

Church News Ireland

Media Review

Royals Christmas Day service and King Charles' Christmas speech

Conflict reported from West Bank, Gaza and Russia/ Ukraine

Remembering devastating 2004 tsunami

Christmas dinner charity Dublin & Coleraine

Royals Christmas Day service and King Charles' Christmas speech

Royals attend Christmas Day service at Sandringham

BBC News - The King and Queen have attended a Christmas Day church service at Sandringham, with the Prince and Princess of Wales and other royals by their side. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c878rz9qr0zo>

Princess beamed as she joined her family at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, on the King's Norfolk estate

After a year in which the Princess of Wales and the King faced cancer diagnoses and treatments, the Royal family could be forgiven for wanting all thought of illness at the back of their minds this Christmas.

But the Princess appeared to give special attention to the well-wishers at Sandringham who came with their own stories of surviving cancer. The Princess beamed as she joined her family at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, on the King's Norfolk estate, for the Christmas day service.

The Princess of Wales has hugged and spoken with a cancer patient after attending the royal family's traditional Christmas Day church service following her own "brutal" year with the disease.

Princess of Wales hugs and speaks with cancer patient

The Princess of Wales has hugged and spoken with a cancer patient after attending the royal family's traditional Christmas Day church service following her own "brutal" year with the disease.

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/4922845/content.html>

King Charles' Christmas speech praises health workers and calls for unity after riots

BBC News - King Charles has delivered a personal message of gratitude to health workers who have supported

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him during his cancer treatment, in his annual Christmas speech.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg4zn4y7vpgo>

Chapel used for King Charles' Christmas speech and can you visit?

ITV News - Where is the chapel used for King Charles' Christmas speech and can you visit?

[https://www.itv.com/news/2024-12-25/where-is-fitzrovia-chapel-and-can-you-visit?](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-12-25/where-is-fitzrovia-chapel-and-can-you-visit?utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare)

[utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-12-25/where-is-fitzrovia-chapel-and-can-you-visit?utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare)

Conflict reported from West Bank, Gaza and Russia/Ukraine

Palestinian Christians struggle to find hope at Christmas

BBC News - The little town of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank has good reason to consider itself the capital of Christmas but this year it does not feel like it.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz6l8zgl0dgo>

UN halts aid deliveries into Gaza

ITV News - UN halts aid deliveries into Gaza after looting by armed gangs

[https://www.itv.com/news/2024-12-01/un-halts-aid-deliveries-into-gaza-after-looting-by-armed-gangs?](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-12-01/un-halts-aid-deliveries-into-gaza-after-looting-by-armed-gangs?utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare)

[utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-12-01/un-halts-aid-deliveries-into-gaza-after-looting-by-armed-gangs?utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare)

Starmer condemns Russia's Christmas Day strikes on Ukraine power grid

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ITV News -

https://www.itv.com/news/2024-12-25/inhumane-russia-launches-aerial-attack-on-ukraine-on-christmas-morning?utm_source=NewsApp&utm_medium=SocialShare

Remembering devastating 2004 tsunami

ITN News television coverage of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami.

Includes interviews with John Irvine from Belfast who was on. Holiday with his wife and children.

<https://www.itv.com/watch/news/like-nothing-ive-seen-before-or-since-itv-news-reflects-on-the-2004-boxing-day-tsunami/nvgbvhz>

Ceremonies have been held across Asia

The Journal -Ceremonies have been held across Asia to remember the 220,000 people who were killed two decades ago when a tsunami hit coastlines around the Indian Ocean in one of the world's worst natural disasters.

A 9.1-magnitude earthquake off Indonesia's western tip on 26 December 2004 generated a series of waves as high as 30 metres that pummelled the coastline of 14 countries from Indonesia to Somalia.

<https://www.thejournal.ie/2004-tsunami-indian-ocean-20-years-6580851-Dec2024/>

Asia mourns tsunami dead with ceremonies 20 years on
RTE.ie - Tearful mourners prayed as ceremonies were held across Asia to remember the 220,000 people who were killed two decades ago when a tsunami hit coastlines

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around the Indian Ocean in one of the world's worst natural disasters.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2024/1226/1488118-tsunami-anniversary/>

Northern Ireland people still donating and still helping families affected by devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami

Belfast Telegraph - Big-hearted people in Northern Ireland have received messages of thanks from Thailand for donating nearly £500,000 to help children over the 20 years since the devastating 2004 tsunami.

Willie Gregg, the Portrush man who has raised most of the money, says he has been humbled by the messages from charity officials in Phuket.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/how-ni-are-people-still-helping-families-affected-by-devastating-2004-indian-ocean-tsunami/a1450550152.html>

I lost my family in the Boxing Day tsunami, now I run the orphanage that saved me

Daily Telegraph - Twenty years on, Watana Sittirachot looks back on that fateful day in 2004 when the 'big wave' changed his life

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2024/12/26/lost-family-boxing-day-tsunami-now-run-orphanage-thailand/>

Twenty years on: 'My boat was metres from the shore when the tsunami hit'

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BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6230646435o>

Life-saving skills of specialist dogs from Northern Ireland will be offered around the world through a new partnership with a major airline.

Belfast Telegraph - Search And Rescue Dog Association Ireland North (SARDA IN) is a key first responder to major disasters at home and abroad.

The organisation was set up by Co Cork man Neil Powell in 1978.

Neil, who moved to Newcastle, Co Down, with his wife many years ago was part of the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team but wanted to train dogs to help during searches too, and so SARDA IN began with its first canine helper — a German Shepherd called Kim.

Neil and SARDA IN have helped deal with global tragedies through the years, including the Lockerbie disaster of 1988, when a passenger plane exploded over the Scottish town.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/new-easyjet-partnership-to-help-nis-life-saving-dogs-in-their-vital-work-across-the-globe/a529398107.html>

Family of Boxing Day tsunami's NI victim 20 years on: 'There's not a day goes past that we don't think of Connor'

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The family of Northern Ireland's sole victim of devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami tell of their grief
[<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/family-of-boxing-day-tsunamis-ni-victim-20-years-on-theres-not-a-day-goes-past-that-we-dont-think-of-connor/a1824465339.html>]

Christmas dinner charity Dublin & Coleraine

Around 500 attend Christmas dinner charity event at RDS

RTE.ie - Around 500 people are enjoying Christmas dinner in the RDS in Dublin organised by the Knights of St Columbanus.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/dublin/2024/1225/1488098-christmas-dinner-rds-dublin/>

'I had to wrap 280 Christmas presents' Coleraine volunteer

BBC News - While most of us have a family feast on Christmas Day, a small army of volunteers are giving up their day to ensure others are not left on their own.

Margaret Peacock has spent the last 40 Christmases serving up a huge community meal for people who would otherwise spend the day isolated.

"People want to be with their families at Christmas and they don't think about people who are alone," she told BBC News NI.

The Coleraine pensioner tries to provide "a good hot dinner, entertainment and a present for everyone" on 25 December.

Some of the food is donated by local businesses but aside from a small annual subscription, gifts are paid for by Margaret, her family and friends.

"Last year I had to wrap 280 presents," she said. While most of us have a family feast on Christmas Day, a small army of volunteers are giving up their day to ensure others are not left on their own.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c89xy2yjnkeo>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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