

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – A Garden to Remember

Image for today - A Garden to Remember

News -

Chatting coffee with Christian Aid at the Balmoral Show

Rooted to Christ GB leaders conference

Presbyterians meet women living in war zones as part of conference

Down and Connor Lough Derg pilgrimage

Pope Leo XIV to the Holy See diplomatic corps

Education -

Ballyclare High mathematicians score

Offer inspiring education Pope Leo XIV

Follow Me Religious Education Programme

Cathedral Calls -

Recording Belfast Canons

St Patrick's distributes Community and Charitable Funds

Clergy and ministry -

2025 Prayer Movement – Grants available for Parish Prayer Activities in Dublin & Glendalough

Events -

Kids in contact

We belong - USPG conference

GBNI Leaders' Conference

Connor Youth Equip nights

Short course on faith sharing at Carryduff

Centenary celebration of the canonization of St Thérèse of Lisieux

Resources -

Just one week left to apply for community funding from Belfast City Airport

In the media -

Iran-born refugee could be first female to be appointed

Archbishop of Canterbury - Daily Telegraph

Image of the day



A Garden to Remember

This year's Chelsea Flower Show will feature something truly special: the Chelsea Pensioner Garden - created with input from the Pensioners and supported by London Square Developments.

Following the Flower Show, and for the first time ever, the garden will be permanently rehoused within the hospital grounds, providing a lasting legacy for the veterans who helped shape it.

May 19, 2025

Discover how the garden was designed, the stories behind its creation, and why this collaboration means so much to the community.

Read more: <https://loom.ly/itlcoDA>

News



Chatting coffee with Christian Aid at the Balmoral Show

It's Balmoral Show-time and one of those visiting The Methodist Church stand was Rev John Alderdice,

May 19, 2025

President of The Methodist Church in Ireland, who wished Christian Aid a happy 80th anniversary.

Christian Aid Ireland says “The Methodist Church has been one of Christian Aid’s sponsoring denominations since we were formed at the end of the Second World War to respond to the refugee crisis in Europe.

ROOTED *in Christ*

“living a life that makes an impact and reflects just how vast and boundless His love truly is.”

Leaders’ Conference

SATURDAY 7TH

JUNE

2025

10 am - 4 pm

**NEWTOWNABBEY METHODIST MISSION,
NEWTOWNABBEY**

Further programme details available
on upcoming events calendar



TICKETS £5*

includes all workshops, seminars and lunch

* SUBSIDISED THANKS TO EA DEVELOPMENT GRANT

May 19, 2025

“Rev John chatted to our colleague Ruth Cooke about our work in Guatemala which is the focus of this year’s Christian Aid Week appeal.

“There’s still time to visit our stand at the Balmoral Show and to sample the delicious Guatemalan coffee and chocolate on offer”.



We were delighted to welcome Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Andrew Muir to our stand.

We shared the story of this year's Christian Aid Week appeal - the Indigenous farmers in Guatemala who live on the frontline of the climate crisis. There, intense heatwaves and harsh droughts are killing vital food crops, driving families into hunger and poverty. As the Stormont minister

May 19, 2025

responsible for climate policy, we welcome Minister Muir's commitment to climate action and hope he will help do everything he can to cut Northern Ireland's emissions.

Presbyterians meet women living in war zones as part of conference

Members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland have returned from Lebanon after taking part in a special

LOUGH DERG
2025 PILGRIMAGE SEASON
SANCTUARY OF SAINT PATRICK



DOWN AND CONNOR DIOCESAN
Three Day Pilgrimage

LED BY BISHOP ALAN MC GUCKIAN SJ
& JIM DEEDS

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th July 2025

Cost: £100
(Includes Island Admission & Transport)

For further information and bookings contact:
NAME: Claire
Tel: 02890690920 or Email: pathwaystothefuture@downandconnor.org





Sanctuary of Saint Patrick
Pettigo, County Donegal
F94 PC60
+353 (0)71 98 61518 info@loughderg.org
www.loughderg.org



"For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus who is our hope."
Pope Francis

conference of Christian women who continue to be impacted by war and conflict.

Rev Dr Liz Hughes, the former convener of the church's council for global mission, and Heather Clements, convenor of the council's global mission committee, took part in 'The unheard voice: women's persevering witness in war' conference, which brought together women from Lebanon, Syria and Transcarpathia in western Ukraine, along with Hungarian speaking reformed communities in central Europe.



Mrs Clements said: “Of the 24 participants who attended, some were pastors, or pastor's wives, and others were women who were in leadership in their congregations.

“We heard of the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing war, for others it was coping with Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon, or surviving Isis death squads.”

Rev Dr Liz Hughes said: “Each of the women felt deep sadness for what conflict had done to their countries, family and church families.

“It was an incredible privilege to see just a glimpse of what God sees: the silent, resilient and courageous persevering strength that you often find in women hidden in the pages of the Bible.” Courtesy Belfast Telegraph.

Pope Leo XIV to the Holy See diplomatic corps

"My ministry has begun in the heart of a Jubilee Year, devoted in a particular way to hope.

“It is a time of conversion and renewal and, above all, an opportunity to leave conflicts behind and embark on a new path, confident that, by working together, each of us in accordance with his or her own sensibilities and responsibilities, can build a world in which everyone can lead an authentically human life in truth, justice and peace. It is my hope that this will be the case everywhere, starting

May 19, 2025

with those places that suffer most grievously, like Ukraine and the Holy Land."

Education



Ballyclare High mathematicians score

Congratulations to this talented Year 9 mathematicians who excelled in this year's UK Junior Maths Challenge

49 pupils earned Bronze, 19 achieved Silver, and a special mention goes to Lucy, who received a Gold certificate and will now progress to the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round 🌟

Offer inspiring education Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV invites Catholic educators to help young people grow to their full potential by offering them inspiring education.

He met last Thursday with the religious of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for an audience in the Vatican.

The Lasallian Brothers are named after their founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle, who founded the mission to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor.

"After three centuries," Pope Leo XIV said, "it is wonderful to see how your presence continues to carry the freshness of a rich and far-reaching educational reality, through which, still today and in various parts of the world, you devote yourselves to the formation of young people with enthusiasm, fidelity, and a spirit of sacrifice."

Follow Me Religious Education Programme

Follow Me is the Religious Education Programme for National Schools under the patronage of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

It is published by the Church of Ireland General Synod Board of Education.



[https://followme.ie/?
utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook](https://followme.ie/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)

Cathedral Calls

Recording Belfast Canons

At Choral Eucharist yesterday morning the Cathedral. Welcomed its longest serving canon, Rev Ronnie Nesbitt, rector of Bangor Abbey, as the preacher.

And at Choral Evensong the newest (ecumenical) canon, the Rev'd Dr Colin McClure, minister of First Larne Presbyterian Church was welcomed and installed.



St Patrick's distributes Community and Charitable Funds

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, announced the recipients of the most recent round of distribution of the Community and Charitable Fund.

At a time when the world is very bleak in terms of news of war, struggle, and brokenness, reading through and investigating each of the applications was a very heartening process. Each organisation demonstrates compassion, care for others, connectivity, Christian faith in action.

“The total fund to be distributed amounts to €145,292.59. The applications for support exceeded €600,000 which made our decision process excruciatingly difficult. Within our



application form we requested other ways of engagement that we could support applicants with their good works. In the coming months and year, we will be engaging with the organisations who have not been successful in accessing funds in this round, to explore the opportunities that they have identified and put some plans in place to extend other forms of support”.

Clergy and ministry

2025 Prayer Movement – Grants available for Parish Prayer Activities in Dublin & Glendalough

Parishes in Dublin & Glendalough are being encouraged to engage creatively with the 2025 Prayer Movement.

The Mission Sub Committee of Diocesan Councils is offering small grants towards parish activities which aim to get people involved in the movement.

The committee's vision is to see all parishes in our United Dioceses flourish as communities of faith, confident in sharing the Good News we have been given and serving our society. They invite everyone to join the 2025 Prayer Movement as we pray that God will guide us in our work.

There are lots of ways in which parishes can engage with this initiative. You might consider a prayer breakfast, or a prayer night in the church. Your youth group might have a pizza prayer party, or the Sunday School could do prayer craft activities. The possibilities are endless.

To support these activities the Mission Sub Committee is offering groups small grant awards of up to €250 towards a project you might have that gets people in your local church praying for growth in our diocese.

The application form is designed to be as straight forwards as possible and is available by emailing the Revd Rob Clements at rector@kilternanparish.ie. Please give a description of the prayer activity and how many people are going to be involved. The number of grants the committee can award is limited, so do apply early.

May 19, 2025

Successful applicants will be asked to provide a summary of the activity afterwards and some photos.

Have you signed up to join the D & G 2025 Prayer Movement yet? You can do so here:

<https://dublin.anglican.org/ministries/mission/2025-prayer-movement/join-our-2025-prayer-movement>

Events

Kids in contact

Looking for something fun and meaningful for your child to do online?

Check out this new interactive research activity from Kids in Context and Boston College!

In just 15–30 minutes on Zoom, your child can take part in a fun research game that helps us understand how kids make decisions and think about others.

After participating, you'll receive a £5 Amazon gift card as a thank you!

It's quick and easy to sign up — just fill out this short form:
https://bostoncollege.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cvSwcJIAfaf0wXY



BOSTON
COLLEGE



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST



**ONLINE
RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS**

- Our studies are set up as **15-30 minute tasks on zoom**, looking at how children make decisions and evaluate others.
- Participants receive £5 Amazon gift cards.
- To sign up, click on this link and fill out a [quick interest form](#)



Email us at
cooperationlab@bc.edu with
any questions!

We'll be in touch shortly to share more and schedule your session.

Got questions? Email us anytime at
cooperationlab@bc.edu.

Let's learn from the next generation — because children's voices can shape a better future for us all.

We belong - USPG conference

Book today for the USPG conference!

May 19, 2025

1-3 July 2025 (day tickets available)

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Secure your spot: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-believe-we-belong-uspg-conference-2025-tickets-1268459268819?>

GBNI Leaders' Conference

Join us on Saturday 7th June for our GBNI Leaders' Conference.

A time for fellowship and to reflect on God's word followed by sessions to equip and resource your GB company for the next GB session. To find out more and to book your place, visit <https://gbni.co.uk/leaders-conference> (remember to log in first).

Connor Youth Equip nights

Equip is a new initiative for Connor Youth that will help churches build lasting youth ministries. At Equip nights, we will seek to share knowledge and experience with volunteers and workers from all across the diocese, which will help us grow gospel-centred youth ministries.

Equip nights will happen regularly throughout the year and each one will be run in 2 locations within the Diocese.

May 19, 2025

They are open to anyone that is involved in a ministry to young people or those who are thinking of starting a youth ministry. This includes volunteers, paid workers, church leaders, vestry members and young adults moving into a serving role.



The first Equip nights will ask the question "Why Youth Ministry?" as we start to think about why churches should be involved in youth ministry, what are the foundations of building a youth ministry, and what does the bible teach us about youth ministry. The dates for these evenings are:

Tuesday 10th June, 7pm - Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown

Thursday 12th June, 7pm - Parish Centre, Portglenone
(Please note these new dates from what has been previously advertised)

If you would like any further information please get in touch with davidarmstrong@connordiocese.org

Short course on faith sharing at Carryduff

A reminder that Down and Dromore diocese is holding a FREE short training course on how to share your faith, beginning on Tuesday 27 May in Carryduff Parish.

It runs for three consecutive Tuesdays and will be led by Capt George Newell. Sign up at Eventbrite:

<https://tinyurl.com/bddv6z6m>

Centenary celebration of the canonization of St Thérèse of Lisieux

You are invited by Down and Connor diocese to a special centenary celebration of the canonization of St Thérèse of Lisieux.

St Thérèse is a beloved saint known for her little way of love and spiritual simplicity. We are honoured to welcome Fr Paul Murray OP, renowned speaker and spiritual director of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who will offer a reflection on how to live and pray like St Thérèse. The event will take place on 22 May at 19:00 at Holy Family Church (226-228 Limestone Road, Belfast, BT15 3AP). All are welcome.

Resources

Just one week left to apply for community funding from Belfast City Airport

May 19, 2025

Through Belfast City Airport Community Fund community groups, charities, schools, sports teams, and other local initiatives have been helped to bring meaningful projects to life making a real difference where it matters most.

Are you part of a group in Greater Belfast, Ards, or North Down that could benefit from funding?

“Apply by 23rd May and let us help take your project to new heights!” Says the City Airport.

<http://bit.ly/45aWN8X>

In the media

Iran-born refugee could be first female to be appointed Archbishop of Canterbury - Daily Telegraph

Iran-born refugee who criticised Starmer over migrants speech would be first female in top job, Albert Tait writes.

The Rt Rev Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford, has emerged as an early frontrunner among bookmakers to succeed Justin Welby, who formally stepped down in January.

Ladbroke's and Star Sports have both named her as favourite to become the 106th holder of the role and the first woman in the job's 1,428-year history.

Dr Francis-Dehqani has been an outspoken critic of the immigration policy of successive governments.

Earlier this week, she criticised the Prime Minister's speech in which he said Britain risked "becoming an island of strangers". She said: "In the churches and different communities I am a part of, we are not an 'island of strangers'. Migrants are not 'strangers' but friends who fully participate and contribute as we worship, serve and live life together.

"The vast majority have applied through official routes to come here to the UK to live, work and study and their contributions go far beyond a simple binary GDP evaluation."

She also criticised the previous government's Rwanda asylum plan and attacked Suella Braverman, the former home secretary, after she said that churches fuelled fake asylum claims.

Dr Francis-Dehqani's family fled to Britain when she was just 13 following Iran's Islamic Revolution in the late 1970s. Her brother was shot dead in 1980 and attempts were made on the lives of her father, an Anglican Bishop, and mother before they left.

She was ordained in 1999 and served as Bishop of Loughborough from 2017 to 2021 before moving to Chelmsford in 2021. She is now one of five women among the bookmakers' frontrunners to become the most senior bishop and the spiritual leader of the Church.

This month, the Church announced the central members and Anglican Communion representatives of the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission, the body charged with nominating the new archbishop. Its membership was expected to be known in March, but there appear to have been delays in the selection of representatives from the diocese of Canterbury.

On Tuesday, the Church confirmed Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York – currently the most senior bishop in the Church – would be among the voting members, alongside Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich. It had already been confirmed the commission would be chaired by Lord Evans of Weardale, former director-general of MI5.

Candidates have to be at least 30 years old, and are generally younger than 70. A nomination cannot be made unless it has the support of two-thirds of the total number of CNC voting members in a secret ballot.

The commission is expected to have its first meeting later this month. At least two further meetings will follow in July and September.

It is expected there could be an announcement on a nomination for the 106th archbishop by autumn.

The Church has faced calls to speed up the process of appointing Mr Welby's successor. Conservative MP Martin Vickers said it had a lot to learn from the Catholic Church's speedy election of the new Pope.

Poem for today

Jerusalem

by William Blake

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon Englands mountains green:
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On Englands pleasant pastures seen!

And did the Countenance Divine,
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among these dark Satanic Mills?

Bring me my Bow of burning gold:
Bring me my arrows of desire:
Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold!
Bring me my Chariot of fire!

I will not cease from Mental Fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand:
Till we have built Jerusalem,
In Englands green & pleasant Land.

May 19, 2025

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