

Church News Ireland

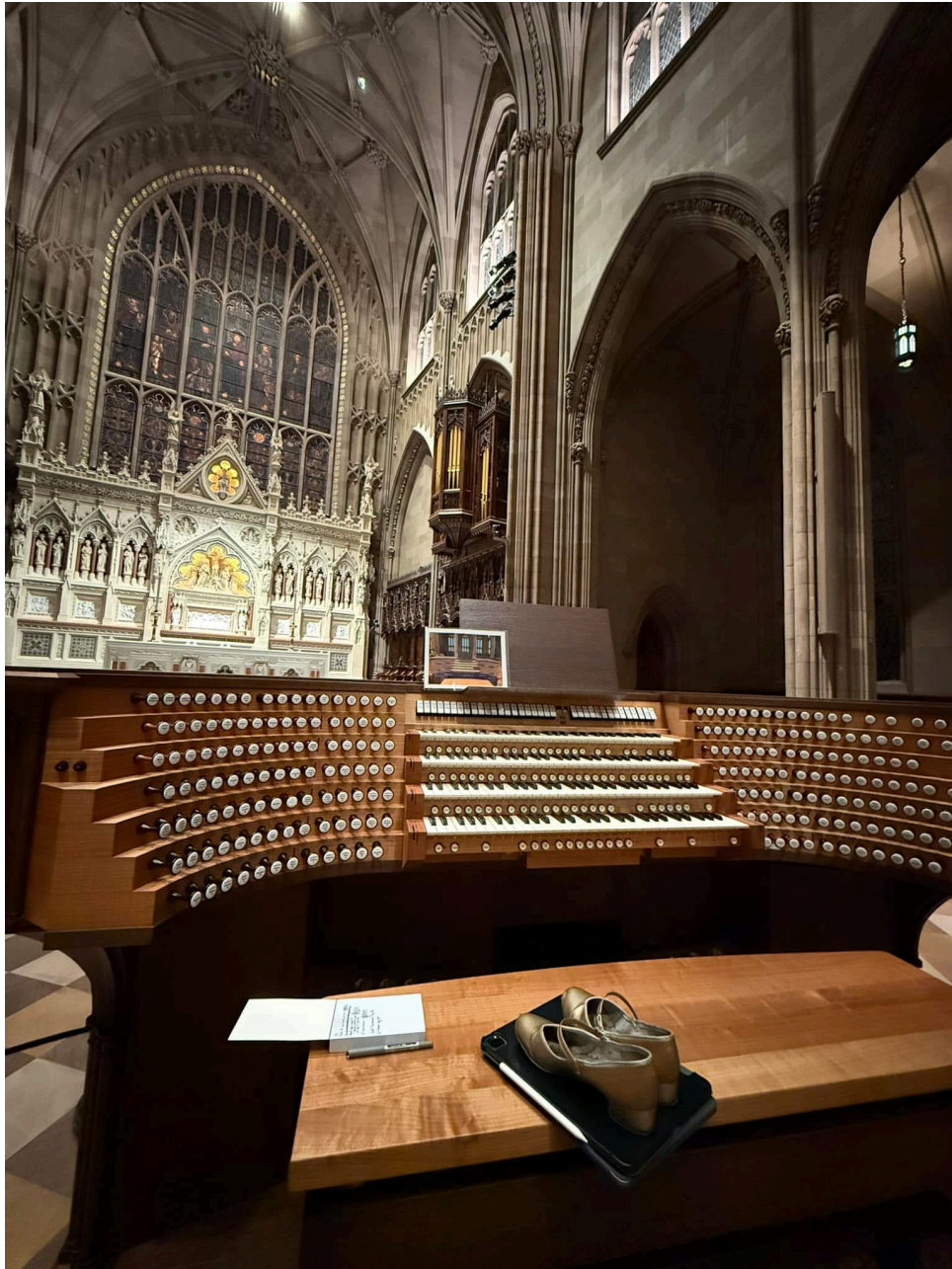


Image of the day – Anna's NY keyboards

Image of the day

Anna's NY keyboards

Anna Lapwood is presently in New York. The top flight organist gave an indication of life at her level this week. She posted to her friends -

Midnight in NYC, and I've just finished night one of registering on the fabulous new organ in Trinity Church. Left the UK at 13:30 in the afternoon (UK time), and was on the organ bench by 7pm in the evening (NY time!) - overnight rehearsals have taught me well

News

Introducing seven new heritage projects in Derry~Londonderry

These projects are bringing over £10m National Lottery investment to the City.

Organisations behind two landmark buildings - St Columb's Hall and the iconic Austins building are kickstarting plans to bring them back into public use:

Austins - reported to be the oldest family-owned department store in the world, trading for over 20 years before Harrods of London and Macy's in New York. A



£459,000 development award to Inner City Trust will be the first step to rescue, restore and reimagine the Grade A heritage building with a potential £4.47million delivery award to re-open its doors to the public.



St Columb's Hall (page above) known at the People's Hall attracted performers and personalities, women's rights campaigner Emmeline Pankhurst made a keynote speech there in 1910. An initial £243,202 will appoint experts to undertake urgent capital works, develop plans to improve accessibility and create a financial resilience plan. A potential £3.7million delivery would realise St Columb's Hall Trust's plans and help ensure St Columb's Hall is welcoming, accessible and no longer at risk.

Three archive projects exploring The Troubles, civil rights in the North West and healing and health in the City are getting underway with £852,409 funding:

Ulster University's CAIN archive will look at housing and migration during and after the conflict with their Home in Troubled Times project.

Our Hidden Healers by St Columb's Park Reconciliation Trust looks at the vital role of women in healthcare at St Columb's Park House.



Three organisations led by **Bloody Sunday Trust** will combine resources to set up a North West Civil Rights Archive on issues such as language, women's, workers', immigrant, LGBTQ+, and disability rights.

Two tourism boosts will see the creation of unique accommodation and a new museum:



The Sexton's Cottage within the grounds of St Augustine's Church of Ireland - the former site of St Columba's original monastery founded in 546AD will be refurbished into a three bedroom holiday accommodation.

With work starting shortly on the much anticipated **DNA Museum** – Derry~Londonderry on the North Atlantic at Ebrington, we increased our grant by £400,000 to £3.5million. Over £10m National Lottery investment to the City!



Launch of the Bolton Library Film Screening

In Cashel Library, Bishop Adrian joined members of the Church of Ireland community and the wider Cashel community for the launch of the new Bolton Library Film.

Highlights included contributions from MC Damien Dullaghan (Tipperary Libraries), Cathaoirleach Cllr John Carroll, and Dr Susan Hood (RCB Librarian & Archivist), who spoke powerfully on the importance of the Bolton Library as a treasure of heritage, scholarship, and faith.

The film was screened, the new Bolton Library Catalogue was demonstrated, and the afternoon ended with refreshments and warm conversation.

Laying Up of Colours for the Irish Guards

St Mark's, Dundela, on East Belfast's Hollywood Road, hosted the Laying Up of Colours for the Irish Regiment of Foot Guards – best known as the Irish Guards – on Sunday afternoon (7th September 2025) as part of celebrations for the regiment's 125th anniversary.



The special banners are the ninth set of Colours of the 1st Battalion, which were presented by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on 6th May 2009 at Windsor Castle, and the service marked the first time that the Colours have been laid up in a church on the island of Ireland. The Guards were founded by Queen Victoria in April 1900 to honour the gallantry of Irish soldiers in the Second Boer War. Their battle honours commemorate over a century of service and courage.



Royal foreword

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, in her role as Colonel of the Regiment, wrote a foreword for the service, noting that as the Colours are “laid to rest in this sacred and historic church, they form a lasting testament to the Regiment’s proud traditions and enduring legacy.” Princess Catherine thanked the clergy and congregation of St Mark’s for welcoming the Colours “with such grace and respect” and added that their presence “will stand as a lasting tribute to the Regiment’s history and its strong connection to the communities of Northern Ireland.”

Guests included His Majesty’s Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Professor Alastair Adair CBE DL; His Grace The Duke of Abercorn and his brother, Lord Anthony Hamilton; Deputy First Minister Emma Little Pengelly MLA; Major General Sir Christopher Ghika, as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel; Lieutenant Colonel Ben Irwin–Clark, the Irish

Guards' Commanding Officer; and Regimental Adjutant Major Niall Hall.

Remembrance with gratitude

In her greeting and welcome, the **Rector of St Mark's – the Revd Canon Dr Helene T Steed** – recalled the service of members of the parish in the regiment “with four men giving their lives during the First and Second World Wars.” The Colour Party advanced to the Chancel steps while the Regimental Slow March Let Erin Remember was played. Prayers in the ceremony were read by Fr David Burke, Chaplain to the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, and Canon Dr Steed.

An Act of Remembrance was led by the ‘Mini-Micks’ cadets with a reading of a message of gratitude for the many who have died in service, silence and the lighting of a candle.

The hymns were Be Thou My Vision; I vow to thee, my country; the Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want; Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us; Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; and the National Anthem. Bob Chilcott's Irish Blessing was sung by St Mark's Open Choir.

‘If Colours could talk ...’

Canon Dr Steed preached from Ecclesiastes 3.1–18 read by Mr Frank Dillon, a glebe warden in St Mark's, who father, Sergeant Vincent Dillon from County Tyrone, served in the Irish Guards from 1943 to 1949, and Romans 8.35–39, read by Lt Col Irwin–Clark.



“This afternoon I would like to change the idiom ‘if walls could talk’ to ‘if Colours could talk’,” she remarked. “This is an evocative, bittersweet phrase. ‘If Colours could talk’. They tell the story of the Irish Guards, of battle honours which record places where the regiment has served. These Colours embrace stories of camaraderie and friendship, of jovial experiences and laughter. But there is more to them. These Colours hold deep significance as they symbolise courage, sacrifice, and service to regiment.”

Noting the motto of the regiments – Quis Separabit? Who can separate us? – she continued: “God is part of our story, which may at times be filled with pain and suffering. Still, we are not alone. Never alone. God is lovingly present, and ‘in all these things we are more than conquerors through him

that loved us. ... Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

St Paul, she noted, speaks in plural: “We. Us. Not me or my. The collective, the regiment, the church, the community is at the centre. No man, no woman is an island, entirely of itself. People are brought together.”

The rector concluded: “This afternoon a new story begins that of the Irish Guards having a spiritual home on the island of Ireland in this church in which their Ninth set of Colours are laid up. Together we are writing this story, knowing that God Almighty is part of it.



“Quis Separabit? Who can separate us? No one.”

Prayers were led by three military chaplains – the Revd Canon Andrew Totten, Fr Paschal Hanrahan, and Fr David Burke. Parades, including the Standards of Royal British Legion branches from around Ireland, took place through

September 13, 2025

East Belfast immediately before and after the service, and were cheered by many well-wishers.

With thanks to the Irish Guards and St Mark's, Dundela.
Photo credit: Patrick Hugh Lynch.

Education

VCB and RBAI invite sponsorship for primary school matinee productions

This December, alongside our two evening performances of 'High School Musical' (4th & 5th

December), we want to give local pupils the chance to experience the magic of live theatre with three special primary school matinee productions.

Our goal is to make these matinees as affordable as possible by covering costs for sound, lighting and licensing through local business sponsorships. Each matinee will



September 13, 2025

welcome up to 350 primary pupils to enjoy the performance together with their classmates.

We would love your support! Please see below for how you can get involved:

◆ £50 Sponsorship

Company name & logo on programme + website.

◆ £100 Sponsorship

All of the above + your company logo displayed on screen before performances.

◆ £200 Sponsorship

All of the above + an individual social media post spotlighting your business.



If interested, please email kmartin917@c2ken.net to find out more information.

Your support will help create unforgettable theatre memories for young people in our community. 🌟

VCB student elected as Student Voice Officer for SSUNI

Congratulations to Connie in Year 12 who was elected to the Executive as the Student Voice Officer for the SSUNI at the end of August.

September 13, 2025

The SSUNI (Secondary Students Union of Northern Ireland) represents over 50,000 post-primary students from across Northern Ireland on a variety of issues such as LLW, sexism in schools and examination reform.



As the Student Voice Officer, Connie's role will involve keeping up with current affairs and making sure that students' voices are heard in decision-making processes.



A fantastic achievement! We wish you every success in this exciting new role, Connie!

Cookstown High School students join Irish Guards' 125th Anniversary Commemoration

We are incredibly proud to share that Rebecca Bell (Yr 14) and Molly Robinson (Yr 11), two of our talented

pupils, had the privilege of participating in the historic 125th Anniversary of the Irish Guards this past Sunday, 7th September.

This was Molly's first event with the Royal British Legion, and it was a momentous and memorable day for her. For both pupils, being part of such a significant ceremony at St. Mark's Church, Dundela was truly an honour, as they joined the Regiment in laying the Old Colours—an event that will go down in history, as it's the only location outside London where the Irish Guards have carried out this tradition.

The day was made even more special by the presence of Seamus, the Irish Wolfhound mascot of the Irish Guards, who led the parade with pride.

Congratulations to Rebecca and Molly for representing Cookstown High School with such distinction, and we look forward to more achievements from our pupils as they continue to grow and serve their communities.

Cathedral Calls

1400th anniversary of the birth of St Eunan

The Bishop of Derry & Raphoe will join members of the Raphoe Group of Parishes for a special celebration in their cathedral on Tuesday 23rd September to mark the 1400th anniversary of the birth of St Eunan.



The Cathedral Church of St Eunan, Raphoe

INVITATION

Join us as we celebrate
St Eunan's 1400th anniversary
Tuesday 23rd September 2025 @
7.30pm

The evening will include an
'Iona Abbey Evening Liturgy'
led by Dean Liz FitzGerald

*Also an update from Mary Harte on the
'Hunt for Eunan's Monastery project'
and a short talk on the life
of St Eunan by Dr Brian Lacey*

followed by Tea/Coffee



EVERYONE WELCOME

The evening, which will begin at 7.30pm, will include an 'Iona Abbey Evening Liturgy' led by Dean Liz FitzGerald.

The congregation will receive an update from local archaeologist, Mary Harte, on 'The Hunt for Eunan's Monastery' project and this will be followed by a short talk by the renowned historian and archaeologist, Dr Brian Lacey, on the life of St Eunan.

After the service, there will be an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and fellowship, and all are welcome.

New arrivals in the Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick Gift Shop

They are excited to share that their gift shop has just been restocked with some beautiful new items — perfect for gifts, souvenirs, or a little treat for yourself.

Come and browse:



Locally made candles



Thoughtfully curated books on faith & local history.



Handcrafted gifts and keepsakes



Stunning prints and postcards featuring the cathedral's architecture



And lots more, lovingly chosen to reflect the spirit of Saint Mary's

Every purchase supports the ongoing care and ministry of the cathedral — thank you for shopping local and supporting heritage!



Open during visiting hours — “We’d love to welcome you in”.

Clergy and ministry

Pioneer Minister Commissioning Service

September 13, 2025

Rev Philip McKinley will be commissioned by Bishop Pat Storey as a Diocesan Pioneer Minister in St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare on Monday 29th September, 8.00pm.

The Preacher for the service will be Bishop Anthony Poggo, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. All are warmly welcome to attend.



The poster features a background image of a stone cross. At the top left is the Pioneer Ministry Church of Ireland logo. The main title 'COMMISSIONING' is in large blue capital letters, with 'Service OF' in a smaller font and 'Rev. Philip MCKINLEY' in a large, stylized blue font. A circular portrait of Rev. Philip McKinley is on the right. Below the title, it says 'JOIN US FOR A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING BY BISHOP PAT STOREY FOR THE DIOCESE OF MEATH AND KILDARE'S NEW PIONEER MINISTER'. The date and time '8PM • 29 SEPTEMBER MONDAY' are listed, followed by the location 'SAINT BRIGID'S CATHEDRAL KILDARE'. A circular portrait of Bishop Anthony Poggo is on the left, with his name and title 'PREACHER: RT REV ANTHONY POGGO SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION' to the right.

PIONEER MINISTRY
CHURCH OF IRELAND

COMMISSIONING
Service OF
Rev. Philip
MCKINLEY

JOIN US FOR A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING BY
BISHOP PAT STOREY FOR THE DIOCESE OF MEATH
AND KILDARE'S NEW PIONEER MINISTER

8PM • 29 SEPTEMBER
MONDAY

SAINT BRIGID'S CATHEDRAL
KILDARE

PREACHER: RT REV ANTHONY POGGO
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Events

Blossom: Contemporary Chinese Painting Launch

Linen Hall Art Exhibition and Launch. 19th September – 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Free

September 13, 2025

To mark the opening of Blossom: Contemporary Chinese Painting by Belfast-based Chinese artist, Michael Rong-Gen Yin, and as part of Culture Night Belfast, we invite you to sample some traditional Chinese tea in the company of the artist.

In the company of interpreter, Tin Wai Chai, Michael will talk about Chinese artistic traditions, the techniques employed in the paintings and the inspiration behind them.

The launch is free, however space is limited so please book your free tickets via our website: <https://linenhall.com/event/blossom-contemporary-chinese-painting-launch/>

‘Blossom’, an exhibition of over twenty paintings will then run until 4th November and is free to view in The Linen Hall’s Vertical Gallery.

Flight from Prague: The Making of a Refugee

Linen Hall - 26th September – 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
£5.00

Czechoslovakia, 1938. As German soldiers cross the border, Jewish businessman Harry Lewy flees for his life. In this powerful new book, their son Michael Lewis tells Harry’s story, drawing on memories, interviews, family documents and archival research. This event is part of Aspects Festival. Please visit our website to learn more:

<https://linenhall.com/event/flight-from-prague-the-making-of-a-refugee/>

Poem for today

Be The Best Of Whatever You Are

by Douglas Malloch

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass —
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here,
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail —
Be the best of whatever you are!

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

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

Please recommend to your friends