

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

Open Farm Weekend book now

Photo above -Pupils pictured at CAFRE Greenmount during a school visit in 2024.

Dedicated school's day booking now open

The Bank of Ireland Open Farm Weekend (BOIOFW) initiative is taking place on Friday 13 (dedicated schools' day), Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 June 2025.

This free, educational event aimed at school pupils and families, promotes the 'farm to fork' message and provides a glimpse of farm life, seeing beyond the farm gate. The message is delivered exclusively to pupils through a FREE interactive on-farm experience on Friday 13 June, and schools' booking is now open!

Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) deputy president and BOIOFW chair John McLenaghan said, "I would encourage all schools to consider organising an educational trip to a local participating farm on Friday 13 June 2025. The free interactive schools' day provides pupils with the opportunity to experience real-life working farms and for farmers to deliver the 'farm to fork' story, reconnecting consumers with our farmers - the primary food producers.

"Pupils can visit participating farms across Northern Ireland, taking part in many interactive sensory activities such as seed planting and insect hunts, whilst also getting an

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exclusive farm tour speaking directly with our dedicated farm hosts.

“This is a very rewarding day for both the pupils and farm hosts, sharing their unique farm story. In turn, this helps pupils to better understand the important role farmers play in their everyday life, highlighting where food comes from and how farmers take care of the landscape, raising quality livestock and crops to ensure there is always food readily available for consumers.”

Please note: Time slots are limited, and the number of pupils per farm vary. Slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For more information contact Lynsay Beattie at UFU HQ on 028 9037 0222 or email lhawkes@ufuhq.com. To view participating farms, visit the Open Farm Weekend website at: www.openfarmweekend.com.

News

East Belfast Mission thanks for new homes inclusion hub

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the official opening of the Hosford Community Homes Inclusion Hub at 240 Newtownards Road! This milestone marks the beginning of a new chapter in community-led housing.



We are deeply grateful to Urban Villages, Ulster Garden Villages, Benefact Trust, Garfield Weston, and the many local churches, businesses, and individuals whose generous support made this vision a reality.

Together, we've transformed an empty building into six welcoming apartments and a vibrant community space, creating a pathway to independence, stability, and inclusion for those moving on from hostel accommodation.



GBNi represented at the VE Day 80th Celebration at Horse Guards parade

On Thursday 8th May, four members involved in this year's Queen's Award headed to London to represent GBNi at the VE Day 80th Celebration held at the Horse Guard Parade.

Victoria Lloyd with her Officer and QA Mentor Ruth Dalzell from 38th NI 2nd Comber Presbyterian and Emma Robinson with her GB Captain Julie Robinson from 226th NI Mossley Parish had a great day seeing some of the London attractions before heading to the concert that evening.

A short video of their trip highlights will be shared at the Queen's Award Presentation this Friday evening.



Down and Dromore's 2025 Confirmation season begins in Killyleagh

Down and Dromore's 2025 Confirmation season has begun with warm congratulations to the 12 candidates confirmed at a service in St John the Evangelist, Killyleagh on Sunday evening 11 May

Remembrance Service for families who had lost babies

Conwal Parish Church, in Letterkenny, was the venue for this year's annual inter-denominational Remembrance Service for families who had lost babies as a result of miscarriage, still birth or neo natal death.

The service was organised by the Chaplaincy Department at Letterkenny University Hospital and led by Rev Sean McClafferty, the Church of Ireland Chaplain at LUH, who led the opening prayer, received the emblems of remembrance, read the Gospel and Preached from Psalm 139.

He was assisted by the Roman Catholic Chaplains, Fr Shane Gallagher, Fr Francis Ferry and Kathleen Doherty, with support from staff from the Gynae, Maternity, Neo Natal and Children's Wards.

A time of fellowship followed over refreshments in Conwal Church Hall.



Delegation from the Anglican Communion will attend inauguration of Pope Leo XIV

On Sunday, 18 May, the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV will be held in St. Peter's Square, in Rome at 10 AM. A delegation from the Anglican Communion will attend, joining with other Anglican pilgrims and representatives from Christian World Communions.

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The delegation will represent the prayers and support of Anglicans around the world as Pope Leo is inaugurated. The delegation will also embody the commitment of the Anglican Communion to walk in friendship and partnership with the Catholic Church.

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell is included in the delegation.

Read more here from the Anglican Centre in Rome:
bit.ly/43DuWw3

Crown Nominations Commission members, Anglican Communion representatives announced for election of next Archbishop of Canterbury

The central members and Anglican Communion representatives of the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission were announced on May 13.

This commission works prayerfully and collaboratively to discern and nominate the next archbishop of Canterbury.

The Crown Nominations Commission for the archbishop of Canterbury nomination is larger than that for other diocesan bishops, with 17 voting members in a wider commission made up of 20 members.

In 2022, General Synod approved changes to the CNC's Standing Orders that increased the number of

representatives from the Anglican Communion from one to five for the Crown Nominations Commission of the See of Canterbury. They are nominated by the Anglican Communion, one from each of the five regions and include primates, clergy and lay people.

Voting members

Chair: Lord (Jonathan) Evans of Weardale (appointed by the prime minister)

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell

Bishop of Norwich Graham Usher (elected by the House of Bishops)

Anglican Communion representatives (nominated by the 5 regions of the Communion):

Americas – Mr. Joaquín Philpotts.

Oceania – The Rev. Canon Isaac Beach.

Africa – The Rev. Professor Grace Nkansa Asante.

Asia – The Most Rev. Hosam Naoum.

Europe – The Rt. Rev. Mary Stallard.

Central Members (drawn from the Crown Nominations Commission Central Members elected by General Synod, or a member of the General Synod nominated to represent them):

Ms. Christina Baron

Miss Debbie Buggs

The Rev. Canon Paul Cartwright

The Rev. Lis Goddard

The Rev. Canon Claire Lording

Mr. Clive Scowen

Canterbury Diocesan representatives:

To be announced on the conclusion of the Canterbury Vacancy in See process.

Non-voting members

Secretary to the Commission: Stephen Knott
(Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments)

Jonathan Hellewell (Prime Minister's Appointments
Secretary)

The Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo (The Secretary General of
the Anglican Communion)

Following a public consultation that saw thousands of people share their views on the qualities needed in the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the Commission will convene for its first meeting later this month, followed by at least two further meetings – one in July and another in September. Through these, the Commission will agree the 'Role Profile' and 'Person Specification' for the next Archbishop of Canterbury, discern the longlist, shortlist and interview candidates.

Under the Standing Orders of the General Synod, a nomination cannot be made to The Crown unless it has received the support of at least two-thirds of the total number of the voting members of the Commission in a secret ballot.

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The Chair of the Canterbury CNC, Lord (Jonathan) Evans said: “Helping to choose the next Archbishop of Canterbury is both a great responsibility and a privilege. The Crown Nominations Commission understands the weight of this important decision and we pray for God’s hand on the process.

“I thank those who have taken part in the public consultation across the country and the Anglican Communion, helping us to establish the gifts, skills and qualities required in the next Archbishop. Do please keep the CNC process in your prayers as we seek to discern who God is calling to this important ministry.”

Education

Dalriada's Year 8 raise staggering fundraise for Cancer Fund For Children

Congratulations to Dalriada's Year 8 students who raised a staggering £2,460 for Cancer Fund For Children this year.

“During our time taking part in the Read On challenges, we watched our students with pride as they took on the challenge of reading with great enthusiasm. They turned pages, devoured stories, explored new worlds through books - and most importantly, they did it for a truly wonderful cause.



“A special mention to Zach in 8R who raised a staggering £164.41 all by himself and thank you to all of you who sponsored our students.

“Your money will make such a difference to those facing one of the toughest challenges imaginable, living with cancer. Thank you!”

BRA Art & Design showcase - Summer Serenade

A vibrant yellow poster for a 'Summer Serenade' event. The title 'Summer SERENADE' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'Summer' in a dark teal script and 'SERENADE' in bold pink block letters with a green shadow. In the top right corner is the circular crest of the Belfast Royal Academy, featuring various heraldic symbols and the years 1785, 1860, and 1888. The central graphic consists of large, stylized musical notes and a treble clef in black, blue, pink, and green, with small star-like symbols scattered around. The text on the left side of the poster provides details about the event.

**Summer
SERENADE**

**Join us for an evening of
solo performances from
Junior Musicians**

Assembly Hall

**Thursday 12th June
6.00pm - 7.30pm**

*Refreshments to be served
by Friends of the Academy
5.15pm - 6pm*

BRA invites you to attend the Annual Art5 Exhibition featuring artwork from junior art clubs, GCSE and A Level Art pupils and Moving Image Arts students.



Thursday 12th June 2025



3.30pm - 5.30pm



Pollin Building, Belfast Royal Academy



You are warmly invited to attend
the Belfast Royal Academy

Art & Design Exhibition and Moving Image Arts Showcase

Thursday 12th June,
3.30pm - 5.30pm,
Pollin Building

A-Level, GCSE, junior classes, art club artwork and films
will be on display.



Following this, we will have an evening of solo performances from junior musicians in a Summer Serenade



Thursday 12th June 2025



6.00pm - 7.30pm



Assembly Hall, Belfast Royal Academy

Friends of the Academy will be serving refreshments at this event, 5.15pm - 6pm.

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Please come along to either or both events and support the work of our wonderful Art and Music pupils and staff. Over 100 former Rainey pupils served in the conflict. As conscription was not extended to Northern Ireland, it is even more remarkable that those who committed to the war were volunteers. Northern Ireland Chief Executive Kathryn Thomson and Director of Public Engagement, Aaron Ward.



Waringstown Primary School visit Westminster

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What a fabulous morning in Westminster with the P7 pupils from Waringstown Primary School. It's always great to see young people taking an interest in politics early in life, after all, it's their future we're working to shape, Carla Condell Lockhart MP writes.



Mr McCambley, as ever, was so appreciative of the visit. The school staff and Chair of the Board of Governors also thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. What a superb group of children. All so well-mannered and clearly loving their big adventure to London!

I say this every year, but I know there are probably a few anxious parents at home missing their little people. Rest assured, they're having a brilliant time and, as you'd expect, the staff are looking after them as if they were their own.
#WaringstownSchoolFamily

It's always a pleasure to welcome children from Upper Bann to Westminster and to give them the opportunity to learn more about our democracy and the work of Westminster.

A special mention this year to Mr Mitchell. It was lovely to catch up with him again. As many will know, he's quite the sporting legend, having played for Dungannon Swifts FC and won the Irish Cup Final against Cliftonville earlier this month. A fantastic achievement and a great source of pride for the school and wider community!

Cathedral Calls

Durham for Pentecost Praise

Durhamwrites - Join us for joyous and musical celebrations at Pentecost Praise this June

Music will be led by a band drawn together from churches across the region, and the preacher will be Esther Prior, Bishop of Aston. The service will include anointing and prayer ministry and will be led by Philip Plyming, Dean of Durham and Hannah Wilkinson, Youth Pastor at St Nic's Durham

Thank God together for the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and to celebrate how God is at work in the world today.

Queen unveils foundation stone for major project at 'very special' Abbey

The Queen has unveiled the foundation stone for a major new project at Westminster Abbey, a place she described as "very special".

Camilla returned to the site of the King Charles III Sacristy, which aims to transform the welcome offered to millions of visitors, and marvelled at the concrete floor covering the preserved skeletal remains of ancient burials she had seen previously.

In an impromptu speech to the project's donors, supporters and the Abbey's chapter, the Queen spoke about her visit last autumn in her role as patron of the £13 million project.

She said: "I just want to say how delighted I am to unveil this foundation stone, I can't believe the last time I was here - there's now a floor - the last time I came here there were quite a lot of skeletons.

"I just hope that in 2026 when it's due to finish, God willing my husband and I will be back here again to open the King Charles III Sacristy."

Among the guests were Thomas van Straubenzee, godfather to the Prince of Wales's daughter Princess Charlotte, Paul Ramsbottom chief executive of the Wolfson Foundation, and venture capitalist Matt Cohler.

The building is being constructed on the footprint of Henry III's medieval Great Sacristy built in the 1250s close to the Abbey walls, and after the unveiling. the Queen told the project's architect Ptolemy Dean: "It's full speed ahead."

The development is near to the Abbey's north transept, used as the current visitor entrance, and will allow the public to follow a path around the perimeter of the building and enter via the Abbey's Great West Door.

The Sacristy will house state-of-the-art welcome, security and ticketing facilities, allowing the Abbey itself to be preserved as a sacred space with chairs and other objects stored in the new building and not in the Abbey.

At one point as Camilla told the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle: “I love this place, it's just very special.”

The Queen also chatted to broadcaster and TV gardener Alan Titchmarsh, an ambassador for the project, and said about her first visit to the site: “It was full of skeletons, it was quite spooky - wasn't it?”

Titchmarsh said later: “It's such an exciting development. “It will add to the experience, that everybody will be able to come in the west door — you will stand yards away from the coronation chair.

See more here - <https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/events/pentecost-praise-at-durham-cathedral>

Clergy and ministry

Pioneer Ministry training at CITI

CITI was delighted to welcome Pioneers in training to the college from Wednesday 7th May – Friday 9th.

It was a significant time of Worship, study, and community.

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To find out more about Pioneer Ministry contact
ingrid@pioneerministry.org

<http://dlvr.it/TKnFhB>

Events

Dare to Hope - Irish Bishops Conference for young adults

**Young adults invited to share stories at faith gathering
in Knock**

Knock Shrine - 14 June 2025

To register visit CatholicBishops.ie

Read more

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2025/05/15/young-adults-invited-to-share-stories-at-faith-gathering-in-knock/>

Resources

Let Justice roll - Irish Methodist exploration

"The Kingdom of Heaven is present, here and now. It is not a distant dream but it is the inbreaking of God's presence through tangible life-giving expressions in our world - now."

Written by Rev. Andrew Robinson (WDR Committee member), with contributions Mr Graham Philpott (part of the staff team at our partner Church Land Programme), 'Let Justice Roll' explores our Christian theology.

Download it from our website:

<https://irishmethodist.org/world-development-about>

Heritage

New set of stamps celebrates The Chronicles of Narnia by CS Lewis

Royal Mail has revealed a new set of stamps celebrating The Chronicles of Narnia, written by CS Lewis.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the publication of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — the first in the series of seven fantasy novels.

CS Lewis was born in Belfast in 1898 and spent his early years in the east of the city, briefly attending Campbell College.

A square named after the author was opened in November 2016 at the intersection of the Connswater and Comber Greenways on the anniversary of his death in 1963.

Seven permanent sculptures based on characters from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe also feature in CS Lewis Square.

Lewis was inspired by local landscapes including the Mountains of Mourne and Dunluce Castle.

Dunluce is believed to have been recreated in the coastal Narnian castle of Cair Paravel.

The Chronicles of Narnia has sold 120 million copies in 47 languages.

The series has been adapted for radio, television, the stage, film and video games.

The blockbuster film series adaptation of the books, beginning with The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, which was released in 2005, brought the fantasy world of Narnia to a global audience.

The franchise had another local link, with Ballymena-born actor Liam Neeson providing the voice of Aslan, the lion in the books.

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In 2023 it was announced American Greta Gerwig would be directing a series of Netflix films based on the seven fantasy novels.

The first film is expected to air on the streaming platform in 2026.

The main set of eight stamps features pictures specially commissioned for Royal Mail by British illustrator Keith Robinson, depicting scenes from each of the novels.

A further four stamps presented in a miniature sheet show artwork by Pauline Baynes.

Royal Mail director of external affairs and policy David Gold said: "These delightful stamps capture the timeless magic of Narnia and honour the enduring legacy of the books.

"The Chronicles of Narnia remain a perennial favourite of children around the world, so it is fitting that we celebrate the stories with a new set of stamps featuring newly-commissioned artwork alongside artwork that will bring back fond memories for many who grew up with these great books."

Poem for today

Inniskeen Road: July Evening by Patrick Kavanagh

The bicycles go by in twos and threes
There's a dance in Billy Brennan's barn to-night,

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And there's the half-talk code of mysteries
And the wink-and-elbow language of delight.
Half-past eight and there is not a spot
Upon a mile of road, no shadow thrown
That might turn out a man or woman, not
A footfall tapping secrecies of stone.
I have what every poet hates in spite
Of all the solemn talk of contemplation.
Oh, Alexander Selkirk knew the plight
Of being king and government and nation.
A road, a mile of kingdom, I am king
Of banks and stones and every blooming thing.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

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Church News Ireland

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

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