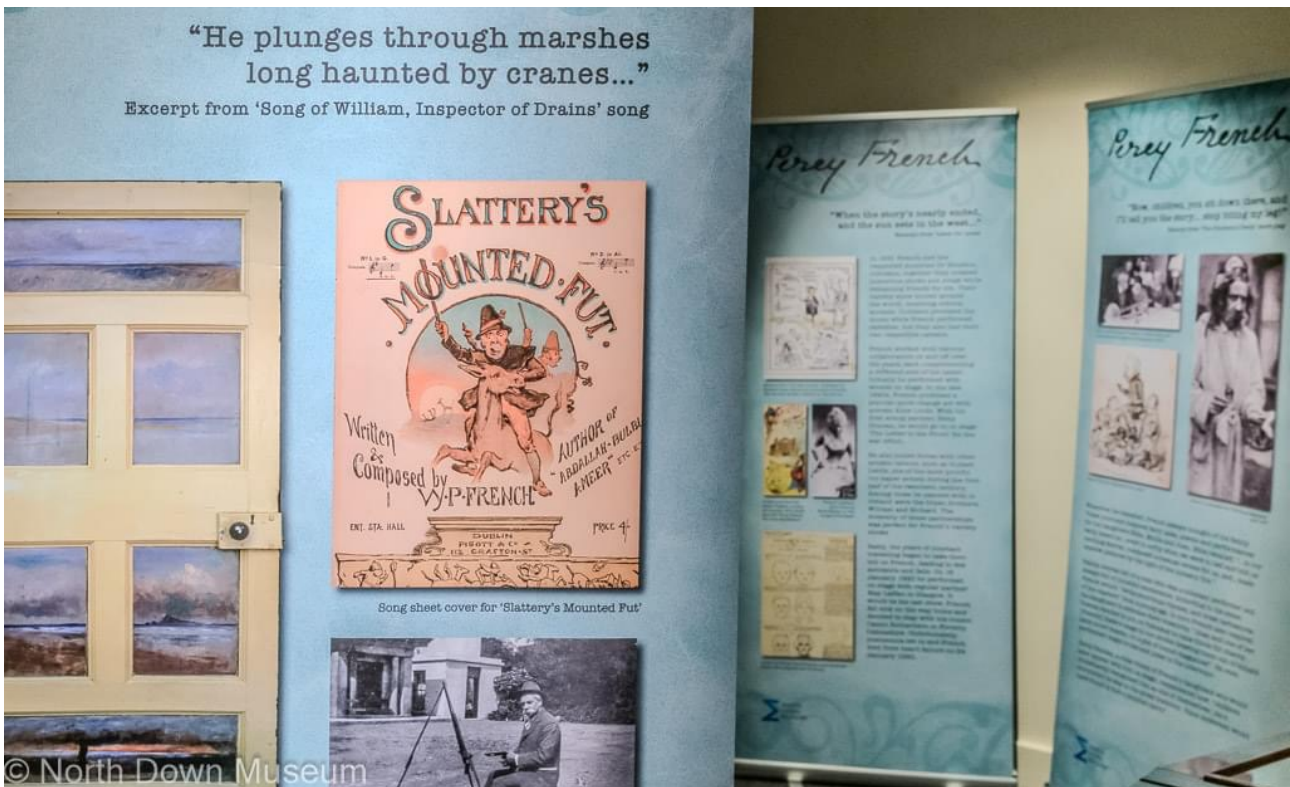
As many of you will know we are very gentle in our approach to sharing faith. We hope that our Alpha course will reflect that and be a chance to talk about faith, hopes and even issues you are unsure of.

If you would like to come along contact Peter (rev.peterblake@gmail.com) so that we can have plenty of tea/coffee and tray bakes ready for you.



For our regular parishioners you may have a friend or family member you would like to bring along. Or maybe you feel in yourself that you would like to explore your faith in a safe and friendly environment?

Whatever the reason you come, you will be most welcome.



## Percy French exhibition in Armagh County Museum

April 11, 2024

**New Percy French exhibition now on at the museum! We are delighted to be able to borrow this exhibition from North Down Museum.**

Entitled: "Remember me is all I ask'... A

celebration of Percy French". It uncovers the charm and talent of the singer, songwriter, performer and artist Percy French and explores French's life through his artwork and music. It also looks at his travels around the world entertaining children, adults and even soldiers during the First World War. The exhibition will continue until 22nd June.



**BCMS Crosslinks**

## Regional Meetings 2024

Jesus said, 'Go and make disciples of all nations.' Matthew 28:19

**Wednesday 22nd May, 7:30pm at St Jude's Parish Hall, Muckamore**

featuring an interview with Josh Hooker (Namibia, serving in Belfast)

and video news from Gerald & Louise Mwangi (serving in Kenya)

Come and hear about Crosslinks' wider ministry, including short-term mission and camps

RSVP by emailing [vgibson@crosslinks.org](mailto:vgibson@crosslinks.org)



April 11, 2024

## Crosslinks Regional Meeting in Muckamore

Crosslinks mission society is hosting a Regional Meeting for individuals and churches in Connor Diocese on Wednesday May 22 at 7.30pm in St Jude's Parish Hall, Muckamore. See also notice page above.

# DUNGANNON CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor: Derick Weir  
Accompanist: Cindy Yung ALCM

Present

## “Musical Mosaics”

*From Bach to Broadway, A Springtime Serenade*

on

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

at 7.30pm

in

St Anne's Parish Church, Dungannon

Subscription £12



## In the media

### **Irish Times - Two west of Ireland dioceses lose bishops as Catholic Church downsizes**

**Move is described as most radical change to Irish church structures in more than 900 years, Patsy McGarry writes.**

Two west of Ireland dioceses are to lose their bishops in what has been described as the most radical change in Irish Catholic Church structures in more than 900 years.

Administration of the dioceses will be taken over by neighbouring bishops.

Both Achonry and Killala are among the smallest dioceses in Ireland and take in much of Mayo and Sligo.

Achonry has a Catholic population of some 37,000 with 30 priests in 23 parishes and schools, while Killala has some 36,000 Catholics with 23 priests in 22 parishes.

Bishop of Achonry Paul Dempsey is being appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, while Bishop of Elphin Kevin Doran has been appointed Administrator of Achonry diocese.

April 11, 2024

Bishop of Killala John Fleming, who reached retirement age of 75 in February 2023, is to stand down, with Archbishop of Tuam Francis Duffy appointed Administrator of Killala diocese.

This reduction in the number of Irish Catholic dioceses and bishops has been seen as inevitable for some time, not least due to the declining number of an ageing Catholic clergy.

There is also the anomalous situation whereby Ireland, a small island with 4.3 million Catholics, has 26 dioceses and as many bishops (plus Auxiliary Bishops).

By contrast, for example, the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the largest Catholic diocese in the United States, has just over four million Catholics and is administered by one archbishop and six auxiliary bishops.

Both Achonry and Killala are suffragan sees of the Archdiocese of Tuam in the west, and these changes were announced this morning by Archbishop of Tuam Francis in the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tuam, Co Galway.

Papal nuncio Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor said in Tuam this morning: "In due time, and following careful assessment and consultation, the present Dioceses of Tuam and Killala on the one hand, and Elphin and Achonry on the other, may be governed by one Bishop in each case, just as the Dioceses of Galway and Clonfert are today governed by one Bishop.

April 11, 2024

“If this process evolves still further, the associated Dioceses may then merge fully under their Bishop, and, in this way, the six Dioceses in the Province of Tuam will eventually become three.”

In 1111 the Synod of Ráth Breasail the Catholic Church in Ireland moved from a monastic system to a diocesan and the parish-based structure most people would be familiar with. It and a subsequent synod at Kells in 1152 established 36 dioceses under the four Archdioceses of Armagh, Cashel, Dublin and Tuam.

Until recently there were 26 Catholic dioceses.

The Church of Ireland has reduced its number of dioceses to 11.

See also -

<https://www.irishcatholic.com/pope-announces-seismic-changes-for-dioceses-in-the-west-not-seen-for-1000-years/>

---

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

April 11, 2024

# Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at [houstonmckelvey@mac.com](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

---