

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Easter flowers

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Image of the day

Easter flowers

Two of the beautiful arrangements from churches in Ireland. And there are more to come.



News

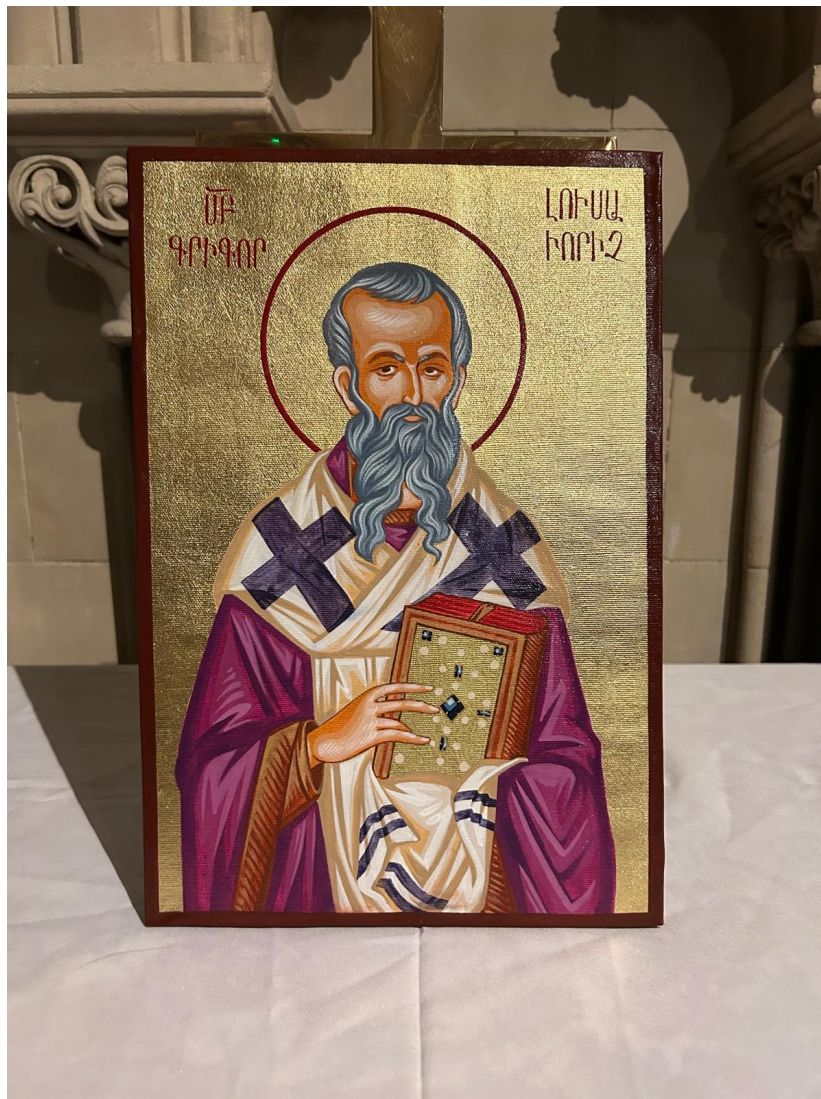
Armenians in Ireland commemorate 110th Anniversary of Genocide

On Sunday April 27 Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, hosted the 110th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.



Members of the Armenian community from across Ireland gathered to commemorate the ethnic cleansing of Armenian people in the Anatolian region during the period from 1915 to 1923. Many countries worldwide recognise this as genocide.

Dr Paul Manook of the Armenian Mission Parish in Dublin read the Old Testament Lesson and Canon Leonard Ruddock (Canon in Residence on Sunday) read the New Testament Lesson. The congregation was addressed by the Armenian Honorary Consul, Mr Ohan Yergainharsian. Dean Dermot Dunne and Archbishop Michael Jackson led the commemoration in the cathedral and at the khachkar in the cathedral grounds which is unique in Irish life and in Irish Christianity.



The Archbishop prayed for Armenian people worldwide and in Ireland who live lives of citizenship, public service, of family and of contribution to society in Ireland and internationally. He said: “In sorrow we remember before God all who have died for their nation, their faith, their culture, in war and in peace”.

He prayed for the grace of renewal, the hope of tomorrow and the love of the Risen Lord Jesus quoting Psalm 112:2: ‘Light shines in the darkness for the upright:gracious and full of compassion are the righteous.

Photo above - Icon of St Gregory the Illuminator in Christ Church Cathedral, a gift of Dr Paul and Isobel Manook.

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St Mary's Cathedral Kilkenny book of condolence

Signing the book of condolence by ecumenical and civic representatives prior to evening Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny to give thanks for the life and ministry for Pope Francis.

King's Scout Awards honoured at Windsor Castle



A wonderful day honouring young awardees of The King's Scout Award - the highest recognition in Scouting adventure and skill development.

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At Windsor Castle, The Duke of Kent joined Chief Scout Dwayne Fields to congratulate the recipients - and to celebrate 50 years of His Royal Highness's work with The Scouts Association!

Education

Peace Conference marks the 250th anniversary of Friends' School, Lisburn

Six of our Year 13 pupils proudly represented Wallace High School at a peace conference held to mark the 250th anniversary of Friends' School, Lisburn.



FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN

'The Future Belongs to Peace' Conference

Friday 4th April 2025

9:15	Arrival and Registration
9:40	Welcome
9:50	Student voice: Politics in Action
10:00	Keynote 1: Praying for Peace, Working for Justice Siobhán Haire (Deputy Recording Clerk, Quakers In Britain)
10:20	Performance: <i>Beyond Skin</i>
10:45	Break
11:00	Workshops / Talks: The Art of Making Peace Infectious (Beyond Skin) Ingredients of Peace (Corrymeela) Women, Peace and Security (Women's Resource & Development Agency) Peace and Climate Justice (Quakers in Britain)
12:50	Lunch
13:30	Keynote 2: Reflecting on Prejudice Pete Shirlow (Director, Institute Irish Studies, University of Liverpool)
14:00	Discussion Groups
14:45	Sorcha Eastwood (MP for Lagan Valley)
14:55	Plenary
15:00	Finish

FSL
250
1774 | 2024

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‘The Future Belongs to Peace’ brought together pupils from across the local area to reflect on the role of peace in their lives and explore what peace might look like in the future.

Thank you to FSL for the invitation and providing this opportunity for our pupils.

Belfast City Airport Autism in the Air programme

It’s Autism Awareness Month and at City Airport we’re proud to be championing inclusivity in travel.

In partnership with Queen's University Belfast, our ‘Autism in the Air’ programme gives children with autism and their families the chance to experience every step of the airport journey.

Autism in the Air helps build confidence and familiarity with flying, making future journeys a little easier and a lot more enjoyable.

We look forward to welcoming more families again soon!

Take a look at last year’s event, as featured by the BBC:
<https://bit.ly/42Ou0W8>

Making history at Magee

History has been made at the Magee campus of the University of Ulster with the first ever group of new

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doctors completing their final exams at the new Medical School in Londonderry.

The Foundation Dean says she hopes it will help address the staffing crisis in the health service in Northern Ireland.

Brody from BRA wins at Carrickfergus Music Festival

Congratulations to BRA Form 2 pupil, Brody Bell, who took part in the recent Carrickfergus Music Festival and won the Grade 4 Piano category. Very well done, Brody!



Laboratory Skills Competition

Southern Regional College Level 3 Applied Science students recently travelled to South West College to

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take part in a Laboratory Skills Competition, endorsed by WorldSkills UK Local Skills Competition Endorsement Framework.

In just three hours, students collaborated in teams to extract caffeine from coffee beans and analysed their findings using Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) to detect caffeine presence. A huge well done to all participants involved, and a particular congratulations to our Southern Regional College students who secured third place! We are extremely proud of you!



Ulster University announces 27 new Ulster Futures Inspire Scholarships

20 Scholarships have a value of £3,000 a year for each year of their degree up to a maximum of £9000 (placement year

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excluded), and a further 7 scholarships with a value of £2,000 a year for each year of their degree up to a maximum of £6000 (placement year excluded).

The Ulster Futures Inspire Scholarships are aimed at removing financial barriers that prevent many students from accessing higher education.

Who can apply?

The Ulster Futures Inspire Scholarships are open to individuals who are currently in final year of an acceptable Level 3 qualification such as A-Levels, BTEC or equivalent at a Northern Ireland educational institution, and who also have a permanent home address in Northern Ireland.

Explanations for each of the criteria is available on the webpage

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/scholarships/inspire-scholarships>

The Scholarships are only open to students who are studying a Full-time degree on one of Ulster University's three Campuses Belfast, Coleraine or Derry/Londonderry.

Applications close on 16 June 2025.

To apply online and for more information including full criteria, please visit:

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/scholarships/inspire-scholarships>

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Further Education Student Finance beginning September 2025

Applications for Further Education Student Finance for the academic year beginning September 2025, are now open via the Education Authority website.

Students can apply online through the EA's student finance portal <https://ow.ly/J34050VIHbG> until 31 October 2025.

Students aged 19 or over, and studying full or part time Level 1, 2 or 3 course at a Further Education College, may be entitled to financial support under the Further Education Grants system, administered in Northern Ireland by the Education Authority on behalf of the Department for Employment and Learning.

There are a number of eligibility criteria which need to be met in order to be approved for a FE Grant, and these can be found on the FE Grants section of the EA website - <https://ow.ly/A3nO50VIHbC>

Cathedral Calls



St Eugene's Cathedral Choir Scholars

Applications are now open for the 2025-2026 Choral Scholars Scheme.

The scheme is open to all full-time students over the age of 16. The choral scholars sing with the cathedral choir weekly as well as other special events as instructed by the director of music. They will receive instruction in a wide range of choral music, and they receive a stipend for their participation.

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Entrance is by application only. For an application form contact magnusmonaghan@hotmail.com
Deadline for applications is 12th May 2025

Events

Diocese of Armagh Summer children's ministry Zoom workshop

Tuesday 6th May, 2025. 7pm to 8pm. (via Zoom).

The Diocese of Armagh is delighted to be hosting an hour long workshop for all involved in Children's and Family ministry in regards to ideas, resources and programmes for parishes supporting summer ministry.

Led by Mrs. Rachael Murphy, (the Church of Ireland Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator) the hour will be jam packed with resources, ideas and support for children's and family support over the summer!

To book in and to receive the Zoom link: Please email David Brown doycarmagh@gmail.com or call on 07557 655 860.

Want to keep in touch with what's happening at Corrymeela?

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter. News from Corrymeela includes a note from the Leader, updates

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from the centre and our programmes, and notices of upcoming events.

<https://forms.office.com/e/8G8Ehnr8Ny>

We are Corrymeela and you are always welcome.
(And you can unsubscribe at any time.)

Resources

Resources for the National Month of Prayer

Resources for the National Month of Prayer can be found on the 1277.org.uk website. It includes a poster, prayer stations - an outline of a session/service, 30 day diary etc to follow.

Here is the link to an activity pack created by Lucie Hutson from Muddy Church. <https://1277.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Isaiah-43-1277-Pack-from-Muddy-Church.pdf>

Everything you need to know about applying to Benefact Trust

Wednesday, 28th May 2025 · 11.00am to 12.15pm

Is your church or Christian charity in Ireland/Northern Ireland looking for funding support? We have good news for you!

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Benefact Trust provides grants specifically designed for organisations like yours, and applying is more straightforward than you might think. Benefact is committed to supporting Irish churches and Christian charities and wants to help you access the funding you need.

Join the Benefact Trust free webinar – ‘Everything you need to know about applying to Benefact Trust’ – on Wednesday, 28th May 2025, from 11.00am to 12.15pm.

Find out:

- Who Benefact supports and what is funded
- How to prepare a strong application that stands out
- Common application mistakes to avoid
- The Benefact step-by-step application process explained
- How Benefact supports you every step of the way

Senior Grants Officer Andrew Bass will walk you through everything you need to know and answer all your questions. Whether you're new to fundraising or just new to Benefact Trust, this webinar provides the perfect introduction to the Benefact grant opportunities.

Benefact is committed to increasing their support for churches and Christian charities across Ireland – and would love to hear from you. So don't miss this opportunity to get your questions answered and feel confident about applying.

For more information and to book your place on the webinar please use this link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/b50e339d-e624-438b-934e-d60528a8eaba@5508b0af-b4b8-44e4-a12c-a0f8f14c8c36>

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Benefact Trust would love for as many people as possible to attend the webinar so we can ensure everyone knows about their funding programmes, criteria for applying and has a chance to ask questions or then book time with Andrew to discuss their plans in detail.

Perspective

Pope Francis closeness and friendship with Christ by Archbishop Eamon Martin

The head of the Catholic church in Ireland has paid tribute to the late Pope Francis claiming his ‘closeness and friendship with Christ’ is what he will remember most about him.

Armagh-based Archbishop Eamon Martin, who is the Primate of All Ireland, said the news of the Pope’s death yesterday morning, at his apartment in the Vatican, filled his heart with “both deep sadness and immense gratitude”.

“Pope Francis’ papacy has been a profound gift to the Church and World. On behalf of the Irish Bishops’ Conference, and the Catholic faithful on the island of Ireland, I extend sympathy to Pope Francis’ family members, to those who have worked most closely with him, and to all those around the globe who loved him and will mourn his loss,” he said.

He added: “There was something different about this pope who came to us twelve years ago from “the ends of the world”.

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“On that very first night when he stood on the balcony of Saint Peter’s Basilica, our hearts were moved as he greeted the people with a simple ‘Buonasera’ and asked us to pray to the Lord to bless him.

“Now we pray to that same Lord to show him mercy and welcome him to his eternal reward.

“Pope Francis often expressed his personal unworthiness, insisting ‘I am a sinner’.

“He would want us to pray now for his soul as he appears before God whom he himself presented to the world as a loving and merciful God, who understands all our weaknesses and frailties, yet loves each of us deeply.”

Reflecting on what he will remember most about Pope Francis, Archbishop Martin said: “No doubt in the coming days and weeks many more memories of Pope Francis will emerge, but for me it was his closeness and friendship with Christ which stood out most of all – in his compassion for the suffering, and the way he placed the vulnerable at the centre of his ministry – the poor, refugees, victims of war, human trafficking, and all who are exploited, overlooked or excluded by Church or by society.

“He wanted to bring them in from the cold.”

Poem for today

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On Malvern Hill

by John Masefield

A wind is brushing down the clover,
It sweeps the tossing branches bare,
Blowing the poising kestrel over
The crumbling ramparts of the Caer.

It whirls the scattered leaves before us
Along the dusty road to home,
Once it awakened into chorus
The heart-strings in the ranks of Rome.

There by the gusty coppice border
The shrilling trumpets broke the halt,
The Roman line, the Roman order,
Swayed forward to the blind assault.

Spearman and charioteer and bowman
Charged and were scattered into spray,
Savage and taciturn the Roman
Hewed upwards in the Roman way.

There — in the twilight — where the cattle
Are lowing home across the fields,
The beaten warriors left the battle
Dead on the clansmen's wicker shields.

The leaves whirl in the wind's riot
Beneath the Beacon's jutting spur,
Quiet are clan and chief, and quiet
Centurion and signifer.

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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www.churchnewsireland.org

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

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