

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – King meets Irish cadets at D Day 80

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King meets Irish cadets at D Day 80

Cadets from Royal Navy, Army, and RAF units in Northern Ireland took part in the recent D Day remembrance services in Normandy which were attended by HM King Charles. His Majesty was accompanied by Lord Dannatt who had close links with the RUR and its successor regiments during his outstanding military career. He is also a Church of England lay reader.





News

St Patrick's Centre hosts 2024 Young Ambassadors from all over America

The Young Ambassadors are in Downpatrick for two weeks.



They visited Down Cathedral and Saint Patrick's Church to meet the Rev Dorian and Canon John Murray.

The St Patrick's Centre Young Ambassadors were welcomed to Saul Sunday Mass in beautiful sunshine with Bishop McGuckian and Father John Murray. They also visited the tallest statue of Patrick in the world.

Over the two weeks they will learn about Downpatrick's beautiful part of the country, meet wonderful local people and go back to encourage others to visit.

The organisers at the St Patricks's Centre are grateful for their support from the American Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians as well as their own Chapters in Arizona, Milwaukee and Ohio.

June 12, 2024



Find out more at www.saintpatrickcentre.com.





Changing Attitude Ireland annual meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Changing Attitude Ireland will take place on Sunday 30 June 2024 at the Chapter House, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 8 at 5pm.

Photo - York Pride

The AGM will follow the Pride Service which is being held at 3:30pm in the cathedral. During the service, Dr Mary McAleese will be introduced as the new ecumenical patron of Changing Attitude Ireland. Following refreshments after the service, the AGM will commence at 5pm.

Guests may attend the AGM, but only current paid-up members are entitled to vote. There will be an opportunity during refreshments to sign up or renew membership.

Celebrating Scout leaders in Volunteers Week

**During
Volunteers
Week the Scout
Association
highlighted
three leaders in
celebrating the
incredible dedication of its volunteers who have
devoted over 40 years to enriching young lives through
Scouting.**



Their stories of service and commitment are truly inspiring. Read more about their journeys and the profound impact they've made on our community.

Maurice Lee: A Lifetime of Memorable Moments

Maurice Lee, 73, is the Group Lead Volunteer for 1st Magheraculmoney and has been an integral part of Scouts NI for over 40 years. Maurice's journey in Scouting is filled with extraordinary moments. One of his most cherished memories is being part of the Cladagh Glen Scout Centre Development team and having the honour of welcoming

HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex (now Duke of Edinburgh), to officially open the facility.

Maurice was also awarded an MBE for his services to Scouting, a recognition that allowed him to attend Buckingham Palace with his family – a personal milestone made possible through his commitment to Scouting.

When asked for advice for new volunteers, Maurice emphasises the joy of Scouting and its lasting impact on young lives. “Always enjoy your Scouting and remember your volunteering will change and influence the lives of so many young people and indeed perhaps others in the years ahead,” he says.

Reflecting on his service, Maurice finds the most rewarding aspect of volunteering to be the lifelong friendships and connections he has made.

Paul Fleck: A Legacy of Leadership and Mentorship

Paul Fleck, 64, serves as an Assistant Section Leader for the Night Owl Explorer Unit and Nights Away Adviser. Paul’s Scouting journey began in Glasgow in the early ’80s, and he later returned to Limavady in 1985 to join 1st Roe Valley Scout Group. Paul’s family tradition in Scouting, with his dad and brothers also involved, naturally led him to follow their path.

One of Paul’s favourite memories is winning a UK-wide competition to celebrate the 21st anniversary of Venture Scouts (now Explorers) in 1989 with the 1st Roe Valley Venture Unit. Although the video they created has since

been lost, the achievement remains a highlight of his Scouting career!

Robert Boyd: A Lifelong Commitment to Helping Others

Robert Boyd has been involved in Scouting leadership for 48 years, with 35 of those years as an Akela and Group Lead Volunteer across four different groups. His extensive experience in Scouting has profoundly shaped his approach to helping others in all areas of his life.

One of Robert's proudest moments came when a former Scout asked him to officiate at their wedding – a testament to the lasting impact he has had on many young lives. He believes the greatest achievements in Scouting are seeing young people succeed in new challenges and watching their excitement as they share their experiences with their families.

For Robert, the friendships and camaraderie built through Scouting are invaluable.

Bicentenary of Bon Secours Sisters in Cork

The Bon Secours Sisters in Cork recently celebrated the bicentenary of the congregation with Mass at which Bishop Fintan Gavin was the principal celebrant.

The congregation was founded in France in 1824 in the years after the French Revolution.

In his homily at the Mass, Bishop Fintan said that while the first sisters arrived to Dublin in 1861, it was in Cork that the congregation really thrived, and a large religious community and hospital grew.

For over 200 years, women from France, and later from Ireland and the United States, and in more recent times from Peru and The Congo have dedicated their lives as Sisters of Bon Secours because they have been inspired to share the promise of blessedness made by Jesus in the Beatitudes with those who are most in need of hope, light, comfort and love.

“A bicentenary celebration such as today’s, is a fitting occasion to pay tribute to the countless Sisters of Bon Secours who have left everything and selflessly answered that call of Christ to bring his healing and his compassion into the lives of those who needed it most,” Bishop Fintan said.

“We are particularly grateful to the Sisters for their dedication and commitment to Catholic Healthcare here in Ireland,” he said.

Bishop Fintan also acknowledged the contribution of the Sisters to the Cork and Ross South American Mission.

“I am particularly grateful to the Sisters of Bon Secours for graciously responding to Bishop Lucey’s invitation to join many of the priests of our Diocese as Missionary Sisters in Peru from the 1960’s onwards.”

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“Your Christian conviction, your commitment and your dedication to those in need meant that communities were built on the core Christian values of dignity, compassion, integrity, respect and empowerment...not to mention the strong bonds of fraternity and collaboration between the Sisters and the priests of this Diocese.”

Cathedral Calls

The Architectural Heritage of St Fachnan's Cathedral, Kilfenora

Dr Michael O'Neill F.S.A.
Architectural Historian

Tuesday 25th June 2024 8pm
at
St Fachnan's Cathedral

ADM €10 (€8 CONCESSION FOR
UNWAGED/STUDENT/OAP)

‘Small, remote, and impoverished, nevertheless this tiny cathedral is an important monument in the architectural, cultural, ecclesiastical and religious history of Ireland.’- O'Neill, M. 2013.

Cathedral Music Trusts Salisbury Conference

Less than a month left to bag the 20% 'earlybyrd' discount for the Trusts Academic Conference in Salisbury this Autumn.

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19-20 September 2024 at Sarum College
More info & booking at bit.ly/cmngp



Canterbury Cathedral Choral Evensong commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

If you missed the service, you can still watch online at
<https://ow.ly/nkpb50Sbyoa>

Church News Ireland

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Northern Ireland International Organ Competition

The Northern Ireland International Organ Competition was established in 2011 to provide talented young organists, aged 21 and under, with major recital engagements, financial support and recording opportunities.

It is now recognised as the world's leading international competition for young organists and is officially partnered with the St. Albans International Organ Festival.

Since NIIOC began recital venues have included St. Thomas Fifth Avenue New York, Westminster Abbey, Southwark Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, St. Columba's Cathedral Londonderry, Trinity College Cambridge, Canongate Kirk Edinburgh, St. Peter Mancroft Norwich, St. Peter's Cathedral Belfast, Worcester Cathedral and St. Michael's Cornhill London.

International jurors have included Thierry Mechler (France), Kimberly Marshall (USA), Mattias Wager (Sweden), Frédéric Blanc (France), Erwan le Prado (France) and Martin Jean (USA).

Details have been announced of the monetary awards and prizewinners' recitals for this year's Northern Ireland

19th - 27th June 2024 Clonard Solemn Novena

In honour of our Mother of Perpetual Help

“Creating a Culture of Care”

WEEKDAYS

6:45am, 9:30am, 11:30am,
4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

6:45am, 9:30am, 11:30am,
1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Blessing of Families
Saturday, 22nd June at 11:30am and 1:30pm

Sacrament of the Sick
Sunday, 23rd June at 11:30am and 1:30pm

Youth Session with Mass
Sunday, 23rd June at 8:00pm

Ecumenical Day
Monday, June 24th



Watch Novena sessions live at  www.clonard.com

Join us on  Clonard Monastery

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International Organ Competition (NIIOC), taking place in Armagh 12–14 August 2024.

The Northern Ireland International Organ Competition (NIIOC) will take place from Monday 12 August to Wednesday 14 August 2024 in Armagh. This year's jury will be chaired by concert organist Thomas Trotter, who will be joined by Anna-Victoria Baltrusch, Professor of Organ at the Evangelical High School for Church Music in Halle, Germany, and by David Hill, artistic director of the Bach Choir, London, the Yale Schola Cantorum, Connecticut and of the Charles Wood Summer School, which runs concurrently with the organ competition.

Full information at www.niio.com. Entries, across all categories, close Wednesday 10 July at 12 noon.

In the media

'Border poll talk too soon': TG4 feature looks at the topic of a united Ireland

A Belfast-born Church of Ireland rector has said talk of a border poll within the next decade is too soon as people still have memories of the suffering caused as a result of the Troubles, writes Andrew Madden.

Gary Hastings, rector at Holy Trinity Church in Killiney, Co Dublin, made the comments in a new documentary for TG4 examining the topic of a united Ireland.

Iniúchadh TG4 — Éire Aontaithe? (TG4 Investigates — United Ireland?), presented by investigative journalist Kevin Magee, aired May 29.

The programme also features former Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, who said that changes to the Irish flag and national anthem should be on the agenda in any discussions about Irish unity.

“I am happy with the flag (Irish flag) as it is, but if people want to talk about it and put it on the table. Anyone can put any subject on the table and we will discuss it,” Mr Adams said.

“If people want another national anthem, then it's on the table. People can't say that we are planning for the future and then say we can't talk about it. That is not the way in which we are able to put the process together.”

Former SDLP leader Brid Rodgers told the programme that the Irish tricolour should be reviewed in the context of a united Ireland as it has negative connotations for unionists.

“Unionists are opposed to the Irish flag, because it was used by and associated with the IRA during the Troubles,” she said.

“So, if it is a symbol of everything they hate, this probably needs to be looked at.”

Gary Hastings said talk of a united Ireland within the next 10 years is premature.

"The split that was between the two sides to the north, it became very, very wide," he said.

"Well, that hasn't been remedied since.

"Maybe it's better than that time, but the bad things that both sides did, those people are still alive and remain deeply hurt.

"When that generation is gone and it's only history, perhaps we can move on. But it will take time."

The programme also features members of the East Belfast Protestant Boys' flute band, who give their views on a border poll.

Member John Keenan said: "I don't think we should [have a referendum], and I don't think we should be coerced into one.

"NI is an integral part of the United Kingdom and I don't think that should change in the future at all. I wouldn't want to live in an Irish republic.

"We're British, we're not Irish. I'm too ingrained into British society and the British way of life, it's in our blood."

The programme comes after Secretary of State Chris Heaton-Harris said he doesn't expect to see a united Ireland in his lifetime.

"I think the conditions are good for there not to be a border poll for a very, very long time," he told GB News last week.

Mr Heaton-Harris said the criteria for a referendum on a united Ireland is something he is constantly monitoring.

“What triggers that is a whole host of factors. But essentially whoever is Secretary of State for NI is constantly weighing up whether there'll be a majority of support for a united Ireland,” he said.

“The NI Office is constantly polling. There's other people polling, but there's societal factors.

“You're constantly talking to politicians and civil society — genuinely, a whole host of things. And to be quite frank, I can't see it in my lifetime.”

Poem for today

June by Francis Ledwidge

Broom out the floor now, lay the fender by,
And plant this bee-sucked bough of woodbine there,
And let the window down. The butterfly
Floats in upon the sunbeam, and the fair
Tanned face of June, the nomad gipsy, laughs
Above her widespread wares, the while she tells
The farmers' fortunes in the fields, and quaffs
The water from the spider-peopled wells.
The hedges are all drowned in green grass seas,
And bobbing poppies flare like Elmo's light,
While siren-like the pollen-stained bees
Drone in the clover depths. And up the height

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The cuckoo's voice is hoarse and broke with joy.
And on the lowland crops the crows make raid,
Nor fear the clappers of the farmer's boy,
Who sleeps, like drunken Noah, in the shade
And loop this red rose in that hazel ring
That snares your little ear, for June is short
And we must joy in it and dance and sing,
And from her bounty draw her rosy worth.
Ay! soon the swallows will be flying south,
The wind wheel north to gather in the snow,
Even the roses spilt on youth's red mouth
Will soon blow down the road all roses go.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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