

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Red Arrows Cathedral**

April 13, 2024

# Image of the day

## Red Arrows Cathedral

**The Red Arrows, the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, fly over Lincoln Cathedral.**

The cathedral links to the RAF were strategic as well as spiritual during World War 2 when the building was a major land mark for aircraft returning from operations over Europe.

Lincolnshire was home to many Bomber Command airfields during the Second World War, giving rise to the nickname of "Bomber County". The station badge for the nearby RAF Waddington depicts Lincoln



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Cathedral rising through the clouds. Until the opening of the RAF Bomber Command Memorial in 2012, the cathedral had the only memorial in the United Kingdom dedicated to Bomber Command's large losses of aircrew in the Second World War

Stained glass and memorials in the Cathedral point up the link with the RAF.

The Red Arrows made a transit across mainland Europe this week which included a route above the Alps (Photo page above), flying from RAF Waddington to Croatia to begin Red Arrows pre-season training - known as Exercise Springhawk.

Photographs are courtesy of the Ministry of Defence and Corporal Phil Dye flying with Red 10.

## **[Speeches from the RAF100 Dinner in the Nave of Lincoln Cathedral](#)**

[\[https://lincolncathedral.com/latest-news/speeches-from-the-raf100-dinner-in-the-nave/\]](https://lincolncathedral.com/latest-news/speeches-from-the-raf100-dinner-in-the-nave/)

## **[Lincoln Cathedral Airmen's Chapel - RAF Lincolnshire](#)**

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voTH2wA33bc\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voTH2wA33bc)

## **[Lincoln Cathedral – The History of the Famous Cathedral](#)** **[Art and commentary](#)**

[\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln\\_Cathedral\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Cathedral)

# News

## Bagenalstown's new classroom

Bishop Adrian Wilkinson of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory said, "Yesterday the pupils of St Mary's National School in Bagenalstown led us in a special service before I opened and blessed their new classroom.

"I was impressed by the cross and banner in the assembly hall as we worshipped. Thanks to the staff and pupils for their welcome".





## Would your church host the ECI Climate Justice Candle?

Would your church or faith community like to host the ECI Climate Justice Candle? You can use the candle in worship to raise awareness of climate justice and caring for our common home.

Just drop a line to [info@ecocongregationireland.com](mailto:info@ecocongregationireland.com) and they will arrange to get the candle to you. You can read lots of stories of how faith communities have used the candle in worship here

<https://www.ecocongregationireland.com/shine-a-light-on-climate-justice/>



## Young authors at the Saint Patrick Centre

**Congratulations to the prize winners in the Saint Patrick Centre's Maureen Donnelly Writing Competition.**

Louise Craig from Down High School won the Key Stage 4 Essay Competition and Dylan Hill from Belfast High School won the Key Stage 4 Competition with well deserved runners up Shannon Murray from Assumption Grammar School and Leon Wilton from Down High School. Pictured with Mark Donnelly, who generously sponsored the event, Centre Director Dr Tim Campbell and Centre Board Member Anthony King who was a judge for the Competition.

## Fellowship Cafe at Woodbourn

**The Fellowship Cafe at Holy Trinity Church, Woodbourn, Carrickfergus is ten years in action.**

Lily cut their 10yr birthday cake in the Fellowship Cafe. Over the 10 years the cafe has raised over £26,000 for good causes.



## Aghalee Parish Heritage Project promotes opportunities for local primary school

**“As part of our heritage project, we have been able to provide some educational opportunities for the local primary schools which have historic links with Aghalee Parish”.**

The P4 class from Ballinderry P.S. recently visited the Palace Stables in Armagh to learn what local life was like during WWII.



In the near future a class from Maghaberry P.S. will visit the Irish Linen Centre to learn about the local linen trade.

“We're delighted that we can support our local primary schools in this way.”

It was made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

## **Omagh and Strabane MuMs in May Big Sing**

**Members of the twelve different branches in the Omagh and Strabane Mothers' Union areas were joined by women from elsewhere in the Diocese and local clergy**





**at the latest 'Big Hymn Sing' in Lislimnaghan Parish Church, this week.**

The colourful service – which was part of MU's 'Mums in May' initiative – was led by the Rector of Cappagh and Lislimnaghan, Rev Canon Derek Quinn, who was joined by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster.

During the service, Diane White from Strabane MU led prayers for the work and witness of Mothers' Union and for the work of each of its units: action and outreach; faith and policy; finance and central services; and fundraising and communication. "Encourage us to put our faith into action," she said, "praying, enabling and campaigning for social justice and political action, to improve welfare in our country and to prompt politicians to develop policy for fairness and integrity throughout the world.

"Motivate and inspire us to 'Rise Up' against the scourge of domestic abuse in all its forms. Enable us to respond



compassionately, inform fairly, support gently, and empower effectively.

"Lord, teach us to pray, and strengthen us to serve, that the world may know Your love within us and that we may grow in faith, hope and love. Amen."

In his remarks before the blessing, Bishop Andrew referred to the different banners which were carried to the front of the church in procession. He described them as works of art.

"On the banners, we see a mixture of place and symbol," he said. Some had beautiful depictions of parish churches. The symbols included one portraying family, an open bible, a cross with the globe in the middle of it and hands reaching into it, a cross with sun bursting in resurrection glory over it.



"What we do this evening is carry with us that sense of place, and symbols that we know have transformed - and transformed our lives. And as we proclaim the Good News, as we bless our communities, those symbols come alive for us.

"The power of the cross, the sunrise of the resurrection, reaching out to a world in need, blessing families, opening the word of God and living our lives by his truth. Place and symbol matter." the Bishop said. "In Jeremiah, they were told to be a blessing to the city. We are to be a blessing to our communities. That's exactly what Mums in May is all about, being a blessing to the communities."

This evening's collection was taken up for the Mums in May Fund and will be used to support projects across Ireland and worldwide.

## CMSI annual staff retreat

There was a huge thank you to Bishop Trevor Williams who led the CMSI staff team this week on their annual retreat.

Contemplative prayer, worship, an exploration of reconciliation and sharing communion together made for a rich day for all.

The Choir Studio  
Presents

Donations welcome to  
**PI.P.S.**  
Hope and Support

# Songs of Hope & Reflection

An evening of music, hope & reflection  
in aid of PIPS Hope and Support.

Sunday  
21st April @4pm  
Venue:  
St Mary's Star of the Sea Chapel,  
Rostrevor

## Featuring

The Uplifted Gospel Choir  
Leon  
Emily-Jane Flanagan  
Mark & Gareth Hughes  
Paul McMahan  
All welcome!



## **Human suffering is an "adversary" to confront in a humane way - Pope Francis**

**Pope Francis meets with members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission as they conclude their annual plenary assembly, focused on the topic of suffering and illness in Sacred Scripture.**

In his address, the Pope said human suffering is an "adversary" that every Christian is called to confront in a humane way, rather than avoiding the issue by making it taboo.



“Our wounded nature,” he said, “bears within itself the realities of limitation and finitude, and suffers the contradictions of evil and pain.”

Jesus, said Pope Francis, “exhorts us to take care of those living in situations of infirmity, with the determination to defeat illness.

“At the same time, He gently invites us to join our sufferings to His salvific offer, as a seed that bears fruit.”

Read more: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-04/pope-francis-pontifical-biblical-commission-plenary-audience.html>

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## PCI's new podcast episode

**Episode 87 – Age of opportunity: Exploring today's opportunity for ministry among those in later life**

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We hear so much about how we are an increasingly aging society and an aging church. The focus often falls on the challenges that brings, but that reality also offers enormous possibilities for ministry and outreach through the local church if we have eyes to see them.

Alex Drew who leads the work of a ministry called Faith in Later Life and David Thompson, Secretary of PCI's Council for Congregational Life and Witness, which will be partnering with Faith in Later Life to bring an event called Age of Opportunity on this theme to Assembly Buildings, Belfast on 16 May 2024 discuss the untapped potential of this area of ministry and mission for the church.

Listen via PCI podcast channel: [bit.ly/podcastpci](https://bit.ly/podcastpci)

## Organ Scholarship Scheme deadline

**Just a reminder that the closing date for applications is April 30th.**

The Organ Scholarship Scheme provides excellent training.

The Dioceses of Down & Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Scheme 2024 is now open for applications from candidates of all ages who are Grade 4 and above.

More information and details of how to apply at

<https://rb.gy/5j2o88>



## First National Pilgrimage for Life

**The first National Pilgrimage for Life, organised by the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, will be celebrated on Saturday 4th May in Knock Shrine.**

The pilgrimage begins with Anointing of the Sick in the Basilica at 2.30pm, followed by Mass at 3pm and Rosary Procession after Mass, weather permitting. Main celebrant and homilist will be Archbishop Francis Duffy.

Speaking about the National Pilgrimage for Life, Bishop Kevin Doran, Chair of the Council for Life said, "I very much look forward to this first National Pilgrimage for Life, which gives us the opportunity, as advocates for life, to draw strength and inspiration from Mary, who is mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. Central to our pilgrimage will be the Eucharist which nourishes us through life as well as being a particular source of strength to the sick and the dying."

Why not come to Knock to celebrate the gift of life and pray for the protection of all human life.

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## In the media

### **Belfast Telegraph - Kennedy recalls friendly chat with Kingsmill victim days before atrocity**

**A former Stormont minister has told of how he talked to a victim of the Kingsmill massacre a few days before his murder alongside nine workmates in a hail of bullets, Noel McAdam writes.**

The ex-Regional Development Minister Danny Kennedy is taking part in an event in Belfast next month to highlight terrorist murders along the border during the 1970s.

The senior Ulster Unionist was a paperboy at the time and delivered the Belfast Telegraph to one of his customers, Kenny Worton, less than 72 hours before the mass killing on January 5, 1976.

The workmen were ordered off their minibus and the only Catholic among them told to run. Just one other man, Alan Black, would survive.

The day before three members of the Reavey family in Whitecross and three members of the O'Dowd family in Ballydougan were murdered by the UVF's Glenanne gang.

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Kingsmill was claimed by a group calling itself the South Armagh Republican Action Force. In 2011 an Historical Enquiries Team probe said the IRA was responsible for the “purely sectarian (and) calculated slaughter”.

Mr Kennedy recalled: “All these years later the chilling fear still rises, with flashbacks of my seeing them — for those who could be seen — in their coffins. I knew nine of them personally.”

He delivered the papers in Bessbrook, near Newry, where his parents owned a shop, and said that most of the other paperboys in the village were Catholics.

“Bessbrook was like that. While the Troubles had enormously impacted neighbouring towns and cities, it hadn't yet touched Bessbrook. But it would never be the same again,” he said.

The young Kennedy was tasked with collecting money for the papers on Fridays, but the size of the Belfast Telegraph was always an awkward problem, particularly keeping them dry in bad weather.

It was the Friday after Christmas when he knocked on the Wortons' door. He recalled: “It was Kenny Worton. In the background I could hear two young children playing and I could savour the smell of cooking wafting out of the kitchen as tea was being prepared by Kenny's wife, Zelda.

“Kenny and I exchanged pleasantries and spoke briefly about the bad night and the end of the holidays. Kenny paid

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his weekly bill and as he turned away said: 'Here's something for you, I missed you last week.' It was a tip.

“I don't remember how much, but it was the gesture. Not everyone tipped the son of the shopowners. Less than 72 hours later he would be dead.”

The former politician, who lost his Newry and Armagh seat to Sinn Fein's Conor Murphy in 2017 after being an MLA since 1998, is due to speak at Glenmachan Church, Glenmachan Road, on Saturday, May 18 at 7.30pm.

Other speakers include the widow of murdered MP Robert Bradford, Norah Bradford, and a survivor of the Mountain Lodge pentecostal church massacre, Edith Kennedy.

The host is former BBC presenter George Jones, who survived the Abercorn restaurant bombing.

Mr Kennedy said justice has been denied to the families of the Kingsmill atrocity.

He added: “We owe it to the memory of those who were so cruelly murdered, and to those who have had to continue to live with the terrible consequences of that night, never to forget their story.”

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## Church News Ireland

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