

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day



Rathlin island

Most shots of Ireland's most photographed Church at Ballintoy show Rathlin Island in the background.

Today's front page pic of two canoeists shows Fair Head in the County Antrim coast to the right beyond the light house, and Rathlin Island to the left. Lava flows and chalk beds with subsequent glaciation flowing south from Scotland and beyond shape the distinctive landscape.

Twice each day the Atlantic flows eastward and ebbs westward twice each day also. The passage between the island and the mainland is known as the Sea of Moyle and it can be a challenge for those navigating it.

Located just six miles across the Sea of Moyle from Ballycastle on Antrim's north coast, Rathlin Island is six miles long, one mile wide, "L" shaped and home to a slowly increasing population of around 140 people. It is the most northerly part of Northern Ireland.

The name Rathlin comes from the Irish Reachra or Reachlainn and is thought to mean "place of many shipwrecks" or "rocky reef", referencing the dangerous waters surrounding the island and its rocky terrain.

From April to July is Puffin season on the island, providing the opportunity to see them along with lots of other sea birds, including Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Gannets and Fulmars.

The West Light Seabird Centre is really worth visiting, with the added bonus of being able to explore a real working lighthouse, one of three lighthouses on the island.

Many tales of myth and mystery surround Rathlin; perhaps the most famous tells of Robert the Bruce. In 1306, the Scottish King took refuge on Rathlin where he watched a spider persevering again and again to bridge a gap with its web. Eventually it succeeded. Taking heart from the spider's efforts, he returned to Scotland and eventually regained his crown.

A ferry between Ballycastle and the island operates throughout the day.

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News



Scouts NI in Cambodia with Habitat for Humanity Ireland

St Marks, Lisburn are holding Ian and Kathleen in their prayers as they travel to Cambodia with Habitat for Humanity Ireland, as part of a team from Scouts NI.

The team will work alongside local communities to build homes for vulnerable people .

Please pray for safe and smooth travel, and for rest and strength!

Pope surprises 100K youth at Vatican Jubilee

More than 100,000 young Catholics packed into St. Peter's Square erupted in joyful cheers as Pope Leo XIV made a surprise appearance during the Jubilee of Youth opening ceremony in Rome.

The Pope unexpectedly toured the square in his popemobile after an evening Mass, smiling and waving as he soaked in the energy of the massive crowd.

Organisers had hinted at "a surprise", but few expected the Pope to attend so early in the week-long event, according to the Associated Press.

"You are this message [of hope], and must give hope to everyone," the Pope told the gathering, before repeating: "We want peace in the world. We want peace in the world!"

The Jubilee of Youth, part of the 2025 Jubilee Holy Year, is drawing hundreds of thousands of young people to Rome.



Events include liturgies, processions through the Holy Door, and talks from Catholic social media influencers who use digital platforms to evangelise.

Earlier that day, Pope Leo addressed these influencers, thanking them for spreading the Gospel online but warning against losing touch with real-world relationships.

“Always look for the ‘suffering flesh of Christ’ in every brother and sister you encounter online,” he urged.

“It is up to us... to ensure that this culture remains human.”

The Pope is expected to return later in the week to close the Jubilee with a final Mass.



800 years of St Marys Collegiate Church, Youghal

The Most Rev John McDowell, Primate of All Ireland and the Rt Rev Dr WP Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, took part in a service to mark 800 years of St Marys Collegiate Church, Youghal, Cork last Sunday.

Photo above - Crossing the bar.



St John Henry Newman - tapestry hanging from the facade of St Peter's Basilica for his canonization in 2019

Archbishop of Dublin welcomes Pope's recognition of Cardinal Newman

Archbishop Dermot Farrell stated - It was with great joy that I learned of Pope Leo XIV's decision to declare Saint John Henry Newman, Cardinal Newman as he is perhaps better known, a Doctor of the Universal Church.

Archbishop Dermot continued - This title is rarely bestowed and recognises the exceptional contribution Saint John Henry made to theological research and reflection. It puts him into the company of the greatest teachers the Church has ever had, together with such figures as Saint Augustine,

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Teresa of Ávila and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux — now just thirty-eight in all.

Saint John Henry has a very special connection with Dublin, where he lived and worked in the period 1851 to 1858 as the first Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland, the forerunner of today's University College Dublin. It was here in Dublin that he delivered the famous lectures on university education, later published as *The Idea of a University*. The beautiful University Church on Saint Stephen's Green, built on his initiative and under his careful supervision, reminds us to this day of his presence and work among us in that time.

Newman was a highly original thinker, who combined a vast knowledge of the Fathers of the Church with a keen appreciation of the contemporary culture and a deep understanding of human nature. As a result, his works, though composed in the nineteenth century, remain relevant and thought-provoking today. His motto, *cor ad cor loquitur*, "heart speaks to heart", well expresses his ability as a thinker to engage personally with those who read him. His was a lifelong and sincere searching after truth, and his words still resonate with all who are engaged in such a search. I am confident that this new honour conferred on him will lead to a renewed interest in his works, the lasting testimony to an exceptionally gifted mind.

Education

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That's Day 3 of Ex Campbell Reflect 2025 complete



We started with a visit to Delville Wood to commemorate OC 842 Lt Robert Ross KOSB who was killed in September 1916.

We also paid our respects to former Pipe Major Lt R Thorburn of the South African Infantry South African Irish



Regiment Pipes and Drums who is also buried there. The memorial in Delville Wood is stunning but the story of the battle fought there is difficult to comprehend.

A short stop to the Pipers Memorial at Longueval before heading to the Ulster Tower The Somme Association & Somme Museum where we held a short Act of Remembrance. A visit to Thiepval Wood followed to see where the men of the 36th Ulster Division launched their attack on 1 July 1916. Thanks to the staff at the Tower for facilitating our visit.

Three Old Campbellians are buried a short distance away in Mill Road Cemetery OC 1010 William McCaw, OC 888 George Rogers and OC 475 Robert Kerr. They are buried

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on the site of the Schwaben Redoubt - the formidable defensive position which was one of the objectives on the 1 July 1916.

We moved to Adanac Cemetery to visit the grave of Piper James Richardson VC who was killed on 9 October 1916 and who is the subject of Sound of the Somme - a short film that is due to be released in the near future.

Our final visit was to Thiepval Memorial to the Missing where 15 OCs are commemorated including 5 members of the 13th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles who were killed on 1 July 1916.

A busy day but one that was awe inspiring.

Thanks to The Old Campbellian Society, RFCA NI, The Royal Irish Regiment and Cadets In Schools for supporting this trip.

Irish Fulbright Scholars

Congratulations to Professor Ronan Cahill and Bernie Burke on being named among 18 Fulbright Scholars, who will be hosted at US universities for the next year.

Professor Ronan Cahill is a Professor of Surgery at UCD School Of Medicine and Consultant Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, specialising in colorectal cancer surgery. He leads the UCD Section of Surgery and directs both the UCD Centre for Precision Surgery and the MMUH Digital Surgery Unit.

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His research, which he will work on during his time at the University of Pennsylvania, focuses on surgical innovation, particularly AI in operative surgery.

Bernie Burke, a member of the Careers Network team at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, co-leads the award-winning MBA LEAP employability module, which she designed.

She is currently completing a D.Ed. in the School of Education at Trinity College Dublin, where she is researching the impact of artificial intelligence on career development and employability.

As a Fulbright scholar, Burke will collaborate with the Career Centre at the Georgia Institute of Technology on the application of AI to augment career development for students and adults in higher education.

Funded by the Governments of Ireland and the United States, the Fulbright Association Program offers unique opportunities for Irish scholars, students, and professionals to study, research, or teach in the US. Fulbright awardees act as cultural ambassadors while abroad and return to share their experiences, helping to foster mutual understanding between nations.

Cathedral Calls

Charles Wood Festival will start in style on Sunday



The 32nd Charles Wood Festival will start in style on Sunday 10 August at 3pm with A Festival of Hymns in the stunning St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh.

Revd Canon Michael Garland, Trustee and Treasurer of The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, leads us through a rich tapestry of favourite and lesser-known hymns on the theme of beginnings. This uplifting service features the Lowry Singers (Armagh), conducted by Elizabeth Seale, with Ven Dr Peter Thompson at the organ.

A glorious and thoughtful start to a packed week of music-making!

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Grab your free ticket at
www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/events

NI international Organ Competition

Introducing the first Senior Competitor. Meet Michael Carr (21), a student at Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya.

He will be performing:

JS Bach: Trio super 'Herr Jesu Christ dich zu uns wend',
BWV 655

Duruflé: Suite pour orgue, Op. 5: ii. Sicilienne & iii. Toccata

Reger: Fantasia in D minor, Op. 135b

The Senior Competitions will run next **Monday, 11 August**,
in **St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, 1330-1600 & 1900-2130.**

Do come and lend all the young organists your support.

Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons Exhibition

“Bishop Daly - A Man for all Seasons” - 2025 Exhibition celebrates the life, influence, work and legacy of Bishop Edward Daly opened in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Friday 1st August after 10am Mass.

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Exhibition times are Monday - Saturday from 10.30am to 4.00pm in the Conference Room above the Sacristy. The Exhibition will run until 28 August.

Everyone is welcome

St Eugene's Cathedral, Creggan St, Derry-Londonderry, BT48 9AP

Clergy and ministry



Gillian was delighted to catch up with Rev Dr Keith and Lyn Scott this week in Armagh, as they celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary. Keith will be helping to lead an Armagh Diocesan Team to Gitega Diocese, Burundi in September (including Arch Bishop John McDowell).

They are also planning to return to Bujumbura Christian University in January 2026 for 6 weeks of teaching input.



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

Burundi contacts

Gillian from CMSI was delighted to catch up with Rev Dr Keith and Lyn Scott this week in Armagh, as they celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary.

Keith will be helping to lead an Armagh Diocesan Team to Gitega Diocese, Burundi in September (including Archbishop John McDowell); as well as planning to return to Bujumbura Christian University in January 2026 for 6 weeks of teaching input.

Archbishop Jackson's tribute to the Ven Cecil Pringle

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Archbishop Michael Jackson, who was previously Bishop of Clogher from 2002 to 2011, has paid the following tribute to the Ven Cecil Pringle, formerly Archdeacon of Clogher, whose funeral took place last Friday.

Archbishop Jackson said, "It is with sadness that I learned of the death of Archdeacon Cecil Pringle. He and I worked together in Clogher Diocese throughout my time as bishop. We shared the fact that we were both ordinands of our home diocese. Throughout his ministry, he was renowned for his clear-sightedness and fair-mindedness in successive parishes and across the diocese. He also made time to serve the Church of Ireland at RB and RB Executive level.

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“He will greatly be missed by his wife Hilary, by his children and grandchildren, and by all members of the Pringle family who have served and continue to serve the Church of Ireland faithfully and assiduously.”

Methodist Church's Ministries Team courses

The following units, delivered in conjunction with our partners at Cliff College , will be running during the 2025-2026 academic year.

- Christian Theology in Outline
- Exploring Chaplaincy
- Integrating Theology and Practice

→ To find out more about these courses and others available as part of MCI's partnership with Cliff College – please visit:

irishmethodist.org/ministries-learning-development

Events

Museum of Orange Heritage Boyne Day

The Museum says - Be sure to mark the calendar and join us at the Museum of Orange Heritage for a fun-filled day for all the family.

Living history displays
Traditional children's games

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Interactive museum treasure hunt
Activities for all ages

Saturday 16 August, 10am – 2pm, Museum of Orange
Heritage

Bring the whole family and experience history brought to life!
Free entry – all welcome.

Festival of Remembrance Lagan Valley Island

**Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council are partnering
with the Regimental Association of the Royal Irish
Regiment to host a Festival of Remembrance on Friday
7th November 2025 at 7.30pm in Lagan Valley Island.**

It will feature Bugles, Pipes and Drums of 2 Royal Irish,
Clara Wilson, Knockmore Primary School Choir, Lisburn
Young Defenders and Wellington Silver Band.

Reverend Nicholas Dark will conduct the Act of
Remembrance assisted by Magheragall Church Choir.

The festival will conclude with a march on from the Royal
Navy, Army, and Royal Airforce.

Book your tickets online at [https://
www.laganvalleyisland.co.uk/whats-on/event?
id=439626ALLNHLHKDTLCGGQDRJGHKJBRSSN](https://www.laganvalleyisland.co.uk/whats-on/event?id=439626ALLNHLHKDTLCGGQDRJGHKJBRSSN)

In the media

Hope that government funding for listed church buildings will continue

Both the Church of England and Church of Ireland have welcomed a call by Westminster MPs for the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme (LPWGS) to be made permanent and for a cap to be lifted on claims made by parishes on buildings - Billy Kennedy writes in The Belfast Newsletter

In January, the Labour government announced a one-year extension of the scheme, which gives grants covering VAT on repairs of more than a £1,000 for listed places of worship, but it reduced the total amount of money available. The future of the scheme has been raised in cross-party debates in Parliament, with evidence presented that more than 200 churches, including some Anglican cathedrals, are already facing significant cash shortfalls on repair bills as a result of the £25,000 cap.

Church of Ireland's representative church body, its central trustee body, encouraged Northern Ireland parishes with listed buildings to consultation on funding this year.

“The church supports the listed places of worship grant scheme being made permanent with the cap on funding to be increased. Many places of worship in the Church of Ireland are listed buildings, as are some churches in other Northern Ireland denominations. Our representative church body works with select vestries, dioceses and funders to

maintain and improve properties we have inherited so they can be used for mission and ministry into the future,” a senior Church of Ireland source said.

All eight Church of Ireland’s cathedrals in Northern Ireland are listed buildings – St Anne’s,, Belfast; St Patrick’s, Armagh; St Macartin’s, Enniskillen; St Macartan’s, Clogher; St Columb’s, Londonderry; Holy Trinity Cathedral, Downpatrick (Down cathedral); Christ the Redeemer cathedral, Dromore, Co Down; and St Saviour’s cathedral, Lisburn. A large number of parish churches are also listed due to their architectural history and design.

Church of England cleric Rev Paula Griffiths, a former director for Anglican cathedral and church buildings, gave evidence last week at an inquiry into protecting built heritage. She said the scheme had been “a lifeline for places of worship and the hard-working volunteers and clergy who care for historic church buildings urgently need the confidence of ongoing, reliable sources of funding.”

“Current uncertainty around listed building churches is putting church communities under real pressure, requiring additional fund-raising to pay tax or scaling back schemes for essential repairs. We know it saves money to keep up maintenance and continuing VAT relief helps enable those works.”

Chairman of the Westminster culture, media and sport select committee, Dame Caroline Dinenage has written to government heritage minister Baroness Twycross saying the scheme was initially introduced “in recognition of the social

work of churches and their important contribution to British heritage.”

“These features still stand: 45 per cent of the UK’s Grade I buildings are owned by the Church of England and churches remain communal spaces for social and charitable activities,” she said, adding that funding only ever guaranteed for a few years at a time is “not fit” for a sector reliant on projects that take five years to prepare and fund-raise for.

“The scheme is welcome recognition of the role of churches and their contribution to our heritage, but without certainty over its future many repair and refurbishment projects are at risk of never getting off the ground,” Dame Dinanage said. “The government needs to commit to the scheme by making it a permanent source of support and by lifting the cap, so historic places of worship can concentrate on the important work they do in our communities.”

The government says that nearly £350m has been awarded under the scheme to date. Listed places of worship of any size or faith within the UK can apply to the scheme for support with repairs and renovations until the end of March 2026.

Heritage

Famous son of Queen’s University zoologist



Theodore Thomson Flynn (1883-1968), a distinguished zoologist and marine biologist, spent a formative period of his career in Northern Ireland.

In 1931, he became Chair of Zoology at Queen's University Belfast, a role he held until 1948. During his tenure, he significantly advanced the university's zoology department and also directed the marine station at Portaferry, fostering marine biology research in the region.

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His time in Northern Ireland was not limited to academia. During the Belfast Blitz in World War II, Flynn served as chief casualty officer for the city, coordinating emergency medical responses amidst the devastation. His contributions during the war earned him the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1945.

Away from the university and wartime responsibilities, Flynn enjoyed the natural beauty of County Down. He once had a cottage near Kilclief Castle in Lecale, a tranquil spot that reflected his deep appreciation for the coastal environment he studied and loved (see photos of Lecale in CNI's post on Saturday last).

Theodore Flynn is pictured with his son, the Hollywood star, Errol Flynn.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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

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