

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Battle of the Atlantic remembered

Image for today - Battle of the Atlantic remembered

News -

Christian Aid Week service on RTE

Bishop Pat reflects on General Synod in her diocese

International delegation of Anglicans at inauguration of Pope

Tipperary priest recalls his time in Rome with newly elected Pope Leo XIV

Education -

Lisburn school explores Carrickfergus Normans

Campbell College wins NI Schools Debating 2025

Cathedral Calls -

Westminster Abbey memorial to World War 1 nurse

Clergy and ministry -

Grandad is retiring

Minister in charge of Stormont

Called to Preach - a morning of encouragement for female preachers

Armagh diocese 'What's Your Call?' event

Practical resource to help encourage connections and conversations across the generations

Events -

Cambridge Choral Experience

Memorial Service for Dean Stephen White

Poem for today -

Going Home to Mayo, Winter, 1949 by Paul Durcan

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



Image of the day

Derry Church Service for Royal Naval Association marks Battle of the Atlantic

On Sunday morning All Saints' Clooney welcomed

parishioners, members of the local community and representatives of the Royal Navy to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE day and the surrender of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The Band of HM Royal Marines lead the parade to church with pageantry and flair. Their unique blend of military music and tradition set the tone for the service to follow.

Vice Lord Lieutenant Mr Alan Moore OBE, Senior Naval Officers, Royal Naval Association Shipmate Robert Buchanan (Chairman No.12 Area) as well as other members



of the Royal Navy Association, Royal Navy Veterans and Royal Navy Cadets were all in attendance. The service was also attended by Lord Hay, Gary Middleton MLA, Niree McNorris, Deputy Mayor Darren Guy and several other dignitaries.

Canon David McBeth, Chaplain of the local branch of the Royal Naval Association, delivered a poignant sermon. He spoke of how these men gave themselves for others. "They



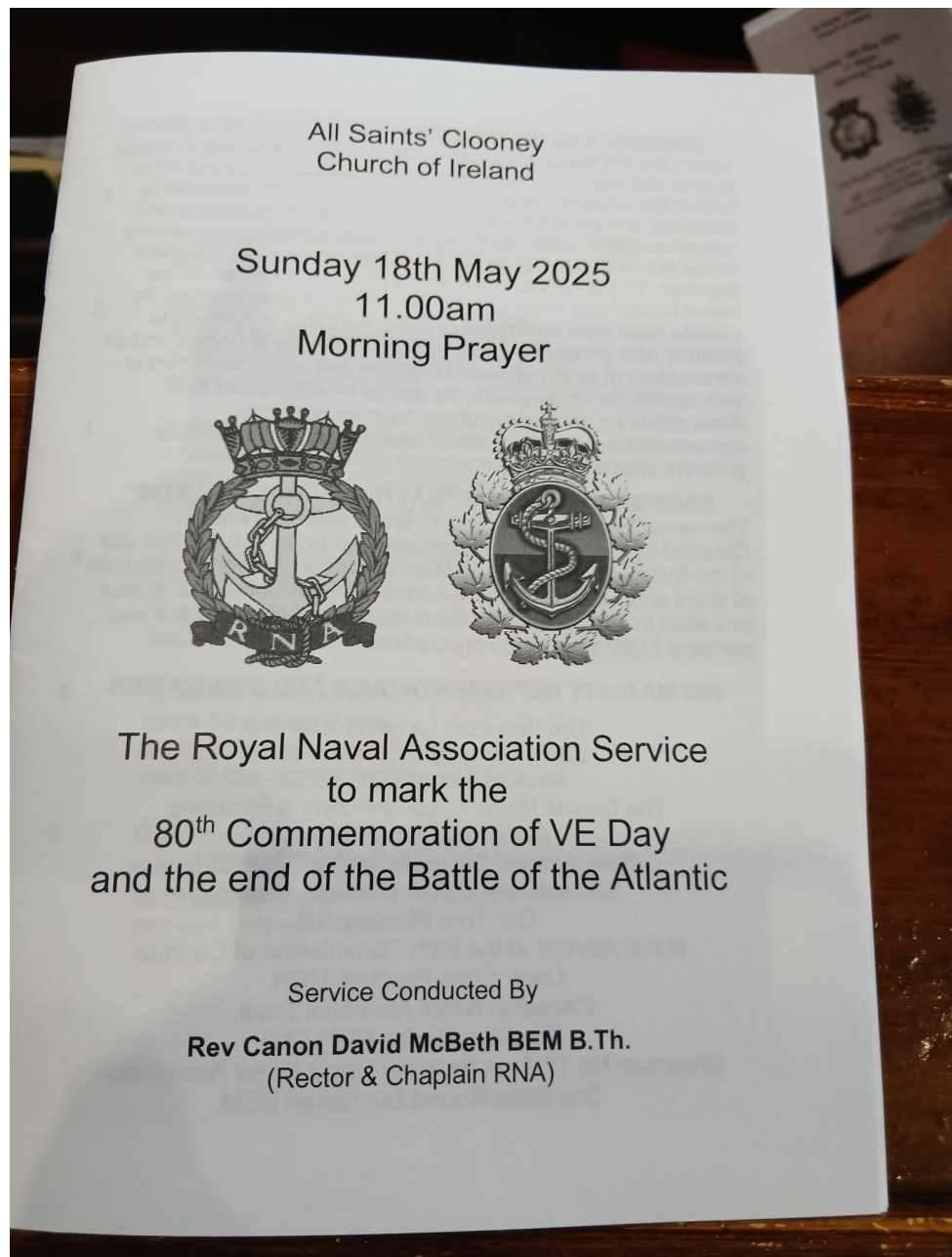
May 20, 2025

did not seek fame.
They only sought to
serve and to keep
hope alive across an
ocean."

Canon McBeth said
how this echoed
"the greatest
sacrifice ever made;
the sacrifice of
Jesus Christ on the
Cross." He spoke of
how "Jesus laid
down His life; not
just for friends, but
for enemies. For
sinners. For you.
For me. He crossed
not a raging ocean,
but the abyss of sin
and death." This
emphasised how

sailors of the Atlantic convoys stood between tyranny and
freedom and Christ stood between sin and salvation.

The solemnity continued at the wreath laying and the tolling
of the bell ceremony, for lost shipmates. It was a powerful
reminder of the strength and resilience of those who served
and the supreme price they paid. These Acts of
Remembrance honoured the courage of all those who faced
the cruel seas and how over the course of the battle,



thousands of merchant ships and tens of thousands of lives were lost.

The parish stated, “We are thankful for every person who shared in today's memorial service. Together we remembered the heroes of the Battle of the Atlantic, we honoured their courage, their sacrifice, and the legacy they left behind. Let us carry their memory forward and never take for granted the freedom they fought to protect.”

News

Christian Aid Week service on RTE

RTE on Sunday last aired a special service to mark Christian Aid Week.

The service, which was recorded was led by Christian Aid Ireland's Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett. The organisation's Chair, Rev Dr Liz Hughes was the preacher..

The lead musician was Jason Brodie from King's Way Church, Dunmurry (near Belfast) with support from other musicians at his church and a few friends. was supremely relational – regardless of status – and he lived out his call for the shepherd to be close to the sheep.

“He saw those who sought, however poorly and fallibly, to follow Christ as brothers and sisters. Whether they were in prisons or palaces, slums or stadiums, made no difference.”

Bishop Pat reflects on General Synod in her diocese

Bishop Pat Storey reflects on the first General Synod to be held in her diocese Dioceses of Meath & Kildare

We've had a great time enjoying the hospitality of Meath and Kildare, including our hosts in Lawlor's Hotel, Naas, over the last few days.

Bishop Pat Storey chats about her highlights and praises the hard work put in by the diocese's volunteers, staff and clergy in the lead-up to General Synod 2025. You're welcome to watch to the end for an especially colourful comment.

Thank you to everyone who has made General Synod 2025 a success.

International delegation of Anglicans at inauguration of Pope Leo XIV

An international delegation of Anglican Primates and church leaders joined representatives from global Christian Communion at the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV.

In his address from St Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV emphasised themes of unity, peace, and mission. He called on the Church to be a "sign of unity and communion, a leaven for a reconciled world," and invited all believers to



Photos above - The members of the delegation include Archbishop John McDowell and the World Wide President off the Mothers's Union/ The Archbishop of York with the Pr5esiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the USA

the "listen to Christ's offer of love and become his one family for in the one Christ, we are one."

Leading the Anglican delegation was the Most Revd Leonard Dawea, Bishop of Temotu and Primate of the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Archbishop John McDowell of the Church of Ireland was a delegate.

Tipperary priest recalls his time in Rome with newly elected Pope Leo XIV

A Tipperary priest, who met the man elected as Pope Leo XIV on several previous occasions, has said the new pontiff knows Ireland very well.

Speaking to RTÉ after the new pontiff's election earlier this week, Fr Iggy O'Donovan and Pope Leo XIV met while studying for the priesthood in Rome and are both members of the Order of Saint Augustine.

"The first time I met Bob Prevost, as I knew him, was in 1981 when he came as an undergraduate student to Rome.

"I was studying history there at the time, and we knew each other there. I would have been there a few years while now Leo XIV was a student.

"Canon law was his specialty at that time. And I do recall that in 1982, he was ordained, and I was one of those invited to his ordination in Rome, a sweltering day in '82."

Fr O'Donovan now lives in Dublin and is based at St Augustine and St John's Church - or John's Lane Church as it's known locally - in the Liberties.

He said the new leader of the Catholic Church rose through the ranks quickly.

"He was certainly organised. He was a worker, highly organised, highly intelligent, a polyglot - he speaks several languages - and very determined at whatever it was he did.

"He became Prior General of Augustinian Order, provincial of the American province and then bishop in Peru.

"Pope Francis saw something (in him) and brought him to Rome and put him as the head of the bishops' congregation and now his fellow cardinals have selected him, so it is a proud moment for us Augustinians."

Asked about what sort of papacy he thinks Pope Leo XIV will have based on his previous meetings with him, Fr O'Donovan said it will very much be a case of "steady as she goes".

He said: I noticed in his, if we call it, his victory speech, he invoked Pope Francis a great deal, and kept using that word, peace, peace, peace - pace pace pace in Italian - all the time.

"I think he will be using, like Francis did, the moral authority of the papacy - which is very important given the moral bankruptcy that is politically around the world at the moment - to have a bit of hope on the horizon as Francis gave us. And I think Leo XIV will do the same."

Fr O'Donovan also said that Pope Leo XIV is no stranger to these shores.

"He has been to Ireland several times, certainly at Augustinian gatherings and chapters and so forth.

"I have a distinct memory of him visiting my native Tipperary in Fethard. He certainly was there, and there must be a photographic record of that.

"He's been to Ireland. He would know Ireland very very well, and the Irish Augustinian province very, very well."

As he takes up his new ministry in the Vatican, Fr O'Donovan said he will be praying for the man that he studied there with all those years ago.

"He's facing an awesome task. It's a lonely job, and in great parts of the world, the Church is in grave crisis, like our own part of the world that is true, and he knows that."

"He's realistic enough to face that. The Church is thriving in other parts of the world, but overall, there are many problems that are only too well known that he faces.

May 20, 2025

"It's a difficult lonely job, and our prayers and good wishes go to him," Fr O'Donovan added.

Education



Lisburn school explores Carrickfergus Normans



Wallace High School Year 8 History students had a brilliant visit to

May 20, 2025

Carrickfergus Castle as part of their studies on the Normans in Ireland.

It was a fantastic opportunity to explore history where it happened and to learn more about careers in history!

Campbell College wins NI Schools Debating 2025

CCB has secured its first victory in the NI Schools Debating Competition. This year's final was a closely contested debate against St Malachy's Belfast, with the motion 'This House would build, build, build.'

Cathedral Calls

Westminster Abbey memorial to World War 1 nurse

The funeral of British nurse Edith Cavell took place at the Abbey this month 1919.

Cavell served as a nurse during the First World War in German-occupied Belgium, where she famously treated wounded soldiers from both sides whilst helping some 200 men escape the country.

The funeral at the Abbey took place five years after her death. Her coffin, draped with the Union flag, was carried on a gun carriage through streets lined with mourners.

May 20, 2025

A wreath of red and white carnations and arum lilies placed on the coffin had been sent by Queen Alexandra.

Clergy and ministry



Grandad is retiring

Members of the Hoey family joined the congregation at St. Canice's Parish Church in Eglinton on Sunday morning to hear the Rector of Faughanvale,

Rev Canon Paul Hoey, led his last service before retiring after over 44 years of ordained ministry.



A number of close friends joined parishioners, too, but the 'show was stolen' by the Rector's young grandson, Theo, who posed for photos with his grandfather and joined the local children for the 'Kids Talk' section of Sunday's service.

Minister in charge of Stormont

Laurence Bellew has been appointed Minister-in-Charge of the Parish of Stormont in the Diocese of Down.

Laurence is currently the Youth and Community Pastor in HOPE Church Craigavon, Dromore Diocese, and will shortly be commissioned as a Church Army Evangelist. A date for the Service of Introduction will be announced in due course.

Called to Preach - a morning of encouragement for female preachers

This is a morning of encouragement for female preachers, lay and ordained.

Grace, Anne and Jaclyn, three internationally experienced female preachers, have agreed to take part in a Zoom conversation with us. They will share their own convictions about being called to preach and teach as female theologians.

This morning is also intended to connect you with like-minded female preachers and theologians from across Ireland. It is for anyone currently involved in preaching and teaching ministry (lay or ordained) and those seriously considering this pathway.

Dr Grace Al-Zoughbi Arteen led the Bible Studies Department at **Bethlehem Bible College** (2011-2018) and teaches online at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr Anne E Zaki is Professor of Preaching and Practical Theology at the **Evangelical Presbyterian Theological Seminary** in Cairo, Egypt.

The Revd Dr Jaclyn Williams is Assistant Professor of Preaching at **Fuller Seminary** and an American Baptist-ordained minister. She has been awarded the Parish Pulpit Fellowship (Fuller Theological Seminary).

Friday, 7th June, 10 am-12noon, Dunmurry Presbyterian Church

May 20, 2025

This morning is made possible by the Pauline Webb Ecumenical Fund. The event is free but you must register by using the link provided on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/called-to-preach-tickets-1349624215359>

Armagh diocese ‘What’s Your Call?’ event

The first Armagh diocesan ‘What’s Your Call?’ event of 2025 took place in Magherafelt.

Participants heard first hand experience from recently trained pastoral visitors, readers and ordinands, as well as about the opportunities surrounding youth ministry. If you would like to find out more, the next event is in Killyman Parish Hall on Thursday 22nd at 7:30

Practical resource to help encourage connections and conversations across the generations

The C of I Children and Family Ministry write -Following on from our video we want to provide a simple, practical resource to help encourage connections and conversations across the generations in your church.

Click here to download: <https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/get-involved-pack/>

Fostering a sense of belonging and value is particularly important for Children and Young people. They are active

members of the Church family and co-journeyers in faith, not a passive audience. So we hope that this pack will help inspire new conversations, connections and a greater sense of belonging and ownership - as well as helping to share the load.

Many Churches struggle to get people practically involved in the running of the Church, and in a lot of cases, it is left to the Wardens and Clergy to do most of the jobs. We hope to counter this trend by helping people rediscover the Church as a family where everyone has a valuable role.

Think through all the little jobs that happen before, during and after a service, choose ones which others can easily do and write them out clearly on the cards in our pack. Communicate to your congregation (all ages) a week or so before you start, that this is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved in the life of the church, regardless of age, experience, language or time in the church.

Use the template cards in the pack. Write clearly: The task; What they will need; Where they find the equipment they need; When in the service they carry out this task; Who to ask for help - and ideally include a photo, don't assume everyone knows everyone else's names!

Laminate and pin the cards to a board before people arrive, and encourage families and individuals to choose a card and task to do that week. Every week, they can choose a new task to try.

Two main reasons that put people off from helping out are fear of long-term commitment and uncertainty about tasks.

We hope that this resource will encourage clarity about the tasks and give opportunities to try different things. In turn, this will not only help increase volunteering in the church across all ages, but crucially provide practical ways in which adults, young people & children can build connections with each other and foster a greater sense of belonging.

Yes, some days it might feel like it would be easier to just do it all yourself! But consider how much more connected people will feel when they take an active role, how the sense of belonging will grow, how conversations might blossom between people who wouldn't ordinarily mix together, and how the rhythm of participation will increase until it becomes habit.

<https://www.facebook.com/239169528439033/posts/734922815530366>

Events

Cambridge Choral Experience

Applications are now open for the Cambridge Choral Experience on 28 & 29 June

If you are aged 11-18 and love singing, come and join us for a day making fabulous music! The days are free and open to all, but students from state schools will be prioritised. See the webpage for details and to apply!

<https://www.cmp.cam.ac.uk/opportunities/entry/cam-choral-experience/>

May 20, 2025

Sponsors - University of Cambridge. Cambridge University Centre for Music Performance #SingAtCam. Music Teachers Association. Royal School of Church Music. Cathedral Music Trust — feeling excited at University of Cambridge.



Memorial Service for Dean Stephen White

Friday 23rd May, 2025
12pm St Flannan's Cathedral

Dean Stephen served as Dean of Killaloe from
2002 to 2012.

We invite you to join his wife Frances and sons Charles and Samuel to memorialise his much valued friendship and long service in the wider community of Killaloe/Ballina and in the Killaloe Union of Parishes.

Fondly remembered by many in Killaloe and beyond...

Poem for today

Going Home to Mayo, Winter, 1949

by Paul Durcan - who died last week

Leaving behind us the alien, foreign city of Dublin
My father drove through the night in an old Ford Anglia,
His five-year-old son in the seat beside him,
The rexine seat of red leatherette,
And a yellow moon peered in through the windscreen.
'Daddy, Daddy,' I cried, 'Pass out the moon,'
But no matter how hard he drove he could not pass out the moon.

Each town we passed through was another milestone
And their names were magic passwords into eternity:
Kilcock, Kinnegad, Strokestown, Elphin,
Tarmonbarry, Tulsk, Ballaghaderreen, Ballavarry;
Now we were in Mayo and the next stop was Turlough,
The village of Turlough in the heartland of Mayo,
And my father's mother's house, all oil-lamps and women,
And my bedroom over the public bar below,
And in the morning cattle-cries and cock-crows:
Life's seemingly seamless garment and gorgeously rent
By their screeches and bellowings. And in the evenings
I walked with my father in the high grass down by the river
Talking with him - an unheard of thing in the city

But home was not home and the moon could be no more
outflanked

Than the daylight nightmare of Dublin city:
Back down along the canal we chugged into the city
And each lock-gate tolled our mutual doom;

May 20, 2025

And railings and palings and asphalt and traffic-lights,
And blocks after blocks of so-called 'new' tenements -
Thousands of crosses of lonelineses planted
In the narrowing grave of the life of the father;
In the wide, wide cemetery of the boy's childhood.

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning

Please recommend to your friends

