

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Sunday School  
excursion old style at Portrush**



August 28, 2025

# Sunday School excursion Old style at Portrush

This year  
Carnmoney  
Parish Church



**Sunday School had an old style Sunday School excursion at Portrush.**





Of course they took the train and when they got to the port they managed the fifty yard burst to the amusements - and they enjoyed themselves.

No guesstimates were issued as to how many gallons of ice cream were consumed. But the

message conveyed by their photographs is that a very good time was had by all.

## News

### Church of Ireland diocese raises over £28,000 for the Middle East



## **Support provided for Tearfund & Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem**

The Church of Ireland Diocese of Down and Dromore's special collection to support humanitarian relief in Gaza and the wider Middle East has reached £28,065.91, up from £10,000 received by the end of July.

Bishop David McClay has encouraged every parish in the diocese to give people the opportunity to support this collection. Funds for emergency aid through healthcare, food supplies and shelter will be channelled by the Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development to Tearfund and the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, who both work across the region.



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The Diocese of Jerusalem runs one of the main hospitals in Gaza, Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, which cares for people from all communities and has recently been subject to several attacks.

Tearfund is working in Gaza, the West Bank, and around the Middle East to provide support and vital supplies to people impacted by the conflict, including displaced communities.

Parishes and individuals still have the opportunity to contribute to the total, by sending donations to Diocese of Down and Dromore, Unit 1, 21 Old Channel Road, Belfast, BT3 9DE – marked for Gaza and Middle East Appeal.

Photo: A queue at a healthcare centre in Gaza operated by Tearfund partner Anera.

## Death of a Korean veteran

**The Regimental Headquarters, Royal Irish Regiment, shared news of the death of Rifleman Albert Morrow on Monday 25 August 2025.**



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Albert was 97 years old and was believed to be the last surviving Royal Ulster Rifleman from the Battle of Happy Valley (Chaegunghyon) in January 1951 during the Korean War.



Albert was an ambulance driver in the 1st Battalion and after the war he dedicated himself to ensuring that those Rifleman who lost their lives in Korea would not be forgotten. His services to their memory were recognised by a motion in the House of Commons in January this year.

## **Pope Leo joins Jerusalem Patriarchs' call for peace in Gaza**

**Pope Leo XIV has united his voice to the Latin and Greek Orthodox Patriarchs' joint appeal for an end to the war in Gaza and for humanitarian aid to flow freely into the enclave.**

The Latin and Greek Orthodox Patriarchs of Jerusalem released a joint appeal for peace in Gaza on Tuesday,

August 26, saying there is no reason to justify “the deliberate and forcible mass displacement of civilians.”

On Wednesday, Pope Leo XIV joined his voice to theirs, and recalled the Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace, which took place on Friday, August 22.

“Today I renew a strong appeal both to the parties involved and to the international community, that an end be put to the conflict in the Holy Land, which has caused so much terror, destruction, and death,” said the Pope.

He also called for the safe entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and the protection of civilians.

“I appeal for all hostages to be freed, a permanent ceasefire to be reached, the safe entry of humanitarian aid to be facilitated, and humanitarian law to be fully respected—especially the obligation to protect civilians and the prohibitions against collective punishment, the indiscriminate use of force, and the forced displacement of populations,” he added.

The Pope concluded his appeal by invoking the Blessed Virgin Mary to pray for peace.

“Let us implore Mary, Queen of Peace, source of consolation and of hope,” said Pope Leo. “May her intercession obtain reconciliation and peace in that land so dear to us all.”

## Curriculum Taskforce Advisory Committee announced

**TransformED NI**  
TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING



Department of  
**Education**

## Curriculum Taskforce Advisory Committee announced

**Education Minister, Paul Givan, yesterday announced the membership of the Curriculum Taskforce Advisory Committee (TAC) that will spearhead the ambitious programme of curriculum reform in Northern Ireland.**



The Curriculum Taskforce, announced by the Education Minister in June, will be led by internationally respected educationalist Christine Counsell as Chair, with Lucy Crehan, who recently carried out the Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, serving as Deputy Chair.

Other members are Baroness Amanda Spielman, Tim Oates CBE, Clare Sealy OBE, Professor Daniel Muijs, Alistair Hamill, Nathalie Kellens, Tracey Maloney, Esther Martin, Sharon Mulligan, Mark Roberts, Noeleen Tiffney, and Simon

## **The bond and circle rope.**



**The bond wraps around the fleur-de-lis on the logo to represent the family of scouting, and the encircling rope that goes around the logo represents the unity of the world scout movement.**

Toyne have been appointed by the Minister to oversee the reform programme. The Taskforce will also have responsibility for preparing a new curriculum framework that is structured to be coherent, cumulative, challenging and 'knowledge-rich'.

Making the announcement, Paul Givan said, "I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Curriculum Taskforce Advisory Committee that will oversee, direct and lead the reform of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

"The Committee includes a wealth of experience of curriculum design, classroom practice, evaluation and implementation. The expertise and vision of this group will be crucial in delivering an ambitious, rigorous and knowledge-rich curriculum that raises standards and supports all learners to thrive.

"Of course, this Committee will not work alone but will work alongside current teachers, local educationalists and subject specialists to prepare a coherent curriculum framework.

"This is an exciting and important step forward in our curriculum reform journey. I look forward to working with the Committee and seeing their proposals for reform."

The Taskforce Advisory Committee will be supported by a series of subject working groups made up of local teachers and subject specialists that will develop relevant capabilities and content, linked to specific curricular strands and subjects.



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It is envisaged that the new statutory curriculum framework will be developed by September 2026, with implementation from September 2027.

## **Ulster University students heading stateside on prestigious scholarships**

**Congrats to Ulster University students Alyssa Grainger and Codie Waite, who are heading stateside on the prestigious British Council Northern Ireland Study USA scholarship.**

Over the next year, they'll immerse themselves in American college life, gaining academic, professional, and leadership experience.

Alyssa will be at Ohio Wesleyan University, while Codie joins Otterbein University nearby.

Wishing them both every success on this amazing journey!

Applications for the 2026/27 programme open 1 September 2025:

<https://ow.ly/fPg850WJnyG>

## **First Day at Lisneal College**

**This week we welcomed our brand new Year 8 pupils and their families to Lisneal.**



The Year 8's spent the morning meeting their new form teachers, exploring our school, making new friends and discovering what it means to be part of our #TeamLisneal community. They've already made a brilliant start to their secondary school journey.



We're so excited to see all that they will achieve this year and in the future. Welcome to Lisneal College! 💙





## Energy in Drumming at Inst

**RBAI staff were pleased to welcome Mr Gordon Parkes, Executive Director of NIE, Chair of the Green Skills Delivery Group, and member of their Board of Governors.**

Alongside his distinguished professional career, Mr Parkes was also one of the world's leading pipe band drummers with the **Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band**, winners of 13 World Championship titles.

His presentation, "Energy in Drumming," drew on his passion for music, education and leadership, leaving staff energised for the term ahead. PS - An Inst Pipes and Drums will have to work hard to tune in with the long established Pipes and Drums at Campbell College...Go on give it a blast...

# Cathedral Calls



Féile na Staire  
Baile Átha Cliath

Dublin Festival  
of History

2025

26 September -  
12 October

Tickets & Information  
[dublinfestivalofhistory.ie](http://dublinfestivalofhistory.ie)

Leabharlann  
Library

COMHLACHT CULTÚIR  
CHOMHAIRLE CATHRACH  
BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CULTURE COMPANY

Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

Christ  
Church  
Cathedral  
Dublin

## Christ Church excited by Dublin's Festival of History

**Christ Church Dublin says, “We are very excited to once again participate in this year's Dublin Festival of History. “**



Visit the cathedral's website to find out more about the two events that have been planned as part of this year's programme

 <https://buff.ly/GDjki40>

The Dublin Festival of History is an annual free festival, brought to the public by Dublin City Council, and organised by Dublin City Libraries, in partnership with the Dublin City Council Culture Company.

Now in its 13th year, the festival has built a reputation for shining a fresh perspective on history and its importance in our everyday lives, attracting best-selling Irish and international historians to Dublin for a high-profile programme of history talks and debate each Autumn.

## **Choral Eucharist from the Charles Wood Festival in Armagh**

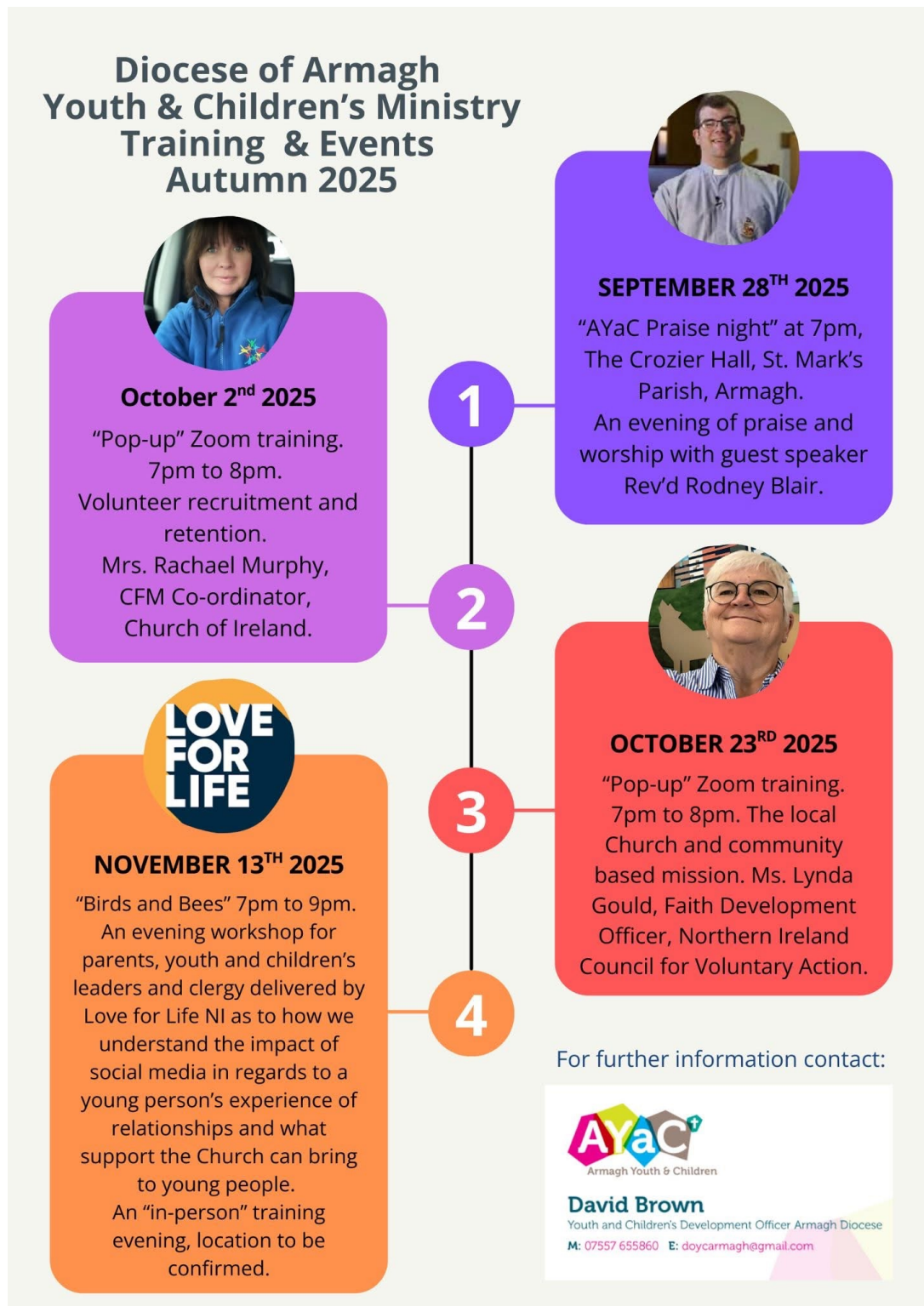
**BBC Radio 4 – 8.10am / Radio Ulster & Radio Foyle – 9.03am**

Sunday Worship, on BBC Radio 4 this Sunday (31st August 2025) at 8.10am, will come from the 32nd Charles Wood Festival of Music and Summer School at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh.

As the summer holidays draw to a close, Archbishop John McDowell will consider what it means to 'come back down to earth with a bump'. The service will be led by Archdeacon Dr Peter Thompson with music from the Charles Wood

Singers, directed by David Hill, and organist Pascal Bachmann.

The service will also be broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio Foyle at 9.03am, and can be played back afterwards at [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnds](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnds)



# Clergy and ministry

## Down and Connor Opening Mass for the Season of Creation

**6.00 pm on Sunday, 31st August in St. Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast**

**Celebrant: Fr Tom Layden SJ, with interfaith contributions.**

This Mass marks the beginning of the Season of Creation (1 Sept–4 Oct), a time when Christians worldwide commit to prayer and action for our common home under the theme “Peace with Creation”.

**1st September is also World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.** In his message for the occasion, Pope Leo said, “Now is the time to follow words with deeds. “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (Laudato Si’, 217)”.

### **Season of Creation –Seminars**

As part of the Season of Creation, you are warmly invited to a series of evening seminars exploring how faith, justice, and care for our common home come together in today’s world. Each evening brings together voices from different



backgrounds to reflect on urgent challenges and offer paths of hope.

**Wed 10th Sept, 7–9.30 pm**

Migration: Challenges Today and Tomorrow

Speakers: Eithne McNulty (CADA), Fr. Pat Colgan (Missionary Society of St. Columba), and the NI Migrant Centre.

Belfast Jesuit Centre, 193–195 Donegall St, Belfast BT1 2FL

**Wed 17th Sept, 7.30–9.30 pm**

Economics for Peace and Planet

Speakers: Prof John Barry (Queen's University) and Rev. Dr Allen Sleith (PCI).

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, 49 Lisburn St, Hillsborough BT26 6AA

**Wed 24th Sept, 7–9.30 pm**

Many Voices, One Peace: Faith in Action in a Divided World

Speakers: Dr Naomi Green, Bishop Brendan Leahy (via Zoom), and the NI Interfaith Forum.

Windsor Hub, 22 Lower Windsor Ave, Belfast BT9 7DW

## **Join the Dots Together**

**Join the Dots Together is an informal network of representatives from:**

A Rocha, Belfast Jesuit Centre, Clonard Peace Ministry, Corrymeela, Down & Connor Laudato Sì Commission, Ephata Laudato Sì Group, Focolare, NI Inter-Faith Forum,



Redemptorist Youth Ministry, Trocaire, Ulster University Chaplaincy, Youth Link NI.

This series of events seeks to live out the call of the Season of Creation by creating spaces of encounter and reflection where faith and action meet. Visit their website to learn more about each event - <https://tinyurl.com/mryd6x8k>

## Events



## BBC Northern Ireland's Autumn Line-Up

**Get ready for a season packed with gripping drama, powerful documentaries, and inspiring lifestyle shows, all made with local talent and creativity.**

From the brand-new Titanic Sinks Tonight and Farm 999, to the return of favourites like Hope Street and House Of The Year, there's something for everyone.

Coming to BBC iPlayer this autumn and winter



## Resources

### Governance & Charity Advice for charities and not for profit

**Our Governance & Charity Advice Manager Denise Copeland recently met with Claire Flowers and the team at Girlguiding Ulster's headquarters at Lorne Estate to discuss banking issues that their Units and Districts have encountered.**

We've been advocating on behalf of charities and not for profits in NI to the banks and government as part of the UK Civil Society Group on banking issues.

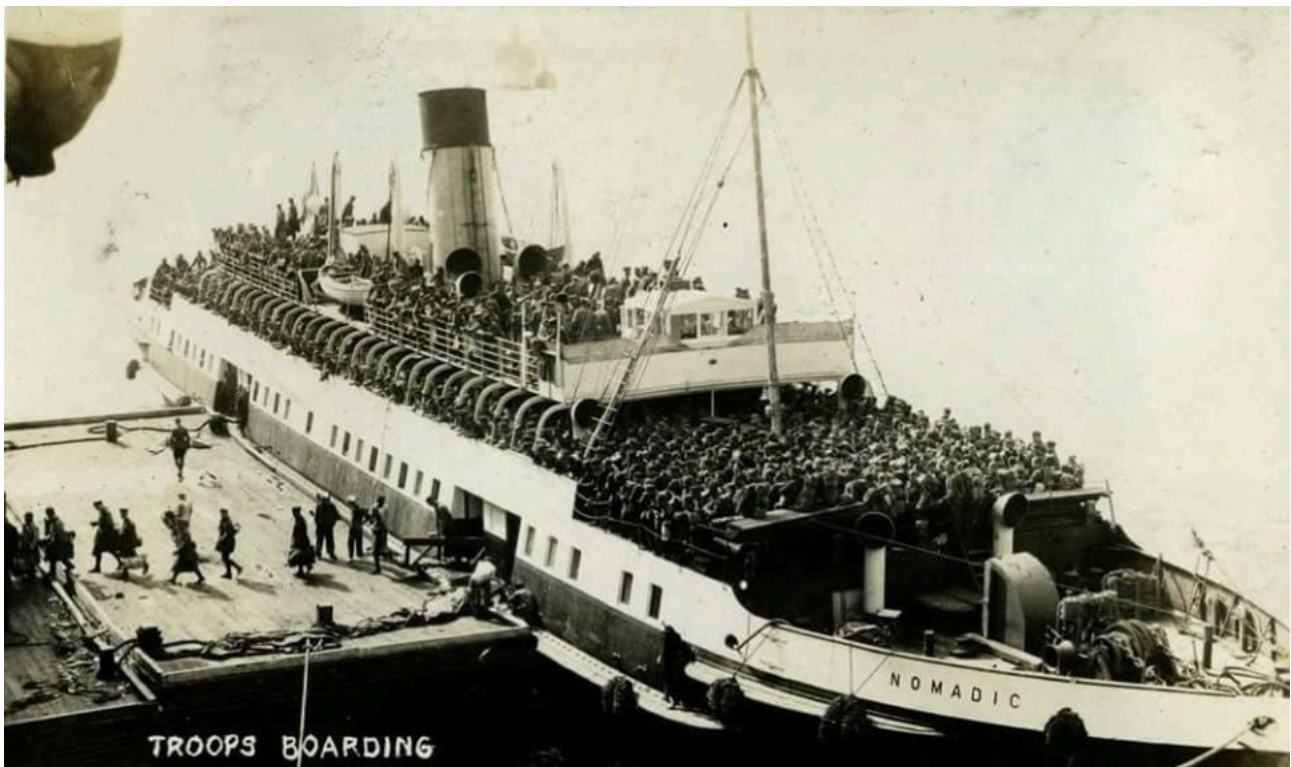
If you are having issues with your bank then please get in touch with Denise who will be happy to advise.



Read more about our work on this issue here:  
[https://lnkd.in/eeNz\\_xDb](https://lnkd.in/eeNz_xDb)

## Heritage

### Belfast tourist attraction was a wartime troop ship



**The SS Nomadic is now one of Belfast's most important tourist attractions, but this photograph shows her in a very different role - being used as a troop ship in June 1940 during the evacuation of Cherbourg.**

Later the Nomadic was used as a floating restaurant moored on the banks of the Siene in Paris, before being brought back to Belfast to be fully refurbished as the only remaining White Star Line vessel afloat today, having been launched at Harland & Wolff on 25 April 1911, just a month before RMS Titanic

## 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](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**

**Please recommend to your friends**