

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Drumhead service opens  
Armed Forces Day**

## Image of the day

### Drumhead service opens Armed Forces Day



**“Let us remember and give thanks for the huge commitment and sacrifice of the many who serve, and for the steadfastness of their families and loved ones”.**

Last weekend, all of Northern Ireland's Armed Forces, Cadets, Veterans Charities and supporters from across the community came together in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough area for Armed Forces Day 24, to celebrate and promote all our Armed Forces and all they do, and have done for us.





Taking part were representatives of HMS Hibernia, the Royal Navy Reserve unit based at Lisburn (photo above); The Army in Northern Ireland; RAF Reserves Northern Ireland - 502 Squadron; 1 NI Army Cadet Force, 2nd NI Bn Army Cadet Force ; Sea Cadets Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Wing Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

Prior to the event the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Neil Kelly, had the honour of raising the Armed Forces Day Flag to recognise the immense sacrifices made by Armed Forces personnel in many wars and conflicts and to pay tribute to the gallantry of those brave men and women.

The Mayor was accompanied by His Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Antrim, Colonel Neil Salisbury, OBE, DL, Army Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Thomas MBE RE,



### *Display by the RAF Red Arrows*

Navy Commander Rob Milligan MBA FCMI CMgr RN and RAF Wing Commander Will Lucas.

The ceremony at the Loughshore Park commenced with a Drumhead service conducted by Canon Nigel Baylor, Rector of Jordanstown, and Rev. Colin Bell, Senior Chaplain Royal Army Chaplains Department.

A Drumhead service draws on the history and traditions of the armed services. It commences with the placing of the drums of the regiment or unit. The drums are always



dedicated. Because they form the altar and the pulpit for the service.

Placed on the drums are the colours of the unit. Mostly these are of two colours - The King's Colour and the unit colours on which will be embroidered any battle honours won by the unit. These serve as the altar falls reminding those present of unit members who have fallen in service. The colours have a tradition of being the rallying point of troops in the days prior to electronic communications. It was around the colours that troops rallied to focus the strength of the unit. And the colours would have been the altar cover from which members would have received Holy Communion before battle and encountering their fate.

Thus the tradition emerged of hanging colours in cathedrals and churches. In remembrance of their role as a rallying point and the sacrifice of those for whom they had been communion vestments.

## News

### Mission partners worship at St Molua's

**The Rector, Rev Emma Rutherford - "We were so richly blessed this Sunday morning as our special**





**guests Diocese of Down & Dromore mission partners Bishop Leo and Honey Paul shared and worshipped with us.**

“We enjoyed a delicious parish lunch in the hall afterwards, with great fellowship and conversation. (Thanks to our catering team!) We pray for safe travels for Bishop Leo and Honey as they return home soon, and look forward to sharing in partnership with them”.

## **Killaloe pilgrimage to Lourdes**

**Shannon Airport was a buzz of activity on Friday past as 189 pilgrims from the Diocese of Killaloe gathered for the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.**



This year was the first time since 2019 that the Diocese was able to welcome back assisted pilgrims accompanied by Hospitality and a youth section to care for them.



## Larne takes Christian Aid's 'broth' away

**This year, the Larne Christian Aid Group raised an incredible £10,260 for our Christian Aid Week appeal.**

A soup and sandwich lunch held at First Larne Presbyterian Church raised around £300 towards the overall total.

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Pictured here are two of the organisers, Margaret Lindsay (left) and Jackie Tennant.

Besides the lunch at First Larne, there was also:

- A walk to Slemish mountain organised by Bob Loade and Allan

McCullough of Craigyhill Methodist Church (part of Larne Methodist Circuit).

- A sponsored walk and lunch afterwards organised by Helen and Robert Stewart of Cairncastle Presbyterian Church.
- A sponsored round of golf organised by Sandy Lindsay of First Larne Presbyterian Church.





- A house-to-house collection overseen by Elaine Lee, the organiser of the Larne Christian Aid Group.

Please join CAI in prayerfully saying a huge thank you to Margaret, Jackie and everyone in the Larne group for their dedication to this cause.

## Warbling birds and Additional Curates in Coolkellure

**Bishops have many gifts and one is where they encounter history and tradition. Bishop Paul Colton of Cork shared this lovely piece that no amount of artificial intelligence could produce.**

He wrote - "Today I'm heading to the Church of St Edmund, Coolkellure in Fanlobbus Union of Parishes. I'll preside and preach at the celebration of the Eucharist and then there's a parish picnic and sports day. Coolkellure is a fascinating anomaly in church history. The parish was founded as a mission area within Fanlobbus in 1843 and ministry was provided by the ACS - The Additional Curates Society. But it's primary vocation was to meet spiritual needs in areas of England affected by the industrial revolution. Coolkellure (Cúil Chéiliúir - the corner of the warbling birds) is in beautiful rural Ireland"

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## Wallace students visit Thiepval

Students from Wallace High School, Lisburn are visiting the battlefields and going on a tour of Thiepval Wood.



## Keeping the door open in Holywood

**“We are very happy that there are now volunteers keeping the church doors open to the public at least a few hours each day. Rumble the dog (pictured below) was proud to play his part!**





“The Church is open to all as a quiet space for personal reflection, meditation and prayer whenever our ‘Open door’ flag is flying. The welcome sign will guide you.”

## Sad but uplifting service marks closure of Immanuel C of I church

**A reader forwarded - “Attending the sad but also uplifting occasion of the final service at Immanuel Church of Ireland, Ardoyne Road - a service of Celebration & Thanksgiving for 60 years of witness and contribution to local community life”.**



The church was almost halfway between St Mary's on the Crumlin Road and St Mark's, Ligoniel. It was a short distance away from the Ardoyne junction which was a focus of inter-community conflict.

Despite the backdrop of tension the parish proceeded with its range of activities. The scout group went the full distance in maintaining its programme.

Clergy names come to mind such as Canon Warren Jones (c-in-c 1960 - 63), Canon Noel Wilkinson ( Rector 1970 - 79) and Canon William Bell.

One of the most iconic photographs of the church in the conflict is of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Rev



## INTRODUCTION

Friends, we join together today to celebrate the life of Immanuel, to give thanks to God for the gifts that have come to us and to others through this ministry, to acknowledge our sadness at the cessation of worship, and to affirm again our faith in Jesus Christ.

Let us be grateful for God's gifts, honest about our sorrow, open in our love, trusting in Jesus Christ, the only head of the church.

The service today marks a passage for this congregation. Our time together in this church is coming to an end, but in Christ alone we will find our strength, our comfort and our hope for the future.

Michael Ramsay walking through debris after an explosion together with the Bishop of Connor and Canon Wilkinson.

## Cathedral Calls

### Clergy anniversaries celebrated at Saint Columb's Derry

**Bishop Andrew Forster was the Celebrant at a Service of Holy Communion in Saint Columb's Cathedral on Monday morning – the Feast Day of the Birth of Saint John the Baptist – as clergy from throughout the Diocese gave thanks for and celebrated the anniversaries of their ordinations.**



**It was 45 years to the day since two of those present, the Dean, Very Rev Raymond Stewart (Right) and the Reverend Canon Sam McVeigh (Left), were made deacons in the Cathedral on 24th June 1979.**

Other clergy who were celebrating the anniversaries of their ordinations this month were also invited to attend.

Bishop Andrew thanked the Dean for organising Monday's service and thanked all the clergy present for their ministry. "Anniversaries are very special moments, aren't they," he said. "Anniversaries give us the opportunity to reflect back with thankfulness on the journeys that we have – sometimes bumpy, sometimes smooth – of ministry. I want to take the opportunity as Bishop to thank all of you on significant days as we remember and are thankful for ministry, for all that you have given to God and to the Church.



"Ministry isn't about a job, it's vocational. It's who we are, not what we do; and who we are is borne out in the actions of love and faithfulness and diligence in caring for the people of God and in promoting the kingdom of God in a needy world."

## **Cathedral Music Trust on recent developments at Winchester Cathedral**

**Cathedral Music Trust has issued a statement about recent developments at Winchester Cathedral in relation to the choir and music.**

Read the statement on its website: <https://bit.ly/3xkPMnP>

Chair of Trustees, Jonathan Macdonald, has written to the Dean of Winchester offering the Trust's advice and guidance.

## **Ministry**

### **Priest for All Saints Clooney, Derry**

**Rev Melanie Sloan has been ordained as a priest by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, at a Service in All Saints Clooney where she will serve her curacy under the guidance of the Rector, Rev Canon David McBeth.**



Her fiancé, Mark Niblock (whom she'll be getting married to in just over a week's time and who read the Old Testament reading), and her two sons, Josh and Finn, were in All Saints to see the 'laying on of hands' by Bishop Andrew and other members of the clergy.

The new Curate Assistant, who was ordained to the diaconate last September, had been serving since then in St Patrick's Parish in Broughshane, many of whose congregation made the 45-mile trip to Clooney for the evening Service.

Their journey can't have been as eventful, though, as Bishop Andrew's earlier in the day when – after preaching at an anniversary service in Holy Trinity Church in Dunfanaghy – a Garda motorcycle escort facilitated his passage through heavy international rally traffic to help him get to the church



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in Londonderry on time. The Bishop said that as he drove past the Mount Errigal Hotel, flanked by Garda outriders, he thought that some in the crowd of spectators mistook him for the winner of the rally.



## **Ordination in St. Patrick and St. Felim Cathedral in diocese of Kilmore**

**There was a wonderful celebration for the ordination of Fr. Jordan MacGabhann in the Cathedral of St. Patrick and St. Felim.**

Prayerful good wishes have been expressed that Fr. Jordan may have many years of happy ministry in the diocese of Kilmore. Pictured here Fr. Jordan with his mother Majella Smith.

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 getty music

## Keith and Kristyn Getty are Home for Christmas with New Irish at SSE Arena



## **New Irish Choir and Orchestra as part of their 30th Anniversary Celebrations, have announced a different kind of Christmas concert for this year.**

On 20th December New Irish will join Keith and Kristyn Getty for their “Home for Christmas” event in the SSE Arena. After many years of highly-popular Christmas tours in the USA, the Gettys will bring their unique and vibrant celebration home to Belfast for the very first time. New Irish are “delighted to be working with our founder again in this anniversary year, as the New Irish Choir and Orchestra will feature alongside the Getty band and other special guests. Please note that this replaces our usual Waterfront events this year – and we expect demand for tickets to be very high”.

Pre-sale tickets go on sale Wednesday at 10AM, and those on our mailing list will get exclusive access (sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/new-irish>)

General tickets go on sale this Friday at 10AM via [www.ssearenabelfast.com](http://www.ssearenabelfast.com)

## **LEARN Global - Coleraine Methodist video**

The video of Sunday's service at Coleraine Methodist Church with Rev Sam McGuffin and Nyasha presenting her LEARN Global project is available on the Circuit's YouTube channel at [https://youtu.be/\\_jQ4Xk7yEbA](https://youtu.be/_jQ4Xk7yEbA)

# Perspective

## A Spirituality of Summer by Gemma Simmonds CJ

**The liturgical life of the church tells us that times and seasons matter. Our whole cycle of life as Christians expressed in liturgy and sacrament offers embodied signs of the presence around us of the incarnate God, alive within our own bodies, in the bodies of others and within the whole of creation.**

Liturgically, summer is 'ordinary time', when, after the Ascension, we begin to come to terms with the absence of Jesus' earthly body and get the measure of what 'This is my body' might mean in day-to-day terms.

Of course, it has a specific meaning in connection with the Eucharist and Jesus' words at the Last Supper. But part of what we might call a 'spirituality of summer' is an invitation to a more contemplative approach to the life of our senses, noticing more acutely the world as it comes alive all around us.

Summer reminds us of the insane generosity of God. Trees and plants flower and fruit in a way that can seem almost criminally wasteful. Neither animals nor humans can eat and use all the fruit that emerges from the trees and bushes. If a spirituality of summer tells us anything, it is that the fruition of the earth, the fruit of time spent contemplatively going about our daily tasks, is always going to be more than we can calculate and make use of in obvious ways.



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A sense of ‘the sacrament of the present moment’ can liberate us from the tyranny of time, dominated by market forces and the idolization of work and of productiveness as value. The God whose times and seasons are full of generous wastefulness invites us in the summer, perhaps more vividly than at other times, to hear ‘this is my body’ as an invitation to savour the beauties of creation.

*Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ is Senior Research Fellow and Director, Religious Life Institute, at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge. Courtesy St Paul’s Cathedral*

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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**Please commend to others**