

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Installation of President of
Irish Methodist Church**

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Installation of President of Irish Methodist Church

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News



International Youth Ministry Conference in Rome

Nearly 300 delegates representing bishops' conferences from around the world recently met in Rome to participate in the International Youth Ministry Conference.

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Bishop Fintan Gavin (Photo above) represented the Irish Bishops' Conference and was among the delegates from 110 countries.

The event was held in preparation for the 2027 World Youth Day (WYD), which is scheduled to take place in Seoul, South Korea.

Pope Francis also addressed the delegates and spent time with them at the conclusion of the conference.

Photo shows Bishop Fintan greeting Pope Francis.

Mothers' Union soup support for Garrison Community Group

Mothers' Union have organised a monthly Soup Lunch in Garrison Church Hall over the year.

Recently Branch Leader Dot Barlow presented £180 to Olivia McManus for Garrison Community Group. This donation will be used to facilitate Cookery Classes for children in the community during the school holidays.

£180 will also go to the Churches Youth Group and will be used for an end of year activity for them.

Putting on their summer bonnets

The Tuesday Afternoon Club at St Mark's Lisburn ended for the summer with an afternoon tea and by making

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their own summer hats. The less camera-shy are in the photo!



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Rookie Reverend completed his '70k in May' running challenge

**Did you hear
about the 'rookie
Reverend' who's
just completed
his '70k in May'
running
challenge?**

Rev Gareth
McFadden,
minister of Kilbride Presbyterian Church in Doagh, County
Antrim, only took up running in February following a health
scare.

Earlier this year, he discovered that he had silently
developed dangerously high blood pressure and was
advised to improve his fitness.

Our '70k in May' - a new fundraising challenge for Christian
Aid Week - came along at just the right time for Rev Gareth.



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Three months on and the 51-year-old novice runner is nearing the end of his distance challenge.

Rev Gareth took part in his first 5k event on Saturday 11 May when he completed the Sixmilewater Park Run in a time of 30 minutes.

Having caught the running bug, he clocked up another 5k while taking part in the Ballyclare May Fair 10k & 5k on Saturday 25 May.

Rev Gareth explained why running appealed to him: “This might come as a surprise to some, me included but I've started running and I quite like the benefits for my physical and mental health.”

He added: “I’ve always had a heart for helping others in need so I’m glad to be able to raise funds for a good cause.”

So far, his challenge has raised more than £1,000 with donations still coming in.

If you’d like to support his challenge, you can do so here: <https://fundraise.christianaid.ie/challenge-2024/kilbride-presbyterian-70k-may>

Listed former Co Armagh church to become new restaurant and cafe

A former Co Armagh church could be turned into a sandwich bar and restaurant amid fresh plans, it can be revealed.

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The disused Jonesborough church on Church Hill in Newry was built in 1866 and is a category B listed building.

The former Church of Ireland building was shut in the 1990s and has been empty in the years since.

However, it was recently placed on the market and sold for around £80,000, marketed by Best Property Services.

Plans now show that the building could be turned into a sandwich bar/coffee shop/restaurant.

A fresh application says it could also include the use of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council adjacent car park.

The church building sits within the Ring of Gullion. It's a geological landform (a ring dyke) not found anywhere else in the UK or Ireland.

The heather-clad bulk of Slieve Gullion mountain lies at the centre of the Slieve Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which takes its name from the encircling ring of lower rugged hills.

Plans for the new cafe and restaurant have been submitted by Don Ryan, alongside Trevor Hutton of T4 Architects.

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Methodist President installed

The Rev Dr John D Alderdice was installed as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland for 2024-25 during the opening service of the 255th Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland which took place this year at Assembly Buildings in Belfast from Wednesday 5th – Saturday 8th June.

John Alderdice was born into a Christian household in Ballymena in 1974. Consequent to his Father, the Rev Duncan Alderdice, also a Methodist Minister, being stationed on various circuits, John was educated at Fivemiletown Primary School, Malone Primary School and Fullerton House Preparatory School before attending Methodist College, Belfast and later studying Modern History at Queen's University Belfast.



John was accepted for ministerial training at Edgehill College in 1995, where he studied for three years before being stationed on his first circuit in Richhill in 1998 and later ordained at the Methodist Conference in Belfast in 2000.

Through the years ministry has taken John from Richhill to Movilla Abbey and Comber. He has also served in the Queen's University chaplaincy for five years before he was appointed as the Director of Ministry for the Methodist Church in Ireland between 2014-21. John currently serves as Circuit Superintendent of the recently amalgamated Belfast Central and South Circuit. John is also an Ecumenical Canon of Down Cathedral.

John's Presidential theme for his twelve months in office is 'For the transformation of the world'. From his experience



and learning, John will be sharing more with the Methodist people, and with the Church as a whole, as to how the Holy Spirit transforms people and communities.

Speaking ahead of the conference the Rev Dr Alderdice said:

“I see this as such a tremendous privilege and my hope and my prayer is that I’m able to serve in a way that builds on the last 25 or 30 years.”

Reflecting on the Church today, the Rev Dr Alderdice said:

“As I chat with sisters and brothers in other older denominations and even in some of the newer churches as well, there is a recognition that being followers of Jesus is going to be an ongoing challenge for decades to come.”



In his installation address he said, “Let’s be real and understand that to most people the church is entirely irrelevant to their daily lives and circumstances.

The cultural landscape is

changing right in front of us, we need to be real. For many this change might be a threat, however, this context provides so many opportunities to share the transforming message of the good news of Jesus.”

He went on to say: “As church leaders, lay and ordained, from Methodism and beyond, oh, how we must pray for



leadership across our churches that is gifted and equipped to help us understand where we are and how we are to fulfil God's calling today."

Married to Ruth they have two children, Hannah and Daniel.

Mrs Elaine M Barnett was installed as Lay Leader of the Conference for the Connexional years 2024-2026.

Obituary: Richard Rogan innovative crossword editor of The Times

Richard Rogan was born in Northern Ireland in 1961, the son of Pamela and Arthur Rogan, a Church of Ireland minister, and grew up with his two sisters, Diana and Sara, in a delightfully rambling old rectory at Aghadowey.

Educated at Coleraine Academical Institution in Co Londonderry, he went on to study at Reading and Lancaster universities, where he read French.

His addiction to crossword puzzles started at a young age "looking over my dad's shoulder as he did The Daily Telegraph crossword". Fascinated by the "symmetry of the grids" and "how all the words linked together", he began compiling crosswords for his parents to solve and while his father tackled the Telegraph crossword he tested himself on the puzzles in The Times which, he loyally remarked after he had joined the paper, "seemed a whole step up in difficulty and sophistication".

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When not composing or solving crosswords he was a passionate supporter of Coleraine FC and Arsenal, whose exploits in the Champions League made it into one of his clues. He was also a keen long-distance runner who once completed a marathon in under two hours 40 minutes. He is survived by his wife, Malika, with whom he lived in Cheltenham, and their 16-year-old son Liam.

Richard Rogan, Times crossword editor, was born on September 23, 1961. He died after a heart attack on June 1, 2024, aged 62

Cathedral Calls

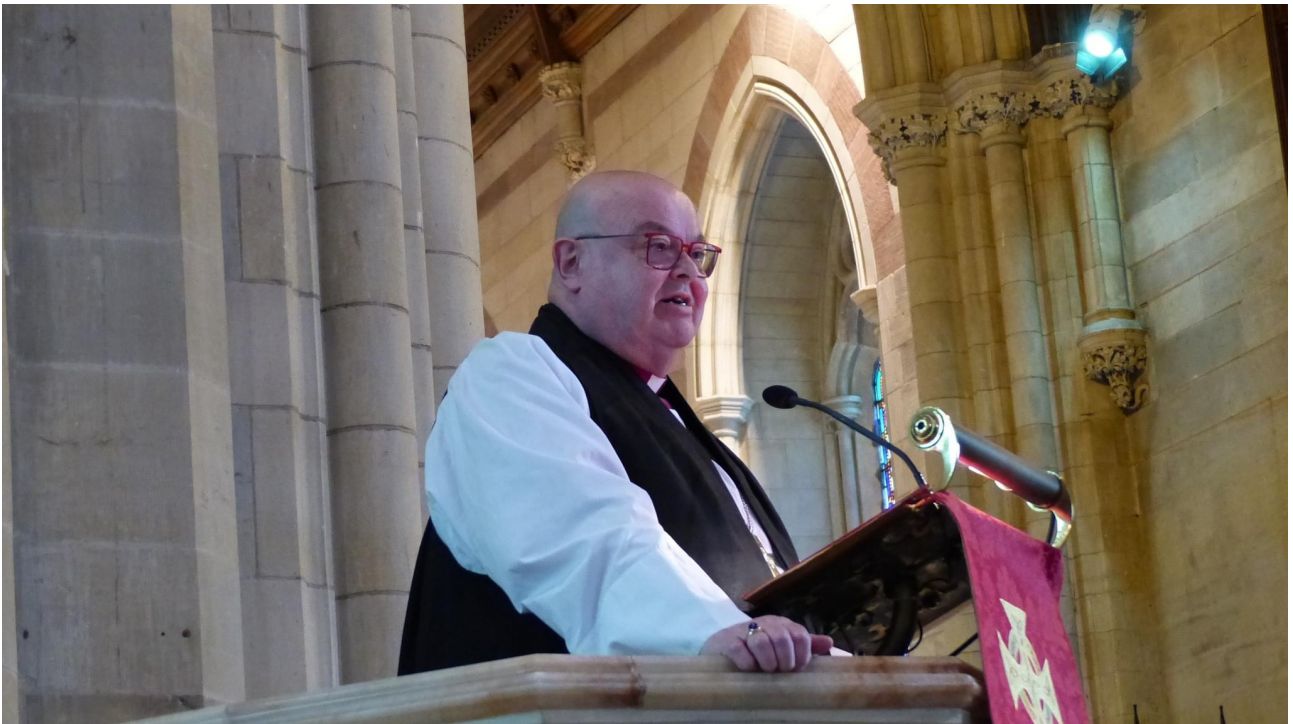


Deacons in Armagh

Rita Arthur, David Hawthorne, Rhonda Dempsey and Jackie Carson were ordained as Deacons by Archbishop John McDowell in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on Sunday.

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The preacher at the service was the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross - the Rt Revd Paul Colton



Confirmations in Derry

Six candidates were confirmed at The Rite of Confirmation service in St Columb's Cathedral on Sunday 9th June 2024,

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The Feast Day of Saint Columba, by The Bishop of Derry & Raphoe, The Right Reverend Andrew Forster. Assisted by The Dean of Derry, The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart. Congratulations to Ellen, Ewan, Freddie, Robbie. Sean and Wendy.



Six new members of St Peter's Cathedral Schola

On Sunday morning six new members of St Peter's Cathedral Schola Cantorum, Belfast, made their promises and were commissioned. We wish them many years of happiness in the Schola as they contribute to the music at Saint Peter's Cathedral Parish Belfast. Congratulations boys!



Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Organ Podcast from chapel of Lulworth Castle

In Episode 9 of The Organ Podcast, William Whitehead plays the organ in the private chapel of Lulworth Castle, Dorset as he shares his passion for the music of John Lugge (1580 -1655). Lugge, a little-known composer from the West Country, navigated the often-dangerous world of religious tension to develop one of the earliest forms of the English voluntary.

Listen here: <https://bit.ly/45cyGov>

Neartú Children and Families Ministry conference

Neartú (strengthen) is an ecumenical conference for all who are involved in Children and Families Ministry across the island of Ireland.

Join us for a fantastic day in the beautiful surroundings of Mount Saint Annes Conference Centre, Portarlinton for a time to strengthen yourself and your ministry. November 9 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. €25

We are so thrilled to welcome Rachel Turner as our Keynote speaker in the morning, as well as a host of experienced practitioners who will run a variety of workshops in the afternoon. Rachel is the founder of Parenting for Faith, and author of ten books for families, parents and church leaders including Parenting as a Church Leader, Comfort in Uncertain Times, It Takes a Church to Raise a Parent and her new release Parenting Teens for a Life of Faith. She lectures on leadership and intergenerational church at the Institute for Children, Youth and Mission(CYM) and St. Padarn's Institute, and is the discipleship lead at Hope Church, Harrogate. She also consults and speaks internationally – and somehow has managed to carve out time to be with us!

During the lunch break, we will have a marketplace with representatives from family-focused organisations as well as a heap of resources and freebies.

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The cost for the day is €25/£22 which includes lunch and refreshments through the day. If you book now using the code earlybird you will get your ticket for just €20/£17!

So mark your diaries and book your tickets NOW as spaces are limited!!!

Click here to book: <https://bit.ly/neartu>

JOIN - help churches recruit volunteers to support children and young people's ministries

When we care for our young people, we honour the God who made and loves them.

In April, The Church of England launched JOIN, a new initiative and selection of resources to help churches recruit volunteers to support children and young people's ministries. The resources include films, free posters and guidance to help recruit and retain volunteers. Find out more at cofe.io/JOIN

In the media

Catholic Herald - Cardinal Nichols on UK elections: 'How do we construct a society in which families flourish?'

Catholics in Britain are being urged by their Church's leaders to "get involved and vote" when general

elections are held for the UK Parliament on 4 July 2024, after the UK prime minister surprised many by calling what amounts to a snap election.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the election last week, with his Conservative Party looking like it will fall to the Labour Party following 14 years in power. Most had expected the election to be called for some time in autumn. The earlier than expected date is deemed by most a tactical move by the prime minister to either bolster his party's chances of clinging on to power, or limiting the damage if it loses.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has announced that the opportunity to vote in a general election is a "privilege". At the same time, Nichols said voters want to know what their candidates will think and say on their behalf when they get into Parliament.

"I would like to put forward a theme for us all to think about. How do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish? That's the bedrock – many positive things flow from that," the cardinal said.

In a statement released after the prime minister's announcement, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales noted that during the 6-week election season, Catholics will be "seeking answers which will help the poor, the marginalised, and the vulnerable".

Noting that Christians can have a different way of looking at politics, the bishops listed various major areas people

should be looking at before they vote: Criminal Justice; domestic poverty, family life and taxation; education; environment; international relations, human rights and peace building; life issues and migration.

“I ask you to look at these resources, explore them, become a bit more familiar with them so that when it comes to 4 July, you’ve got in your mind what you want to see the next government strive to achieve,” Nichols said. “My view is that our next government should strive to create the circumstances in which families can flourish. So please get ready to vote on 4 July.”

The cardinal also made a special appeal to young adults to be “willing to get involved and vote”.

Other voices from within the bishops’ conference have said that this is a crucial election in which England’s Christian inheritance may be on the line.

Perspective

Saint Columba remembered - Rev Dr William Morton

He was born on 7 th December 521 on the shores of Lough Gartan, an area of outstanding natural beauty in north-west Donegal.

For some years in the 1990s I was rector of Conwal Union with Gartan, the latter parish containing his birthplace.



Columba belonged to the Irish warrior aristocracy, and, if he hadn't become a monk, most likely he would have been crowned High King of Ireland.

Despite his hasty temper and his assertiveness, he could also be gentle, humble and overflowing with Christian charity. Perhaps, that is why he had two names, one, Crimthann, meaning, the fox, and the other, Columcille, meaning 'Dove of the Church'. He was baptised at Temple Douglas and spent most of his childhood around Kilmacrennan.

A disciple of St Finnian at Movilla in Co Down, Columba was made a deacon, and after further study in Dublin and in Meath, he was ordained priest. It is believed he established several monasteries in Ireland, among them one close to the site of St Columba's cathedral, Londonderry in 546 AD..

It was Columba's love of books which was to get him into serious trouble. He copied a book of psalms belonging to his old mentor Saint Finnian with the intention of keeping it to himself.

But Finnian, who disputed his right to keep the psalter, brought the issue to the High King, Diarmait mac Cerbaill, who ruled in favour of St Finnian, stating "To every cow its calf, to every book its copy."

Columba's kinsmen arose in his defence and a terrible battle, The Battle of Cúl Dreimhne, near Sligo, ensued in which 3,000 people were killed. Two years later, Columba sailed from Londonderry/Derry with 12 disciples in a currach, vowing never to set foot on Irish soil again.

Wracked with terrible guilt and anguish for the pain and violence he had caused, and threatened with ex-communication, Columba sought penance for the dreadful loss of life. He vowed that he would never look on the land of his birth again. In 563 AD he set sail with twelve followers and eventually landed on the Isle of Iona. It was from that little community on that small island that Christianity was taken to much of Scotland and northern England.

The success of Columba's mission was due to many factors: God responded to his hard, relentless personal spiritual struggle. To the people among whom he ministered he was "one of themselves". They recognised in him many of the same weaknesses common among themselves: irascibility, vengefulness, a volatile nature – yet he was the epitome of kindness and generosity. And remember, too, humility. Now, as then, it goes a long way!

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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