

# Church News Ireland

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## News – Rathlin pilgrims

## News

### Rathlin Pilgrims

Archbishop urges people to stand against racism

Cancelled 'March for Jesus' to go ahead after Belfast Council agrees to host event

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Murders the visible tip of massive iceberg of abuse against women in NI - including Northern Ireland's Chief Justice Siobhan Keegan interview with UTV earlier this year.

Newspaper reports raise the nature of Presbyterian Church discipline

### Rathlin Pilgrims

**Canon John Auchtmuty, Rector of St Columba's, Knock, in the Diocese of Down & Dromore, recently led a group of parishioners to Rathlin Island where the Holy**





## Communion was celebrated.

Dr Joe McKee, Director of Music at Knock also accompanied the group by ferry from Ballycastle and to the church of St Thomas which is one of the churches in the Ballintoy group.



## Archbishop urges people to stand against racism



**Archbishop Michael Jackson has released the following statement following recent attacks on members of the Indian community in Ireland. Archbishop Jackson said -**

Following a range of what seemed to be sporadic assaults on Indian people in Ireland, the fear of many Indian people, and of us as their friends, is that such violence is escalating alarmingly.

We in the Church of Ireland have warm relations with many Indian Christian traditions and respect them deeply. A number of our churches in Dublin are used by a range of Indian Christian traditions for their worship and numerous

other parishes are privileged to count members of the Indian community in Ireland amongst their parishioners.

We also interact in friendly and fruitful ways through organisations like Dublin City Interfaith Forum with a wide range of people from other faith traditions from India and South Asia for whom Ireland is their home. We want this to continue and to grow because it enriches everyone involved.

**CMSI are honoured to work in collaboration with All Nations Ministries. Jenny met with David, Helen and Hudson to discuss ways to enhance one another's Ministries as we all seek to strengthen bonds of friendship across cultures in our fractured world.**



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It is essential that these people, irrespective of age or nationality, be safe and feel safe as together we build a community of hope, opportunity and equality.

I urge all people of Dublin and Glendalough to continue to stand firmly against racism and to stand firmly with people who are impacted by racism. I know many parishes and people do this instinctively. It is also a continuing feature of the work of Dublin City Interfaith Forum. I echo the appeal of the chairman of the Ireland India Council, Mr Prashant Shukla, who has called for a coordinated, multi-agency response to these attacks and a cross-departmental response to hate crime and youth violence.

RTE report on above

<https://www.rte.ie/news/regional/2025/0808/1527586-dublin-church-ireland/>

## **Cancelled 'March for Jesus' to go ahead after Belfast Council agrees to host event**

**Belfast Live reports - Elected representatives at a Belfast City Council committee meeting this week approved a request from All Nation Church to host a 'March for Jesus' at Ormeau Park, on Saturday August 23, with up to 10,000 people expected to attend.**


The address for the church given in council documents is the National Boxing Stadium, South Circular Road, Dublin 8.

The rally was originally planned to take place on Saturday, June 7. This plan involved a march from Custom House Square to Belfast City Hall.

The organisers cancelled the date days before it was meant to happen, stating that due to the large numbers of people expected to take place, the event had to be cancelled for health and safety reasons.

A council report for the event was forwarded to the monthly People and Communities Committee, held this week at City Hall. It states: "All Nation Church are requesting the use of Ormeau Park as the assembly point for the event and will rally peacefully through to City Hall where the event will conclude.

"'March for Jesus' is a non-political, family-friendly celebration of the Christian faith. It seeks to bring together



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cordially invite you to a Festival Eucharist marking the  
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Celebrant and Preacher: The Right Reverend Michael Burrows  
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churches from across the island of Ireland to publicly worship, pray for peace, and proclaim hope. All Nation Church piloted a similar event in Dublin which attracted 20,000 attendees.”

The rally will commence from Ormeau Park at 2pm, and will move on to the Ormeau embankment, progressing down the Ravenhill Road to City Hall, where the rally will conclude. Ormeau Embankment will be the site for the attendants' coaches.

The report states: “There will be a family-friendly crowd of 5,000 to 10,000 participants. Final numbers will be determined by All Nation Church, through outreach and engagement with churches across Ireland.

“All Nation Church has contracted Worshipful Brother Paul R McMichael, County Grand Secretary of the Orange Order, to assist with the logistics of the Rally from Ormeau Park to City Hall. The PSNI have been informed along with an 11/1 parade notification being submitted.

“The event organiser will meet with the PSNI to ascertain the need for the closure of Ormeau embankment and to facilitate the parking of coaches of the attendees of the rally. Event organisers will liaise with neighbouring Asian Supermarket and Ozone Complex, in order to allow full access to both sites, if the embankment is required to be closed.”

[https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/cancelled-march-jesus-go-ahead-32231195?utm\\_source=app](https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/cancelled-march-jesus-go-ahead-32231195?utm_source=app)



## **New partnership with Youthscape by Boys' Brigade in England amid youth revival**

**The Boys' Brigade has partnered with Youthscape for their Satellites festival.**

The Christian organisation will oversee the festival's 'Activity Village'. It aims to create "a vibrant, active space" with a football shoot, giant inflatables and axe throwing.

Boys' Brigade began over 140 years ago, and runs sports and activity groups for young people. Since 2009, it has expanded to include young women in its ministry.

This year, Boys' Brigade groups from Christchurch Abbeydale, Gloucester and Starbeck Methodist Church, and Harrogate will attend the festival camping in a designated "BB Village".

Rev Dez Johnston, President of The Boys' Brigade, said he is "delighted" at the partnership.

"It's vital our members connect, grow spiritually, and see they're part of something bigger. The BB's presence here shows our commitment to shaping confident, Christ-centred young leaders for today's world," Johnston said.

Last month, research by Youth for Christ indicated that young people are more open to spirituality than their parents, with over 53% willing to attend church for the first time if invited by a friend.

Peter Andrews, Boys' Brigade Ministry Lead told Premier News that this is in part due to the unique mental pressures they face, from living in an increasingly isolated, online world.

"It can be quite hard for them to establish what the truth is," he said. "So what we're trying to do through our work is to give them really strong role models. Firstly, that they can look up to and can help them as they grow and develop, but also Christian leaders who can introduce them to faith and introduce them to Jesus as an ultimate role model – the ultimate truth in their lives."

## **Murders the visible tip of massive iceberg of abuse against women in NI**

**The message on the bouquet left by a rural roadside was simple and poignant. "You should still be here," it read, Conor Macauley, Northern Correspondent of RTE writes.**

The flowers had been left at a police cordon on 24 July where officers were protecting the integrity of a triple murder scene.

The previous day near Maguiresbridge in Co Fermanagh, Vanessa Whyte, who worked as a veterinary surgeon for the Department of Agriculture, and her children 13-year-old Sara and 14-year-old James Rutledge had been found shot in their home.

Ms Whyte and one of her children were pronounced dead at the scene, while the second child died later that day in hospital.

Vanessa's husband, Ian Rutledge, who died five days later in hospital from a gunshot, is suspected of carrying out the killings.

As friends and neighbours gathered on 1 August for the removal of 45-year-old Vanessa and her children to her family home in Barefield in Co Clare for burial, a priest said the killings had "shocked this community and this country to the core".

Later in this report:

**Northern Ireland's Chief Justice Siobhan Keegan spoke about it in an interview with UTV earlier this year.**

She was asked why, with 1,900 convictions for domestic abuse in 2023, two thirds of perpetrators had received non-custodial sentences and only a very small proportion had received sentences of more than a year.

She explained that most cases had been brought to the lower, magistrates court, which had a maximum custodial sentence of one year - with 50% remission.

She said she would encourage some cases to be taken before a higher court.

More at -

<https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2025/0810/1527593-northern-ireland/>



## **Newspaper reports raise the nature of Presbyterian Church discipline**

**Two reports in Sunday Life yesterday 10/08/2015 raise the nature of Presbyterian Church discipline.**

Below are two summaries on the reports carried by links in Sunday Life to its own web site containing the full reports which are available to subscribers only

### **@@@Mystery email takes aim at PCI 'bullying'**

Ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) have received an anonymous email following recent revelations in Sunday Life and the Belfast Telegraph. The message, with the subject line 'More Negative Media Coverage for PCI', is the second to be sent to ministers in recent months. Sunday 10/08/2015

### **@@@My late cleric colleague was hung out to dry by church over hearsay**

A minister has revealed he came under scrutiny from Church of Ireland leaders after questioning the treatment of a neighbouring Presbyterian minister falsely accused of having an affair. When Caledon rector Rev Bill Atkins heard about the perceived mistreatment of his counterpart Rev Barry Reid by... Sunday 10/08/2015

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

## Change of posting of CNI issues

**Due to other equally necessary research and writing commitments CNI will be published in a slightly different content form and with more than two postings each day - the times of which may be erratic!**

**Thank you for your support. We will endeavour to continue to produce relevant news and content. H McK**

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## 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

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

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