

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Roses at Tralee**



## Image of the day

### Roses at Tralee

**Roses attended service at St John's Church on Sunday. Enjoy this post from Tralee and Dingle Group of Parishes**



We were delighted to be joined by some Roses today for morning prayer led by Rev Jim. Many thanks to Minister Norma Foley and The Kerry Chamber Choir who joined us aswell. A wonderful event as always for our parish.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the endless cups of tea in Teach an tSolais afterward.



## **Fermanagh Rose Caoimhe Connolly appears on RTÉ**

**The Rosslea woman spoke of her love of Fermanagh advocating for the county as a tourism destination.**

During her interview, she told presenter Dáithí Ó Sé of her involvement with the Enniskillen Ulster Project in 2014, her work as an accountant and spoke of her charitable endeavours with Cancer Focus NI, giving a special shout-out to the Enniskillen centre.

To close her appearance, Caoimhe sang a stunning rendition of Caledonia. CNI Thanks - to the Impartial Reporter and RTE



August 20, 2025



## Sunflowers at Scotshouse

**The first of three weekends of the Sunflower Meadow Festival at St Andrew's Church, Scotshouse has ended with**

**amazing numbers of visitors enjoying the flowers in glorious weather.**

The tall yellow flowers stood proud in the sun in front of at Andrew's Church as visitors enjoyed the programme of







activities laid on including band music and choirs, a pottery demonstration and floral art workshops. One of the other successes was the Sunflower Creation Corner for children.

The Festival continues from 21-24 August and finishes on the weekend of 28-31 August.

## News

### Flying start to Irish Guides new Trefoil Guild

The founding members of Ballyhoura Guild, Mid West Region, made their Trefoil Guild Promise at their meeting





August 20,2025



They were visiting the Foynes Flying Boat Museum and held the Promise Ceremony at the top of the old air traffic control tower overlooking the Shannon Estuary.

A great day of friendship and enjoyment in the spirit of Guiding

## **Donations from Bushmills Through The Wars exhibition**

**Following another successful Bushmills Through The Wars exhibition in Dunluce Parish Centre, cheques were presented by Neil Salisbury (Chairman of Bushmills Through The Wars) to -**



August 20, 2025

Pat Crossley (MS Society),  
Helen Heaney & Jim Fairbairn (Bushmills RBL Poppy  
Appeal),



Rev Brian Harper (Bishops Appeal) &  
David Campbell (Royal Naval Association).

Gifts were also presented to Fiona Kee & Christopher  
McMullan for their contribution throughout the week.

Pics courtesy McAuley Multimedia Ltd

## Charles Wood Festival over but not gone

**The 2025 Charles Wood Festival Week may be over, but  
you can still hear the Charles Wood Singers on the  
airwaves.**



Pre-recorded in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral during this year's Festival, the service is led by Ven Dr Peter Thompson, with the sermon from The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

The Singers are conducted by David Hill, with Festival Organ Scholar Pascal Bachmann at the organ.

### **Tune in on Sunday 31st August:**

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship at 8.10am

BBC Radio Ulster Morning Service at 9.00am

And don't miss the service broadcast again in BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong on **Wednesday 3rd September** at 3.00pm.

## **Sheep's Head Hike for Christian Aid**

**Get ready to  
lace up your  
boots - it's  
almost time  
for the 17th  
Annual  
Sheep's  
Head Hike in stunning West Cork.**





We can't wait to reconnect with familiar faces and welcome new friends along the way. And what better backdrop for it all than the breathtaking Wild Atlantic Way?

Online registration is open, it only takes a couple of minutes to sign up. [www.caid.ie/SheepsHeadHike](http://www.caid.ie/SheepsHeadHike)

## **Anger as historic Apprentice Boys flag 'was burned' on Bogside bonfire**

**A last-minute attempt to stop an historic flag from being burnt on the Bogside bonfire failed.**

Independent republican councillor Gary Donnelly said he was unable to save the Apprentice Boys flag from the flames.

The replica crimson banner was stolen from St Columb's Cathedral.

Mr Donnelly said: "I believe that the flag was burnt on the bonfire.

"I think it's sad to hear because any historic flag, no matter what community it belongs to, it has that connection to the city."

Mr Donnelly said negotiations with young people who organised the pyre broke down.

He added: "They were returning items and then they felt like they were being met with a brick wall, so the communication deteriorated."



The Bishop of Derry was among those who had called for the centuries-old flag to be given back to the cathedral.

Apprentice Boys governor William Walker said he was “saddened” by the theft.

He said: “It's hard to believe that anyone would enter the grounds of a church to steal anything.”

Foyle DUP **MLA Gary Middleton** said the incident was “deeply upsetting” for many.

Mr Middleton added: “The crimson flag is an important part of our history.

“To go into a church premises and steal... that is completely unacceptable.

“To hear that it has been burnt is deeply upsetting for many people across our communities.”

A US flag flown in Derry on the day **President John F Kennedy** was assassinated, and stolen from Foyle College, was also feared to have been torched, after it was seen flying from the top of the bonfire.

However, Mr Donnelly said it had been handed back, along with a number of other items that had been placed on the pyre.

Foyle College was built on the site of a former US naval base, where the banner had been flown in November 1963.



The councillor said it had been secured and was in a safe place.

He added: A process is under way for the flag to be handed back.”

### **Comment: Gavin Robinson MP, DUP Leader**

In Londonderry last night, items of deep historical and cultural value were deliberately destroyed.

The Crimson Flag, the US Flag, and poppy wreaths in memory of the fallen were all destroyed. Even the names of both serving & retired police officers, politicians, and a deceased young person were used.

This causes real hurt to families, retraumatises the bereaved, and disrespects our shared history. It is wrong and shameful.

### **Statement from General Committee of Apprentice Boys**

The Association was deeply saddened when it heard that the Crimson flag from the roof of St Columb’s Cathedral was stolen last weekend. It was hard to believe that anyone would enter the grounds of a Church to steal anything.

Thanks to everyone over this past week who, behind the scenes and in public, made efforts to have the flag returned to the Dean. Those efforts were greatly appreciated but fell on deaf ears.

William Walker, Governor. David Hoey, General Secretary



## **Church of Scotland showcases 'close knit' community with blanket care for the vulnerable**

**Hundreds of colourful handknitted and crocheted blankets made by members of the Church of Scotland are being exhibited in venues in Glasgow.**

Described as 'symbols of love' the pieces are an expression of concern and compassion for some of the most vulnerable people in the city.

The Glasgow Close Knit Project was launched by Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Glasgow and homelessness charity the Lodging House Mission last year. The blankets will be given out to people most in need in the winter.

The 430 blankets, described as “beautiful pieces of art”, have been made by members of the Church and other community groups.

They'll be given to the Lodging House Mission in December, which will distribute them to people in temporary accommodation who are struggling to pay their heating bills and keep warm.

The idea for the project came from Rev Jan Mathieson, the immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow.



“We were delighted that the Lord Provost and some of the folks from the City Chambers came to the exhibition and donated blankets,” said the minister.

“We've been equally delighted by all the blankets that have been donated by church, community and craft groups through the city and beyond.

“We think it is a good and fitting way of... building on the values of care and concern and love that Glasgow has always been known for.

“These blankets are beautiful pieces of art are also going to be symbols of that love, given out to people most in need in the winter time.

“And because they will be given out as symbols of compassion and love to people most in need, some of whom sadly think they don't matter, makes it even more special.”

The blankets have so far been displayed at a former fish market, the Briggate in the Merchant City. They'll be exhibited in Kelvin West Church on University Avenue in the west-end of Glasgow from 13 September.

## Education

### Wallace High School Rotarians

**Rotary  
Interact  
Leaders  
Holly, Ben  
and Anna  
marked the  
end of a  
successful  
year in  
office by  
making a  
further  
donation of £400 to Hiding Place in Albania for a new  
cooker.**



The Sixth Year Rotarians have developed strong links with the orphanage through their commitment to improving the lives of others, embodying the spirit of ‘Service above Self’.

Fundraising initiatives included face painting and seasonal sales, which were enjoyed by the Wallace community.

Chairperson Ben volunteered there this summer and will report back to the full Wallace team in the coming weeks.

## **Success for Ukrainian Student Ivan Onyshchenko**

**Carrickfergus Grammar School Principal, Mr James Maxwell, has congratulated Ukrainian student Ivan Onyshchenko on the extraordinary achievement of 3 A\* grades at A Level in Mathematics, Further**



## **Mathematics and Digital Technology.**

Ivan has now been selected from hundreds of applicants for a higher-level apprenticeship with a renowned firm dealing in Computer Science, and will simultaneously complete University study. Remarkably, Ivan completed his A Level studies in just one year.



Ivan joined Carrickfergus Grammar School in September 2022, having moved from the Ukraine to Northern Ireland with his sister. Being uprooted and sent to a different country, a different culture, immersed into a language which he had only been learning for some years at school, not knowing anybody. As if that wasn't an ordeal for any young person, he then had to come to a new school, and start GCSE courses being taught in a language which was not his first. Ivan scored numerous 'A\*/A' grades at GCSE also.

A real story of resilience in the face of adversity.

August 20,2025

Congratulations, Ivan. Everyone in the CGS family is very proud of you.



## **Belfast High Golf Success**

**Congratulations to Year 9 pupil Isla Clarke (pictured centre), Whitehead Golf Club U19 Girls Team, on winning the Ulster Provincial Golf Tournament held at Castlereagh Hills Golf Club, Belfast in July.**

The team has qualified for the All-

Ireland Final to be held later in August at Donabate Golf Club, Dublin.

## **Memorial scholarship supports women in physics at Queen's**

**After the loss of their daughter Catherine, Richard and Julie Buchanan made a decision that would change the**



**lives of many others: they created a scholarship fund in her memory to support women in physics at Queen's.**

For students like Leah Donnelly, this gift didn't just provide financial relief - it was a recognition of her potential. Over the course of three years, Leah used the award to reduce her workload, invest in her studies, and ultimately earn a place at Imperial College London for her PhD.

This is what a legacy looks like: practical support, profound impact and a story that continues through others.

Read more at [https://lnkd.in/e96\\\_hYmP](https://lnkd.in/e96\_hYmP)

Read more about legacy giving at Queen's here <https://lnkd.in/ggFG8qfY>

## Cathedral Calls

### The Baptismal Font - Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

**Tucked within the ancient walls of Saint Mary's Cathedral is one of its most quietly powerful features, the baptismal font.**

Used for centuries of baptisms, this font marks the beginning of the Christian journey for generations of Limerick's people. In Christian tradition, baptism is a sacrament of welcome, a symbolic washing away of the old life and entry into a new life of faith.

August 20,2025

Carved from stone and rich in history, the font at Saint Mary's has stood witness to the hopes, prayers, and new beginnings of countless families since the cathedral's founding in 1168.

A simple vessel with a profound purpose, and a link to the lives of the saints who walked these aisles long before.



## Clergy and ministry

**Warm congratulations to Fr. Charlie Byrne on his retirement.**

**A native of Kilcar, Fr. Charlie was ordained by the late Bishop Anthony McFeely in St. Cartha's Church, Kilcar, on 28 June 1981.**



August 20, 2025

After his ordination, he served five years in the parishes of Killymard and Townawilly, and also ministered as chaplain at Abbey Vocational School, Donegal Town. He was part of the first group of Raphoe priests who served in mission in Lima, Peru, in 1987, and returned to Carrigart/Mevagh in 1995, later becoming Parish Priest in 2000.

Fr. Charlie has given



over 40 years of faithful service to the Diocese of Raphoe, including nearly 30 years in the Mevagh/Carrigart area.

We offer heartfelt gratitude for his years of dedicated ministry and wish him many blessings and restful years ahead.

## In the media

### 'Unbefitting': Poots hits out over Burke family's bid to 'doorstep' him at church

**The DUP's Edwin Poots has accused the Burke family of “doorstepping” him after they turned up at his church on Sunday evening, Jessica Rice reports in the Belfast Telegraph 19/08/2025.**

The Stormont Speaker said he had already left the premises.

Posting on social media, Mr Poots urged them to request a formal meeting in his office.

The family have been involved in protests and legal disputes in the Republic after the suspension of Enoch Burke from his teaching job at Wilson's Hospital School, Co Westmeath, in August 2022 following a dispute over his refusal to recognise a transgender student's identity.

Multiple breaches of court orders demanding Mr Burke stay away from the school resulted in him being jailed and more than €40,000 being seized from his bank account.



He was dismissed from his job in January 2023.

In a video Mr Poots posted on Facebook, he said: “Last night the Burke family came to my church, shortly after I had left, wishing to speak to myself. I would encourage the Burke family, if they wish to speak to me about political issues, to contact our office and make an arrangement and I'll happily meet them here, in my office.

“I would encourage the family to desist from going to church meetings and gospel services where the gospel has just been preached, to doorstep people.

“It is unbecoming, it is unbefitting and it is not the way things should be done in a church setting.

“If people want to talk politics they have got all week to do it. I am here and available to do that.

“ I would encourage the Burke family to contact me directly and engage with me directly. They don't need to come and stand outside the church building to get me.”

The Burkes previously confronted Mr Poots' DUP colleague Mervyn Storey outside Hebron Free Presbyterian Church in Ballymoney. Video footage from the incident showed Josiah and Martina Burke approaching the councillor and questioning him over a guidance document on transgender issues in schools.

The pair accused Mr Storey of “enforcing transgender ideology” through his role as chair of the Education Authority

(EA) board. The former MLA was appointed to the role by Education Minister Paul Givan last year.

The Burkes' claims related to the EA document Guidance for Schools on Supporting Transgender Young People, published in 2019.

Hebron Free Presbyterian Church branded the Burkes' behaviour “reprehensible”.

It said: “They entered our church property not to worship, but create havoc, filmed without permission, and engaged in shouting and heckling, harassing those who had gathered to worship God.

“After a blessed day of Christian fellowship and Gospel preaching, such behaviour on the part of the Burkes was totally out of order.

“Their reprehensible conduct caused great annoyance to the entire congregation, especially to young children and some elderly who had to be evacuated through a side door to avoid their confrontational conduct.”

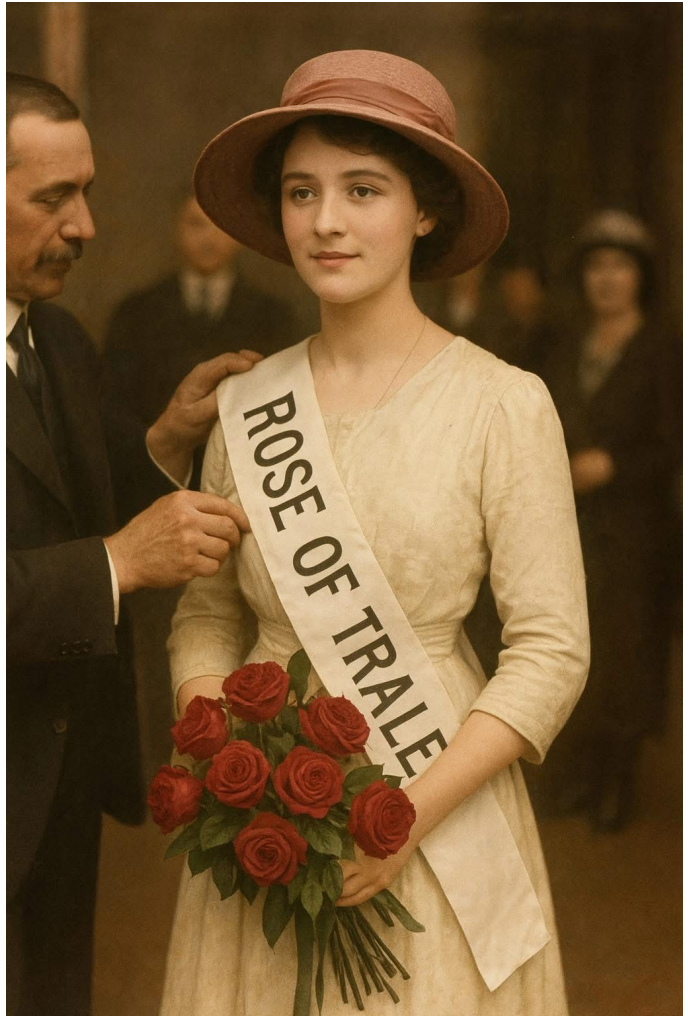
Last month Enoch Burke was granted an injunction preventing a specific teachers' union representative from forming part of a panel to hear an appeal against his dismissal.

## Heritage

## The Rose of Tralee



The Rose of Tralee International Festival is one of Ireland's most cherished cultural events, held annually in Tralee, County Kerry. Its origins are rooted in the mid-20th century, when in 1959, local organizers created the festival to boost tourism and celebrate Irish heritage. The inspiration came from the famous 19th-century ballad The Rose of Tralee, which tells the story of a Tralee woman, Mary O'Connor, whose beauty and kindness made her the "Rose." The festival began modestly, choosing a young woman to embody the spirit of the song, and quickly grew into a beloved tradition that drew contestants and visitors from across Ireland and beyond.



Over the decades, the Rose of Tralee has transformed into a global celebration of the Irish diaspora. Young women of Irish descent from around the world compete, not in a beauty contest, but in a showcase of personality, heritage, and community spirit. Today, representatives arrive from the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, and further afield, bringing their local Irish communities together under one banner. Alongside the selection of the Rose, the festival

August 20, 2025

features parades, concerts, street entertainment, and cultural events, making it both a homecoming for the Irish abroad and a vibrant celebration of identity at home.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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## Church News Ireland

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