

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Campbell College pipes and drums**

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### **News -**

April was a busy month at Corrymeela

European Heritage Open Days there's still time to apply

Blessington Union cooks up storm for church restoration

Representative Church Body Library's special screening at General Synod of 'A Hundred Years After Disestablishment'

### **Education -**

Stranmillis students in Dubai

Dungannon Integrated students selected for 2025 Ulster Project

Rainey Endowed School seek donations for Abaana trip to Uganda

### **Cathedral calls -**

Christian Aid hails unearthed Belfast Cathedral archive document of its earliest years

Derry Cathedral focus of VE-80 remembrance

### **Events -**

Connor Council for Mission online event with Nathaniel Jennings

### **Resources -**

LEGO Methodist church

### **Poem for today**

Vigil by Dennis O'Driscoll

### **Speaking to the soul -**

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



May 9, 2025

## Image of the day



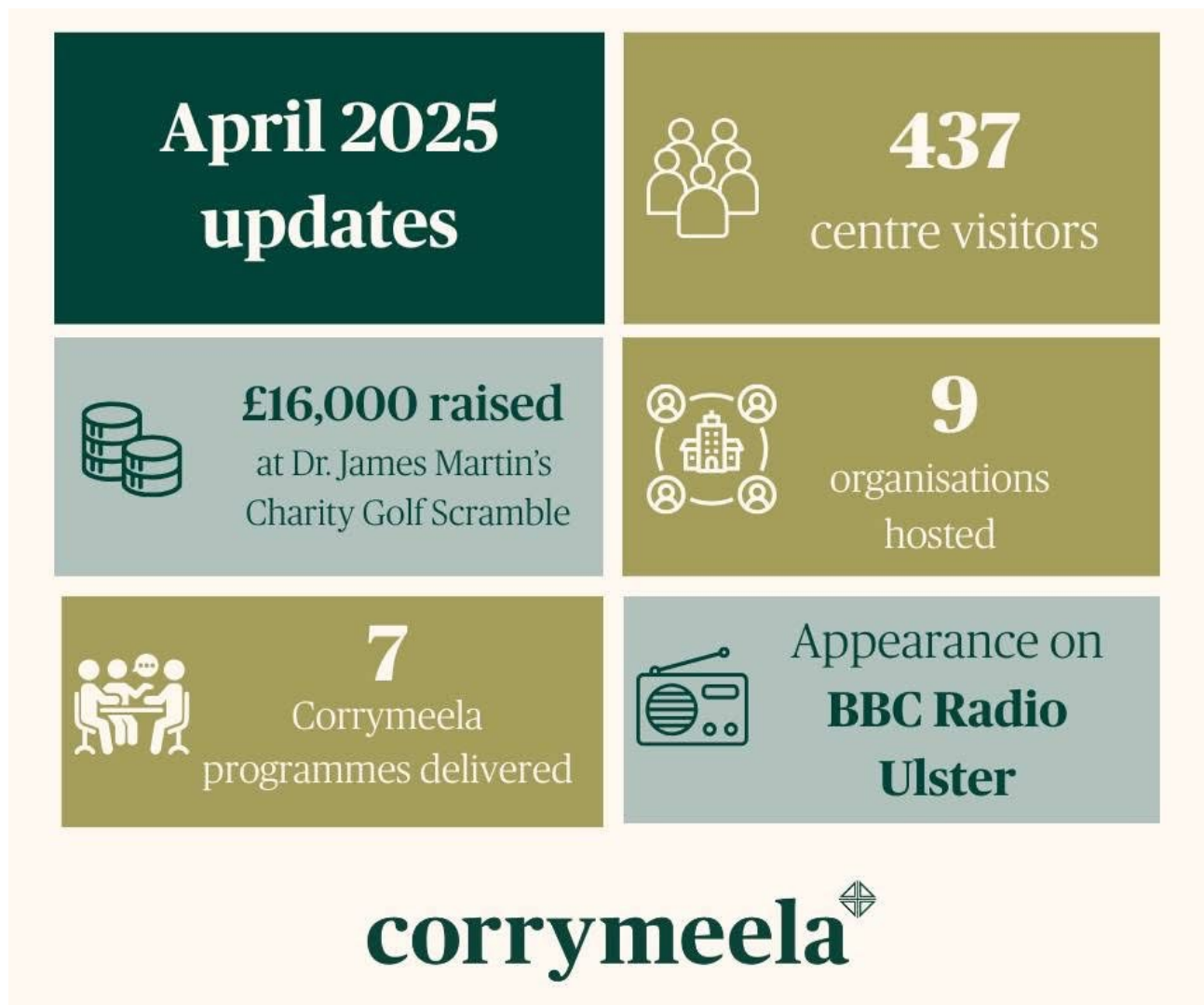
### Campbell College pipes and drums

The College pipes and drums took part with the Bugles, Pipes, Band and Drums of the Royal Irish Regiment at the civic VE-80 Remembrance held at Stranmillis University College.





## News



### April was a busy month at Corrymeela

**April flew by and it was a busy month at our centre! From successful fundraising events to hosting our Community Weekend, we were delighted to host people from all walks of life, writes a Corrymeela correspondent.**

We facilitated seven programmes focussing on conflict resolution, peacebuilding and our Seeds of Hope programme working with youth groups from NI and beyond.



May 9, 2025

Want to help support our work? Find out more here:  
<https://www.corrymeela.org/donate/regular-giving>

## European Heritage Open Days there's still time to apply

**Do you own a historic gem ? Each year The Department for Communities invites heritage venues, historic buildings, gardens and houses to take part in European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) and you could take part too.**

Register your historic building for EHOD taking place on 13th & 14th September 2025, and let the public experience the beauty and history of your space.

Why participate?

- Showcase your building's unique history and architecture
- Connect with history lovers and curious visitors



May 9, 2025

- Be part of a national celebration of heritage, supported by Discover NI

Deadline: 11th May 2025 – don't wait!



## **Blessington Union cooks up a storm for church restoration fund**

**Blessington Union of Parishes received huge support for their first fundraising event in aid of the restoration of St John's Church, Ballymore Eustace on Thursday May 1.**



May 9, 2025

The parish welcomed celebrity chef, Neven Maguire to Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort for a cooking demonstration which launched the major restoration project for St John's.

The renowned chef and his highly professional team presented a spectacular cookery demonstration in front of an enthusiastic crowd of over 400 attendees.

Nevin absolutely wowed the audience, as did Aisling Giltrap-Mills who was the MC for the night. Aisling's incredible sense of humour quickly set the scene for what was to come – a thoroughly relaxing and good humoured approach to good food, cooked beautifully. Aisling Giltrap-Mills (Master of Ceremonies) introducing Neven Maguire

It wasn't difficult to see why Neven has such a loyal group of followers. His easy manner and friendly disposition, combined with his exceptional skill as a chef, had everyone engaged from the very beginning.

Before the cookery demonstration began, Neven took time to browse around the selection of artisan's stalls in the courtyard of Tulfarris, chatting with the stall-holders and checking out their produce.

The Stall-holders included: Hollywood Cheeses, Grá Arán, Bread, The Birds and the Teas, Miena's Nougat, Russborough Honey, Pistachio, Cool Swan, Caffrey's Sauces, Wicklow Way Wines, Durt Birds Soap, Russborough Shop, Bloda Bella Bees and AIB Blessington.

To the delight of the fundraising team, the enormous goodwill and support for this project from the wider

community in the Blessington, Ballymore and surrounding area was evident on the night.

Fr Joe Connolly from the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Ballymore Eustace and Fr Gerry Kane from the Church of Our Lady Parish in Blessington were in attendance, along with many of their parishioners. Public representatives were also in evidence.

St John's is a beautiful church of the 'First Fruits', which was built in 1820. It is nestled in the trees on a hill just outside Ballymore Eustace and holds a very special place in the hearts of so many who live in the area.

The church is situated close to the site of a medieval church which dates back to 1192. The graveyard contains important High Crosses and ancient grave slabs. Inside the building, there is a large 12th century granite font which is thought to originate from the earlier medieval church.

St John's is home to a stone effigy of a knight, Thomas FitzEustace who died in 1454. It is thought to have been brought to the church for safekeeping in 1919 from Old Kilcullen.

There are several spectacular stained glass windows attributed to Drake, Hardman and Powell, including a vivid depiction of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane in the Sanctuary, thought to be the only depiction of its kind in the country.

The Restoration work, which is due to commence this summer, will be carried out over a series of phases and will



May 9, 2025

include roof and structural repairs, heating system upgrades, external wall restoration and stained glass window conservation.

The Revd Niall Stratford and the St John's Restoration Project team are deeply grateful to Neven Maguire and Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort for their extraordinary generosity. Huge thanks also go to their sponsors and to everyone who came and supported this most successful and entertaining of fundraising events.

Fr. Joe Connolly, Rev'd Niall Stratford, Fr. Gerry Kane

## **Representative Church Body Library's special screening at General Synod of 'A Hundred Years After Disestablishment'**

**Thanks to the work of the C of I's Representative Church Body Library there will be a special screening of a film produced by Radharc Films to mark the centenary of Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, broadcast on RTÉ in 1970.**

This special screening for General Synod 2025, which begins this Friday (9th May), has been made possible with the permission of The Radharc Trust:

Fifty-five years ago, in 1970 a 29-minute film produced by Radharc Films for the national broadcaster RTÉ marked the centenary of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. Whilst its existence was known about (as the RCB Library holds still images or cuttings of the footage devoted to the opening of the Library in Braemor Park), the full original

May 9, 2025

footage of the film was considered lost. Lost, that is, until staff in the Library located an unmarked 16mm cine film.

With the assistance of the Radharc Trust the film was digitally remastered to reveal the original broadcast footage,



## The Band, Bugles, Pipes & Drums of The Royal Irish Regiment

**SATURDAY 10th MAY 2025**

### **'Beating Retreat'**

3.00pm | St Macartin's Cathedral Hall Car Park, Enniskillen

### **VE Day 80 Commemorative Community Concert**

7.00pm | St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen



Featuring soloists Clara Wilson & Lauren Kells with Erne Highland Dancers, Gary Wilson & compere Paul Clark

**FREE ADMISSION TO BOTH EVENTS WITH  
NO PRE-BOOKING OR TICKETS REQUIRED**





May 9, 2025

which opens with the presenter Paul Loughlin standing on a roof top in Tailors' Lane, Dublin, with the Synod Hall and Christ Church Cathedral in the background.

The remainder of the film shows footage of various events in the centenary anniversary year during 1970, including the special centenary service held on St Patrick's Day in

ENTRY : ADULTS £1 (INCLUDES FREE PRIZE DRAW) KIDS FREE ENTRY

**MOSSLEY PARISH**  
**CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**NEWTOWNABBEY**

**SPRING FAIR**

**SATURDAY 17TH MAY**  
**10AM - 1PM**

VARIOUS STALLS – HANDMADE GOODS  
BAKED GOODS – PLANT STALL  
TOMBOLA – HAMPERS  
BRIC-A-BRAC –  
RAFFLES – TEA ROOM –  
BBQ– TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC –  
WIGGLE IT – MUSIC  
KIDS ACTIVITIES & LOTS MORE.....

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, MANSE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 6XR  
IN AID OF PARISH FUNDS // REG. CHARITY NIC103262

May 9, 2025

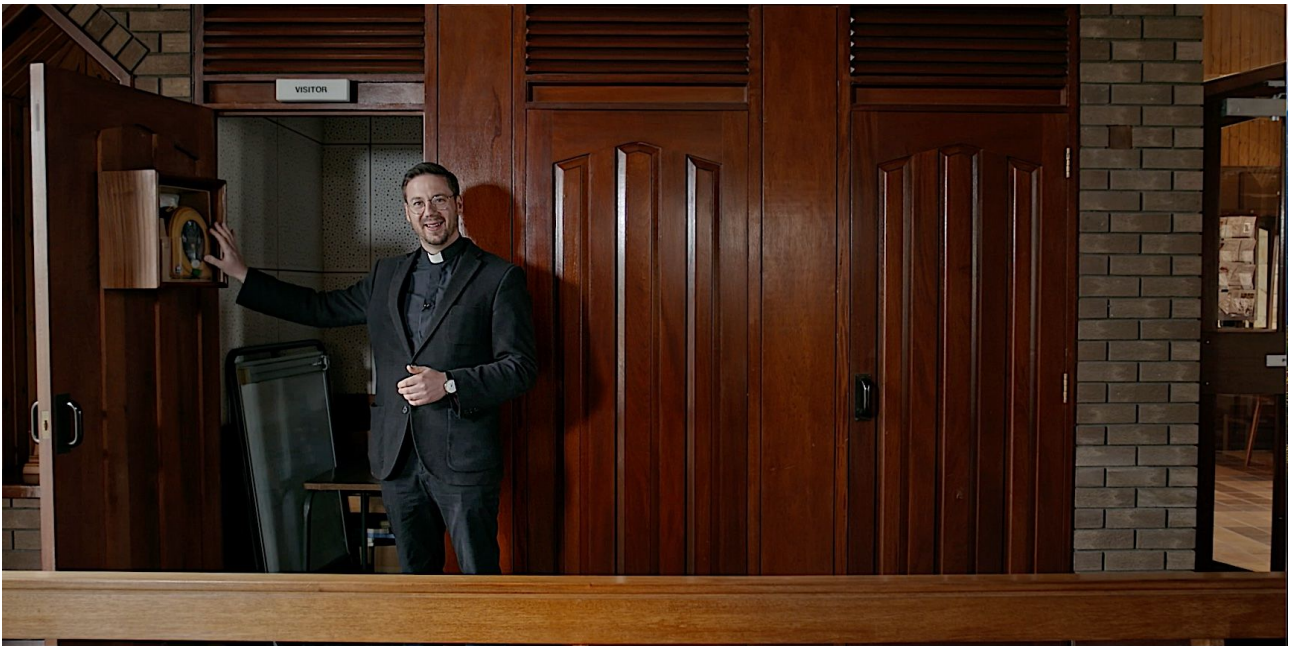
Armagh Cathedral; interviews with Archbishops George Otto Simms and Alan Buchanan; and the launch of the book *Irish Anglicanism* – a collection of essays edited by Fr Michael Hurley (Jesuit priest and founder of the Irish School of Ecumenics).



At a service in the chapel at Gonzaga College Dublin, in April 1970, Fr Hurley gifted the first copy to Archbishop Simms 'as a tribute of recognition and gratitude' from non-Anglican scholars for the Church of Ireland's role in Irish life since Disestablishment in 1869. The film also includes footage of the opening of the new RCB Library in Braemor Park in October 1969 – considered a gift to ecumenical scholarship – and finally a think-tank for young people held in a hotel in Co. Wicklow to discuss where the Church was heading in the future.

The film is remarkable for many reasons, not least because it was independently written and produced by Fr Des Forristel (1930-2012), a priest of Dublin Archdiocese and writer, who along with another Dublin priest, Fr Joe Dunn, founded Radharc which was involved in the production of programmes on topics relating to religious, historical and social issues (in anticipation of the founding of RTÉ). At this





difficult time for inter-church relations on the island, the film reveals deep respect for the contribution of the Church of Ireland and captures sound and images of significant ecumenical relationship-building encounters that were ahead of its time.

The commentary provides a balanced and largely positive reflection about the impact of Disestablishment which, it suggests, effectively saved the unity of the Church of Ireland as an all-island Church from subsequent political divisions.

The RCB Library has collaborated with The Radharc Trust and the Irish Film Institute to bring this unique film which captures important moments in time back into the public domain. The Library is grateful for the assistance of Peter Kelly of The Radharc Trust, and Neil Moxham of the Irish Film Institute.

A copy of Irish Anglicanism, as presented by the editor to the RCB Library in 1970, including the text of the speeches

May 9, 2025

of both Fr Michael Hurley and Archbishop Simms, will also be on display at General Synod.

Readers can find out more about the work of The Radharc Trust at [www.radharc.ie](http://www.radharc.ie) and the Irish Film Institute at [www.ifi.ie](http://www.ifi.ie)

## Education

### Stranmillis students in Dubai

**SUC writes - Thank you to GEMS Education Wesgreen International School - Sharjah and James McDonald, in Dubai for hosting 4 of our Stranmillis University College students on placement for 10 days.**

Cameron Banford (BSC PE & Sport), Ellen Henderson (BEd Primary), Grace Ward and Morgan Jackson (BEd Post-Primary) had a fantastic experience in the UAE.

### Dungannon Integrated students selected for 2025 Ulster Project

**Dungannon Integrated Year 12 students, Summer and Evanna were successful in securing a place on the 2025 Ulster Project.**

Since 1975, the organisation has been working with teenagers in Northern Ireland to educate and develop them as leaders to effect change in their communities. The girls

May 9, 2025

will travel to Kansas to participate in community projects with the homeless, vulnerable adults and young people. They will receive leadership training in conflict resolution with the goal of empowering them to oppose discrimination of any kind. This is a fantastic opportunity and one which reflects the ethos of ICD in promoting positive relationships within a restorative environment.

Congratulations on your selection Summer and Evanna. We look forward to hearing all about the community projects you engage with, when you return.

## **Rainey Endowed School seek donations for Abaana trip to Uganda**

**We're preparing for our Abaana trip to Uganda and are kindly asking for donations of any items you no longer need!**

These will go directly to the pupils at Rainey Summit View Primary School, where our sponsor children attend. Your pre-loved items could make a huge difference in their lives. We are specifically asking for:



Large suitcases



Children's clothing (4-14 yr Old)



Children's books



New Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

Thank you so much for your support!



— ABAANA 2025 TEAM —

## WE ARE NOW COLLECTING...



The illustration shows a collection of items for donation. In the center, there are two open cardboard boxes. The box on the left features a coat of arms with the motto 'SALUS SAPERE OMNIBUS' and the year '1713'. The box on the right has a red and white 'ABAANA' logo. Inside the boxes are various items: a blue t-shirt, a green t-shirt, a red t-shirt, a blue t-shirt, a blue bottle of toothpaste labeled 'TOOTH PASTE', a pink toothbrush, a stack of books, and a small flag of the Republic of Ireland. To the right of the boxes is a blue rolling suitcase. Above the boxes, a blue t-shirt and a red t-shirt are hanging on hangers.

### WHAT WE NEED...

**Large old suitcases, Children's clothing (4-14 yr old) Children's books , New Toothbrushes & Tooth Paste. ( NO Shoes this year please)**

**ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED, THANK YOU!**

## Cathedral Calls

**Christian Aid hails unearthed Belfast Cathedral archive document of its earliest years**



**Christian Aid has hailed the unearthing of a document from 1945 showing that Belfast was already raising funds for World War Two refugees at the time peace was declared, Adam Kula writes. In the Belfast Newsletter.**

The programme for the VE Day service of thanksgiving on May 13, 1945, was found among the archives of St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Belfast.

It details a collection for "Christian Reconstruction in Europe", a group which was formed in the latter part of the war.

"Christian Reconstruction in Europe" was founded by British Council of Churches. It changed its name to Christian Aid soon afterwards.

The charity says the programme is among the first historic mentions of the group.

In a fundraising push across Britain and Ireland, the nascent charity raised more than £80,000 (equivalent to more than £3 million in today's money) to assist the refugees, often to pay for food parcels sent to those living in DP (displaced persons) camps.

Across the whole continent, it has been estimated that as many as 65 million people were forced from their homes by the war. Millions more fled the Japanese aggression in Asia.

Cathedral dean Stephen Forde said: "This document proves that within days of VE Day in 1945, the citizens of Belfast were raising funds for refugees in Europe.

"It's touching to think, amid all the joy and relief, and despite the rationing and hardships here at home, that Belfast remembered the millions in desperate need across Europe."

Rosamond Bennett, chief executive of Christian Aid Ireland, thanked cathedral staff for sharing the document, saying: "It's wonderful to see our 'birth certificate' – our genesis story – right here in black and white, on this meticulously preserved programme.

"In the 80 years since this first collection was taken up, our work to support people fleeing war and disaster around the world has only been possible because of the generous support of people here in Belfast and across Northern Ireland."



May 9, 2025

A service will be held at St Anne's on Friday June 20 (World Refugee Day) to mark Christian Aid's 80th anniversary. For more, visit [caid.ie/80](https://caid.ie/80) th



## **Derry Cathedral focus of VE-80 remembrance**

**Leaders from the city's four main churches led the congregation in prayers remembering those who gave their lives in World War II and those who serve today; and prayers for peace among nations and in our hearts.**

Prayers were said, too, for King Charles III, and the congregation pledged themselves to "support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations".



In a poignant address, the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, recalled the **historic visit by King George VI, his wife, Queen Elizabeth, and their two daughters, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret**, on their victory tour after V.E. Day, during which – on 18th July 1945 – they attended a Service of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral. "A few short months earlier," Bishop Forster said, "in his speech on V.E. Day, the King began by thanking Almighty God for such a great deliverance."

Londonderry played a key and vital role in the great deliverance that the King spoke of, Bishop Andrew said. "Here was the fulcrum of the longest continuous military campaign of World War II - the Battle of the Atlantic." At one point, the Bishop said, 140 Allied escort ships were based on the Foyle and without the protection of the supply routes, the outcome of the war could have been very different. "So, it is hugely appropriate that 80 years after [V.E. Day], we





gather in this place with hearts filled with gratitude, and hearts filled also with poignant thankfulness that such a terrible conflict ended and the evil of war was swept away in a renewed love of peace."

Bishop Andrew shared a moving account of a conversation he had with his late father who was nearing the end of his life in which he recalled being driven into Belfast to join the V.E. Day celebrations. "What he remembered most of that night, as a 15-year-old boy, was that all the lights were on. For six years there'd been a total blackout. Air raid wardens patrolled the streets making sure no light spilled from any window. The street lights had had their bulbs removed. Even the traffic lights were switched off. But that night, the lights came on again."

The Bishop said there was light and there was darkness in every human heart, and often there was internal conflict





between those two things. "The lessons of human history show us that a root of bitterness can grow into a weed of hatred that becomes a swamp of destruction. In some way, that was the perverted outworking of Nazism - the darkness won in people's hearts. Do we let the darkness win in our own context? Is a root of bitterness growing into a weed of hatred? History shows us that that will lead us into a swamp of destruction. Search our own hearts, find the light, celebrate the light and ask that the light of Christ will become so evident in your heart that it will drive out the darkness."

This evening's service was led by the Dean of Derry, Very Rev Raymond Stewart, who was assisted by the Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown; the Minister of Glendermott Presbyterian Church, Rev Stephen Hibbert; the Minister of Carlisle Road Methodist Church and Clooney Hall Methodist Church, Rev Peter Morris; members of the Cathedral

May 9, 2025

Chapter of St Columb; and Bishop Forster. In attendance were prominent members of civic society in Derry-Londonderry, including The Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Londonderry, Ian Crowe, Deputy Mayor, Alderman Darren Guy, senior police officers and local politicians.

Music was provided by the Cathedral Choir of Girl Choristers and Lay Clerks, directed by Louis Fields and accompanied by organist Nicky Morton.

## Events



### **Connor Council for Mission online event with Nathaniel Jennings**

**Connor Council for Mission is organising an online event on Wednesday May 21 at 11am with guest speaker Nathaniel Jennings.**

May 9, 2025

Nathaniel is currently OMF UK and Ireland's Intercultural Ministries Director. His ministry focuses on encouraging and equipping churches to share the good news of Jesus with people of all backgrounds and cultures, and to grow as Christ-centre communities of intercultural worship and witness.

He will be speaking on the theme: 'How can ICC Ireland serve Churches in Growing as Communities of Intercultural Worship and Witness?' There will be an opportunity for discussion after Nathaniel speaks.

To register for the event, please contact Archdeacon Paul Dundas at [paul\\\_dundas@yahoo.com](mailto:paul\_dundas@yahoo.com)

Nathaniel Jennings is of Anglo/Caribbean/American heritage but was born and spent his childhood in Bangladesh. After completing a Masters in Contextual Missiology through Queen's University Belfast, he returned to Bangladesh to be involved in social development and welfare work with SIM. Since 2011 Nathaniel has lived in Belfast and is currently OMF UK and Ireland's Intercultural Ministries Director. His ministry focuses on encouraging and equipping churches to share the good news of Jesus with people of all backgrounds and cultures, and to grow as Christ-centre communities of intercultural worship and witness.

## Resources

### LEGO Methodist church



## **The next in the Methodist Church's 'Stories of Growth' series comes from their North Western District.**

On the first Sunday of the month, in Clooney Hall Methodist, church takes on a different look as 'LEGO Church'.

→ Read the story in full here: [bit.ly/storiesofgrowth](https://bit.ly/storiesofgrowth)

## **Poem for today**

### **Vigil**

**by Dennis O'Driscoll**

Life is too short to sleep through.  
Stay up late, wait until the sea of traffic ebbs,  
until noise has drained from the world  
like blood from the cheeks of the full moon.

Everyone else around you has succumbed:  
they lie like tranquillised pets on a vet's table;  
they languish on hospital trolleys and friends couches,  
on iron beds in hostels for the homeless,  
under the feather duvets at tourist B&Bs.

The radio, devoid of listeners to confide in,  
turns repetitious. You are your own voice-over.  
You are alone in the bone-weary tower  
of your bleary-eyed, blinking lighthouse,  
watching the spillage of the tide on the shingle inlet.

You are the single-minded one who hears  
time shaking , from the clock's fingertips

May 9, 2025

like drops, who watches its hands  
chop years into diced seconds,  
who knows that when the church bell  
tolls at 2 or 3 it tolls unmistakably for you.

You are the sole hand on deck when  
temperatures plummet and the hull  
of an iceberg is jostling for prominence.

Your confidential number is the life line  
where the sedated long-distance voices  
of despair hold out muzzily for an answer.

You are the emergency service's driver  
ready to dive into action at the first  
warning signs of birth or death.

You spot the crack in night's facade  
even before the red-eyed businessman  
on look out from his transatlantic seat.

You are the only reliable witness to when  
the light is separated from the darkness,  
who has learned to see the dark in its true  
colours, who has not squandered your life.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

May 9, 2025

# 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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# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

**Link in Monday through Saturday from  
early morning**

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