

Church News Ireland



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Bradford is the UK City of Culture 2025. Central to this challenge is the life, the history and the ongoing witness of Bradford Cathedral. CNI invites you to take time to view today's Cathedral Calls on pages for an overview of Bradford Cathedral's response.

Hopefully there may be a service, some architecture or an event which may give a focus of attraction for a visit.

News

Cold weather advice by Ecclesiastical insurance

“Careful maintenance and risk management can help prevent property damage and/or injury during the winter months. To help you manage the risk and stay safe this winter, we’ve brought all of our cold weather advice together in one place” say Ecclesiastical insurance.

The company has organised its advice at -

[\https://www.ecclesiastical.ie/risk-management/cold-weather/?

BEM for Kilkeel parishioner

Warmest congratulations to Kilkeel parishioner Sally Johnston, who has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year’s Honours List.

The award is for services to education and to the community in County Down.

Sally held a senior administrative role in Banbridge Academy for 27 years and was personal assistant to two Principals - Mr Raymond Pollock OBE for 18 years and Mr Robin McLoughlin OBE for almost 9. For over 20 years she has been Honorary Secretary to the Select Vestry in Christ Church Kilkeel and also serves on the Diocesan Council. Sally was recently appointed Branch Secretary for the local Royal British Legion.

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The arrival of the letter from the Cabinet Office was a totally unexpected but lovely surprise for the Johnston household.

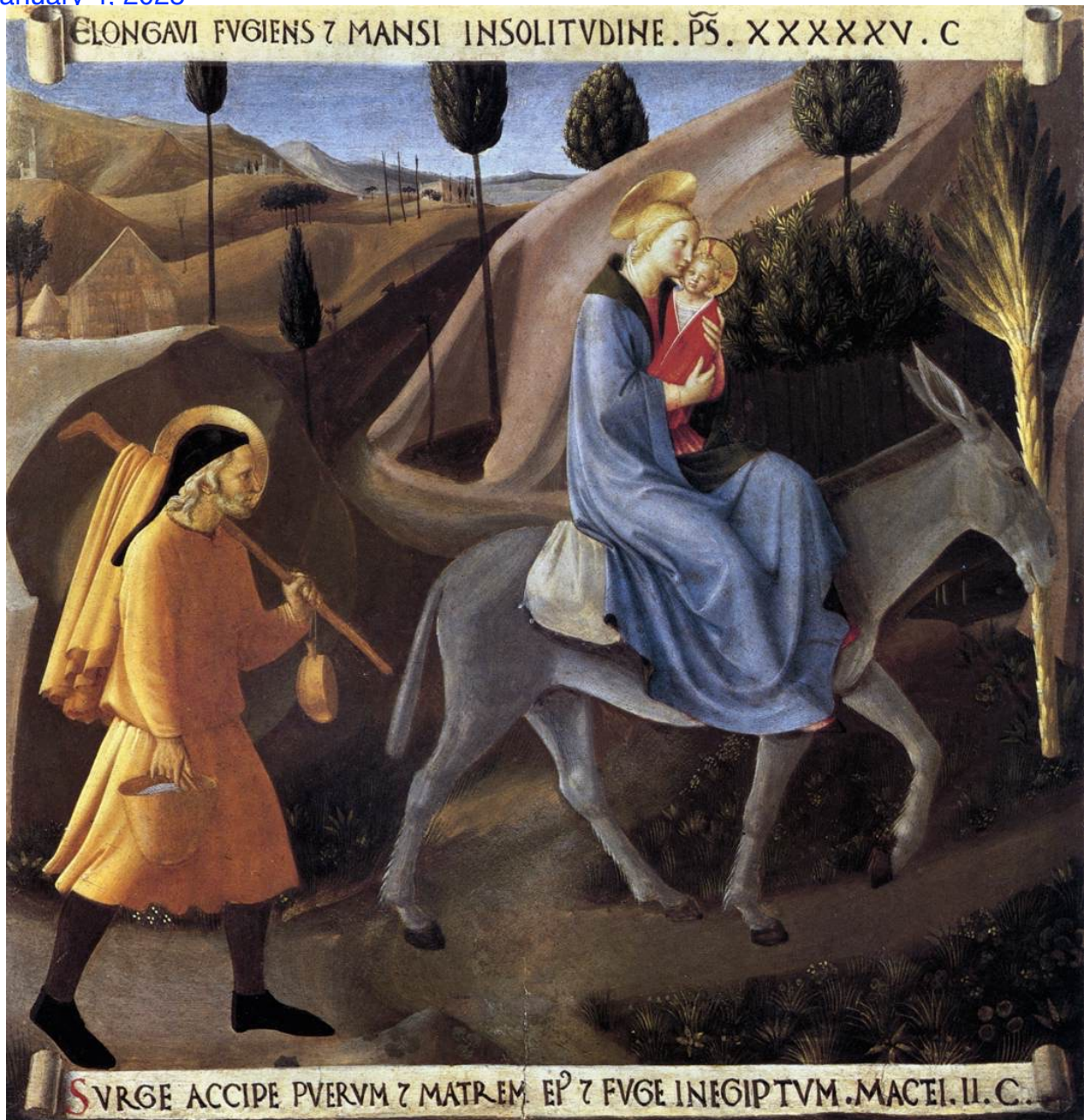
“The timing of this award was particularly special as my son is home from Australia for Christmas, so I was able to tell the whole family together in the one room, which was very special.

“I am completely humbled by the number of messages of congratulations from those I know and many I don’t! Obviously, I am completely overwhelmed to be honoured in such a special way for doing a job I loved but I’m delighted and looking forward to the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant and a Royal Garden Party at some stage in the next six months.”

Service of Prayer and Healing in Carrick, Limavady

The Rector of All Saints' Clooney, Rev Canon David McBeth, will be the guest speaker at a special Service of Prayer for Healing taking place in Carrick Parish Church on Sunday 26th January, beginning at 6pm.

During the service, members of the congregation will have the opportunity to come forward and receive individual prayer. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether they're seeking healing for themselves or for someone they love.



The flight into Egypt

Carrick Church is located at Carrick Lane, Ballyquin Road, Limavady BT49 9HA. For further details, contact the Rector of the Balteagh Group of Parishes, Rev Rhys Jones.

Church of England plays its part in the rural economy, Lords hear

The rural economy is something that “we in the Church of England are glad to play our part in”, the Bishop of St

Albans, Dr Alan Smith, said in a House of Lords debate called by him.

“We are at the heart of many of our rural communities across the country, wanting to contribute to their flourishing and thriving.”

With a reference to “the untapped potential of the rural economy and the prosperity that it can deliver for our nation”, Dr Smith hoped that everything could be framed with “the right policies and support in place”, and declared his interest “as president of the Rural Coalition and as a vice-president of the Local Government Association”.

“Nearly 20 per cent of the population of this country live in the countryside,” he said, “and over half a million businesses are registered in rural areas, employing 3.8 million people. The rural economy contributes over £315 billion a year to England alone. It is vital, then, that the Government’s missions not only deliver for rural communities but enable the rural economy to play its part in helping to deliver them.”

Baroness Shephard listed community benefits, concluding with “our rural schools, nearly a quarter of which in Norfolk are church schools, where teachers strive to nurture and to encourage ambition and aspiration; and our network of churches, a lifeline for many”.

The Earl of Devon praised Dr Smith “not only for calling this debate but for his tireless work on behalf of rural communities. At a time when the Bishops’ Benches are somewhat under assault, it is notable how much work he

does. The recently retired Bishop of Exeter similarly did an awful lot of work for rural communities, and the Bishops' voices are incredibly powerful."

Lord Gascoigne said: "I pay tribute to . . . the Bishop of St Albans, for whom I have great admiration. Alongside . . . the Bishop of Norwich, he adds immense value to discussion of the crucial issues of rural communities and the environment. Like their namesakes on a chessboard, when they are combined, they are formidable, and they bring important views to this Chamber."

Poverty, inequality, affordable housing and the impact of second homes in rural areas, and small businesses and growth were all touched on during the debate as pressing points of concern. Responding on behalf of the Government, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Baroness Hayman, assured the House that "we will continue to talk to the Treasury from DEFRA, and I will always stand up for the countryside and our rural communities. We recognise the importance of the rural economy and wider rural communities."

In concluding the debate, on 19 December, Dr Smith thanked the Minister, and said that he feared that "very often, government is rural-blind. Many of us, for many years now, have been asking for a comprehensive rural strategy, and for proper rural-proofing, not because of special pleading but because we believe that this can make a huge difference to our nation."

Cathedral Calls



Bradford Cathedral and Bradford UK - City of Culture 2025

The first wave of events at Bradford Cathedral during the first four months of the UK City of Culture year have just been announced. It will include a play, a talk, tours, an exhibition, music recitals, and much more.

The cathedral writes - And the cathedral is hiring! Deadline is 23 January for all three jobs – check them out here. As part of our major project for City of Culture 2025, we will be helping people to explore the rich heritage of Bradford

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through **the historic threads of the wool trade** that go back to our foundations 1,400 years ago and bind our global city together. We will host demonstrations, offer tours around our many links with the wool trade and present art exhibitions on the theme of our woollen history.



To accompany this, we will be placing a large loom in the Cathedral and inviting everyone to add a piece of wool to a large tapestry that will hang in the Cathedral after 2025. This legacy tapestry will represent the countless stories of people's connection to Bradford.

The theme for the first third of the year is 'Creativity Under Pressure':



“Arts and culture are at their most powerful and meaningful when they flow from the crucibles of life. At times of upheaval, trauma and change, artists, poets, musicians rise up to express in new creative ways the unchanging, universal truths of humanity.” It is under pressure that the arts become their most prophetic, pointing us to new possibilities, hidden hope and wells of strength.

This season we will be presenting exhibitions, performances and events that inspire us to explore why this is and how we can engage with it.” The season begins in January with the return of the weekly free organ recitals Wednesday@ One, with the programmes played by the guest organists reflecting the theme of Music in Times of War.



Two Historical Pilgrimages will be held on Saturday 18th January, where you can journey around the ancient building to the sound of prayers, poetry, stories, hymns and music of former times. January will conclude with a special Holocaust Memorial Service, and local school children will be invited to the Cathedral as part of a Bradford Schools of Sanctuary event, where children's author Tom Palmer will speak about how many of his books feature refugees and why that matters to him. Moving into February and Bradford Cathedral will be represented at the Blaise Wool Festival at Bradford Industrial Museum.

On the same weekend **two Ecclesiastical Textiles' Tours** will be run at the Cathedral, where you can discover the amazing stories behind the Cathedral's textiles. On the 10th February the Beacon of Hope exhibition will launch, featuring work created by the creative voices of students from Carlton Bolling School, with a presentation evening being held later in the month. Moving into March and two

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Morris & Co. Stained Glass Window Tours will be held on the Saturday before Morris' birthday anniversary.

Then, in April, there will be **five performances of Gideon: a play with music**, a piece about Gideon Klein, a bright and brilliant young composer murdered by the Nazi, a co-production between Bradford Cathedral, Bradford Reformed Synagogue and Modalways CIC.



Finally, on the last day of the month, there will be the first in a series of events under the banner of Re:Imagine, exploring Intercultural Conversation. Also, during this season, **Bradford Cathedral will be one of the host venues for The Third Anglican Intercultural Mission Conference**; there will be further videos documenting the creation of a model Cathedral by Michael Scott; you can explore the history of the Cathedral through the outdoor

timeline; and the Cathedrals Cycle Route baton will be on display, with more to be announced.

There are also the regular services, events and meetings held at Bradford Cathedral, including **the return of the monthly Bradford Faith Trail from March**, and everyone is welcome to discover the Cathedral by visiting during the daily opening hours.

The Revd Ned Lunn, Canon for Intercultural Mission and the Arts, says: “This season, we invite you to explore the transformative power of creativity in the face of adversity. As we embark on a journey through the first months of Bradford’s UK City of Culture year, we celebrate how art and culture thrive under pressure—whether it’s through music, storytelling, or visual exhibition.”

From stirring organ recitals to the first of our new Re:Imagine series of conversations, each event invites us to reflect on the strength of the human spirit in times of challenge and change.”

Join us at Bradford Cathedral, where creativity will not only inspire but also offer new possibilities, hidden hope, and shared strength. We look forward to welcoming you to a season full of reflection, discovery, and inspiration.

“More events and exhibitions will follow later in the year, with more information available on the Bradford Cathedral website. **Future themes include ‘Weaving Stories’ (May – September) and ‘Global Connections’ (September – December)**, and within these there will be an exhibition from Airedale Stitchers called Our Bradford; a new piece called

Woven Lives; and a Heritage Open Day celebrating the work of women in the Cathedral's windows and textiles. More will be announced soon.

For the Weaving Stories project the Cathedral are also looking to fill three paid roles of Project Evaluator, Sound Artist, and Visual Artist, and more information about these can be found online from Monday 16th December. Sitting alongside these will be the next Yorkshire Heritage Way pilgrimage; the Art of Andalucia flamenco evening; the launch of the next Cathedrals Cycle Relay; the New Music Biennial; Bradford Festival Choral Society: Echoes of Eternity and the next Chordiality concert. You can find out more about all the events happening from January to April 2025 – and beyond – by clicking [here](#), calling the Cathedral office on 01274 77 77 20, visiting the Cathedral during its daily opening hours, or picking up a What's On booklet.

Clergy and ministry

Introductory zoom session to Youth Mental Health

The Church of Ireland Youth Department will be hosting an introductory session to Youth Mental Health on Monday 20th January, 7-9pm over zoom.

This is for parents, youth leaders (voluntary and paid) and clergy. This session is free to all in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

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It will be taught by Action Mental Health and we hope it will lead to more specialised information sessions in the future. To receive the zoom link please sign up at the following link <https://forms.gle/znYEkdTorkj53PXb7>

Bradford Cathedral - what to see
[<https://bradfordcathedral.org.uk/visit-us/what-to-see/>]

Excellent accounts of the various events at -
[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bradford-cathedral-13158341111>]



C of I Vocations Retreat 2025

The Vocations Retreat 2025, organised by the Commission on Ministry, will take place in Manresa Retreat Centre, Clontarf, Dublin, from 21–23 February 2025.

The Vocations Retreat is open to all who are exploring a sense of calling to ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland and is intended as a period of reflection and discernment. The guest speaker is the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, who will address four sessions during the weekend.

The retreat takes place in the context of worship and prayer and there is opportunity for further reflection and conversation.

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended with a deadline of Friday, 24th January 2025.

Those interested in attending may also contact their Diocesan Director of Ordinands for additional information.

A leaflet about the Vocations Retreat is provided along with a booking form at the following link on the Church of Ireland website:

<https://www.churchofireland.org/news/12653/commission-on-ministry-vocations-retreat>

Fr Frank MacNamara

Fr Frank MacNamara, the former parish priest of Ratoath, and founding director of the Schola Cantorum

music school at St Finian's College, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, has died, aged 93.

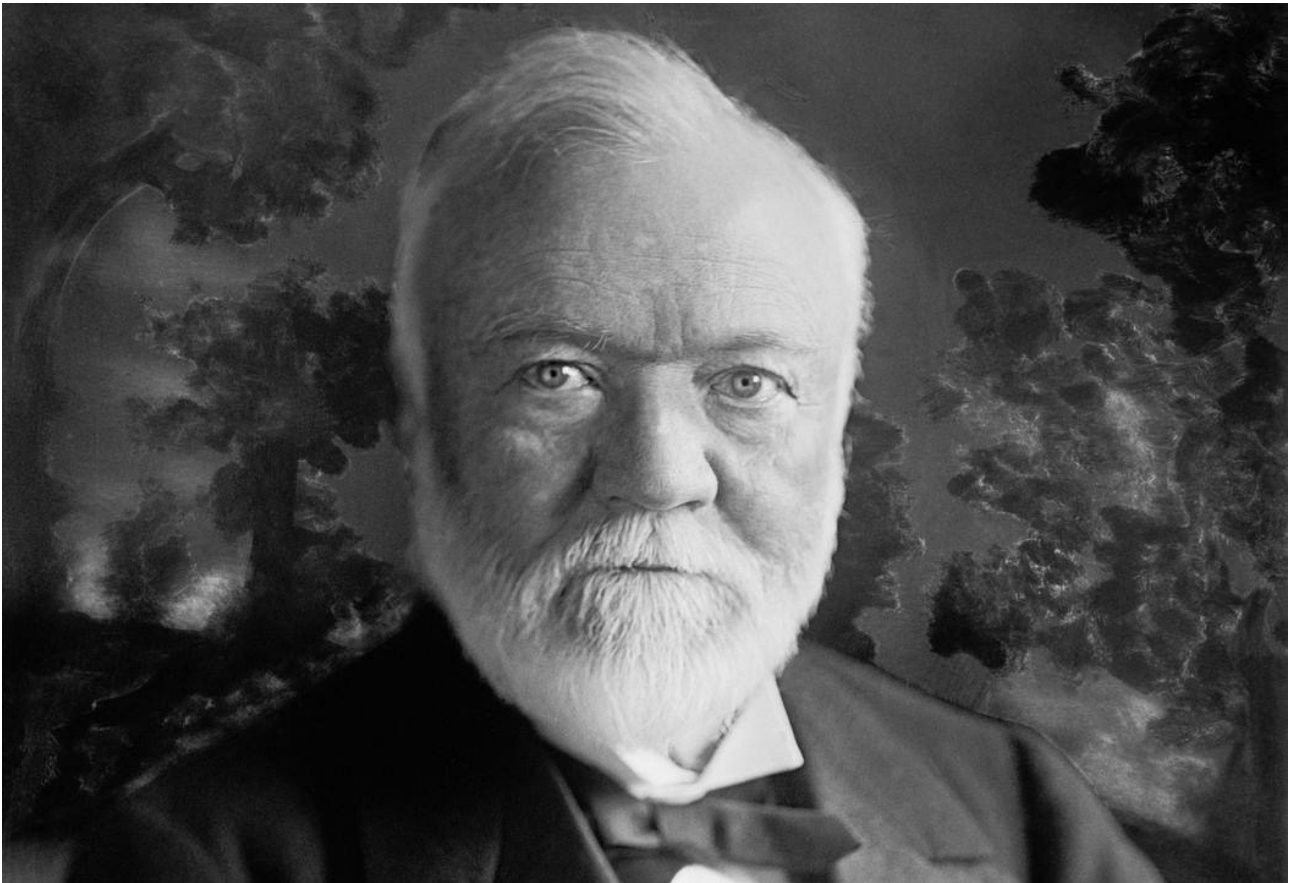
The Clara, Co Offaly, native was parish priest in Ratoath from 1984 to 1998, when he was succeeded by Fr Gerry Stuart. Born on 5th May 1931, he was educated at the Franciscan Boys National School, Clara, St Finian's College, Mullingar, St Patrick's College, Maynooth and University College Dublin (UCD), where he undertook a Bachelors in Music Degree.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1956 and was then appointed to the staff of St Finian's College where he taught until 1984. During his time there he was the first director of the Schola Cantorum which was established there by the Irish hierarchy in 1970, and he also periodically taught chant and choral pedagogy at Maynooth and at UCD from 1967 until 1984.

Fr MacNamara's contribution to the Schola was immense as the task set by the Irish hierarchy of establishing the specialist music school fell entirely on him.

In doing so, he broke new ground and he set the high standards of teaching and learning which have permeated the Schola ever since. During his years as director, he proved to be an extraordinarily gifted musician, possessing an innate musicianship and standards of perfection, which he communicated to his students as core benchmarking principles. His vision for the Schola was that it would educate and train its gifted students as future organists and leaders in the music profession throughout the land, a vision that he had the satisfaction of seeing realised.

Courtesy John Donohoe, The Westmeath Examiner



Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie, the "Steel King," remains a legendary figure in history for his immense wealth and philanthropy.

Born on November 25, 1835, in Dunfermline, Scotland, Carnegie's journey from a poor immigrant to the richest man in the world is truly inspiring.

After moving to the United States in 1848, Carnegie worked various manual jobs before investing in the railroad industry. By 1889, his company, Carnegie Steel Corporation, had become the largest steel company in the world. In 1901, he

sold his company for \$480 million, equivalent to 2.1% of the U.S. GDP at the time.

Carnegie dedicated the last 18 years of his life to philanthropy, donating 90% of his wealth, approximately \$350 million, to various causes. He believed that the wealthy should use their resources to benefit society, famously stating, "The man who dies rich dies disgraced".

Carnegie's contributions to education were significant. He funded the establishment of over 3,000 public libraries and founded the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now Carnegie Mellon University. His legacy continues to inspire future generations to use their wealth for the greater good

In the media

Could Pierbattista Pizzaballa be the next Pope?

Pierbattista Pizzaballa is a name that deserves to be world famous. Very soon, it might be. It belongs to one of the most intriguing figures in the Catholic Church, who's recently emerged as a leading candidate for the top job, Peter Franklin writes in Unherd.

Pizzaballa's current role — Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem — is challenging enough. Recently he made headlines by entering the Gaza Strip to visit the territory's shattered Christian minority. His promise not to abandon his flock comes with some credibility. At the outset of the war, he

made a serious offer to take the place of the Israeli hostages snatched by Hamas on 7 October 2023. Now, with an end to the war in sight, he's likely to play a key role in facilitating whatever peace is possible.

However, it's the part he might play in the choice of the next Pope that's attracting the most attention. Francis is increasingly infirm and often unable to undertake the travel that is part of the modern papacy — he was, for instance, absent from the re-opening of Notre-Dame in Paris earlier this month. The film of the Robert Harris novel *Conclave* is currently in cinemas, but before long we could be watching the drama of a real papal election.

In Harris's fiction, the man chosen to be Pope (who, spoilers ahead, turns out to be a woman) is a mysterious bishop from the Middle East. Apart from the lurid plot twist, the same can be said of Pizzaballa. Until last year, he wasn't even a cardinal. And yet upon receiving his red hat he was suddenly catapulted into the ranks of the papabili.

A big part of the attraction is that he's not a factional figure — being associated with neither the allies nor the enemies of the current Pope. Where Francis blunders into needless controversy, Pizzaballa is the diplomat he's always had to be — both in his current position and, before that, as custodian of the Holy Places of Jerusalem (a job that requires the delicate handling of ancient sensitivities).

Other advantages are his relative youth (he's 59) and health (apparently good). After 25 years of elderly, ailing Popes, that would make a change. He'd also be the first Italian

Pope since the 1970s, but one who's spent most of his career a long way from the politics of the Vatican.

There are things about him that will please reformists and traditionalists alike. He seems at home in the modern world, but is also appreciative of older forms of worship; he has, for instance, celebrated mass *ad orientem* (i.e. facing away from the congregation and turned towards Jerusalem and God). So there's reason to hope that, as Pope, he'd end Francis's obsessive clamp-down on the traditional Latin mass.

But what does Pizzaballa actually believe? Theologically, is he a liberal or a conservative? Politically, does he lean to the Left or the Right? The truth is that it's remarkably hard to tell. Unlike many of his rivals, he's not one to inflame the Church's divisions.

By next Christmas, or the one after that, Pizzaballa could be Pope — and it's only then that his brother bishops will discover the full measure of the man.

Peter Franklin is Associate Editor of UnHerd. He was previously a policy advisor and speechwriter on environmental and social issues.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

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