

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Blessing the boats**

May 14, 2024

## Image of the day

### Blessing of the Boats with Malahide Sea Scouts

Canon David Gillespie with Fr Martin Noonan being blessed with good weather.

## News



### Highly commended in C of I photography competition

Caroline Stewart, from Magheralin parish, in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, based her photo, taken in the parish grounds, on planting “the seeds of hope in our young children to

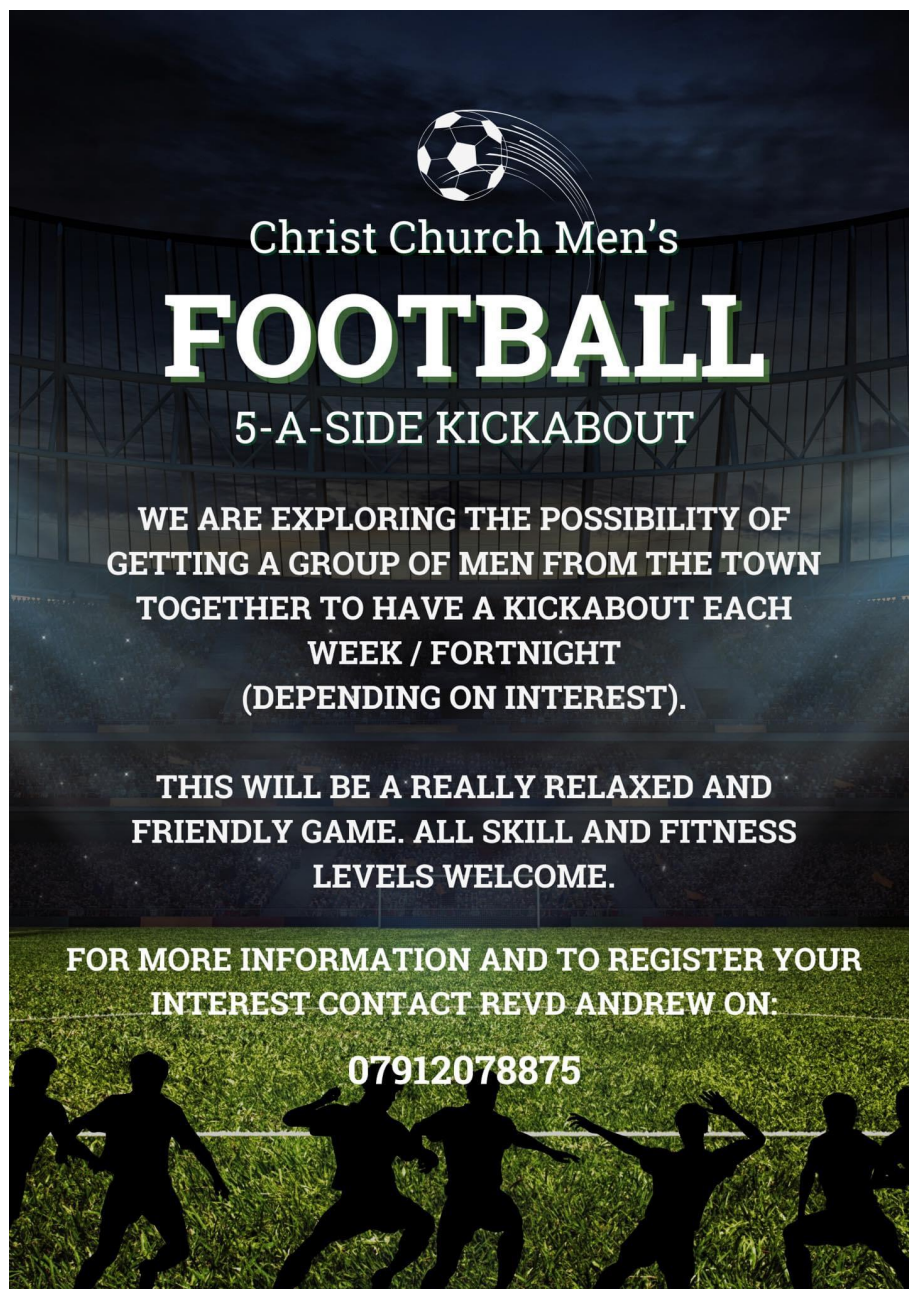
love and serve the Lord.” The judge commented: “I can sense the photographer’s hope in this photo.”





## **Congratulations to GBNI Gold Award achievers**

21 young women who achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award through Girls' Brigade NI had the privilege to attend Buckingham Palace recently. Pictured below are some of the recipients that attended alongside GBNI Vice-President, Heather Lindsay representing GBNI.



## All age men's football in Limavady

Starting tomorrow Wednesday 15th May at 8-9pm In Christ Church Parish Hall. The invite states - Come along on Wednesday night and we will sort out a night we can regularly meet and have a kick about. To be

added into the WhatsApp Group contact Revd Andrew or message the page.

## Castleknock confirmation

Castleknock and Mulhuddart. celebrated with their 19 young people who were confirmed in St Brigid's by the Archbishop. Congratulations were conveyed to all of them and they were





wished all God's richest blessing as they continue their journey of faith.

## **B-Positive visit**

The Grouped Parishes of Aghaderg, Donaghmore and Scarva recently had a visit from David and Sara Watson from B-Positive. It was a very moving morning with a heartbreaking story.



**CARLOW UNION OF PARISHES**  
**HOLIDAY CLUB FOR KIDS**  
**GARDEN DAY**

**€5 PER CHILD**

Continuing our monthly Sunday Club **God's Welcoming Church** gardening project, we invite kids to join us for a day this Summer. Enjoy planting and practise the basics of gardening. Learn about pollinators and biodiversity. We'll play games, enjoy art and gardening activities and have a picnic lunch. Explore the joys of gardening and let your inner gardener thrive!

**TUESDAY 9TH JULY**  
**10AM TO 2PM**  
**CHURCH OF IRELAND COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
**HAYMARKET, CARLOW R93E427**

Suitable for primary school children age 4 - 12 yrs

*To book your place or for more information contact Carolyn at: [secretarycarlowunion@gmail.com](mailto:secretarycarlowunion@gmail.com)*  
*Don't forget to let us know about food allergies.*

## Carlow Holiday Club

**“An exciting new venture! This year we’re going to run a one day Holiday Club for our brilliant gardening kids!**



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“This event will continue the work we do all year long in our Sunday Club and will be great fun. Mark the day in your diaries and get in touch with Carolyn at the email address provided to book your place!”

## Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission meets

Linda Nicholas and Martin Browne were in Strasbourg for the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission meeting. “We began with a beautiful liturgy at the Cathedral - complete with Gregorian chant, incense and well-practised liturgical participants. Welcomed warmly.”

## It's all go on the Ormeau





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A fantastic Fun  
Day at Cooke  
Centenary  
Church...

Collection for  
Christian Aid  
Ireland with  
Newtownbreda  
(St John's)  
Presbyterian  
(in that  
heat!)... and  
then L'Arche



Belfast's amazing  
Spring Fayre to  
top it all off...

## **Cemetery Sunday prayers at Milltown**

Bishop Alan  
McGuckian of  
Down and Connor  
and Fr Martin  
Graham at the  
Cemetery Sunday  
prayers at  
Milltown  
Cemetery Belfast.





## Mass with Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate their wives and families

On Saturday 11th May, Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ celebrated Mass in Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre (Crossgar) with Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate, their wives and families from the Dioceses Armagh, Clogher, Down & Connor and Dromore.

Deacon Brett Lockhart (Director of the Permanent Diaconate) assisted at the Mass.



Some of the Formation Team from Armagh, Clogher, Dromore, Down & Connor who gave input on the theme of ministering to the Sick and Bereaved.

## **Deputy Principal for Bandon Grammar**

**The Board of  
Directors  
and Board of  
Management  
at Bandon  
Grammar  
School have  
announced  
the**



**appointment of Mr Brian Shanahan as new Deputy  
Principal.**

A native of Rosscarbery, Mr Shanahan has worked in education for 14 years. Brian began his career in teaching PE & Maths in Colaiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon. Brian has been part of the team here in Bandon Grammar School for the past 9 years, teaching Mathematics & PE. He is heavily involved in school sports and our extra curricular programme. Mr Shanahan is a member of the Irish Maths Teachers Association (IMTA).

Brian holds a degree in Sports Studies & Physical Education with Mathematics and a Masters in Management Information and Managerial Accounting Systems, both from University College Cork. Before working in education, Brian



spent some years in private industry in Management Consulting with Accenture PLC.

Mr Shanahan is looking forward to his new role in Bandon Grammar School as Deputy Principal and working alongside current Deputy Principal Ms Eileen Collins and Principal Ms Niamh McShane.

## **C of I Diocesan initiatives encourage interest in vocations**

**Several dioceses around the Church have run specific initiatives to help parishioners to respond to the call of God in their lives over the course of the last year.**

Following on from Vocation Sunday (marked in many parishes around the island on 12th May), we hope that these four projects are encouraging for everyone on this journey.

‘What’s Your Call?’ was a new initiative in the **Diocese of Armagh** to open up a conversation around vocations to all levels of ministry and service in the Church and in the Kingdom of God. This was not just about ordination but was also about pastoral visitors, parish and diocesan readers, youth ministry, Ordained Local Ministry and more.

The diocese held three Vocation Roadshows during April and May 2024 to which people could come along and hear from those who have answered ‘the call’ and explore, without pressure or commitment, what God might be calling them to. Alongside this, a series of videos is being produced



with interviews with people who have already responded to the question, 'What's Your Call?'

The first video in the series, with Harry Simpson from St Mark's, Portadown, can be viewed here:

<https://vimeo.com/905494892>

"Everyone in the Church is called to God's ministry." So says the **Revd Ruth O'Kelly**, the Joint Diocesan Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of **Meath and Kildare**, along with her counterpart, the Revd William Seale.

Are you wondering if God is calling you to a particular ministry of service in the Church, perhaps to ordination? To mark Vocation Sunday, why not listen to this reflection from Ruth and William? It will give you space to think and to listen: <https://vimeo.com/938333019/755f787007>



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On Saturday, 27th January, this year, **Bishop Paul Colton** held a Morning Vigil of Thanksgiving for ministry in the Diocese of **Cork, Cloyne and Ross** at Cloyne Cathedral with prayers also for vocations.

This was in response to the previous Morning Vigil held in 2023 at which members of the diocese prayed for the vacant parishes at the time. During the course of the year, all these vacancies were filled. The diocese gave thanks for the various appointments made in 2023, and prayed for vocations, ministries and upcoming vacancies. Over the next three Sundays in **Down and Dromore**, the diocese is



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DRUMGLASS PARISH CENTRE

# ROYAL EXHIBITION

A display of Royal memorabilia, by Rev. Derek Kerr  
**Friday 17th - Sunday 19th May**  
Friday; open to schools 10am-3pm, public 3-9pm  
Saturday; 10am-4pm                      Sunday; 2-5pm

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

PROCEEDS IN AID OF  
PARISH BUILDING FUND

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inviting parishioners to spend some time thinking about their God-given vocation.

Most of us will work out our vocation in our homes, families and places of work. Others may sense a call to full-time ministry in the Church. All are ways in which we uniquely contribute to the world for the glory of God and the sake of his kingdom. All are invaluable to God and his Church.

To help with prayerfully considering vocation, a recorded performance of a song by the **Revd Eoghan Heaslip** (from St Catherine's, Dublin) – 'What you've called me to' – is presented along with some short reflections on calling from ordinands: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne3NNLUqQ7U>

## Archbishop of Canterbury's weekend visit to Zanzibar

**The Archbishop of Canterbury travelled to Zanzibar last weekend to visit the Anglican church in the region and meet with political and religious leaders.**

The Archbishop made the long-planned visit at the invitation of the Primate of the







Anglican Church of Tanzania, the Most Revd Maimbo Mndolwa. He met with Anglican bishops and clergy, as well as different faith leaders on the island. He will also meet he Presidents of Zanzibar and Tanzania.



On Sunday the Archbishop preached at a Eucharist service in Christ Church Cathedral, which is built on the site of an old slave market, where he spoke on healing, reconciliation and



redemption.

Before his visit Archbishop Justin said: “I’m looking forward to spending time with the Anglican Church in Zanzibar. From healthcare and social action projects, to addressing the dark and painful past of slavery, the Diocese has a mission to further

the healing work of Christ in our world today. I look forward to praying with and learning from our brothers and sisters and being alongside them in their journey with Christ in Zanzibar”.

The Archbishop’s three-day visit began on Friday and concluded on Sunday.

## **Archbishop Martin comments on Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day**

**Archbishop Martin of Archdiocese of Armagh draws attention to Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day: Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication**



Just over 50 years ago the Second Vatican Council decided to dedicate a day every year to highlight the use of social communications in the spread of the gospel. The document, *Inter Mirifica* recognised that wonderful technological discoveries and inventions, “if properly utilized, can be of great service to the spread and support of the Kingdom of God”.

Picking up on themes from his recent World Communications Day messages, Pope Francis situates true communication – speaking, listening and hearing – in the wisdom of the human heart. He challenges us to consider whether technology necessarily makes us humanly richer, or poorer.

✕ Sat 18th May  
4pm

✕ Meeting at  
the front of  
Cooke Church

✕ Walking and  
praying for  
our city and  
streets

**PRAYER WALKING  
ON THE ORMEAU**

Everyone  
welcome to participate

His message is a timely invitation to reflect on how AI might be harnessed to promote the mission of the Gospel in a social media environment where content is now created by both humankind and by machines.

Pope Francis addresses the “possibilities and the risks” presented by artificial intelligence. He cautions: “It is important to understand, appreciate and regulate instruments that, in the wrong hands could lead to disturbing scenarios.” He appeals once more to the international community “to work together in order to adopt a binding international treaty that regulates the development and use of artificial intelligence in its many forms”. The amazing possibilities of artificial intelligence are already apparent, but Pope Francis advises, “there is a need to act preventively, by proposing models of ethical regulation, to forestall harmful, discriminatory and socially unjust effects...”.

The Holy Father further reflects, “How can we remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve a good purpose?” In answering this, Pope Francis notes, “at this time in history, which risks becoming rich in technology and poor in humanity, our reflections must begin with the human heart ... Wisdom of the heart, then, is the virtue that enables us to integrate the whole and its parts, our decisions and their consequences, our nobility and our vulnerability, our past and our future, our individuality and our membership within a larger community.”

Pope Francis reminds us that, “it is up to us to decide whether we will become fodder for algorithms or will nourish our hearts with that freedom without which we cannot grow



in wisdom”, and that, “the great possibilities for good” of artificial intelligence is accompanied by “the risk of turning everything into abstract calculations that reduce individuals to data, thinking to a mechanical process, experience to isolated cases, goodness to profit, and, above all, a denial of the uniqueness of each individual and his or her story.”

In his message for the World Day of Peace on 1st January last, Pope Francis already noted that if artificial intelligence is used well, “it could introduce important innovations in agriculture, education and culture, an improved level of life for entire nations and peoples, and the growth of human fraternity and social friendship.” He is anxious to point out that, “the way we use it to include the least of our brothers and sisters, the vulnerable and those most in need, will be the true measure of our humanity.” He therefore stresses the importance of what he calls “algorithethics” – a cross disciplinary ethical dialogue, especially on the values which will shape the direction taken by new technologies, including artificial intelligence.

A number of particular issues and questions emerge in the Holy Father’s message, including: the use of artificial intelligence in weapons and war; its impact on professionalism and the dignity of workers; the important responsibilities of its use in advertising; the danger of “deepfakes” in social media, and the operation of algorithms in “search engines that are capable of celebrating or canceling persons and opinions, histories and cultures”. Pope Francis accepts that machines undoubtedly “possess a limitlessly greater capacity than human beings for storing and correlating data, but human beings alone are capable of making sense of that data.” And then he makes a key point:

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“It is not simply a matter of making machines appear more human, but of awakening humanity from the slumber induced by the illusion of omnipotence, based on the belief that we are completely autonomous and self-referential subjects, detached from all social bonds and forgetful of our status as creatures.”

That is why Pope Francis advises that we must always remember to have the human heart as our starting point: “Only by adopting a spiritual way of viewing reality, only by recovering a wisdom of the heart, can we confront and interpret the newness of our time and rediscover the path to a fully human communication.”

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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