

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Kilkenny in Oxford**



## Image of the day – Kilkenny in Oxford

Last weekend the Choir of St Canice's Cathedral sang the services at Christ Church College, Oxford.

It is a unique place being both a College Chapel and the diocesan worship centre.



# News



*Queen's University, Belfast by Northern Skies Drone Photography*

## Belfast Community Support Plan large grants now open

**Voluntary and community groups in Belfast can apply for grants of up to £60,000 to support the delivery of programme activities under BCC's Community Support Plan Large Grants including:**

- ✨ Core running costs of community facilities
- ✨ Programme delivery for specific communities
- ✨ Related staff costs

**Funding will last 3 years – and this opportunity won't open again until 2028.**



Deadline: 12 noon, Monday 6 October 2025



Info sessions available (in-person & online) across August and September:

Monday 11 August, 1.30pm-3pm – Dee Street Community Centre

Wednesday 13 August, 10am-11.30am – City Hall

Thursday 14 August, 1.30pm-3pm – Ligoniel Community Centre

Monday 8 September, 1.30pm-3pm – Divis Community Centre

Tuesday 9 September, 6.30pm-7.30pm - Online session

Friday 12 September, 10am-11.30am – Donegall Pass Community Centre

To attend, email: [cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:cgugrants@belfastcity.gov.uk) with your preferred session.



Full details & apply: <https://lnkd.in/eCPkUnZF>

## **Keith & Kristyn Getty in London**

**They are bringing "Home for Christmas" to Royal Albert Hall on Dec 19.**

This Christmas, Grammy-nominated hymnwriters Keith and Kristyn Getty bring their acclaimed festive concert to London for the very first time. Home for Christmas is a vibrant celebration of the Christmas story, blending beloved British carols, Celtic heritage and Nashville flair.

For this unforgettable evening, the Gettys will be joined by the magnificent All Souls String Orchestra and Langham Arts Festival Chorus, conducted by Michael Andrews, alongside a host of virtuoso instrumentalists and special guests, including renowned author and speaker Professor John Lennox, with more guests to be announced.

Perfect for the whole family, this will be a joyful and powerful evening of music, worship, and celebration.

## **Bishops launch new pilgrimage route to Lundy Island**

**A new pilgrimage route to Lundy Island has been launched by bishops in Devon.**

The Lee Abbey to Lundy Way starts at St Mary's church in Lynton and ends at St Helen's church on Lundy Island.

The Bishop of Exeter, Rt Rev Dr Mike Harrison and the Bishop of Crediton, Rt Rev Moira Astin made their debut trips to the island along with members of local churches for a special service to celebrate the new route.

It's part of the Diocese of Exeter's Devon Pilgrim project and was created by Rev Jane Skinner, a north Devon vicar who counts Lundy island as one of her nine parishes.

She said: "The birds on Lundy



migrate huge distances and here we are, travelling through an inspiring environment and being transformed in the process.”

“I love the call of the wild rugged cliffs, looking across Exmoor and arriving on Lundy itself.

“You can feel connected to the Celtic saints who set out to explore, inspired by the Holy Spirit and with the Good News of Jesus to share.”

Almighty God,  
We ask your blessing for all who travel along this path.  
Guide our minds as we learn of those who came before us,  
traversing the pilgrim way.  
Give us a hunger to seek your face in paths through fields,

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along roads trod by many seeking the blessing of your presence.

Nurture our fellowship

And help us to see each other as a brother or sister

Sharing the journey to your blessed kingdom.

Amen.



## Episcopal Bishop's response to mass shooting in south Minneapolis Catholic School

**Bishop Craig Loya writes after mass shooting at Annunciation Church and School in south Minneapolis -**

Beloved in Christ,

Like all of you, I am devastated by news of the mass shooting at Annunciation Church and School in south Minneapolis this morning. Our metro area congregations have many close connections to students, faculty, and staff at the school, and all of us are feeling the crushing weight of grief.

The fact that we live in a nation where children are shot and killed while at worship or in school would be unimaginable if it wasn't so common. Over decades, our elected officials have proven unwilling to take even the smallest steps toward addressing the fact that in many parts of our nation, it is easier to purchase a gun that is designed only to kill large numbers of humans than it is to get a license to drive a

## Prayer Vigil of Grief, Lament and Solidarity



St. John's Episcopal Church  
4201 Sheridan Ave S, Mpls  
Thursday, August 28 @ 7PM



*Tim and Katharine Barr kneel and pray at a memorial at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, one day after the Aug. 27, 2025, mass shooting at the school killed two children and injured 17 other people.*

car. As a nation, we have chosen access to guns over the ability to assemble in our most sacred public spaces without fear. This crushing grief is simply what that collective choice costs.

In moments like this, we all feel helpless, angry, and afraid. But as followers of a savior who was executed by a broken and corrupt political establishment, we know a few things for certain. First, the resurrection of Jesus that we proclaim week in and week out in our congregations establishes forever that God's love is the most powerful force for change and healing in the universe, and that love will one day break

down and recreate even the most corrupt and broken systems we inhabit. So in the hardest moments, we double down on our commitment to be people who live by the law of love in a world that is ruled by narrow self-interest.

Second, we know that the whole purpose of our lives is to stand in the midst of a deeply distorted world and bear witness to Jesus' better way of love. Our nation has made peace with the kind of carnage that played out in Minneapolis today, but we have not and we will not. It is essential that we continue to flood our elected officials with demands to reverse the grim choice we have made and pass sensible gun control laws that will prevent massive suffering and death. Whether our efforts at change are successful or not, it matters immensely that we as a people continue to point to a better way. We ultimately cannot force the fullness of God's reign into being, but we must always point to what that reign looks like in every situation we encounter.

And finally, we remember that Jesus always goes where the pain is. Jesus always, always shows up most fully with those who are doubled over with grief, pushed aside by oppressive systems, ignored by the powerful, or afraid in the shadows. Jesus goes most fully to those places in our own hearts, and in the world around us. Jesus always shows up with the balm of love where there is deepest pain, and that's where we show up as his hands and heart today.

There is a prayer vigil planned for tonight (Wednesday, August 27) at 7:00 pm at Grace Church in Minneapolis, and another vigil planned for tomorrow night (Thursday, August 28) at St. John's Church in Minneapolis, our two churches

closest to the site of the shooting. Everyone is invited to join us in person, or to pray along with us wherever you are.

In the psalmist's well-worn words, even as we walk through a valley of death and fear, the Lord is with us. And the Lord who is with us calls us to keep shouting our defiant alleluia at the darkness, until God's perfect kingdom of love is fully and finally done, on earth as it is in heaven.

## Obituary notice for Major Robbie Wilmont MBE



**Major Robert James Wilmont – 26th August 2025 (peacefully) at Altnagelvin Hospital, Major Wilmont MBE formerly of Priestland, Bushmills, and Assistant Regimental Adjutant at Regimental Headquarters Irish Guards at Wellington Barracks London.**



Dear husband of Diane, much loved father of Sophie and her husband Sam, loving grandad of Benjamin, devoted son

August 29, 2025

of Sandy and the late Lena, cherished partner of Melissa and a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

Service in Dunluce Presbyterian Church on Wednesday 3rd September at 14:00hrs followed by interment in adjoining cemetery.

Family flowers only please.

Donations in lieu if desired for W.H.S.C.T. (for use in ICU) c/o Ivan Murdock and Sons, 31 Bushmills Road, Coleraine (02870343350)

Deeply regretted and very sadly missed by his loving family, friends, fellow Irish Guardsmen and entire family circle.

Quis Separabit  

## Education

### Coleraine GS Hockey Tour - Dublin 2025



**We are delighted to be taking 36 players away to Dublin this weekend in preparation for the new season. The U14s and Senior Squad will face games against King's Hospital, Mount Anville and Alexandra College.**

Special thanks goes to Macaulay Wray Solicitors for their generous sponsorship and to the Coleraine Grammar



Hockey Society for their tremendous work in facilitating the Tour. Thanks also to Mr Glenn McCaughey from Macaulay Wray for giving up his lunchtime to come to

school for the photoshoot!



## Belfast High Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wicklow



**We have just returned from an amazing 4 days in the Wicklow Mountains, covering just over 80km, while we completed our Gold DofE qualifying expedition.**



Brilliant memories were made with a number of highlights including unzipping the tent at 6.00am to find a stag trying to get in. The views and the local wildlife were incredible.

We are all very sad this is our last expedition -  
Ben, Daniel, Darrin, Joshua, Nathan, Reuben and Rory.

## **RBAI Year 8 Rugby Induction**

**We look forward to welcoming our new Year 8 pupils for the Rugby Induction this Saturday, 9:00am - 10:00am, at Bladon.**

Boys should meet directly at Bladon in kit, boots and gumshield.



Parking at Bladon can be limited, therefore parking legally on the Malone Road is recommended.

## Welcome to the Belfast Royal Academy family


**This week we were delighted to welcome our new Form 1 cohort — the Class of 2032 — as they began their Academy journey.**

From team-building activities to meeting their Heads of Year and tutors, plus their ICT induction, it's been a busy and exciting start. While many arrived with a mix of nerves and excitement, we hope the past two days have already helped them feel right at home in our school community.

Here's to an amazing year ahead for our newest pupils — the future leaders, thinkers, and changemakers of tomorrow.

## Policy Statement on Special Educational Needs

**Education Minister Paul Givan MLA has published a Policy Statement on Special Educational Needs (SEN).**

 Find out more: [www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/education-minister-publishes-sen-policy-statement](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/education-minister-publishes-sen-policy-statement)

## Cathedral Calls

### The Thistle Chapel

**1000 years of history lie within the walls of St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. The Cathedral was built in 1120 and This is the Thistle Chapel within the Cathedral.**

The Thistle Chapel, located in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland, is the chapel of the Order of the Thistle. The Order of the Thistle is Scotland's great order of chivalry, and membership is considered to be one of the country's highest honours. The Order is traditionally given to Scots or people of Scots ancestry, who have given distinguished service. Appointments are entirely in the personal gift of the Sovereign.

The Order of the Thistle has roots in the Middle Ages, but the present-day order was largely created in 1687 by King James VII of Scotland (King James II of England). The nave of Holyrood Abbey was adapted as its chapel, but in 1688 the Abbey was



ransacked by the Edinburgh mob, furious at King James' Roman Catholic allegiance. After that, the Knights of the Thistle had no chapel of their own for over 200 years.

The Thistle Chapel was designed by Robert Lorimer and finished in 1911. It contains stalls for the 16 knights, the Sovereign's stall and two Royal stalls. The chapel contains a wealth of detail, both religious and heraldic, and much of it peculiarly Scottish, including angels playing bagpipes.



## Exciting news at St. Canice's Cathedral ✨

**St. Canice's Cathedral has been awarded funding from the 2025 Community Heritage Grant Scheme.**

The Cathedral states - With this support, we will enhance our audio guides to include Audio Descriptive tours and Irish Sign Language (ISL) tours.

This project will cover:

- ◆ Expanding our existing audio guides with Audio Description.
- ◆ Developing a full Irish Sign Language tour.
- ◆ Ensuring the guides meet web accessibility guidelines (WCAG compliant).



◆ Making the entire Cathedral tour accessible to a wider audience.

In 2023, The Heritage Council supported us in developing our audio guides.

Thanks to their continued support, we are now able

to take the next step towards making St. Canice's Cathedral welcoming and accessible to everyone. 🙌

Work on this exciting project will begin over the coming months – stay tuned for updates!

Discover Ireland Ireland's Ancient East

## Clergy and ministry

### Canon John Murray is still in hospital

**A parish priest who was attacked in his Downpatrick church is still in hospital with serious head injuries almost three weeks on.**

Canon John Murray (75) was injured at St Patrick's Church on August 10 as he prepared to celebrate his final Sunday mass before retirement.  
hill,

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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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)

# Church News Ireland

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

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

**Please recommend to your friends**