

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – In remembrance

April 25, 2025

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Image of the day

In remembrance

A simple and profound area of remembrance of Pope Francis in Armagh Cathedral.

News

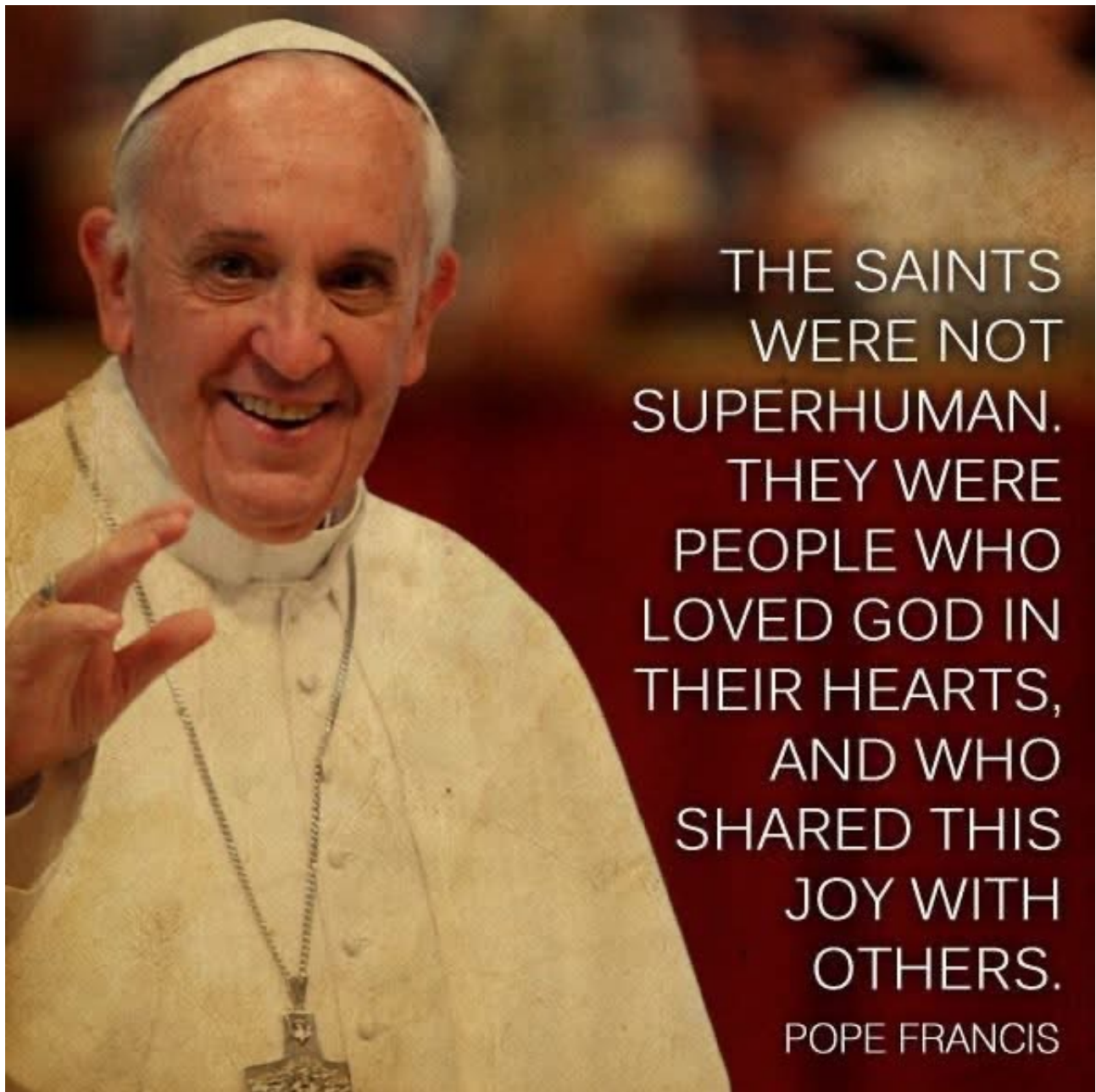
Tens of thousands of the faithful have paid their respects to the late Pope Francis

Pope Francis' coffin will be sealed during a liturgical rite held in St. Peter's Basilica this evening, Friday, April 26, at 8:00 PM.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, will preside at the Rite of Sealing of the Coffin of the late Pope Francis, ahead of the papal funeral on Saturday morning.

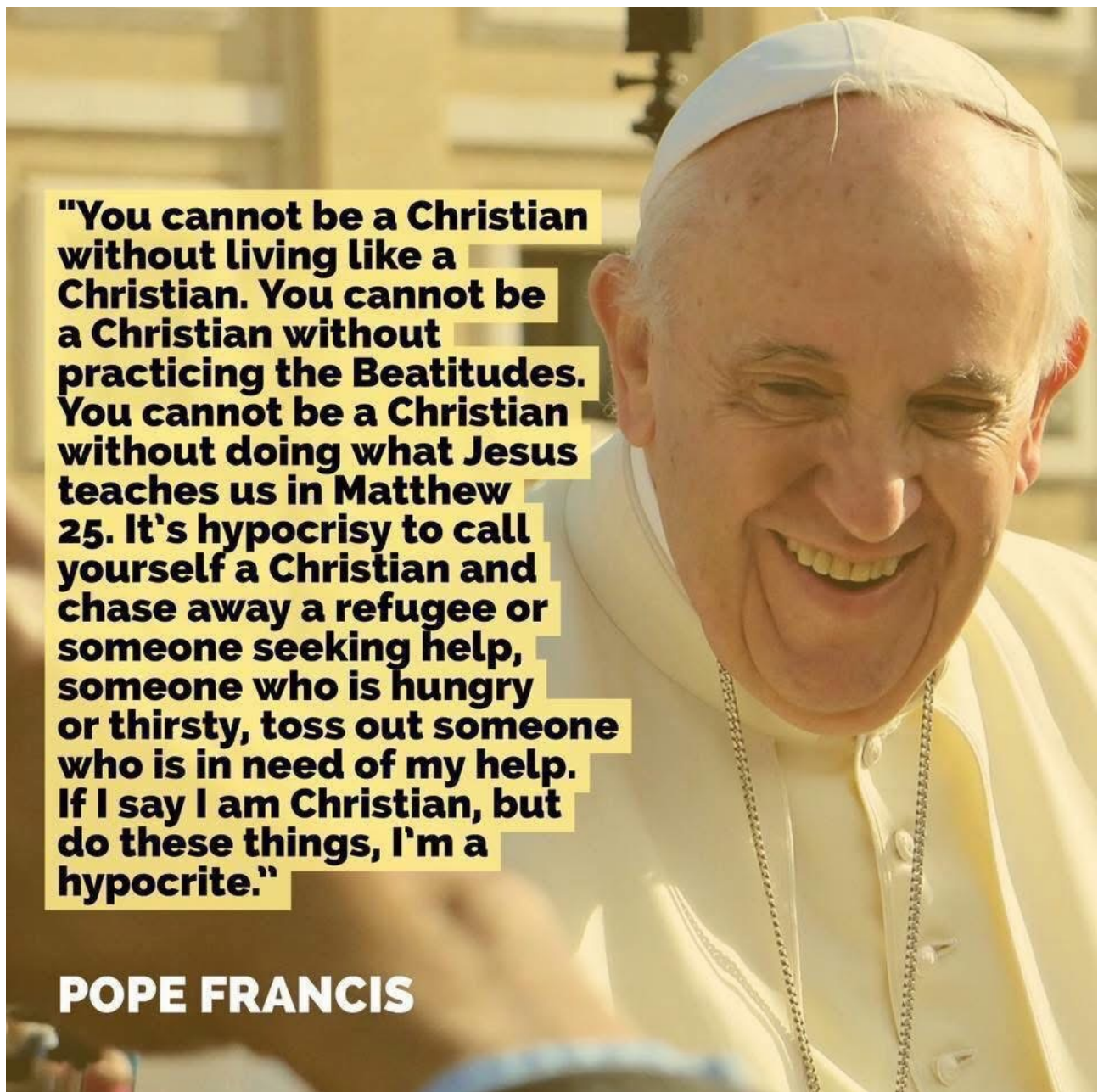
The liturgical rite will be attended by several Cardinals and Holy See officials, and will be broadcast across Vatican News' channels.

It will mark the end of public viewing in St. Peter's Basilica, which has seen tens of thousands of people pay their respects to the late Pope.



As his mortal remains lie in state, over 50,000 people already filed past the Altar of the Confession in the 24 hours since the Vatican Basilica opened to the faithful on Wednesday morning.

St. Peter's Basilica remained open until 5:30 AM on Thursday, closing for an hour and a half before reopening at 7:00 AM.



The Office for the Liturgical Celebrations requested the presence at the Rite of Sealing of the Coffin on Friday of Cardinals Giovanni Battista Re, Pietro Parolin, Roger Mahony, Dominique Mamberti, Mauro Gambetti, Baldassare Reina, and Konrad Krajewski.

Those assisting the rite will also include Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, Archbishop Ilson de Jesus Montanari, Monsignor Leonardo Sapienza, the Canons of the Vatican Chapter, the Ordinary Minor Penitentiaries of the Vatican,

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the late Pope's secretaries, and others admitted by the Master of Pontifical Liturgical Celebrations, Archbishop Diego Ravelli.

Pope Francis' funeral Mass will take place on Saturday, April 27, at 10:00 AM in St. Peter's Square, marking the beginning of the Novendiales, an ancient tradition of nine days of mourning and Masses for the repose of the late Pope's soul.

The **Novendiales Masses** will be held each day at 5:00 PM (GMT +2) in St. Peter's Basilica, except for the Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28, which will take place at 10:30 AM in St. Peter's Square.

Irish bishops' Digital Books of Condolence

The Irish Bishops' Conference in Maynooth has made available digital Books of Condolences for people to record their sympathy.

These are available on the homepage of catholicbishops.ie, on the bishops' social media platforms of Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn and on BlueSky.

All Saints Antrim will rise again

All Saints posted - On Thursday 27 February at 10.15am, we received the best news since the fire on 25 December – that our insurers, Congregational



**Insurance would be underwriting our insurance claim.
It was the very best news for us.**

Although the damage caused to the structure of the church was fairly minimal considering that the fire smouldered for two days, the smoke damage was colossal. The smoke and soot have penetrated places you could never imagine, even getting through the tiniest of cracks and up into the bell tower.

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In order to clear away the smoke, soot and overpowering smell from the fire, the bill for the renovation will come close to £1 million. We are delighted that Gary Proctor, Divisional Director of TA Dallas (NI) and Ian Maconachie, one of Northern Ireland's foremost conservation chartered surveyors, are liaising with Congregational Insurance on behalf of All Saints.

The restoration project will take upwards of a year to complete. The floor is being lifted, the panelling to the sides of the church, the roof board and the casing around the trusses will all be removed and replaced.

All the pews are going stripped back and repolished. The electrical wiring will be replaced as will the lighting and sound systems.

All the windows will be painstakingly cleaned and the monuments and pulpit will receive specialist treatment.

Response from people near and far has been so encouraging and supportive.

The response from people near and far has been so encouraging and supportive. The Go Fund me page has surpassed £20,000. The donations from local churches, businesses, Orange Lodges and Bowling Clubs has been astonishing and the parishioners of All Saints are so grateful for this amazing generosity. The Antrim Branch of the Royal British Legion are holding a Curry Night on Friday 18 April for the parish. On Friday 30 May at 7.30pm in High Street Presbyterian Church, Lagan Camerata and Una Voce choirs are hosting a concert (suggested donation of £10) with all proceeds going to the restoration fund.

Kilbride Parish £2,600
St Comgall and St Joseph £2,500
Antrim Royal British Legion £1,500
Antrim Journey Church £500
Killead Presbyterian £1,000
Loanends Presbyterian £1,000
Killead Parish £1,000
St Patricks & St Johns Bowls £350
St George's Parish, Belfast £500
Glenavy Parish £2,000
St Peter's Parish, Belfast £1,000
Baird's Funeral Services £500
Antrim LOL District 13 £600 Skeffington LOL £200
Lisburn District LOL £200 Gwynne Temperance £100
Antrim Grammar School £424
Lisburn District LOL No 6 £100
Bateson True Blues 1925 £100
Antrim Churches indoor bowls £700
Antrim R B L Curry night £1950

Coleraine Football Club support children in Uganda

Coleraine FC was pleased to play a small role as club kit was donated to children in Uganda thanks to the efforts of the Rev Robert McMullan...

The former club chaplain travelled to the village of Dikka in the east African country as a trip with the charity Charlene's Project and was kindly armed with Coleraine FC tops, which were distributed to children of all ages.



The kit was kindly donated to Rev McMullan by the Club Shop and he explained how it helped bring smiles to the faces of children across the other side of the world.

He stated: “The village of Dikka lies in the north west of Uganda. The uneven red earth roads are a challenge to traverse, while the noise of the road side traders and the Boda Boda (motorbikes) seems to never slacken.

“It seems to be a place that time has forgotten until you see a sign which announces the latest Premier League game to be shown in what is nothing better than a rundown garden shed.

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“Football permeates into every corner of the community with many wearing football shirts of Premier League (especially Arsenal for some reason), La Liga and Serie A teams!

“But recently a group of Dikka children received a unique set of football shirts like none other in Uganda.

“I met them while visiting a maternity hospital supported by Charlene’s Project when I was in Uganda with the CP teaching local pastors.

“Let’s say they didn’t all quite get the exact size but that didn’t matter! Their smiles said everything. I even tried to teach them to say ‘Come on the Bannsideers!’

“The football shirts were very kindly donated by the Club Shop at Coleraine FC. A big thank you to Scott Smyth for organising it.

“Dikka might be unknown to the outside world, but in one small corner of it Coleraine FC is all the news!”

Well done to everyone involved for helping to facilitate something so special.

Education

Four Belfast schools gain insight into university of Cambridge life



17 Lower 6th pupils from Methodist College Belfast travelled, together with pupils from St Malachy's, St Mary's and St Dominic's



as part of Cambridge University's HE+ Belfast Consortium, to Corpus Christi College.

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Pupils were given an insight into university life by attending subject-specific workshops. They were also given practical advice about how to write a personal statement, prepare effectively for admissions tests and interviews and the importance of engaging in super-curricular activities.

The pupils were accompanied by Miss Moore and Mrs Jancsurak-Kerchner.

Stranmillis University College Certificate in Higher Education

Unit 2 of the Certificate in Higher Education, Teaching and Lecturing (CHETL) is now available to book for a late May start.

This professional development programme aims to upskill practitioners in Northern Ireland who are transitioning from teaching adults in a range of settings post 16/18. It offers an insight into the HE profession for aspiring or new teaching and lecturing staff in further and higher education. The course is suitable for anyone considering teaching in Higher Education now or in the future. We welcome intergenerational applications.

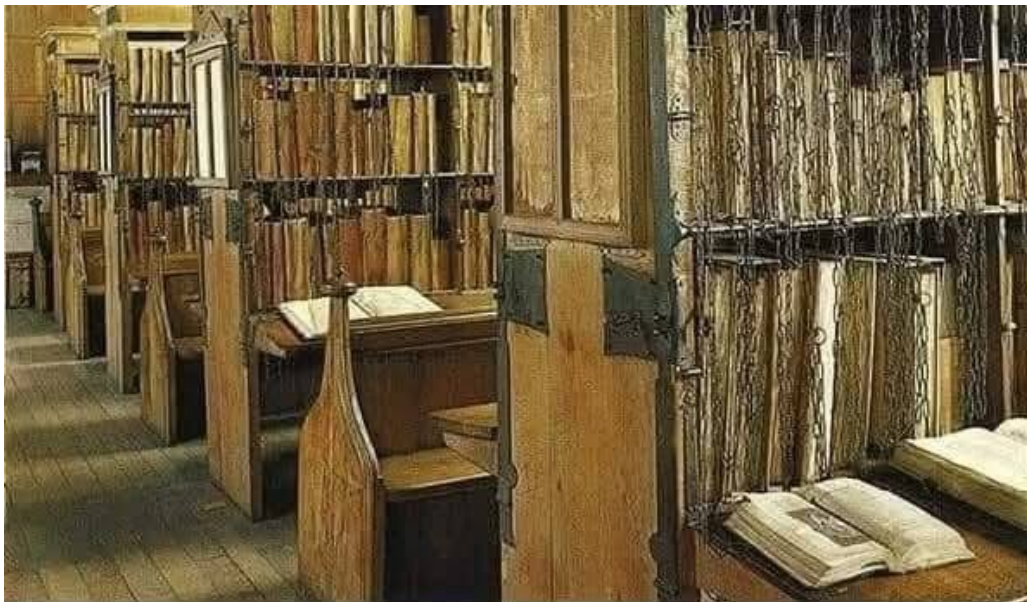
This unit (2) - Planning a Higher Education Curriculum with a Research-Informed Approach will help the new and developing practitioner in HE, including part-time staff, to engage in research-informed approaches to curriculum innovation and design. The core of the unit will be committed to the development of the first lecture and seminar as part of the role.

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To book please visit:

<https://www.stran.ac.uk/courses/professional-development/certificate-in-higher-education-teaching-and-lecturing-chet/>

Cathedral Calls



Largest surviving chained library

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The largest surviving chained library in the world is at Hereford Cathedral in the UK, where all the books are still kept under lock and key in their original chains.

It has been rebuilt in its original arrangement, exactly as it had been from 1611 to 1841.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 27th April 2025



10.00am Holy Communion *(Rite 1)*
in the Lady Chapel

11.00am Eucharist *(Rite 2)*
Preacher: The Revd Canon Jim Campbell

3.15pm Choral Evensong
sung by the Armagh Diocesan Singers

Everyone welcome

Clergy and ministry

Growing young worship leaders

DDYC (Down & Dromore Youth Council) recently held a second, very successful Worship Workshop for young people.

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DDYC posts - We're excited to announce a three-day workshop planned for early July.

Twenty-four young people gathered in Belvoir Parish to explore what it means to lead worship with heart, skill, and confidence. The session was led by experienced practitioners Jude Frame (Knocknagoney Parish) and Simon Burrows (Holywood Parish).

Throughout the morning, participants learned more about who we worship, why we worship, and how to lead others in musical worship. With guidance from a talented team of musicians, the group had hands-on time with vocals, drums, piano, violin, and guitars. The young people showed great enthusiasm and growth as they dug deeper into the practical and spiritual aspects of worship leading.

The morning ended with a special showcase where families were invited to watch the group lead two worship songs - evidence of just how much they had developed in only a few hours together.

Our three-day Worship Workshop will run from 8–10 July (venue to be announced) and promises to be a fantastic opportunity for young worship leaders to grow even further.

If your church has young people who might like to be involved, or if you're a parent looking for more information, please contact Millie at: millie@downanddromore.org. These workshops continue to reveal the incredible potential of the next generation— young leaders ready and eager to serve God through worship.

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Events

Corrymeela residential

Last chance to sign up for our 'People of Faith, People of Doubt' residential 9-11 May. We'll be closing bookings tomorrow.

Learn more and book your place using the form in the link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/vkgshvn66F>

Finaghy Primary School sing alongside Finaghy Parish Choir

Simon Neill, director of music at St Polycarp's - We are excited for our next concert of the season and this time we are honoured to welcome the choir of Finaghy Primary School to sing alongside us.

The church has many special links with the school and



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it will be an amazing evening of music. See you Friday 16 May 2025, 7.30pm in St Polycarp's Church.

NORTHERN IRELAND
INTERNATIONAL
ORGAN
COMPETITION
PRESENTS

Supported by the National Lottery through the
Arts Council of Northern Ireland

ADMISSION FREE
WITH RETIRING
DONATIONS

*Organ
Serenades*
FOR A MAY EVENING

ANDREW FORBES
Director of Music, Glasgow Cathedral

Plays the Lewis Organ of First Church,
Rosemary Street Belfast

Friday 2 May, 7.30pm

Including music by Debussy, Dubois,
James Horner, The Beatles
and the World Premiere of Agnus Dei by
Coronation composer Roxanna Panufnik

First Church
Belfast

World Premiere in recital on Lewis Organ of First Church Belfast

Recital with Andrew Forbes, Director of Music at Glasgow Cathedral - Friday 2 May, 7.30pm. Admission Free.

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“Please join us for the World Premiere of Agnus Dei by Roxanna Panufnik, classical favourites, film theme arrangements and more, on the magnificent Lewis Organ of First Church Belfast!”

THE ULSTER CONSORT

Contemporary Choral Classics

**CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF
BOB CHILCOTT & SIR JOHN RUTTER**

<p>Sir John Rutter <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> Bob Chilcott <i>A Little Jazz Mass</i></p> <p>THE ULSTER CONSORT & PLAYERS ULSTER CONSORT FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S CHORUS MATTHEW OWENS conductor</p>	<p>The Ulster Consort celebrates the significant birthdays of two of the choral world's most popular composers: Sir John Rutter at 80, and Bob Chilcott at 70. Alongside shorter works of both composers, the programme includes <i>A Little Jazz Mass</i>, a modern-day gem, and <i>The Wind in the Willows</i>, which is a joy from start to finish – celebrating nature, friendship, loyalty, and adventure.</p> <p>Friday 9 May, 7.45pm Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA</p> <p>Tickets: £21.50 available in advance via www.theatreatthemill.com and on the evening at the door</p>
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Celebrating the birthdays of Sir John Rutter and Bob Chilcott

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The Ulster Consort & Players, Ulster Consort Foundation Children's Chorus, are hugely looking forward to celebrating the 80th birthday of Sir John Rutter and the 70th birthday of our Patron, Bob Chilcott in a concert on Friday 9 May at the Theatre at The Mill & The Courtyard Theatre, Newtownabbey - just 15 minutes from the centre of Belfast.

Join them, if you can, for performances of classics such as Rutter's "Gaelic Blessing" and "Prayer of St Patrick" as well as his fabulous, humorous, and heart-warming setting of "The Wind in the Willows", alongside Chilcott's "Can you hear me" and his wonderfully catchy "Little Jazz Mass".

Tickets will be available at the door, or in advance via <https://theatreatthemill.com/book/?show=111401>

Cór Fingal tomorrow night

Cór Fingal have a concert coming up on Saturday 24th May.

Set sail with Cór Fingal for an unforgettable evening of music inspired by the sea. Taking place in the beautiful surrounds of the **National Maritime Museum of Ireland in Dún Laoghaire**, this concert explores the ocean's power, mystery and beauty through a rich tapestry of choral works — from rousing sea shanties to haunting modern compositions. We hope to see you there!

Sat 24th May | 8pm

Book Tickets: www.mariner.ie/songs-by-the-sea/

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Listen back to Radio Ulster Concert from Belfast Cathedral presented by John Toal

It featured the impressive talents of some of this year's Young Musician's Platform Award recipients: Soprano Zoe Jackson, Harpist Rosie Murphy, and Violinist Sam Kane, performing alongside the Ulster Orchestra and Conductor Stephen Bell.

You can listen back now on BBC Sounds

<https://bbc.in/42JowvL>

Thanks to Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Photos courtesy BBC NI / William Cherry, Presseye

Charles Wood Festival Composition Competition

Exciting News for Composers - The Charles Wood Festival is thrilled to announce the return of our Composition Competition, designed to inspire composers of all ages!

This year, to celebrate John Rutter CBE's 80th Birthday, he has invited entrants to compose a brand new choral setting of: Psalm 46: 1-5, 10 "God is our refuge and strength..."

Three finalists will be invited to Armagh on Thursday 14th August to hear their pieces performed by members of the Charles Wood Singers, with a distinguished jury panel of Charles Wood Doherty and David Hill.

2025 CHARLES WOOD COMPOSERS' COMPETITION



CHARLES WOOD
FESTIVAL & SUMMER SCHOOL

CALLING ALL COMPOSERS!



Entrants are invited to compose a choral setting of **Psalm 46: 1-5,10** – text which John Rutter KBE has selected to mark his 80th Birthday at the Charles Wood Festival.

A unique opportunity to have your work performed by members of the Charles Wood Singers, in front of **Séan Doherty** and **David Hill**.

The winning piece will be recorded and performed at the 2025 Charles Wood Festival Gala Concert in Armagh.

**Deadline for entries:
12PM - Friday 27th June**

For full details and to enter online, please visit:

www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/composers-competition

FIND US ON



Registered Charity Number: NIC102656

The winning piece will be performed at the Festival's Gala Concert on Friday 15th August, and a recording will be made!

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Deadline for entries: Friday 27th June 2025. Don't miss this unique opportunity to have your music performed and recorded at one of the UK & Ireland's leading choral festivals! Spread the word and tag a composer friend!

For full details and to enter, visit:

<https://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/composers-competition>



The poster features a photograph of a large pipe organ with a wooden console and a complex array of stop tabs on the right. In the top left corner, there is a circular seal with a red and white design and the text 'SIGILLUM DECEMBER 1700'. The main title 'St. Columb's Cathedral Organ Concert Series' is written in a large, white, serif font, with 'July 2025' below it. The background of the text is a dark, semi-circular shape.

St. Columb's Cathedral Organ Concert Series
July 2025

Thursday 3rd July - Nicky Morton and Louis Fields
Organist and Assistant Organist: St. Columb's Cathedral

Thursday 10th July - Dr. Derek Collins
Former Organist: St. Columb's Cathedral (2018-2024)

Thursday 17th July - Stewart Smith
Organist: All Saint's Clooney

Thursday 24th July - Ben McGonigle
Organist: Christ Church

Thursday 31st July - David McGuckin
Organist: First Derry Presbyterian Church

**LUNCHTIME CONCERTS
AT ST. COLUMB'S
CATHEDRAL**

**EVERY THURSDAY IN JULY
1.10PM - 1.50PM**

**FREE
ADMISSION**

 Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Cheantar an tSrátha Báin
Derry Citty & Strábane Districk Council

Heritage



Teddy Bears' Picnic started in Cookstown

Did you know the writer of 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' - Jimmy Kennedy OBE, was from Cookstown, Co Tyrone? Born in 1902, in the village of Coagh to be precise.

After joining the civil service in 1927, Jimmy begin writing and co-writing songs like -

"The Barmaid's Song", (sung by

Dame Gracie Fields)

"South Of The Border" (sung by Frank Sinatra),

"Harbour Lights" (inspired by summers spend in Portstewart)

"Red Sails in the Sunset - versions were sung by Bing Crosby, Guy Lombardo, Mantovani, Jack Jackson, Louis Armstrong, The Beatles and Stevie Wonder etc. (a total 40 versions by different singers) and many more.

During WWII he rose to the rank of Captain and by 1945 wrote the "Cokey Cokey" aka Hocky Pocky - later this song was to become controversial to who wrote it and therefore had ownership and rights to the song, as two american songwriters also claimed they had penned it. In 1956 after a legal battle Jimmy won the rights to the song.

"Red Sails in the Sunset" was inspired by the "red sails" of Kitty of Coleraine, a yacht Kennedy often saw off the

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northern coast of Ireland and by his adopted town
Portstewart

Jimmy also wrote "The Banks of the Erne", for recording by his friend from the war years, Theo Hyde, also known as Ray Warren.

Kennedy won two Ivor Novello Awards for his contribution to music and received an honorary degree from the New University of Ulster. He was awarded the OBE in 1983.

Jimmy lived to the age of 81 while living in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England. In 1997 he was posthumously inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

In 2011, J. J. Kennedy wrote a book about about his father, titled "The Man Who Wrote the Teddy Bears' Picnic", which had tributes from Val Doonican and Sir Terry Wogan.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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

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Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends