

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Mothers Union
World Wide President commissioning**

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News -

521 years' service to Mothers' Union by twelve members of Castlederg parish

Education -

St Patrick's NS Greystones embarks on new adventures in learning

Methody's volcanic experiment with Cola and Mentos

RBAI Gala Concert less than 3 weeks to go

Cathedral Calls -

Pied Piper of Hamelin unites school and cathedral choirs and Youth Opera branches in Armagh

Spring Lecture series by the Friends of Christ Church, Dublin

Clergy and ministry -

Rector's barefoot pilgrimage from Rossory Clogher to St Patrick's Dublin

Bring the BCP to VE Day

Events -

Red Arrows coming to Newtownards for Armed Forces Day

New Irish Arts in Concert plus...

In the Media -

Matt in the Daiiy Telegraph seldom disappoints

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day

Mothers Union World Wide President commissioning



Front page - Kathleen Snow was formally commissioned as Worldwide President of Mothers' Union on Monday by Most Rev Dr Stephen Cottrell the Archbishop of York at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

Above - Trustees were commissioned including June Butler, All Ireland : second from left.

As Mothers' Union moves towards its 150th anniversary in 2026, Kathleen and her board will lead under the theme 'Join Us, Join In!' - a call to action to grow the movement in faith, fellowship, and funds to end poverty, injustice and violence for communities and families around the world.

Kathleen Snow – Worldwide President

Kathleen was elected as Worldwide President of Mothers' Union for the triennium 2025-2027, following two terms as a worldwide Zonal Trustee (2019-2024). She heads up and chairs meetings of the Board of Trustees and fulfils an ambassadorial role on behalf of the organisation.

A retired registered nurse, Kathleen previously managed the Parish Nurse/Health Ministry in her home cathedral in Canada, where she was also involved in Safe Church Regulation. She has been a Patient Advocate in a major health region and, most recently, Chief Privacy Officer and Right to Information Coordinator for the Provincial Health Authority.

A member since 1988, Kathleen is passionate about Mothers' Union. She has served Mothers' Union at parish, diocesan, provincial and worldwide levels, including on the Fundraising and Communications Committee, which produced the Dear Lord Prayer Book, and also as a Regional Trainer for Parenting. She has had a particular role in facilitating parenting programmes with the Indigenous Peoples in Canada and has been member of the Steering Committee for the Central Parenting Programme. She was a facilitator in her Zone and in Britain and Ireland for the MULO (Mothers' Union Listens, Observes, Acts) process.

She chaired the Development Committee for six years in her capacity as Zonal Trustee and has been a committee member of the IT & Data Committee.

News

521 years' service to Mothers' Union by twelve members of Castlederg parish

A dozen women were recognised at a Service of Holy Communion in St John's Church in Castlederg, on Sunday afternoon, for their combined 521 years' service to Derg Parish Mothers' Union.

Seven of the women – and three of their relatives – collected certificates acknowledging the recipients' long service to MU.

Today's service, which took place on the 5th anniversary – to the day – of the first Covid lockdown, was organised to celebrate 80 years' of Mothers' Union in Derg. The local branch was started by two local women, Edith McCourt and May Martin, around the time of D-Day, in 1944.

The service was led by Bishop Andrew Forster, who was assisted by the local Rector, Rev Peter Ferguson, and by the chaplain of Derry and Raphoe MU, Very Rev'd Liz Fitzgerald.

The visiting speaker, Kaye Nesbitt, was making her first appearance in St John's Church since becoming Diocesan



President of Mothers' Union at the start ion this year. Back in 1944, she said, the headlines in the UK's papers included





news of World War Two, the Normandy landings and the first V-1 bomb attack on London. But, she said, the big news in Derg Parish, in 1944, was the answering of God's call to open an MU branch. "This branch started small," Mrs Nesbitt said, "but it started with a vision that has stood the test of time." She thanked the MU members present for their service to God, their servanthood, and for living out the objectives of Mothers' Union.

Bishop Andrew recalled his late mother's love of Mothers' Union, in which, he said, she found great fellowship and great friendship, but also a great vehicle for her own service of God in the Parish of Hollywood in County Down. He thanked the Derg Branch of MU for offering service to the parish and far beyond.

Among those there to hear the Bishop was Rev Naomi Quinn – a former curate in Derg and Termonamongan – who is a past member of the parish's MU branch.

The presentation of certificates was performed mostly by Ellen Darragh. There were 52 years' service certificates for Evaline Crawford, May Hemphill and Sadie Crawford (whose certificate was accepted on her behalf by Ellen, her sister-in-law). Yvonne Clarke (47 years), Pearl Monteith (44 years), Laura Gilchrist (38 years) and Ruby Hamilton (37 years), were also honoured during the service. Ellen's own 43 years' service certificate was presented to her by Mrs Nesbitt. Catherine Muldoon's 43 years' service certificate was collected by her daughter-in-law Jenny, while Elma Harron's 40 years' service certificate was presented in her stead to her son Jonathan. Two recipients, Kathleen Sproule (43 years) and Marjorie Young (30 years) were unable to be present.

Education

St Patrick's NS Greystones embarks on new adventures in learning

There were great celebrations in St Patrick's National School in Greystones on Friday morning (March 21) when An Tanaiste Simon Harris officially opened the school's new block of classrooms.

The six new classrooms, including two for children with additional educational needs, were dedicated by the Patron,



Archbishop Michael Jackson. The school's library, which is supported by the parents' association was also celebrated.

The whole school community gathered outside for the uplifting event and the pupils contributed to the celebration with two fantastic songs and a selection of poems about diversity. They were joined by Canon David Mungavin, parents and local public representatives.

Canon Mungavin thanked everyone who had made the development of the new classrooms possible and all who made the school such a great place. He thanked the school principal Rachel Harper for her wonderful leadership and An Tanaiste and the Archbishop for their support. "Today marks



An Tanaiste Simon Harris greets St Patrick's pupils.

a milestone and we are grateful to everyone in the past who has made St Patrick's what it is," he commented.

Archbishop Jackson praised the collaborative effort which had seen so many people give their time and energy to support the development of the new classrooms. "St Patrick's National School is a happy place and there is a sense of school and community living and working together, sharing and learning from each other," he stated. He said the Prayer of Dedication as well as the Prayer for Christian Citizenship pointing out that a school is about academic education and learning but also about community and citizenship.



Fifth class performing their song.

Ms Harper explained that An Cuan, which is home to St Patrick's Early Intervention Special Class and Primary Special Class for pupils with autism, makes the school a special place. She said that the six new classrooms were more than just rooms filled with desks and chairs. "They represent new adventures in learning within the school... They are spaces to foster a love for learning and education. Let's look forward to the memories we will create here, the projects and friendships that will flourish here. Let's make these classrooms a place where dreams take flight," she said.

The principal thanked the Patron and An Tanaiste for their support and all who had made them possible for their contribution.

The Tanaiste praised St Patrick's for its inclusivity and welcome of children with additional educational needs. "This is a really big step forward for this really great school..."



Opening the new senior classrooms.

When I think of St Patrick's school I immediately think of inclusivity.

This school has led the way in Greystones and in many ways it has led the way in Ireland in welcoming people with additional needs. When I was growing up lots of children with additional educational needs had to get on buses and trains or drive for many miles to go to school. But now in our town, here, we welcome everybody to be educated. And I think that's really what we're doing today with the opening of An Cuan, making sure that we have a space so that all people, no matter what their educational needs are can be educated in St Patrick's," he said.

He praised the leadership in St Patrick's and thanked Ms Harper for her great work on youth mental health. He also

March 27, 2025

thanked the teachers, SNAs, staff, board of management and parents' association of the school. "I want to take the opportunity to thank Ms Harper for her incredible leadership, not just as principal of this great school but also the leadership she has provided for the education and well being of young people in this area and pioneering work on issues that affect young people in the area of mental health and technology, in It Takes a Village," he said.



Methody's volcanic experiment with Cola and Mentos

Junior Science Club at Methodist College, Belfast, latest experiment consisted of Cola and Mentos.

They tried 5 different types of Cola to see which gave the biggest volcano when a packet of Mentos were added. The

winner was full sugar Coca-Cola with a volcano over 2 metres.

March 27, 2025



RBAI Gala Concert less than 3 weeks to go



**Book now
for the
RBAI Gala
Concert at
the
Waterfront
Hall on 11
April 2025,**

**Tickets
£25.00 (+
£3.00 fee)**

See -

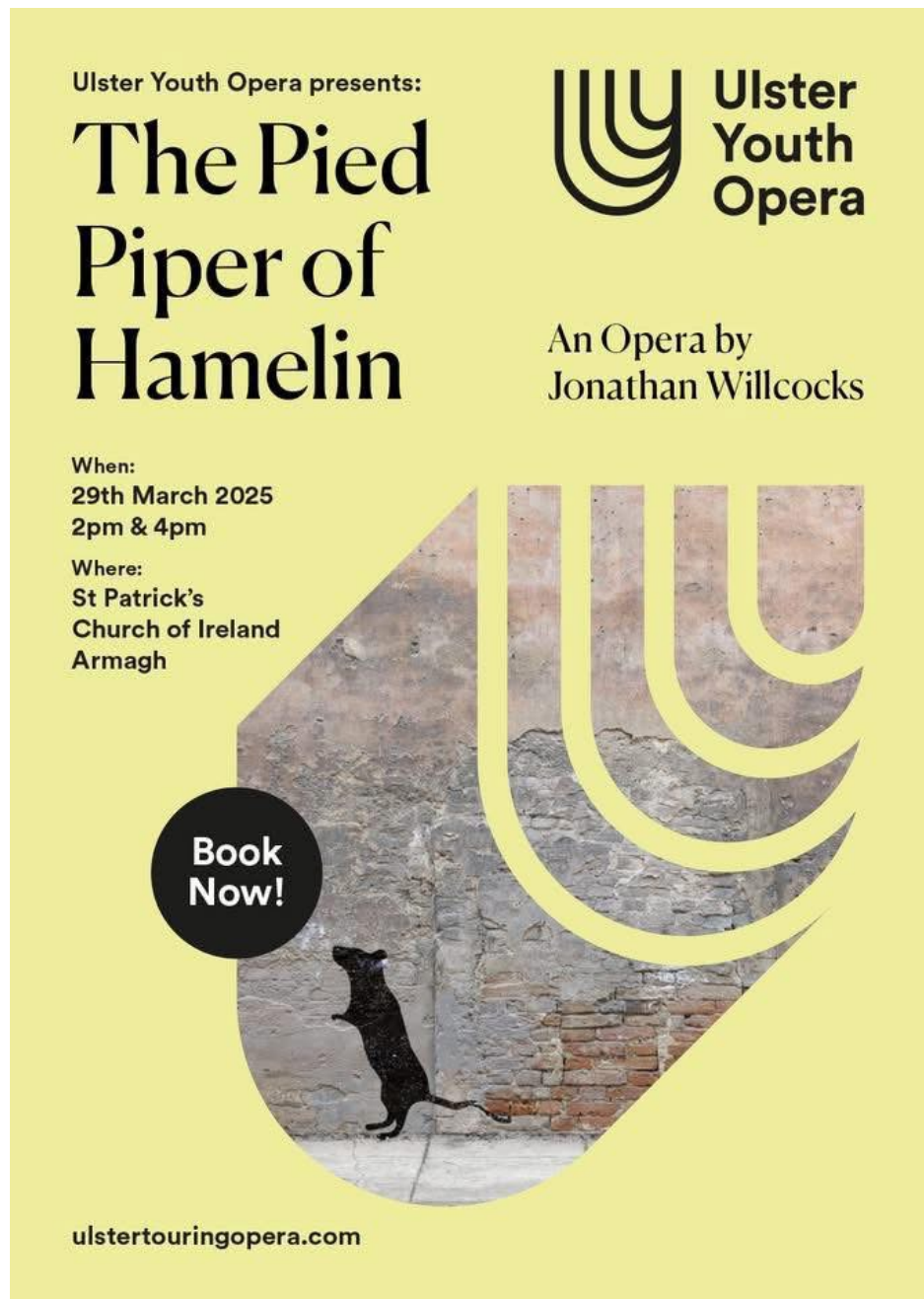
<https://www.waterfront.co.uk/what-s-on/rbai-gala-concert/>

Cathedral Calls

Pied Piper
of
Hamelin
unites
school
and
cathedral
choirs and
Youth
Opera
branches
in Armagh

Over the last couple of months behind the scenes, the Boy and Girl Choristers at St Columb's Cathedral, Derry, have been preparing to perform a concert of Jonathan Willocks' opera **The Pied Piper of Hamelin**.

As part of a project by The Ulster Touring Opera, the Derry Choristers will join singers from the Enniskillen and Belfast Youth Opera branches, students at the Royal School Armagh, the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble and soprano



March 27, 2025

Rebecca Murphy. “We’re delighted to be part of this project and the Choristers have really enjoyed adding something a little different to their repertoire!” Said the Derry Director of Music.

Performances will take place at 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 29th March at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh. Booking details are below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-pied-piper-of-hamelin-tickets-1244613595769?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Spring Lecture series by the Friends of Christ Church, Dublin

The lecture series tradition at Christ Church cathedral in Dublin, which intends to both entertain and educate, continues under the auspices of the Friends of Christ Church in a series of afternoon talks on aspects of time. The lectures will take place on the Fridays in Spring at the cathedral at 2.00pm.

The talks will take place in the Henry Roe (or music) room upstairs in the modern chapterhouse (which at present is only accessible by stairs), and have been imaginatively assembled by **Adrian Le Harivel, former Curator of British Art at the National Gallery of Ireland**, who will also be the first speaker.

MARKING TIME:

A SERIES OF AFTERNOON TALKS ON ASPECTS OF TIME

FRIDAYS IN SPRING 2025 @ 14.00

CHAPTER HOUSE, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN



FRIDAY 28 MARCH:

How Napoleon I changed our vision of time
Adrian Le Harivel, former Curator of
British Art, National Gallery of Ireland

FRIDAY 4 APRIL

Fashion essentials in history: Make-up, hair
& underwear on cathedral monuments
Hilary O'Kelly, fashion specialist,
National College of Art & Design

FRIDAY 11 APRIL

This fleeting world: Changes & chances
at Christ Church cathedral, Dublin
Stuart Kinsella, Research Advisor
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

FRIDAY 25 APRIL

A moment in time: The American O'Brien,
Burns and Krehbiel collections & their
support of Irish art
Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch,
former Curator of Irish Art, NGI

TICKETS €10 (€30 for all four), €5 for both
Friends of Christ Church & concessions.
Free to the cathedral community.

Organised by the FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DUBLIN.

The chapter house lecture room is unfortunately only accessible by stairs.

E: friends@christchurch.ie | W: www.christchurchcathedral.ie



The series opens
this **Friday**,
March 28, when
Adrian will give a
talk about '**How
Napoleon I
changed our
vision of time**'.

This will be
followed by a
lecture by fashion
specialist, **Hilary
O'Kelly** from the
**National College
of Art & Design**,
who will look at
surprising
'Fashion
essentials in
history: Make-up,
hair & underwear
on cathedral

monuments', which will have visitors never looking at the
Kildare monument in the same way again.

The cathedral's research advisor, **Stuart Kinsella** will give a
talk the following **Friday April 11** entitled 'This fleeting
world: Changes & chances at Christ Church cathedral,
Dublin' in which he will give an illustrated talk depicting how
the cathedral has changed over the centuries, not only
architecturally, but constitutionally and indeed musically.

Following a break for Good Friday on April 18, **Síghle Bhreathnach–Lynch, a former Curator of Irish Art at the National Gallery of Ireland** will give the final talk on **Friday April 25** entitled ‘A moment in time: The American O’Brien, Burns and Krehbiel collections & their support of Irish art’.

For this lecture series there will be a charge of €10 (or €30 for all four talks), or €5 either for members of the Friends of Christ Church or for concessions, or indeed why not sign up as a member of the Friends. The lecture series is free to members of the cathedral community. Payments can be made in advance via the QR which also appears on the poster which will bring people to this link: <https://buy.stripe.com/5kA01O3sc4W13lu7su>. For any queries, please email friends@christchurch.ie.

Clergy and ministry

Rector’s barefoot pilgrimage from Rossory Clogher to St Patrick’s Dublin

The Rector of Rossorry Parish Church in Clogher Diocese, Revd Stephen McWhirter is undertaking a pilgrimage of a different kind by walking from his church on the outskirts of Enniskillen to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin.

Revd Stephen will be walking the 100 miles over two weeks in Lent in a rather different way to most, in barefoot.

March 27, 2025

His 'Soles for Souls' walk will begin after morning service in Rossorry on Sunday, 30 March and finish in Dublin on Palm Sunday, 13 April with distances over the two weeks varying from just a few miles to 11 miles each day.

Revd Stephen explains; "I had initially thought, walking by myself, I'd just head off.

However I need a lot of paperwork and registration with both the PSNI and the Gardai to happen. Also support vehicles travelling ahead for me to warn oncoming traffic.

"I needed to attend to a fairly rigorous Risk Assessment as I'll be walking barefoot. As you know I've experienced this from last Lent ...





Bring the BCP to VE Day

Prayer Book Society - Use prayers from the Book of Common Prayer at Commemoration Services on May 8th.

The eightieth anniversary commemoration of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) will be marked this year.

The Prayer Book Society encourages all parishes marking the commemoration to use some of the prayers that would have been familiar to all British combatants during their time in service, for authenticity and a genuine reconnection with these moments in history.

VE Day will be marked on Thursday, 8th May. VJ Day on Friday, 15th August. Armed Forces Day falls between the two on Saturday, 28th June.

The Prayer Book would have been used across the world by British and Empire troops as they served at the end of World War II. The prayers and Collects would have been familiar to large numbers of troops. Matins and Evensong were widely attended at the time and many of the prayers suggested would have been prayed every Sunday, and indeed daily by the devout.

The Prayer Book Society has identified a range of material that could be used as part of commemorations. The selection of prayers and Psalms will also add gravitas; all are drawn from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. They come from a variety of Prayer Book services and include from Matins, the Second Collect, For Peace, and from Evensong, the Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils. Perhaps most poignant are the words taken from the service of Evensong, 'Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord' and the phrase from the Nunc Dimittis, 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace'.

Do get involved and encourage your parish or organisation to use the prayers when it commemorates the sacrifice of so many for the peace we enjoy today.

Prayers and other material you may wish to use, read more and access resources -

<https://www.pbs.org.uk/bring-the-bcp-to-ve-day/>

Events



Red Arrows coming to Newtownards for Armed Forces Day

Get ready for a spectacular day out as Northern Ireland Armed Forces Day 2025 lands in Newtownards on Saturday 21 June with breathtaking aerial displays, a military parade, and free family fun at Newtownards Airfield.

Highlights -



The Red Arrows - Catch the UK's world-famous aerobatic display team in their only Northern Ireland appearance this year!



RAF Falcons Parachute Team - and the iconic C47 Dakota from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

March 27, 2025

🏆 **Military Parade** - through Newtownards town centre at 10:30am.

🥁 **Drumhead Service & Flag Raising** at the Airfield.

🎤 **Hosted by Paul Clarke UTV** with live commentary.



🎵 **Royal Irish Regiment** - Music from the Band, Bugles, Pipes and Drums

🎡 Funfair, food stalls, street theatre, cookery demos, military displays and more!

📍 **When and where**

📅 Saturday 21 June 2025

March 27, 2025

🕒 10:30am – 5:00pm

📌 Newtownards Airfield

🎫 **FREE ENTRY**

🚌 Park & Ride info coming soon.

This is a unique chance to celebrate and support the Armed Forces while enjoying a day packed with action, entertainment, and community spirit.

➡️📱 For updates, visit:

www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/afd25

New Irish Arts in Concert plus...

“We love these rehearsal photos from one of our recent Patrick concerts! If you missed those events, why not come along to one of our upcoming dates?”



- New Irish Arts in Concert:
- **Saturday 29th March, Drumglass Parish Dungannon**
- The Light Shines, with Scripture Union NI:
- **Saturday 12th April, Methodist College Belfast**



- New Irish Arts in Concert:
- **Saturday 17th May, Mountpottinger Presbyterian Church**
- New Irish Arts in Concert:
- **Saturday 31st May, Fermanagh Christian Fellowship**
- Summer Celebration:
- **Saturday 14th June, Ulster Hall Belfast**

Find out more about all of these events, and how to purchase tickets, at newirisharts.com/events

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

In the Media

Matt in the Daiiy Telegraph seldom disappoints



*'Publish the date of the
jumble sale, but not the
US bombing plans. Those
were sent to us by mistake'*

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
