

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Causeway sunset

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Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day

Causeway sunset

Sunset at the Giants Causeway on the north Antrim coast is not to be missed. Visit before the Open Golf championship gets underway at the nearby Royal Portrush Golf Club.

News

Historic service celebrated at Mayo



Bishop Michael Burrows with Rev. Suzanne Cousins, Rector of Holy Trinity, and Fr. John Kenny Adm., Westport. Photo: Frank Dolan

'United in Spirit, Together in Prayer', the Church of Ireland Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, Michael



Burrows, made history in St. Mary's Church, Westport, when celebrating Sunday Holy Communion Service there for the first time.

Fr. John Kenny, Adm., Westport Parish, welcomed Bishop Burrows and Rev. Suzanne Cousins, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, to St. Mary's for the special occasion.

February 19, 2025

Fr. John Kenny, Adm., Westport Parish, welcomed Bishop Burrows and Rev. Suzanne Cousins, Rector of Holy Trinity Church, to St. Mary's for the special occasion.

Fr. Kenny has offered the use of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church to the Church of Ireland community for services as Holy Trinity Church in Westport is currently closed due to storm damage.

St. Mary's will also host a fundraising lunchtime recital next month in support of Holy Trinity featuring the Dublin City Choral Union, accompanied by John Dexter. The event takes place on Sunday, March 2, at 1.30 p.m.

Parish collects bibles for Logos Ministries International

On the 3rd Sunday before Lent, Rev Sean McClafferty, Deacon Assistant in the Parish Group welcomed the large congregation to their Family Service in Ardstraw Parish Church in Newtonstewart Co Tyrone.

Also in attendance was special guest, Mr Josh Brown from Logos Ministries International, who was presented with several boxes of bibles which were collected and gathered by the congregations in the group and will be sent onwards to Kenya where they'll be presented to children who - for the first time in their young lives - will own their own copy of the bible.

The initiative was led by Rev McClafferty who believes that everyone who wants a bible should have the opportunity to own a copy of God's word.



"In many instances, we have multiple bibles in our homes," he said. "Our aim was to think about others who don't have that opportunity and, in our own small way, think about how we as a congregation could share God's word with others. It's called practical evangelism, something in which we all can be partakers."

Victims of clerical abuse urged to take part in Stormont project

A support group for victims of clerical abuse in the diocese of Dromore has appealed to anyone abused in Northern Ireland's schools and institutions, including those now living south of the border, to reveal their abuse to the Stormont Executive's story-telling project, Sarah McDonald reports in the Belfast Telegraph.

Tony Gribben of the Dromore Group said the project aims to “shine light into the darkest corners of our society”.

“It is difficult to determine how many survivors of clerical sexual abuse there may be across Northern Ireland let alone in the Republic,” he said.

The research study is seeking to determine the scale of clerical abuse in faith settings in NI.

It will be carried out by Professor Tim Chapman who led the Restorative Justice Process on sexual abuse by the Spiritan Order in the Republic.

The project in NI was established following the scoping inquiry into childhood sexual abuse in schools run by the Catholic Church south of the border, the findings of which were published in the O'Toole report last June.

Mr Gribben, who was abused by Fr Malachy Finegan at St Colman's College in Newry, said the project provides an

opportunity for those who have still not disclosed their abuse to come forward, in full confidentiality, by February 28.

Research indicates that 50% of childhood sexual abuse survivors never disclose their abuse to anyone, with only 10% of survivors disclosing it to the police, according to Mr Gribben.

Mr Gribben along with other survivors, including those from other denominations, were part of the Stormont-administered Reference Group which provided inputs to the concept of the story-telling project and advised on the scope and contents of the terms of reference.

They will provide comments on the draft report on the key issues that emerge from the research.

The research project has the backing of First Minister Michelle O'Neill and Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly.

In a statement, Ms O'Neill said those abused by clergy "deserve truth and justice" and must be heard. Ms Little-Pengelly said it was important to fully understand the "prevalence" of child abuse in faith settings.

"This research will help inform how we can best address the needs of those affected by historical clerical child abuse."

According to Lisa Caldwell, coordinator of the story-telling project, the "experience will form a key part of recommendations".



Magheragall Parish Church

The Impartial Reporter set to expand its reach

Some media news. As The Impartial Reporter approaches its 200th anniversary in May, the newspaper is set to expand its reach with the launch of a dedicated South Tyrone edition next week.

Rodney Edwards, editor, commented -“This expansion is about more than just geography — it’s about meeting the demand for quality journalism, investigative reporting, and strong local storytelling. South Tyrone is a growing region, and we are excited to serve its people with the in-depth news, sport, and community coverage they deserve. We want to be the voice for West of the Bann”.



Invictus Medallist's incredible performances

There is absolute delight that East Belfast's Andy Allen is returning home with a gold, 2 silver and a bronze medal from the Invictus Games, Vancouver.

Andy topped off the event with rowing an incredible 866 metres during the 4-Minute Endurance Row.

Congratulations also to both Jo Lynch and Stuart Ball from Northern Ireland who also participated in the games.

The spirit of the Invictus Games is about resilience, courage, and camaraderie. The word Invictus means

"unconquered", symbolising how these athletes refuse to be defined by their injuries but instead rise above them.

Congratulations to all three on their participation in the sport. An inspiration to us all.

National Museums NI asking for your views and feedback

National Museums NI looks after four distinct museums in Northern Ireland, including the Ulster Folk Museum.

In 2025, National Museums NI will be developing its new Corporate Strategy for 2025-2030. We are asking for your views and feedback on our strategic direction.

The public consultation on the Strategy will run until 8 March. Have your say →

<https://www.nationalmuseumsni.org/draft-corporate-strategy-2025-2030>

Education

Northern Ireland Arts Lending Scheme for Schools

At Campbell College Belfast, we are privileged and excited to be part of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Arts Lending Scheme for Schools.

THE
ARTS
COUNCIL
NORTHERN
IRELAND

THE ART LENDING SCHEME
FOR SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN
IRELAND IS A VISUAL ARTS
INITIATIVE FROM THE ARTS
COUNCIL OF NORTHERN
IRELAND (ACNI).



ARTIST:

- CARA GORDON
- CHRIS WILSON
- ZOE MURDOCK
- CONOR MAGUIRE
- MELITA DENARO
- CATHERINE
CREANEY

& CAMPBELL
COLLEGE
BELFAST

ART WORK EXHIBITED IN JUNIOR COMMON ROOM AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are fortunate to have six pieces of work by established artists on loan. These works are now on display in the Junior Common Room and the Middle School display cabinet.

The Art Lending Scheme for Schools in Northern Ireland is a visual arts initiative from the ACNI. The scheme offers schools the opportunity to exhibit works from the ACNI's Contemporary Art Collection, which currently holds over 500 artworks by established and emerging visual artists working in Northern Ireland. The aim of the initiative is to increase

opportunities for young people to be inspired by and engage with high-quality visual arts.

Clergy and ministry

£2m funding announced to support C of E clergy with financial wellbeing

The Church of England is providing a £2 million grant to Clergy Support Trust, an independent, national charity. The charity supports clergy with financial, health and wellbeing needs.

Creative Ministries grants Methodist Church

Creative Ministries grants are now available to lay people within the Methodist Church in Ireland, whether voluntary or employed, for exploring, starting or maintaining creative ministries within their local church/context.

→ To read the criteria and apply now visit:
irishmethodist.org/creative-ministries-grant

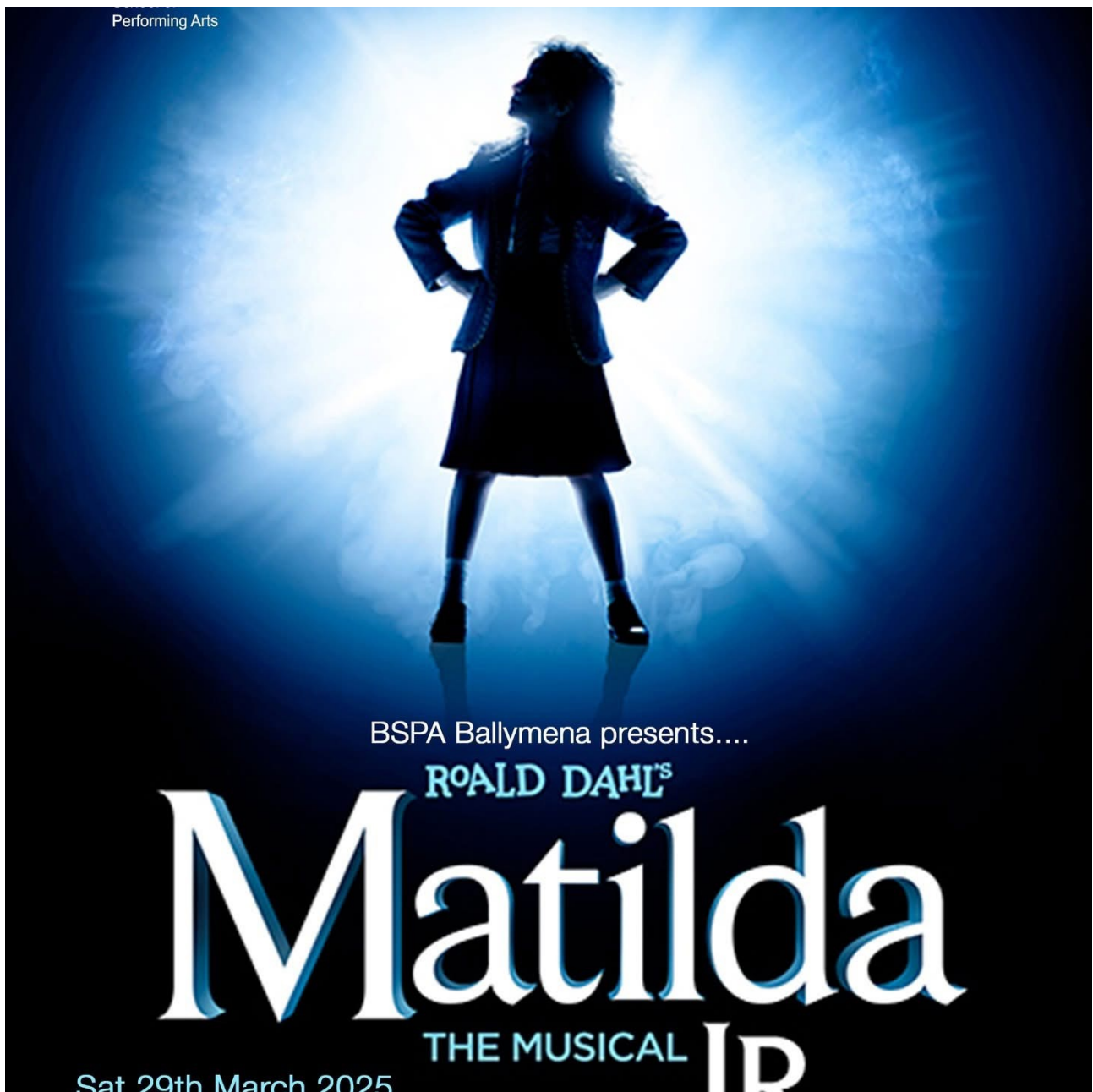
Events



BSPA Ballymena Presents "Matilda Jr"

Ballymena pupils of the Belfast School of Performing Arts were thrilled to return to rehearsals after an inspiring trip to London, where they watched Matilda live and took part in an incredible workshop!

Rehearsals are in full swing, and the excitement is building as we prepare to take the stage at Stranmillis Theatre on Saturday, 29th March! Don't miss the chance to support this



talented cast as Trunchbull tries (and fails!) to control these Revolting Children!



Show Date: Saturday, 29th March



Venue: Stranmillis Theatre



Tickets: Get yours now!

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bspa/e-qyzkjb>

February 19, 2025

Discover the Evolution of Northern Ireland's Story!

Experience powerful films, stunning poster designs and interactive opportunities at NI Now exhibition.

Free entry until Feb 28th, daily from 10am - 6pm @
2RoyalAve Belfast. Nerve Centre sponsored.

Looking for some family fun around Belfast?

From hands on science experiments at W5 Belfast's Multiverse Mayhem to meeting the adorable seals at Exploris Aquarium, there's something for the whole family to enjoy in and around Belfast!



Ulster Transport Museum, Cultra



Colin Glen



High Rise



Exploris Aquarium



W5 Belfast



Belfast Zoo

Free Wellbeing & Employability Support Event, Junction One, Antrim

Wellbeing & Employability Support Event

The Junction Retail & Leisure Park, Antrim
Saturday 22 February 2025
12.00pm - 3.00pm

Local support organisations will be attending to provide support and information on

- Health & Wellbeing matters (including health checks)
- Financial information and guidance
- Employability support for all ages

BSL interpreter available throughout the event.
Attendees requesting an ISL interpreter should contact Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council in advance.



Don't miss this FREE event packed with expert advice, new employment opportunities, and wellbeing support. Saturday 22 February 12PM – 3PM

- ✓ Free health checks & financial guidance
- ✓ Meet local support organisations (Action Mental Health, The Shed, Antrim, A Safe Space to be Me - Emotional Wellbeing Hub, CAP - Christians Against Poverty UK, Usel., Triangle Progression To Employment, Network Personnel,



AdaptNI, Belfast Works Connect Gemsni Libraries NI, Co-Ownership

✓ Job opportunities & career advice (Staffline, McDonald's Antrim, First Choice Recruitment, Kingspan Century Limited, Murdock Builders Merchants, Police Antrim & Newtownabbey,

✓ BSL interpreter available

Read more here <https://brnw.ch/21wQHuz>

Supported by - Jobs & Benefits Northern Ireland, Antrim and Newtownabbey Jobs and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough

World premiere of new farmyard carnival coming to Co Wicklow festival

The West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival returns this summer, during the month of May, with performances from acclaimed Irish and international artists.

The festival opens on Thursday, May 8, at 8pm in Russborough House for an opening performance from one of Ireland's foremost violists, **Ruth Gibson**, and the festival's founder and artistic director, **Fiachra Garvey**.

Ruth, principal viola of the world-renowned Aurora Orchestra, and pianist Fiachra have been collaborators for over 20 years. In this special reunion, they will perform a programme of masterpieces and hidden gems, blending timeless favourites with lesser-known treasures.

Russborough House is once again the venue for Trio Isimsiz, who will be making their Irish debut at the festival on Friday, May 9.

The trio are former winners of both the first prize and the audience prize at the prestigious Trondheim Competition. This remarkable trio will perform two of the most iconic piano trios in the repertoire, Schubert's beloved Piano Trio No. 1, written during the final year of his life, and Beethoven's transformative Piano Trio Op. 70, No. 2, which heralds a new era of instrumental expression.

The Rising Stars concert takes place in St Mary's Church of Ireland, Blessington, on Saturday, May 10, starting at 1pm.

Irish saxophonist Robert Finegan, a standout talent of his generation, takes the stage alongside soprano Clara Barbier Serrano and pianist Joanna Kacperek for an enchanting recital inspired by Paris. The programme weaves together the poetry of Yeats, Joyce, and Wilde, reflecting their time in Paris, with music by Parisian icons such as Poulenc and Josephine Baker. Adding to the allure, the concert features the winning work from the festival's composition competition and a brand-new piece by Irish composer Gráinne Mulvey, offering a fresh and dynamic musical perspective.

On Saturday, May 10, in the Tramway Theatre, the United Strings of Europe team up with jugglers to deliver a dazzling blend of music and contemporary circus art. This unique collaboration celebrates the vibrant themes of Spring Ascending in a way you've never seen before. The United Strings of Europe, known for their diverse influences and innovative programming, bring their creative energy to this one-of-a-kind performance.

At St Mary's Church, multi-Grammy nominee and Leonard Bernstein Award recipient, Sean Shibe performs, on Sunday, May 11.

A boundary-pushing guitarist hailed for his originality, Shibe offers an unforgettable programme that seamlessly bridges the worlds of acoustic and electric guitar.

Resources

Free issue of Autism Parenting Magazine

February 19, 2025

Get a free issue of Autism Parenting Magazine today and discover expert guidance and support to help your child with behaviour, social skills, and communication!

Our magazine is dedicated to providing parents with valuable resources, tips, and advice from experts in the field of autism.

Join our community of over 105,000 parents who have already benefited from the wisdom and support of Autism Parenting Magazine. As a subscriber, you'll have access to a wealth of information, resources, and support to help you navigate the challenges of raising a child on the autism spectrum.

And, for a limited time only, you can save 50% on your subscription for the year! That's right, you'll get all the resources and support you need at half the price.

So, why wait? Get your free issue of Autism Parenting Magazine today and discover how we can help you and your family succeed in areas such as behaviour, social skills, and communication. Subscribe now to get the help and support you need to help your child thrive!

<https://members.autismparentingmagazine.com/popular-free-issue/>

Transformation Stories

This brand new Bible study series takes five of our Transformation Stories videos and invites us to think about what it means to be transformed in Christ.

February 19, 2025

For families, there is also a downloadable Family Devotional to complement this bible study material.

Learn more and download now at:

→ bit.ly/lw2425

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning

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