

Church News Ireland

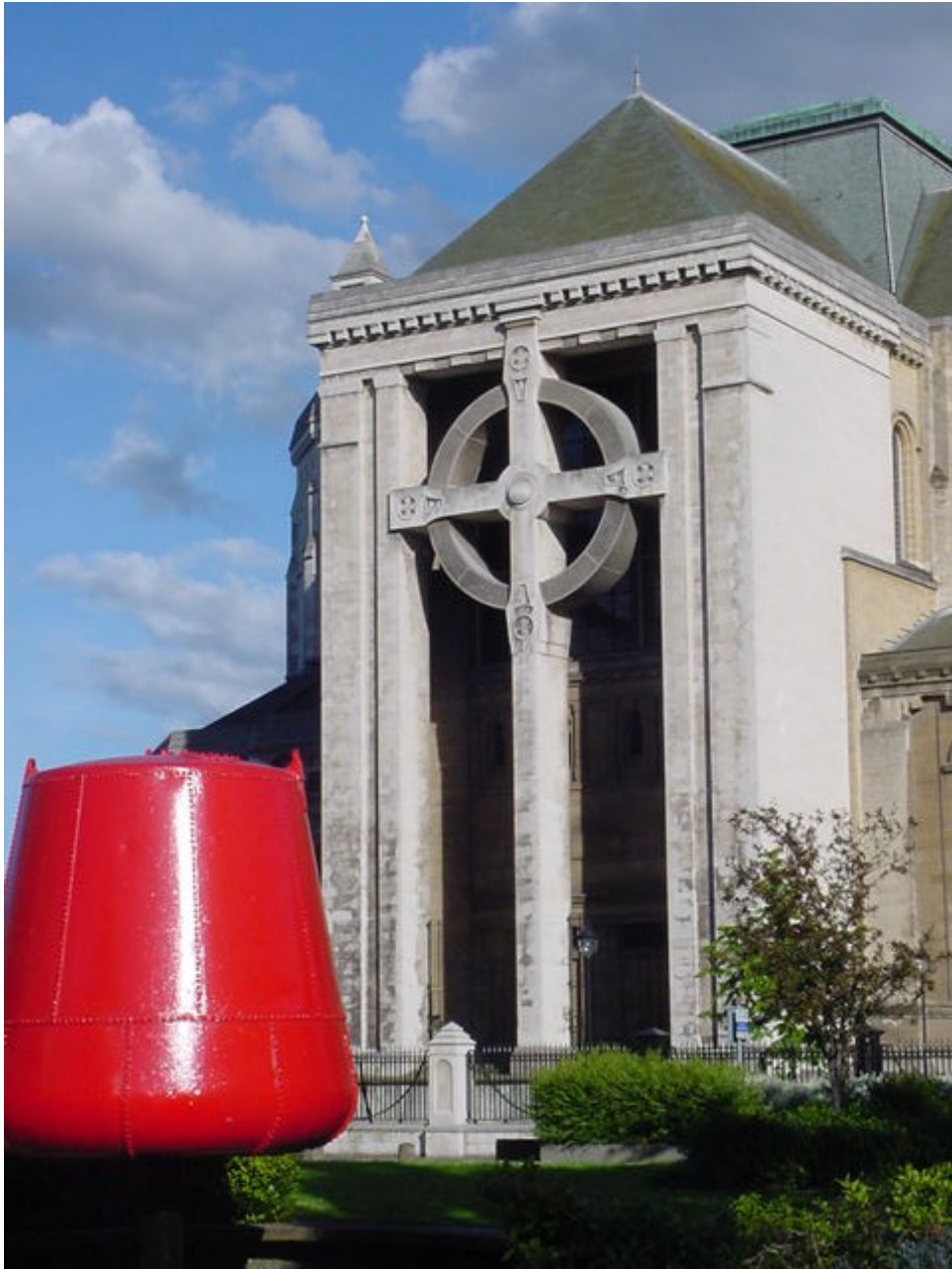


Image of the day – Cathedral VE 80 thanksgiving

May 3, 2025

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Special reception at Windsor Castle for holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day

Cathedral VE 80 thanksgiving

**80 years from
Victory in Europe
will be marked in
Belfast Cathedral
tomorrow.**

**A special Service
of Thanksgiving in
Belfast Cathedral
this Sunday, 4th
May, will launch the VE (Victory in Europe) Day 80th
anniversary commemorations in the city and across
Northern Ireland.**

The service, which gets underway at 3.30pm, is open to all, with the Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd Stephen Forde, encouraging those who have memories of VE Day, on 8th May 1945, to attend, and anyone with relatives who served during World War Two to wear the medals of their loved one.

Photos - Cover, The Celtic Cross, the largest in Ireland, is at the exterior wall of the Royal Irish Chapel of Remembrance, interior above





The memorials to the Irish Guards and the 8th (Belfast) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, which served in Europe, India and Burma. Their Adjutant, Sir Robin Kinahan was later Lord Mayor of Belfast and Dean's Warden of the Cathedral. The Burma Star Association Belfast Branch colour was laid up in the Cathedral.



Memorial windows were installed and consecrated. The Royal Army Medical Corps window was consecrated in the presence of its Royal Colonel HRH the Duke of Gloucester.

The service is organised by the Cathedral in partnership with HM Lord Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast, Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, DBE DStJ DDL, and the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum.

Many organisations that were involved both on the Home Front and at the Front in the war in Europe will be represented and participate in the service. The preacher will be the Revd Dr John Alderdice, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.



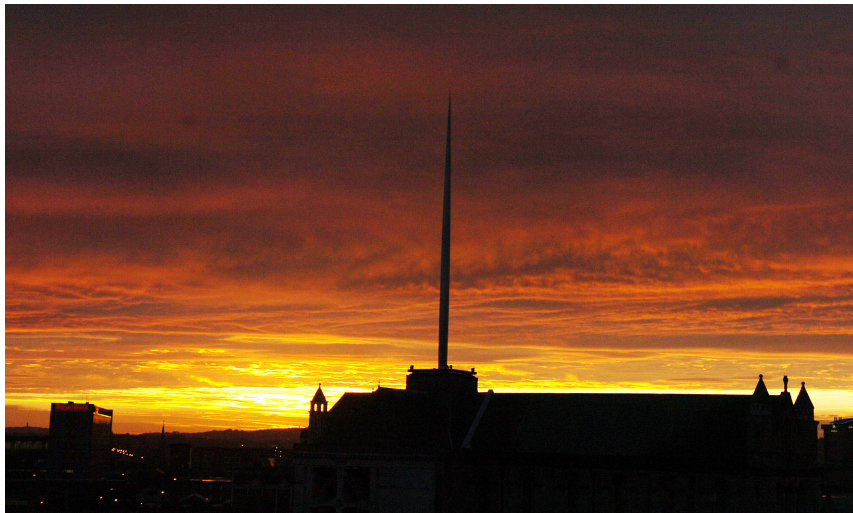
The Memorial Window of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nurses was consecrated in the presence of its Royal Colonel, HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh

Before the service gets underway, the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment will play music from the 1940s. At the commencement of the service, the King's Standards and the Standard of the Royal British Legion will be paraded and presented to the Dean. Candles of peace and items from the war period will be presented by representatives of youth organisations and the Forces Cadets.

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*The Communion
Silver of the Royal
Irish Chapel and the
Dean's Insignium
were presented by
the Regiment.*



particularly poignant part of the service will be the sharing of ‘Voices from the Second World War’ – a re-enactment performed as part of the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum’s oral history project.

“For the Cathedral that survived the Blitz, the 80th anniversary of VE Day is tremendously important as we launch the VE Day Week of Celebrations across the City of Belfast and the province,” Dean Forde said.

“We invite those who lived through the war years or have their own memories to join us to mark eight decades of peace that was won by the sacrifice of those who fought and died in faraway places.

“We will also be remembering those whose work across the province was so important to the war effort. We invite those who have the medals of family members to join us on the day and to wear those medals with pride and thanksgiving for what a previous generation gave for us.”

The service will be recorded to be aired on BBC Radio Ulster on Sunday, 11th May at 9.03am.

See also following page.



The various members of the Royal Family have been most generous in their support of the armed services and their veterans and in their presence at the Cathedral at various services of commemoration and thanksgiving.





Special reception at Windsor Castle for holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross

The King, The Queen and The Prince of Wales have hosted a special reception at Windsor Castle for holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross.

The Victoria Cross is awarded to those serving in British and Commonwealth Forces who have shown tremendous bravery. The George Cross, which can be awarded to anyone, is given to people who show heroism or courage in extreme danger.

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His Majesty has been Patron of the VC & GC Association since 2022.

Education

NI Education Minister visits Saint Patrick Centre, Downpatrick

Education Minister Paul Givan MLA visited The Saint Patrick Centre and met Dr Tim Campbell, Centre Director and Emma Killen, Centre Chairperson.

The Minister was given a tour of the exhibition and learned about the Centre's cross-community education programme. He met with pupils and principals from Lecale Trinity Grammar and Down High School and discussed their understanding of Saint Patrick.

Literific Schools' Debating Competition at Parliament Buildings

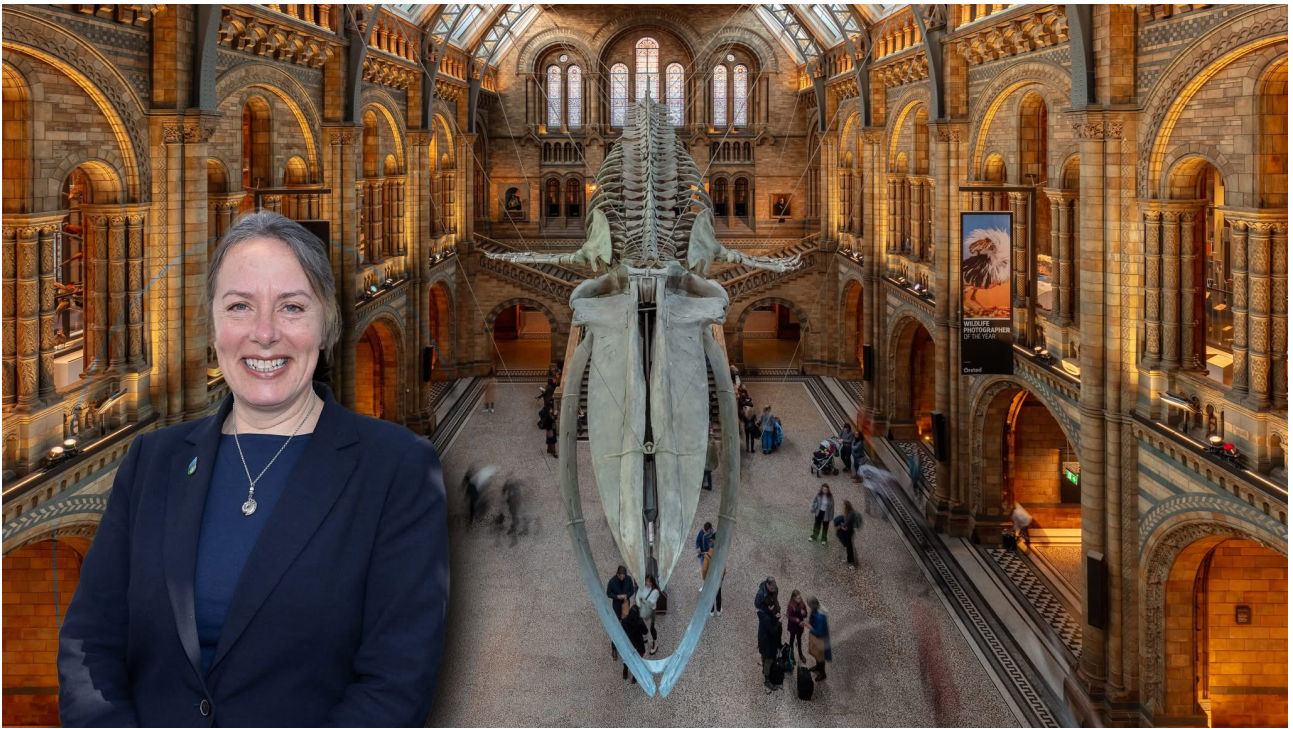
Methodist College, Belfast, students Rory Press-Worth, L6S, Seamus O'Hara, L6V, Emer Allen, 5R, and Tilly McCall, L6P, recently travelled to Parliament Buildings for the final of the Literific Schools' Debating Competition, organised by the Literary and Scientific Society at Queen's University Belfast.

The motion was: 'This House Believes that Ireland's Youth have Forgotten the Lessons of the Troubles'. The

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adjudicators included Peter Martin MLA and Koulla Yiasouma, the former NI Commissioner for Children and Young People. Congratulations to Tilly McCall for being recognised as the runner-up Best Individual Speaker.



UCD Professor appointed to British Natural History Museum Trustee Board

Warmest congratulations to UCD Professor Kate Robson Brown on her appointment by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer to the British Natural History Museum Board of Trustees, advising on digital tech and AI.

Speaking of her appointment, Professor Kate Robson Brown said it was “a privilege to be joining the Natural History Museum’s Board of Trustees at a time when the organisation is seeking to realise the opportunities presented by digital technologies to deliver its core missions.”

"We are living through a period of digital transformation in which data generation and management, data science and AI are impacting on many aspects of our lives and opening

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up opportunities for new ways of working and engaging with the communities we serve.”

Exhibiting a vast range of specimens, comprising some 80 million items across its main collections, the Natural History Museum is recognised as the pre-eminent centre of natural history and research in related fields worldwide.

Given the institution's age, many of its collections have great historical and scientific value, including specimens collected by Charles Darwin.

In addition to Professor Robson Brown, Tanuja Randery, VP and Managing Director of Amazon Web Services (AWS) UKI, Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA), has also been appointed to the Museum’s Board of Trustees.

Cathedral Calls Requiem for Pope Francis at St Peter’s

Bishop Alan McGuckian of Down and Connor celebrated a Requiem Mass for Pope Francis, joined by parishioners from across the diocese.

The Mass was also attended by representatives from other





Christian churches, the Deputy Lieutenant of Belfast, Mrs Ann McGregor, and Junior Minister Aisling Reilly MLA from



The Executive Office.

It was a solemn and prayerful occasion, uniting the community in remembrance and thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the Holy Father.

Clergy at Winchester Cathedral praise God for rise in Easter attendance

Clergy at Winchester Cathedral are “rejoicing” after an increase in the number of people attending services over Holy Week and Easter.

Overall, there was a 13 per cent increase in the number of people coming to worship across Good Friday to Easter Day compared with 2024.

Some 31 per cent more people went to the cathedral’s Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, and the Diocesan Chrism saw a huge 69 per cent rise in numbers. On Good Friday, there was an increase of four per cent in the number of people attending the Three Hours service.

The Interim Dean of Winchester Cathedral, Rev Canon Dr Roland Riem, said: “We rejoice that so many wished to engage with the Cathedral’s worship over Lent and Holy Week, whether in person or online.”

Winchester Cathedral’s Canon Missioner, Rev Canon Dr Tess Kuin Lawton, told Premier:

“There has been this sense of a gradual increase in interest, not just quiet interest, but people actually being interested in turning up. And of course, the fact that we had the Easter weekend, and so many of the events that go on over Easter gave people an opportunity to come to church as well.”

She added that while this year's numbers were up by 13 per cent, they are also increasing year on year: “Even last year they were significantly up in terms of pre-Covid statistics. So when we go back to 2018 and 2019, the growth is tremendous. It's fantastic news.”

Events

Quiet Day at St Columb's Park House, Londonderry

The Rector of the Inver Group, Rev Susan Elliott, will lead the Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Ministry of Healing team's early summer 'Quiet Day' at St Columb's Park House in Londonderry on Saturday 7th June, from 9.30am–3.30pm.


Susan has ample experience of leading retreat days and the theme for this time together – 'God's Garden' – will give all present an opportunity to explore what God is sowing, growing and pruning in our Christian lives.

The £10 cost will include lunch, refreshments and a journal for those taking part. It is important for organisational purposes that participants confirm their attendance as soon

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as possible, so that resources and catering can be prepared.

Early confirmations would be very much appreciated.
Please email carmenmirandahayes@hotmail.com a.s.a.p. to book your place.




*Reconnecting with Traditions
of Pilgrimage in East Galway*

A Guided Tour With Dr. Christy Cunniffe

Saturday 24th of May 2025

Book now at tlk.ie/spiritualtourism/

Contact Valerie: 087 2286868 or
Email spiritualtourism@tlk.ie



Traditions of Christian Pilgrimage in East Galway guided tour

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A guided tour with Dr Christy Cunniffe reconnecting with the traditions of Pilgrimage through Early Christian Sites in East Galway (Aughrim – Kilconnell – Clontuskert – Clonfert – return to Aughrim)

Saturday 24th May 2025. Cost €35 per person

Early booking advised – go to

<https://tlk.ie/pilgrimage-early-christian-sites/>

Read more about our Spiritual Tourism and Pilgrimage initiative here:- <https://tlk.ie/spiritualtourism/>



Sunday 4th May 2025



Altnagelvin Hospital Choir present A
Little Jazz Mass


Sun 4th May 11:00am - 12:00pm

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Altnagelvin Hospital Choir at Christ Church

Rehearsals went well last night for our performance of Chilcott's "A Little Jazz Mass" taking place on Sunday 4th May at 11am as part of Christ Church liturgical service .

Thanks very much to Christ Church for the invitation to sing and thanks to our special musicians for this event :

Piano and Organ - Ben McGonigle 

Double bass - Peter Doherty 

Drums - David Whiteside 

We are really looking forward to taking part as part of @derryjazzfest .

Everyone is very welcome - why not come and join us and start your Sunday visit to the festival with us.

West Belfast Presbyterian Historical Walking Tour

Join us for the West Belfast Presbyterian Historical Tour at the Corner of College Square North and Durham Street! Sat, 17 May 2025 10:00 - 12:30

Dive into the rich history of this vibrant community as we explore significant landmarks and learn about the Presbyterian heritage that shaped the area. This in-person

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event is a fantastic opportunity to connect with like-minded history enthusiasts and uncover hidden gems right in our own backyard. Don't miss out on this unique experience!

After the morning tour we will be offering a guided tour of Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, the former Broadway Presbyterian Church building.

If the morning is booked out then they should scroll down to find the link for the afternoon tour. @highlight

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/west-belfast-presbyterian-historical-walking-tour-am-tickets-1322745349949?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Poem for today

Bluebells for Love

by Patrick Kavanagh

There will be bluebells growing under the big trees
And you will be there and I will be there in May;
For some other reason we both will have to delay
The evening in Dunshaughlin - to please
Some imagined relation,
So both of us came to walk through that plantation.
We will be interested in the grass,
In an old bucket-hoop, in the ivy that weaves
Green incongruity among the dead leaves,
We will put on surprise at carts that pass -
Only sometimes looking sideways at the bluebells in the

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Plantation,
And never frighten them with too wild an exclamation.
We will be wise, we will not let them guess
That we are watching them or they will pose
A mere facade like boys
Caught out in virtue's naturalness.
We will not impose on the bluebells in that plantation
Too much of our desire's adulation.
We will have other loves – or so they'll think;
The primroses or the ferns or the briars,
Or even the rusty paling wires,
Or the violets on the sunless sorrel bank.
Only as an aside the bluebells in the plantation
Will mean a thing to our dark contemplation.
We'll know love little by little, glance by glance.
Ah, the clay under these roots is so brown!
We'll steal from Heaven while God is in the town –
I caught an angel smiling in a chance
Look through the tree-trunks of the plantation
As you and I walked slowly to the station.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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