

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Welcome to Baby Basics

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News -

BB Captain and Chaplain undertake St Patrick's Way Pilgrim's walk for building and mission projects in Uganda with Abaana

Bishop of Edinburgh visits Middle East

Education -

BRA Head Choristers at Belfast Cathedral restate a tradition

Explore elite sports facilities at Coleraine Grammar

Today was all about looking after our hearts at Ballyclare High

Belfast High School music success

Cathedral Calls -

Summer Singing Course

Peel Cathedral Choir to honour WWI soldiers with moving trip to Ypres

Events -

What will you gain from Neartú?

One More Time! by NISMAT Theatre School at Belvoir

Studio Theatre

Resources -

The Lambeth Conference and Mission and Evangelism Call

Methodist Centenary Church use of Eco Congregation

Small Grant

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day

Welcome to Baby Basics

Baby Basics is proud of their very first patron Rev Kate Bottley, who is a church minister in North Nottinghamshire.

She is noted for her roles as a journalist, media presenter and reality television star. She hosts Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday and is a regular presenter on BBC1 Songs Of Praise.

Baby Basics UK is one of the largest networks of baby banks in the country - Through our network of centres across the UK we support families with all the practical essentials they need for life with children from pre birth – 5 yrs.

Although the increase we see in demand shows the sad situations faced by families in the UK, we are honoured that we can be there to support them and will continue to grow our network into localities of need across the UK.

Every baby basics centre is run by, for and with the local community

Taking referrals from trusted health & social care professionals.

Any young family, at any time, could find themselves in need of the service of a baby bank.

Families that we support include but are not limited to families in poverty, families seeking asylum, families arriving to the UK as refugees, families fleeing domestic abuse, families fleeing trafficking & families who are homeless or in temporary accommodation.

Having a safe space for a newborn to sleep, such as a moses basket is the most basic provision that every parent wants for their child and this was the premise for the creation of Baby Basics.

Since our inaugural centre opened in Sheffield in 2009 we have seen the service we deliver across our network grow to provide so much more than just a moses basket starter pack for a newborn.

Provision of clothes enables a child to stay warm and dry as they grow, provision of toys & books to support development, provision of a pram/pushchair/sling to help a family access their community safely, provision of a cot/cot bed/toddler bed to support good and safe sleep as children grow, provision of nappies & toiletries to enable good hygiene for all the family, provision of feeding equipment and formula so no child goes hungry.

Huge thanks to Bara Studio for their incredible work in bringing the Baby Basics vision to life

Check it out here: <https://www.baby-basics.org.uk>

April 4, 2025

Check out Baby Basics Outreach Project Mullavilly a super parish web site

Baby Basics Outreach Project of Mullavilly Parish Church
- <https://baby-basics.org.uk/centre/mullavilly>

Showcasing the creativity of a member from the Armagh Diocesan Mothers' Union

These amazing blankets and hats were knitted for Baby Basics and Neo-natal Unit by Shirley, Castlecaulfield MU.



**Amazing blankets
and hats for Baby
Basics and
Neo-natal Unit
from Shirley, a
member of
Castlecaulfield
MU.**

**ARMAGH DIOCESAN
MOTHERS' UNION**

Mothers' UNION

April 4, 2025

Practical, cute and a great way to share skills in the form of stewardship!

Thank you Shirley, and every member who continues to share Mothers' Union call to action to show faith and fellowship in these everyday, practical ways.

Join us, join in today and contribute your skills and time with a local branch -

www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/join-us-today

News



BB Captain and Chaplain undertake St Patrick's Way Pilgrim's walk for building and mission projects in Uganda with Abaana



The Countdown is well and truly on. This time, two weeks, ahead Rev Peter and Timothy will have completed the first leg (22 miles) of the Pilgrim Walk - St Patrick's Way

The 4 day journey begins on Sat 5th April at the Navan Centre/Fort in Armagh...leaving at 8am sharp.

They will weave their way through the city of Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, with fascinating Christian heritage, rich in elegant Georgian architecture and alongside a beautiful tree lined Mall.

April 4, 2025

There will pause a few minutes at Saint Patrick's Church Of Ireland Cathedral, where St Patrick established the city as a great seat of Christianity, as it remains today, and where Brian Boru, last High King of Ireland was buried in 1014.

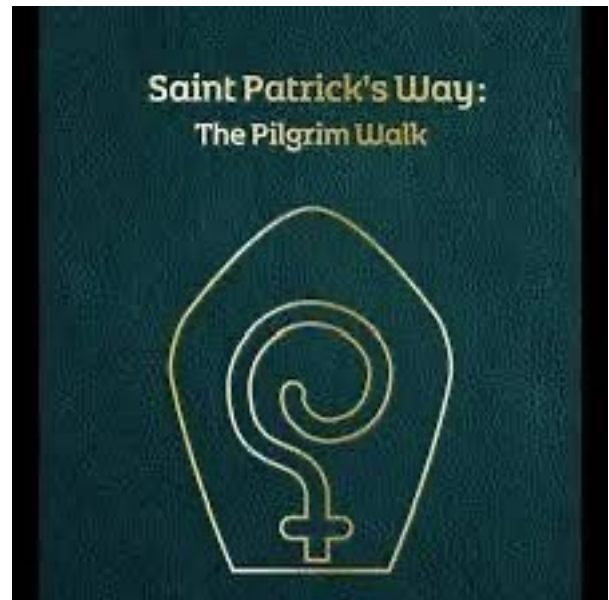


Passing by the Palace Demense to get their Pilgrim's stamp, they will stride out towards the country side skirting by Lowry Lakes, then the back of Gosford Forest (near



April 4, 2025

Mullabrack Church), Mullabrack and Kilcluney Parish Group, then onwards along the backroads to Tandragee and will eventually join the Scarva to Poyntzpass canal/tow path.



They will breathe a sigh of relief at reaching the flattest part of the walk or sip tea maybe at Hollie Berries and this would be an ideal stretch to join them ... finishing off at Poyntzpass train station junction.

That night blisters will be treated, muscles will be soothed and sleep will be needed.

Keep an eye on here for more details if you would like to join in and support our BB Captain and Chaplain as they step out and undertake this Pilgrim's walk.

All donations will be going to the building and mission projects in Uganda with Abaana.

<https://checkout.justgiving.com/0q53r7l3ce>

Bishop of Edinburgh visits Middle East

The Bishop of Edinburgh on Friday last travelled to Amman, the capital of Jordan, to join nearly twenty other senior clerics for an international summit aimed at strengthening links between Anglicans and Lutherans.

April 4, 2025

The Rt Rev Dr John Armes was representing the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Edinburgh at the Summit of the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission on Unity and Mission, also known as ALICUM.

Taking place between Friday 28 March and Thursday 3 April, the Summit brought together ten pairs of senior church leaders from the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) whose jurisdictions are twinned with another in their respective partner's province

Education



BRA Head Choristers at Belfast Cathedral restate a tradition

Two of BRA's Junior pupils, Ezinne Nwosu (Form 1) and Tia Ngoshi (Form 2), were installed as Head

Choristers in St Anne's Cathedral on Sunday 30th March.

Congratulations to Ezinne and Tia, and their school music department hopes they continue to enjoy their contribution to choral music.

The installation is a contemporary expression of a historic link between the Cathedral and the Academy. Academy Street beside the Cathedral recalls the time when the Royal Academy was an actual neighbour to St Anne's Church. Furthermore for several generations choristers who were pupils of the Academy cycled or 'trammed' from the 'new' site to practices and services at the Cathedral.

Explore elite sports facilities at Coleraine Grammar

Passionate about Rowing, Hockey, or Competitive Sports? Come see what Coleraine Grammar has to offer at our Sixth Form Open Day on Friday, 11th April, from 2 PM - 3:30 PM



Talk to expert coaches about your sporting interests



Tour our state-of-the-art AstroTurf hockey pitch



Check out our swimming pool & rowing pavilion



Explore our Strength & Conditioning Gym

Whether you're looking to level up your game or try something new, this is your chance to be part of a winning team!

Register here -

<https://colerainegrammar.com/sixth-form-open-day/>



Today was all about looking after our hearts at Ballyclare High

100 pupils took part in the CRY Cardiac Screening event, an important step in protecting young hearts.

We were also delighted to welcome past pupil and Community Resuscitation Education Officer Jennifer Fryer, who brought CPR manikins and AEDs for hands-on learning about emergency response during lunchtime.

It was a fantastic day of raising awareness across the whole school, and we are so grateful to CRY UK and the



Community Resuscitation Education team for their time and expertise.

If you can, please consider donating to CRY UK in memory of past pupil Jaimie Gault.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/ballyclare-high-school-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Your support will help this incredible charity continue its work in preventing the loss of young lives due to undiagnosed heart conditions. #bepartofballyclarehigh#care

Belfast High School music success

**Congratulations
to the following
pupils on their
recent Music
Festival success:**

Erin Davison
(Brass Solo) – 1st
Place, Ballymena
Festival and 1st
Place, Ballyclare
Festival

Amelia Howell (Singing
Solo) – 1st Place,
Ballyclare Festival

Aiden Scott (Singing Solo)
– 3rd Place, Ballyclare
Festival

Sophie McCourt (Singing
Solo) – 3rd Place,
Ballyclare Festival



April 4, 2025

Maeve Jardine (Singing Solo) – 3rd Place, Ballyclare Festival

Lyla Ireland (Singing Solo) – 3rd Place, Ballyclare Festival

Amy Dixon (Singing Solo) – 3rd Place, Ballyclare Festival

Cathedral Calls

Summer Singing Course

Do you know someone aged 8-18 who loves to sing? Why not give them the chance to join our Summer Singing Course from 7th to 11th July at Saint Paul's Parish Centre? It's the perfect opportunity to improve vocal skills, have fun, and meet new friends!

Special Introductory Offer: They can grab their place for just £50 (limited time only)! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to unleash their musical talent this summer.



Dates: 7-11 July



Location: Saint Paul's Parish Centre, Falls Road



Open to young people aged 8-18 throughout the Diocese

Spaces are limited, so click the link below to book their spot today!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLhp0W6nZm5Y88wKRutxsgK6vbpD99Fyior7E_LzRsZIVsZw/viewform?usp=sharing

Peel Cathedral Choir to honour WWI soldiers with moving trip to Ypres

A group of 13 children and 9 adults from the Cathedral Choir in Peel will embark on a poignant journey to Ypres, Belgium, from April 7th to 9th, to participate in the evening Remembrance Ceremony at the iconic Menin Gate.

Under the direction of Dr. Peter Litman, the choir will pay tribute to the brave soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War, with a particular focus on Peel-born Private Robert Arthur Vick.

Private Vick, a member of the King's Liverpool Regiment, went missing in action on 25th September 1917. His name is inscribed on the Great War Roll of Honour on the War Memorial in the Cathedral grounds, making his story an integral part of the choir's journey. During their time in Belgium, the choir will follow in the footsteps of Private Vick, visiting key sites of remembrance in the Ypres Salient, where many soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice.

A Journey of Reflection and Remembrance

The choir's trip will begin with a visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world. Here, the choir will perform "Ellan Vannin," a moving tribute to the Manx lads who perished in the Great War. The choir will then visit several significant sites, including Vancouver Corner, Langemark Cemetery,

Hooze Crater, and Essex Farm, where the tragic history of the war is brought to life through the preserved trenches and the poignant museum exhibits.

The choir's guide for the day will be John Lee of 'Battlefield and Education Tours,' who will provide insightful commentary on the sites, helping the group to understand the personal stories behind the monuments they visit.

The Menin Gate Ceremony

The highlight of the trip will be the choir's performance at the Remembrance Ceremony held every evening at the Menin Gate in Ypres. The ceremony, which has taken place every day since 1928, honours the soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave. The choir will perform two moving pieces: "O Come Ye Servants of the Lord" by Christopher Tye, and the beloved hymn "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended," written by the former King William's College pupil, Rev'd John Ellerton. The latter hymn was chosen for its personal connection to the Isle of Man and the Cathedral community.

The choir will be joined by Alan Jones, Peel Commissioner and standard bearer for the Peel Royal British Legion, who will proudly carry the Royal British Legion flag in uniform. The Very Rev'd Nigel Godfrey, Dean of the Cathedral, will also accompany the group on his final choir tour before his retirement in 2026, adding another layer of significance to this emotional journey.

A Special Tribute to the Young Soldiers

April 4, 2025

This trip holds special meaning for the choir, particularly for the young members, many of whom are close in age to the soldiers like Private Vick who were called up during the war. The children will have the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by those their age and younger, bringing a deep sense of personal connection to the events they are commemorating.

Support from the Community

The trip has been made possible thanks to the generous support of The Brien Trust, The Elizabeth Clucas Trust, The Admiral Feteris Foundation, and numerous individual donors who contributed through a crowdfunding campaign. The choir and Dr. Litman are deeply grateful for the support that has enabled this powerful trip to become a reality.

Dr. Litman said, “This will be an unforgettable experience for the choir. Not only will they be able to honour the sacrifice of Private Vick and so many others, but they will also connect with history in a very personal way. It is truly special to witness young people taking part in such a meaningful and reflective journey.”

The choir’s visit to Ypres will provide a unique opportunity to learn, reflect, and honour those who gave their lives during one of the most devastating periods in history. Through music, remembrance, and a deep connection to the past, the Peel Cathedral Choir will pay tribute to the fallen soldiers of the Great War, ensuring that their stories continue to live on.

Events

What will you gain from Neartú?

On May 24th in the morning, Rachel Turner will focus on how we can help increase Bible literacy and faith formation in parents alongside their children.

Then in the afternoon, you can choose two amazing workshops to join, led by experienced and fabulous practitioners from all over Ireland. Check out the list below for more information.

We will have time to eat together, peaceful space to walk, chat and process what you've learned, a well-stocked Book shop full of Children and Family Ministry best sellers as well as wonderful worship times lead by the fabulous Lawrence Bellew.

May 24th 10 am - 4.30pm Book Now: <https://bit.ly/neartu>

You really don't want to miss out! Book your ticket now: <https://bit.ly/neartu>

One More Time! by NISMAT Theatre School at Belvoir Studio Theatre

NISMAT Theatre School is proud to present their showcase for Summer 2025 One More Time! Friday 2nd May 2025 - Saturday 3rd May 2025.

Recently voted the Top Musical Theatre School in N Ireland we invite you to join us for an evening of fantastic musical theatre performances, from our students age 4-18 years.

Based in Finaghy with classes running daily in all genres we are delighted to showcase our Acting classes, prize winning dancers, alongside our Saturday Stage School students.

An eclectic mix of music, dance and drama!

Get your tickets and come along to be entertained by the next generation of actors and singers!

Directed and produced by Louise Herron
Choreographed by Emmet Stewart, Bella Watts, Erin Tumilson and Olivia Davison.
Acting segments directed by Emma McKee and Patricia McDonald.

Belvoir Studio Theatre, Belfast, BT8 7DJ. Friday 2nd May 2025 - Saturday 3rd May 2025

Resources

The Lambeth Conference and Mission and Evangelism Call

‘All of our mission and evangelism begins with the mission of God; God chooses to be for us in creating and redeeming love to be for us. Christ Jesus is the



great evangelist who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is working constantly, faithfully and radically to



draw all people to himself.

Our Communion is a testament to the vocation and power of the good news of Christ in every country and culture. Each church was first established because God sent someone to proclaim the good news of Christ and, through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, the church was formed in response.'

- The Lambeth Call [2.3 - 2.4]

Explore the full Lambeth Call on Mission and Evangelism here: <https://bit.ly/3XWp9zn>

(The Lambeth Calls relate to important themes in church and world affairs. They are offered as 'calls' or 'invitations' to the Anglican Communion and wider church).

Methodist Centenary Church use of Eco Congregation Small Grant

Maureen Rowan, Eco Congregation Coordinator at Methodist Centenary Church in Dublin shares how they used their ECI Small Grant - 'Instead of briars, the myrtle will grow.' Isaiah 55:13.

Following completion of its first phase of refurbishment and energy-efficiency improvements, Methodist Centenary Church was at last able to begin a pollinator friendly planting programme. The first step was made possible with the support the ECI Small Grant and the purchase of a myrtle tree in a large pot for the church entrance. The pot was enthusiastically filled by the children during Sunday service,

[April 4, 2025](#)

the scattering of soil around the communion table reflecting the determination with which the task was completed.

The *Myrtus communis* was chosen because of its attraction for bees and other pollinators in summer when its crisp white, star-like flowers will appear. The aromatic purple berries that follow in autumn will also attract the birds.

Rev Andrew Kingston placed an inscription beside the tree, taken from Isaiah 55:13: 'instead of briers the myrtle will grow'. In his sermon, he spoke of the significance of Isaiah's message of hope, renewal, blessing and growth in a time of corrupt leadership and oppression before the Babylonian exile. Sustaining our own sense of hope in this era of authoritarianism, brutal conflict and climate disruption is a daily challenge. As the myrtle tree blossoms, we will look to it as a symbol from which to draw spiritual nourishment, as well as awareness of our dependence on the pollinators. Well done to all!

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

April 4, 2025

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

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