

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – HM support for MAF**

April 9, 2025

## **Image for today - HM King Charles support for MAF News -**

Dr Barry Rose enables a special Stainer's Crucifixion at St John's

Ardstraw parishioner reaches 100th birthday

Historic buildings in Macroom and Castletownbere receive conservation funding

## **Education -**

Inst go to Dublin to meet King Lear at The Gate

Success for Armagh caretaker and school at the Families

First NI Awards

Foyle College former Head Boy's research on Multiple Sclerosis

## **Cathedral Calls -**

Easter events at St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast

Saint John Passion on Palm Sunday by choir of St Patrick's Cathedral

Methodist Festival of Chaplaincy at Lincoln Cathedral

## **Clergy and ministry -**

New Mission Director at SAMS Ireland

Bishop of Down & Dromore commissions first Diocesan Bible Teachers/Catechists

## **Events -**

Bishop Michael Burrows Good Friday Pilgrimage 'From Killala to Kenmare'

## **Resources -**

C of I Family and Children's Ministry Holy Week dioramas

Parishes hear benefits of ChurchSuite

## **In the media -**

If you want to see the future of England, look to Northern Ireland - Daily Telegraph

## **Speaking to the soul -**

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

## Image of the day



## HM King Charles support for MAF

**His Majesty King Charles unveiled the newest addition to the fleet at Mission Aviation Fellowship's 80th Anniversary Event, held at Royal Air Force Northolt.**

For 80 years Mission Aviation Fellowship has served over 1,000 remote destinations as a humanitarian air operator. This new Cessna 208 Caravan will deliver aid to remote regions in MAF Papua New Guinea.

His Majesty joined MAF guests in the hangar, where he met MAF staff past and present along with members of the PNG

April 9, 2025



community, in celebration of their 50th anniversary of Independence! The High Commissioner of PNG, Her Excellency Betty Palaso presented the King to members of the Papua New Guinean community in the UK.

These included some of the country's Rugby League players who play for Castleford Tigers in the Super League; Judah Rimbu, Liam Horne, Sylvester Namu and Jeremiah Simbiken.

It was an incredible day, and MAF are grateful to The Royal Family for being part of it and commissioning the plane! "We can't wait to have our Cessna 208 serving the PNG community!" Photography by Andy Aitchison

Find out more about MAF and its impact around the world - <https://maf-uk.pulse.ly/1comknfavi>

# News



## Dr Barry Rose enables a special Stainer's Crucifixion at St John's

**Thanks and congratulations to all who took part in the annual performance of Stainers Crucifixion at St John's Parish Church, Malone.**

It was a special one this year as St John's welcomed Dr Barry Rose to direct their performance. "Barry gave very generously of his time and expertise, and it shows in a very polished performance. We are very grateful to him and our excellent soloists, Ryan Garnham (bass) and Charlie Hughes (tenor)". You can watch the whole performance on the parish's YouTube channel. Please subscribe and share!

Guest Conductor: Barry Rose OBE. Solists: Charlie Hughes (Tenor) & Ryan Garnham (Bass). Organist: Richard Campbell

[<https://www.youtube.com/live/JDIXjgtAOzE?si=cMMXQG0GbNEMBu6D>]

## **Ardstraw parishioner reaches 100th birthday**

**There was great excitement in the McMullan family home near Gortin, in Co Tyrone, as Mrs Julia McMullan reached the great milestone of celebrating her 100th birthday recently.**

As the parish's eldest and now most distinguished member, there was great delight at the new centenarian's achievement.

The Deacon Assistant in the Ardstraw Parish Group, Rev Sean McClafferty - a regular pastoral visitor to her home - paid a celebratory visit during which he presented Julia with a bouquet of flowers, and shared warm wishes from the

April 9, 2025



parish and parishioners to a much loved member of the Gortin congregation.

## Historic buildings in Macroom and Castletownbere receive conservation funding

**The Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr Joe Carroll has welcomed Heritage Council grants totalling €450,000 for conservation works on two historic buildings.**

[April 9, 2025](#)

Cork County Council successfully applied for funding for St Peter's Church, Castletownbere and Macroom Castle Gate Lodge through the Historic Towns Initiative 2025.

St Peter's Church is set to receive €250,000 to refurbish and preserve the building, transforming it into a dedicated community centre. The former Church of Ireland facility dates back to 1841 and was acquired by the Castletownbere Development Association in 2018.

Macroom Castle Gate Lodge has been awarded €200,000 towards sensitive restoration and conservation works to weatherproof the structure for the future. Located in the heart of Macroom's main square, the Gate Lodge is of significant culture and historical importance to the local community and is a symbol of the town.

Mayor Carroll said, "These two buildings are of great architectural and historical interest and the works being undertaken are a wonderful example of heritage-led regeneration delivering for and enhancing our County towns. I would like to acknowledge the significant community investment and effort in both towns, in particular Castletownbere Development Association, whose vision to acquire St Peter's Church to develop a community centre will soon come to fruition. A flagship heritage attraction could be created in Macroom Castle Gate Lodge, and I look forward to Cork County Council and Macroom Castle Demesne working together to achieve this in the years to come."

The Historic Towns Initiative is a joint undertaking by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



April 9, 2025

and the Heritage Council which aims to promote the heritage-led regeneration of Ireland's historic towns.

## Education



### **Inst go to Dublin to meet King Lear at The Gate**

**Last month, Year 14 English Literature A Level students at RBAI travelled to Dublin to watch a performance of their Shakespearean Genre exam text - "King Lear" at The Gate Theatre.**

Award-winning actor Conleth Hill played the lead role of Lear - the aging king who decides to step down from the throne and divide his kingdom among his three daughters.

It was an invaluable experience to see the play staged live and the pupils would like to thank Mrs McCord and Mrs



Gallaher for giving up their free time to take them to Dublin for the day.

## Success for Armagh caretaker and school at the Families First NI Awards

**At the Families First NI Awards at the Titanic Hotel in Belfast on Saturday 6th April, Mount St Catherine's in Armagh parish were over the moon to gain two prestigious awards.**

The school Site Manager Mrs Kim O'Hara had been nominated by parents and colleagues for the 'Best

April 9, 2025



Caretaker Award'. It was a wonderful reason for staff to dress up and celebrate Kim's dedication to her work, every child and staff member.

The excitement was all worth it when Kim received the Best Caretaker Award! Kim always goes above and beyond and the whole school community is so delighted she has received this well-deserved recognition.



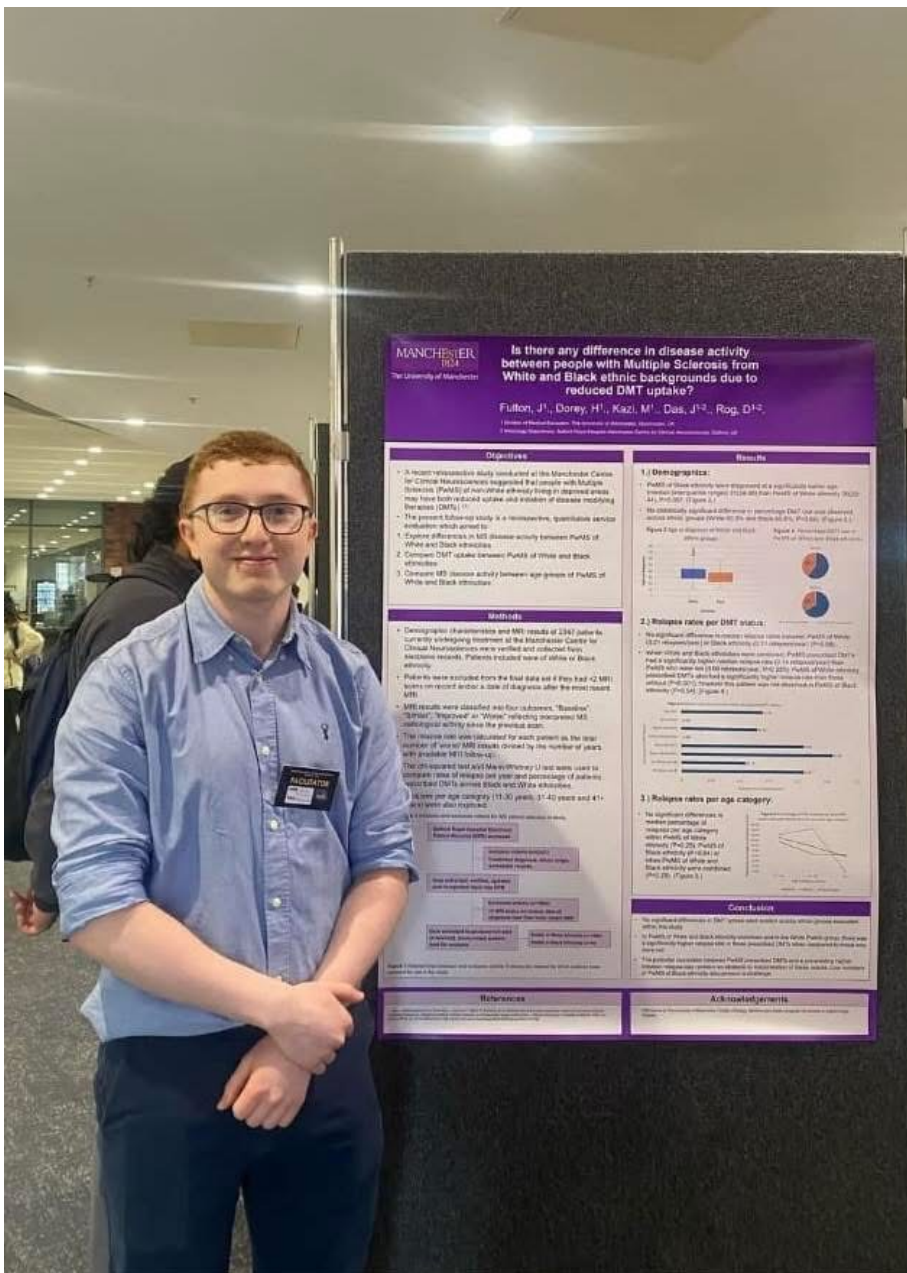
The icing on the cake was when the school received the 'The Best School Award' in recognition for its outstanding nurturing approach.

Mt St Catherine's

April 9, 2025

has been part of the Education Authority Nurturing Schools Programme for several years, all staff have received extensive training and their Nurture Unit (The Beehive) offers a safe space and emotional support to pupils in need of it.

At Mt St Catherine's staff know a child needs to feel happy and safe to be able to learn.



## Foyle College former Head Boy's research on Multiple Sclerosis

Congratulations to Class of 2021's Head Boy, John Fulton, who recently presented his research on Multiple Sclerosis at the National

Neurology and Neurosurgery Societies' Conference 2025.

# Cathedral Calls

## Easter events at St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast

**“We invite you to join us at St Peter’s Cathedral, Belfast for a beautiful series of Easter liturgies, featuring music by the Cathedral Choir, Schola Cantorum, Girls Choir, and Joint Cathedral Choirs**



**EASTER EVENTS**

<b>12</b> APRIL	Palm Sunday Vigil Mass Cathedral Choir 5:30 PM
<b>13</b> APRIL	Palm Sunday Mass Schola Cantorum 11:00 AM
<b>16</b> APRIL	Chrim Mass Joint Choirs of the Cathedral 12:00 PM
<b>17</b> APRIL	Mass of the Lord's Last Supper Cathedral Choir 7:00PM
<b>18</b> APRIL	Good Friday Schola Cantorum 3:00 PM
<b>19</b> APRIL	Easter Vigil Mass Cathedral Choir 9:00 PM
<b>20</b> APRIL	Easter Sunday Mass Schola Cantorum and Girls Choir 11:00 AM

St Peters Cathedral Musical Services

**St Peter's**  
Catholic Cathedral, Belfast

[April 9, 2025](#)

From Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, experience the story of Easter brought to life through sacred music and reflection.

Full schedule of musical services is listed in the graphic. All are welcome – come, reflect, and celebrate with us.

## **Saint John Passion on Palm Sunday by choir of St Patrick's Cathedral**

**The choir of St Patrick's Cathedral is giving a liturgical performance of Bach's Saint John Passion on Palm Sunday (April 13) at 6.00pm. All are very welcome to attend.**

Bach's Saint John Passion is one of the towering achievements of western music, and tells in music the story of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. Originally conceived as a liturgical piece in Lutheran Germany, it combines the narrative from St John's gospel with reflective solo arias, dramatic choruses and chorales (hymn tunes), the latter of which are sung by the entire congregation.

In this performance directed by David Leigh, the Schola (senior girls) and men of the cathedral choir are joined by an orchestra drawn from Dublin's finest professional players.

All of the solos, including the evangelist, are taken by current and former members of the choir.

April 9, 2025

## **Methodist Festival of Chaplaincy at Lincoln Cathedral**

**Over 3,000 people gathered in Lincoln Cathedral to celebrate the vital ministry of chaplaincy at the Festival of Chaplaincy, with visitors travelling from across Lincolnshire to discover the richness of chaplaincy locally and beyond.**

See more of the festival at [methodist.org.uk/about/news/celebrating-chaplaincy-in-lincolnshire/](https://methodist.org.uk/about/news/celebrating-chaplaincy-in-lincolnshire/)

## **Clergy and ministry**

### **New Mission Director at SAMS Ireland**

**SAMS Ireland - South American Mission Society has appointed a new Mission Director: The Rev Geoff Hamilton**



### **Bishop of Down & Dromore commissions first Diocesan Bible Teachers/Catechists**

**Warm congratulations to the first group of Diocesan Bible Teachers/Catechist commissioned by Bishop**

April 9, 2025

**David on Sunday 30 March in Holy Trinity, Banbridge. All of them successfully completed the diocese's new 15-week training course.**

Bishop David was assisted by the Warden of Readers, Revd Willie Nixon and Dean Henry Blair gave the address.



**Eleven new Bible Teachers/Catechists**

Paul Bradley (Sydenham), Wilf Carter (Banbridge), Phil Craig (Carrowdore), Tim Foley (Craigavon), Paul Hynes (Shankill Lurgan), Sarah Irwin (St John's Lurgan), John McGrath (Lecale), Sharon Porter (West Winds), Clare Stewart (Cregagh) and Carol Walters (Groomsport). Rory Wilson (Primacy), has completed the course but was unable to attend and will be commissioned at a later date.

These men and women have been commissioned to teach and instruct (catechise) the Bible and the key doctrines of Christianity at Sunday services, mid-week gatherings, home groups and other ministries in their parishes. Under the authority of the bishop and the supervision of the minister their role will be to act primarily as a teaching support.



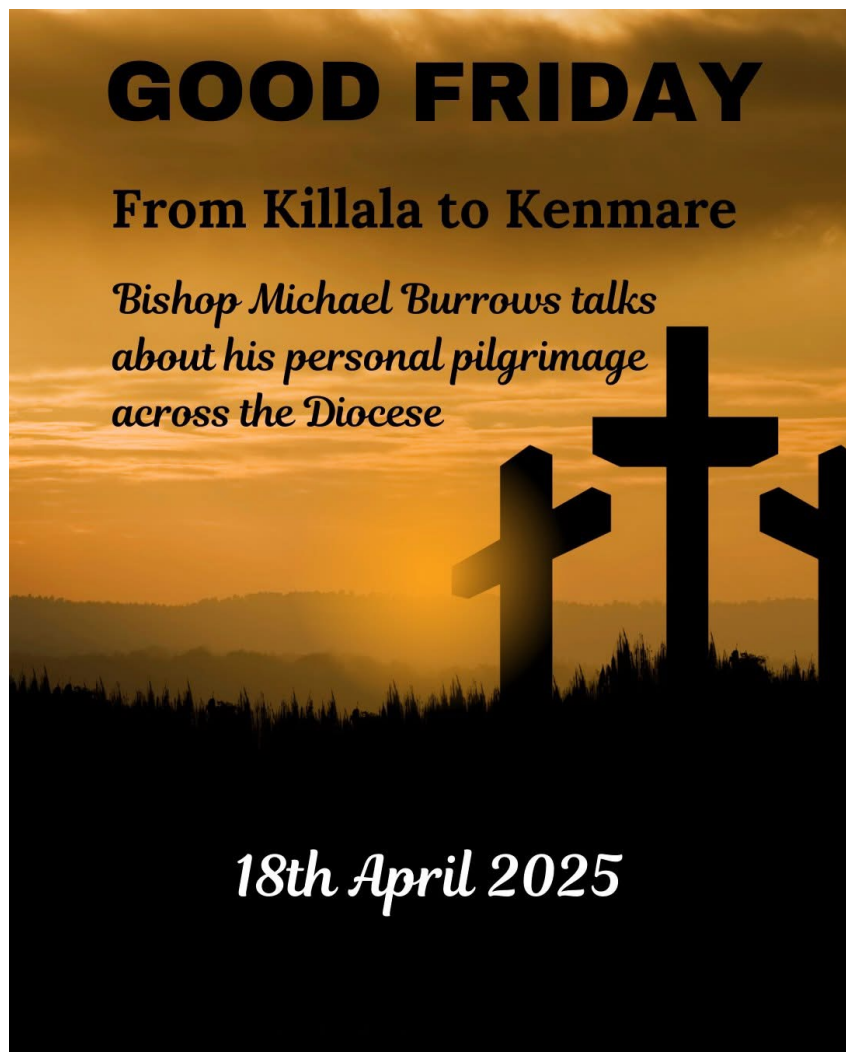
April 9, 2025

We are grateful to those who helped to teach the course - Archdeacon Jim Cheshire, Revd Mark Lennox, Revd Clive Atkinson and Dr Alan Wilson on the catechist section and Revd Willie Nixon, Revd Anna Williams, Revd Bryan Martin and Revd Karen Salmon on the preaching part.

## Events

### Good Friday Pilgrimage 'From Killala to Kenmare'

Listen to Tuam Limerick and Killaloe's latest podcast, where the Diocesan Communications Officer, Stephen Fletcher talks with Bishop Michael Burrows about his Good Friday Pilgrimage 'From Killala to Kenmare'.



Just click on the link below:-

<https://www.mixcloud.com/TLKCOMMS/bishop-michael-good-friday-pilgrimage-killala-to-kenmare/>

April 9, 2025

The Bishop of Tuam Limerick and Killaloe, Rt Revd Michael Burrows, will travel across the diocese on Good Friday, 18th April, 2025 pausing for a short reflection on Christ's journey to the Cross outside the following 15 churches.

0830. Killala. Jesus in agony in the Garden

0920. Ballina. Jesus handed over by Judas and arrested

1000. Foxford. Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin

1055. Claremorris. Peter denies Jesus

1145. Tuam. Jesus judged by Pilate

1235. Ardrahan. Jesus scourged and crowned with thorns

1330. Ennis. Jesus carries the Cross

1450. Killaloe. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross

1550. Limerick Cathedral. Jesus meets Jerusalem women

1655. Adare. Jesus is crucified

1735. Rathkeale. Jesus promises the kingdom to the thief

1905. Tralee. Jesus on the Cross his mother and his friend

1950. Kiltallagh. Jesus dies on the Cross

2040. Killarney. Jesus laid in the tomb

2150. Kenmare. Jesus risen from the dead

## Resources

### **C of I Family and Children's Ministry Holy Week dioramas**

**As we approach Holy Week, a reminder of the dioramas you can download from our website and print. They can be used at Church. Home, School or Easter Club.**

April 9, 2025

This is a simple paper craft that can help tell the Easter story over 5 dioramas.

We have two versions, one is full colour and the other is black and white so that children can colour in the scenery and characters as you chat about the story.



You can take one section of the story at a time if using it as part of a wider lesson for example on Palm Sunday. Or you might choose to do all 5 together to tell the story from the triumphal entry to the resurrection – we would recommend using the full-colour pack if doing all 5 in one session.

Pages should be printed back to back to ensure the Bible verse lines up with the back of the scene. Assembly instructions are included in the pack.

<https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/easter-story-diorama/>

## Parishes hear benefits of ChurchSuite

**The ChurchSuite Evening Event, hosted by the diocese of Down & Dromore on 1 April, brought together over 60**

April 9, 2025

**representatives from diocesan churches to explore the value of ChurchSuite as a tool for good governance, effective communication, and church growth.**

The platform is already used by some parishes and Judith Kinnen (Magheralin) and Revd Anna Williams (Ballynahinch) gave an overview of ChurchSuite's various module options, explaining their practical applications for church administration.

Revd Rodney Blair (Shankill Lurgan) gave a live demonstration showcasing key functionalities, equipping attendees with hands-on knowledge of how to navigate and use the system for everyday tasks.

The event also included an engaging panel discussion, where participants had the opportunity to ask practical questions about implementing ChurchSuite in their own contexts. The evening ended with a meaningful time of prayer in small groups, seeking God's guidance in using technology to strengthen church ministry and mission.

## **In the media**

**If you want to see the future of England, look to Northern Ireland - Daily Telegraph**

**From public service collapse to sectarian voting, Ulster is the canary in the coal mine, writes Ruth Dudley Edwards**

April 9, 2025

Of the many lessons I learned from covering Northern Ireland for decades, the most depressing was that the British state almost always employed bribes and appeasement to shut up troublemakers.

British ministers – relieved that by and large these days political violence is off the agenda – have the pathetic belief that, if sufficiently humoured, everyone will see sense and work together for the good of the province.

This reached its apogee in 2007 when, after years of lying and stonewalling from the IRA over decommissioning, Jonathan Powell – Tony Blair’s chief of staff and now, God help us, Keir Starmer’s national security adviser – invited Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to his wedding.

The latest example is a report from the Northern Ireland Select Committee: it confirmed that public services are worse in the province than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

NI has the highest waiting lists, the longest A & E queues, and the greatest number of prescriptions for antidepressants. Par for the course, the call from most quarters is already for the provision to get more money.

But last year, the Conservative Government agreed to fund Northern Ireland according to its estimated level of need of 124 per cent. In simple language, this means that the province gets £124 for every £100 to England.

Since the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement Stormont has been in a state of collapse: there is no collective

April 9, 2025

responsibility at ministerial level in the devolved government; the civil service is demoralised; Sinn Féin still refuse to take their Westminster seats, and since they want Northern Ireland to fail, most of the party's republicans are focussed on doing it damage while extracting the maximum from the British Treasury.

The NI Committee sympathetically attributes the problems to comparatively widespread poverty and a higher proportion of the people in receipt of benefits.

The Labour chair of the Committee, Tonia Antoniazzi, has condemned the “too little, too late approach” to funding. The buzz phrase that keeps coming up is “according to need”, with all its Marxist overtones.

Of course, the greatest need are in the areas wrecked by terrorism and tribalism, and with the cynical representatives who shout the loudest for government assistance. But no one argues with them.

This is because whoever shouts the loudest gets the most. In Northern Ireland, quiet patriots are elbowed aside by noisy enemies of the state.

In England, we humour Islam because we are afraid of it and sneer at Christianity because we are not.

Anyone who feels frightened on this front should study what happens when – fearful of the threat of terrorism – electorates vote on sectarian lines.

April 9, 2025

England is heading that way, with the recent striking success of Muslim independents in elections to the House of Commons last year; their priority is Gaza.

Their stoutest supporters are Sinn Féin, who are uncompromising supporters of Palestinian activism and have led the way in making Ireland the most anti-Semitic country in Europe; sectarian voting is the key to their success.

And what's going on in impoverished Stormont? Well, the Sinn Féin infrastructure minister "stands firm" in her decision to approve £150,000 for bilingual information boards and ticket vending machines at the shiny new Belfast Grand Central Station, although she had not consulted the Executive, which she was obliged to do.

This is a tried and tested way of what is popularly known as "winding up the Prods", who know there isn't a single Irish speaker in Ireland that can't speak English.

Anyone trying to understand what's going on with some of our Muslim politicians should nip across the Irish Sea and study how republican tacticians got their way in war and in peace.

We are in peril as a society because our enemies have skilfully learned how to turn a liberal democracy against itself. And we have a metropolitan elite that hates its own country, undermines its culture at every turn, and thinks free speech should be restricted because – like our Prime Minister – they don't know it's an essential bastion of every democracy. JD Vance was right.

April 9, 2025

# 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

---

# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning

Please recommend to your friends