

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Dublin Episcopal greetings**

## Image of the day

### Dublin Episcopal greetings



**Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Jack Kinhead, Rector of Wicklow Parish Church and Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey Parish were among the clergy in St Andrew's Church, Westland Row, on Sunday last for the Ordination of Fr Donal Roche as Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and the welcoming of Bishop Paul Dempsey to the Archdiocese of Dublin.**

**Archbishop Farrell of Archdiocese of Dublin** said “To be Church is to live our faith together, and together to bear witness to the surprise and wonder of our God, and God’s way with us”



**Read Archbishop Farrell's homily for the Episcopal Ordination of Father Donal Roche as Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and to Welcome Bishop Paul Dempsey as Auxiliary Bishop in Dublin**

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/05/26/archbishop-farrell-to-be-church-is-to-live-our-faith-together-and-together-to-bear-witness-to-the-surprise-and-wonder-of-our-god-and-gods-way-with-us/>





## **Addresses by new Auxiliary Bishops of Archdiocese of Dublin, Bishop Paul Dempsey and Donal Roche**

Read Bishops Paul and Donal's addresses for their presentation, and ordination, respectively at Trinity Sunday Mass in Saint Andrew's Church

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2024/05/27/addresses-by-new-auxiliary-bishops-of-dublin-paul-dempsey-and-donal-roche/>

Thanks to John McElroy Photos.

## News

### Tipperary Methodists superb fundraising for Christian Aid



**Please give a huge ‘Tipp Tipp Hurray’ for the Methodist community of Roscrea which has raised almost €1,500 with two coffee events to support Christian Aid Week.**

The fundraisers were held at Roscrea Methodist Church Hall (part of North Tipperary Methodist Church circuit) on the morning and evening of Friday 10 May when visitors from the wider Roscrea community enjoyed a coffee and sweet treat in exchange for a donation to support CAI’s work.





There was also the opportunity to buy cakes, jam and second-hand books to take home.

The event was organised by a team of people drawn from Roscrea Methodist Church, led by our representative Gillian Kingston.

Gillian is a leading lay member of The Methodist Church in Ireland. She has a deep commitment to international development and has served on the Board of Christian Aid Ireland. She and her husband Tom, a retired Methodist minister, live in Shinrone in County Offaly. Kingston is a name which has a long association with Irish Methodism but Gillian is doubly blessed because both her maiden name and married name are Kingston.

Pictures credit - PJ Wright.

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**A fantastic turnout for the 1st Cavan Company BB R of I at their enrolment service in Kilmore Cathedral.**



**in defence of bouncy castle Catholics -  
Irish Catholic Newspaper Letter of the  
week**

**Here follows the Irish Catholic Newspaper's Letter of  
the week.**

Dear Editor,

As communities enjoy the season of welcoming the children  
who have reached the age of reason to the table, and

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celebrate their young people answering an invitation to step forward either for Confirmation, or to be blessed, I wonder if, in our talk of 'bouncy castle Catholics', and the 'bribing of children to make their Communion', have we forgotten, or even read, Brendan Behan's story of 'The Confirmation Suit'?

Are we ignoring, or have we forgotten, the lessons on faith, humility, hope, human dignity, true piety and people's religion that the life and death of David Kelly's 'Rashers Tierney in Strumpet City' taught both a young priest, whose well-meant but patronising, paternalistic attempts to help his parishioners were met with contempt?

We may have diverse worldviews, may wonder at people's actions, and question them. We may well call others out on things when we need to allow for progress in a pluralist society where the majority are from the Catholic tradition.

But, when it comes to expressions of culture and of faith, what right do any of us have to look down our noses on others?

Yours etc.,  
Sinéad, Dublin 9

## **US Army and Benburb Priory**

**Today we share a little piece of history at Benburb Priory.**





During World War II, The War Office requisitioned Benburb Manor House for use as a military field hospital. The US Army's 7th Field Hospital under the command of Major Hyman Sneierson, arrived at Benburb Manor House in late 1943. At the time of their arrival in Ireland, one of the 7th Field Hospital's main goals, was to establish a recovery hospital far from the front lines or from any targets of strategic value to ensure that soldiers who were injured in Europe, could recover in relative safety and Benburb Manor House was selected for this purpose.

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The 7th Field Hospital was fully operational and treated over 900 patients and left several notable marks on the building and surrounding area. 80 years ago on 27 May 1944, an American soldier, Corporal Rudolph Omer Roberge, during his stay at the Manor House, penned his name on one of the walls of the house. With the help of Around the Heather's Edge, a Tyrone Genealogy Group, we are currently researching Corporal Roberge's lifestory.



### **Return of the curate**

“We were delighted to welcome Bishop Patrick Rooke to Holy Trinity, Portrush, for our Patronal Festival Eucharist yesterday as Preacher and Celebrant. Bishop Patrick was Curate in Holy Trinity 1981-83, and it was joyful for long standing parishioners to be able to greet him again.”



# Cathedral Calls



## Visit of the President of Italy to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

**On Monday morning (20th May), Saint Patrick's Cathedral was honoured to welcome His Excellency, the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella.**

The President was accompanied by his daughter Laura, de facto First Lady, along with a distinguished delegation including the Italian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Ruggero Corrias, the Irish Ambassador to Italy, H.E. Patricia O'Brien,



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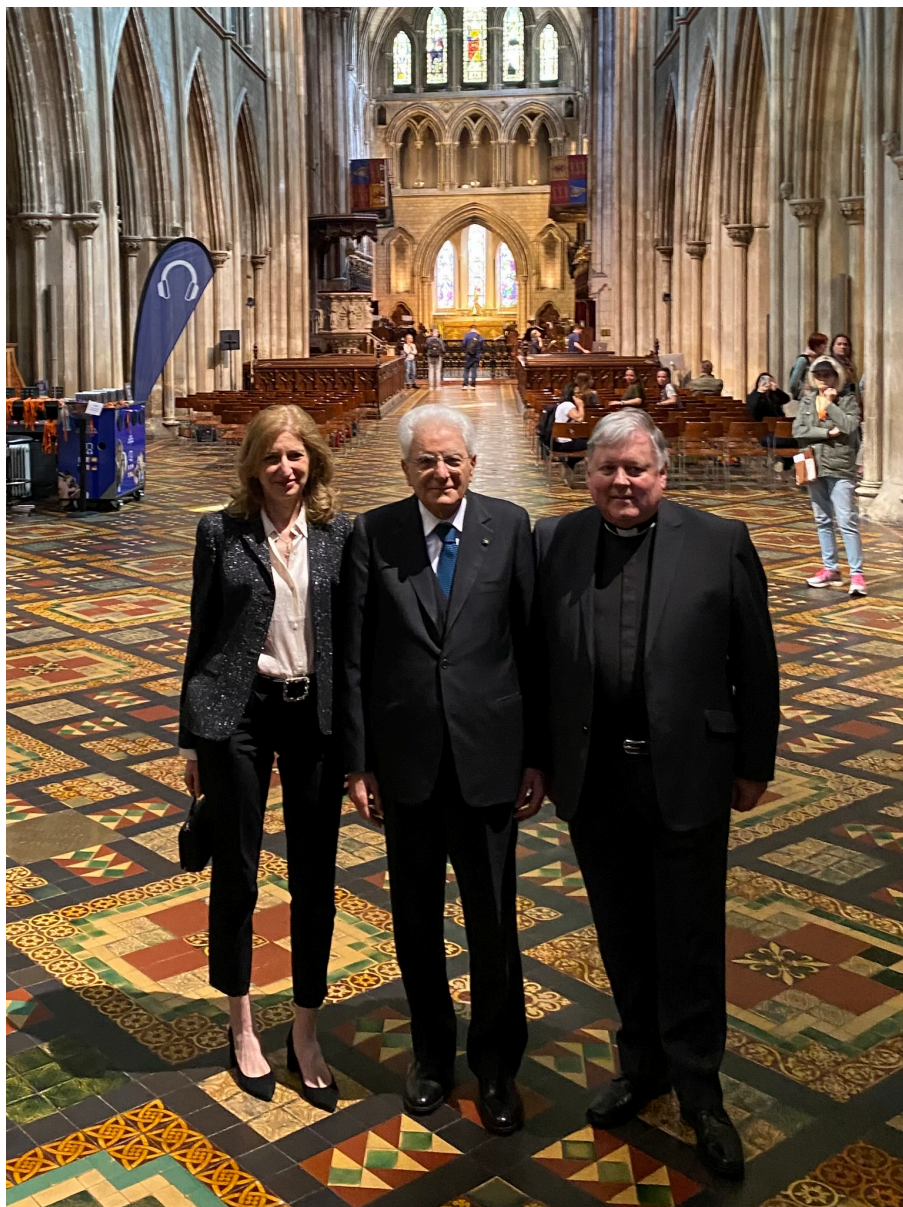
the Chief of Protocol from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Paul Kavanagh, and other officials.

Mr Louis Parminter leads a tour of the Cathedral during President Mattarella's visit.



The Dean & Ordinary of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dr. William Morton, warmly received President Mattarella, greeting him in Italian. Dr. Morton then introduced the President to Mr. Louis Parminter, Cathedral Manager and Dean's Verger, and Mr. Gavan Woods, CEO and Administrator. Mr. Parminter led the President and his delegation on a comprehensive guided tour, highlighting significant aspects of the Cathedral's history. Key points included the benevolence of Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness in the 19th-century restoration, the development of the musical and choral tradition, the





establishment of the Choir School, and the use of the Lady Chapel for worship by the Huguenots for 160 years. The tour culminated with a reference to Dean Jonathan Swift and his famous self-composed epitaph.

Ms Laura Mattarella, President Mattarella and Dean William Morton.

Following the tour, President Mattarella signed the official Visitors' Book. Through an interpreter, he expressed his admiration for the Cathedral, describing it as "enthralling" and "absolutely fascinating." The President was particularly impressed by the Cathedral's rich historical development, reflecting the course of Irish history. He expressed a wish that he had more time "to stand in front of every memorial, learn about its history, and absorb the wonderful ambience of such a magnificent cathedral."

Dean Morton welcomed the President's visit as a highly positive and significant event, emphasising that Saint Patrick's Cathedral is a prominent landmark on the religious, historical, cultural, and artistic trail in Dublin and beyond. He was delighted that President Mattarella and his delegation enjoyed their visit, underscoring the Cathedral's importance as a site of immense historical and cultural value.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts



**Music from  
Monkstown  
Parish Choir**

**Students  
of the ACCM**

**Raymond Russell  
Memorial Recital**

**Presented by Church Music Dublin**  
**Saturday 15th June 4pm**  
**Monkstown Parish Church**  
eircode: A94 HH97  
**queries: [info@churchmusicdublin.org](mailto:info@churchmusicdublin.org)**  
**Retiring Collection for Church Music Dublin**



## In the media

### Irish Times - Has President Higgins ever listened to anyone?

**Ireland's new Chief Rabbi has challenged President Michael D Higgins over remarks the latter made on Friday describing claims of anti-Semitism in Ireland as "irresponsible", Patsy McGarry reports.**

Chief Rabbi Yoni Wieder said on Sunday that Jewish families who had lived in Ireland for "six, seven, eight generations" had told him that never before had they felt such a "tension" or "their viewpoint as Jewish people so delegitimised".

Speaking outside the Dáil at a march in solidarity with Israel, organised by the Ireland Israel Alliance, he said, "I speak of the viewpoint of the Jewish community in Ireland. I'm not talking about Israeli Jews that live here – although they certainly concur. I'm talking about the core of the Irish Jewish community."

Their viewpoint was "what President Higgins and so many others fail to realise", he said.

He emphasised that "we must be careful not to take things out of proportion. We are so grateful that we are physically safe, that for the most part there has not been any physical violence against Jewish people as we have had in other

countries in recent months. We are so grateful to this country that we are safe.”

Speaking to the Irish Examiner last Friday President Higgins said it was “absolutely outrageous to be abusing the Jewish community” by saying that there is widespread anti-Semitism [in Ireland]. He continued: “I don’t think it is helpful if people representing the Jewish state seek to encourage fear where it doesn’t exist by saying to people: ‘All of us now and anyone of Jewish faith must feel afraid’; that is grossly irresponsible.”

It would be “very wrong”, he said, to blame members of the Jewish community for the actions of the Israeli government.

In his address outside the Dáil, Chief Rabbi Wieder said the climate in Ireland now was “one in which many members of the Jewish community here feel deeply isolated and hurt”.

Not a week passed since October 7th “that I haven’t had people tell me they feel uneasy in the street when wearing something that identifies them as Jewish, or at work. That they are negatively judged, that they are seen as the outsider, as the ‘other’,” he said.

“Our voice as Jewish people in support of Israel, and in expressing the environment as we experience it here on the ground, is not being listened to,” he said.

He recalled how he and other senior members of Ireland’s Jewish community met President Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin last Thursday, “the day before he made these comments”.



“For much of the hour we spent together, President Higgins lectured us about the atrocities being committed by Israel in Gaza,” he said.

He had hoped “that perhaps I could open his eyes as to the experience of the Jews in Ireland, that maybe he would listen to myself and to lay leaders of the community when we told him what long-standing Irish Jewish families are feeling”.

“Judging from his comments, it seems that the only thing President Higgins took from our meeting is that there are many Irish Jews who are against preventing aid from getting in to Gaza. That is most certainly true. But why was that the only thing he could say on behalf of the Irish Jewish community?

“Why does he still fail to accept the affinity that the vast majority of Irish Jews feel with the state of Israel” and “why is he unmoved when he was told by a senior member of the Jewish community, that as much as it pained him to say it, he did not want his grandkids brought up in Ireland if this was the environment they would have to deal with?” Chief Rabbi Wieder asked.”

*This report carries a photograph captioned - Michael D Higgins receives the new Chief Rabbi of Ireland Yoni Wieder at Áras an Uachtaráin on Thursday.*

# Poem For Today

## The Londonderry Girls

by Sharon Graham

We, allegedly,

The Privileged

Swathed,

In Miss Watson's ballet gossamer

Innately adept at the plie and the arabesque

And the chasse à la ballet

The Londonderry Feis

C'était comme ça

We, allegedly,

The Entitled

Our daddy's graft and

His choice to give us private education

To offer us more than he ever had...

We,

The Indefatigable

Sent to school in the uniform of

The Londonderry High School.

Shrouded

Head to toe in modesty grey



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Starch belted gaberdine,  
Woollen beret,  
The army surplus style  
Blue elasticated knickers

Bomb scares hit on our hockey pitch  
At Londonderry High School

We,  
Wearing nothing but blue bathroom hand towels  
Assembled on the hockey pitch  
How bizarre  
Covering only our modesty

We,  
Fleeing,  
Straight into the fire  
To Foyle Street Bus Station

We,  
The humiliated,

Pelted with eggs  
Because we were Protestants  
Standing erect  
Defiant,  
splattered on our breasts  
Dripping down our uniform  
The whites on our thighs

The St Columb's boys  
Passing by us  
Acned...bum fluffed faces

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Gazing  
Ruffled ties  
Uniforms black as sin  
Exotic,  
Forbidden,  
Dangerous,  
Desirous,  
Desirable.

We,  
The dichotomy,  
Eternally confused....  
Not knowing

Where did we fit in?

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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