



Ball Brothers record impromptu video in Belfast Cathedral

US-based gospel quartet The Ball Brothers have given Belfast Cathedral international exposure by shooting an impromptu video in the cathedral during a visit to the city.

They recorded the song 'Least I can do' in the Cathedral and shared the poignant video on their Facebook page on Good Friday, with the message:

“While touring Belfast, Northern Ireland, we found ourselves inside this beautiful cathedral and decided to shoot an impromptu music video. The beauty of this building doesn’t begin to compare to the

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beauty of the love that was shown on the cross. Please share this video as we reflect on the sacrifice that was made.”

Their fans certainly paid heed. To date [THE VIDEO](#) has been shared almost 6,000 times and has 157,000 views and rising.

In a later comment the group, who recorded the video in just a couple of hours, wrote: “A special thank you to [Belfast Cathedral](#).

“If you’re ever in Belfast, Northern Ireland this is a must see.”

The Ball Brothers are two brothers, Andrew and Daniel Ball along with brother-in-law Chad McCloskey and newcomer Matt Davis. The group travels world-wide, singing their distinctive brand of Christian music.

Find out more about the Ball Brothers at <https://www.theballbrothers.com/home>.

Easter Praise with Summer Madness

Summer Madness, in conjunction with DDYC, have planned a very special time of worship and teaching in Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan.

The event will be on Saturday 14 April from 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Tre Sheppard will be speaking and the SM house band will help us lift the roof in praise as we invite God to set our hearts and minds on all that He has in store for us.

It’s a wonderful opportunity to bring some friends along to get a taste of the festival and also to catch up with all of your SM connections from before. Not only is the evening a ‘free’ event –



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but anyone buying a ticket for the Festival on the evening will get a £5 discount.

Masses offered for farming and prayer for end to wet unseasonably cold weather

In response to the ongoing fodder crisis which is affecting livestock in the Diocese of Cork & Ross and beyond, Bishop John Buckley said, “I have been travelling the diocese before and during Easter and have been talking to farmers and to their families. Due to lack of feed, animals are suffering great stress during this difficult winter and late spring. I am calling on Government to monitor this crisis situation closely and to generously and quickly address the feed requirements of animals. This emergency situation has resulted in reports of animals dying on farms.”

Bishop Buckley continued, “Many farmers have approached me, asking for prayers. I am asking all Masses in the dioceses to offer prayers this weekend for the farming community and to pray for an end to the wet and unseasonably cold weather. Over the past few weeks I have witnessed great hardship in the farming community. This is particularly true of West Cork. Let us remember them in our prayers.”

Major gathering for Alpha in NI

Churches are invited to bring their teams to the first national gathering for Alpha in NI in over 5 years. It will be a day of inspiration and training.

When: Saturday 14 April 2018, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Where: Orangefield Presbyterian Church, 464 Castlereagh Road, Belfast, BT5 6BH

Cost: £5.00 which includes lunch and tea/coffee

- Hear about the part Alpha is playing in the church on mission across Northern Ireland and beyond.

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- Stories of transformation and hope for individuals, churches, cities, schools and prisons.
- Training & collaboration for everyone – from very first-time Alphas to experienced Alpha leaders.
- Contributions from Alpha Youth, Marriage Courses UK and 24/7 Prayer Ireland
- Contributors include Paul Cowley MBE (HTB), John Dickinson (Carnmoney Church), Jonny Campbell (Alpha NI).
- Ryan Griffith (Worship Central Ireland and CFC Belfast) leading worship.



Book through Eventbrite [here](#).

Joint Holy Week programme in Larne

St Cedma's, Larne, joined with its neighbour First Larne Presbyterian Church for a series of joint services and activities during Holy Week.

The venture was supported by Connor Youth Officer Christina Baillie, who spoke at the evening services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Christina's theme was the 'Mystery of Holy Week.'

On Maundy Thursday, the Rev Philip Benson, curate of Larne, presided at Holy Communion and the Rev Colin McClure, minister at First Larne Presbyterian, preached.

During the days of Holy Week, there were a series of reflections on Jesus' life and ministry, after which light lunches were provided, and the churches raised more than £500 for Christian Aid.

Philip said: "It was a very successful week and the feedback from both congregations was great. We hope that next year it will take



Taking part in the joint programme of events for Holy Week in Larne are, from left: The Rev Philip Benson, curate, Larne and Inver with Glynn and Raloo; Christina Baillie, Connor Youth Officer, and the Rev Colin McClure, First Larne Presbyterian.

place again and that other local churches would also join in with us to further deepen the positive relationships already existing across the town between local Christians.”

Good Friday Walk of Witness in Lisburn

The annual Good Friday Carrying of the Cross Walk of Witness was held in Lisburn on March 30.

The procession gathered at the lower end of Bow Street and made its way along Bow Street to Market Square for a short act of worship led by some Lisburn City Centre Clergy. The Presbyterian Moderator, The Rt Rev Dr Noble McNeely took part in this year’s event.

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The chairman of the Lisburn City Centre Ministers' Fellowship, the Rev Mervyn Ewing (Minister of Seymour Street Methodist Church) welcomed everyone to the short act of worship in Market Square. Taking part were Father Dermot McCaughan (St Patrick's), Pastor Brian Agnew (Lisburn City Church) and Ashley Parkes and Alice Francey (Hillsborough Presbyterian Church) who gave a brief overview of a project 'Love Lisburn' involving churches from the Lisburn area reaching out and serving people in a practical way.

The praise was led by musicians from Seymour Street Methodist Church. Lynn McAllister (Seymour Street) sang, 'How deep the Father's love for us'. David Lamont (Lisburn Cathedral) was in charge of the sound.

Buddhist groups form Irish Buddhist Union

A new [Irish Buddhist Union](#) (IBU) has been formed to represent the faith in [Ireland](#). An umbrella association of five Buddhist groups and organisations in the State, it intends bringing Buddhist ideas and principles to the attention of wider Irish society.

Buddhism is among the fastest growing faiths in Ireland, showing a 12.1 per cent increase, to 9,758, from the previous census in 2011.

Apart from the growth of interest in Buddhist meditation techniques, especially "mindfulness" in recent years, Buddhism as a faith tradition has also seen a generation of Irish-born Buddhist teachers and leaders coming to the fore for the first time.

In an increasingly diverse Ireland, the IBU hopes that the many Irish people who identify as Buddhist will become visible and active in Irish public life, with the IBU acting as a conduit for this.

It also hopes to have an input on the national debate as Ireland develops to accommodate its growing diversity for the first time.

Britain's Most Historic Towns features four iconic cathedrals

Four iconic cathedrals are set to feature in a new Channel 4 documentary series, **Britain's Most Historic Towns**. The new series sees anthropologist and academic, Professor Alice Roberts

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uncover the secrets of Britain's rich and dramatic past by telling the story of a single historic town.

A six-part series began last Saturday (7 April) on Channel 4 at 8pm with an exploration of Roman Chester, telling the story of Roman Britain by studying the history of Chester, and features Chester Cathedral.

Britain's Most Historic Towns uncovers the extraordinary history underpinning well-known towns. In each of the six episodes, Professor Roberts visits historic sites and meets local historians to understand how each town was shaped by the dominant forces of the age, and explores how people might have lived in each period.

Cutting-edge CGI brings long-lost monuments back to life while aerial archaeologist Ben Robinson takes to the skies to see how the layout of each town reflects a historical era to this day. At the climax of each programme, CGI reveals the entire historic town in all its former glory.

Saturdays Channel 4 at 8pm.

[Roman Chester](#)

7th April – In Britain's most Roman city, we make an extraordinary archaeological find deep underground and explore a radical theory on the Romans' plans for the city. Find out more about [Chester Cathedral](#) >

[Viking York](#)

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14th April – York is home to a thriving Viking heavy metal scene, where traditional rock-n-roll lyrics are replaced with Viking sagas in old Norse. Find out more about [York Minster >](#)

[Norman Winchester](#)

21st April – During Anglo Saxon times, Winchester had been the royal capital of England. Find out more about [Winchester Cathedral >](#)

[Tudor Norwich](#)

28th April – In Tudor times Norwich, the second biggest city at the time, was famed for the ‘Madder Red’ dye that was a popular colour for the clothing of everyday folk. One vital ingredient in the production of the dye was human urine that was collected from giant buckets positioned outside the pubs of the city. Find out more about [Norwich Cathedral >](#)

The series continues in May with Regency Cheltenham on 5th May and Victorian Belfast on 12th May.

If you miss an episode, you’ll be able to watch it on Channel 4 catch up by clicking [here](#).

Video of Boxing nuns taking Poland by storm

The Capuchin Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus hope to raise money for their orphanage

While Poland is home to thousands of Catholic nuns from dozens of orders, they rarely attract attention like the country’s male clergy.

That may be changing since a convent of Capuchins took up boxing to raise money for their orphanage.

“We’d like to stress no one was knocked out or injured,” explained Sister Cecylia Pytka, local superior of the Capuchin Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Siennica.



“We hadn’t had much luck collecting funds for the renovation and needed some way of attracting public interest. That’s when a friend arranged for us to get into boxing,” she told Catholic News Service.

A tongue-in-cheek video on the sisters’ Facebook page shows five veiled nuns heading to the Walhalla sports hall at Minsk Mazowiecki, 20 miles east of Warsaw and near their convent. They’re shown limbering up in their habits before strapping on gloves and slugging it out to the theme song from “Rocky.”

When the workout finishes, the sisters high-five each other, knotted girdles jangling, to the apparent consternation of other hardened gym-goers.

As of March 26, the sisters had raised about one-third of the \$88,000 needed for the orphanage upgrade, Sister Cecylia said. Work must start by June to comply with safety regulations.

“Of course, we’re pleased with the publicity and hope we can reach our target,” she said.

“The orphanage children, who know us well from daily life, say they’re not the least surprised about the boxing, since we’re always

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having crazy ideas. But local people have been supportive too, recognizing our input into the community here,” she explained.

While few nuns have become public figures in Poland, a member of the Daughters of Divine Charity, Sister Anastazja Pustelnik, sold more than 4 million recipe books before announcing her retirement in 2016.

Formed in Italy in 1897, the Capuchin congregation founded their convent at Siennica, near Minsk, in 1989. They minister to poor children, teach catechism and prepare children for their first Communion, and maintain local churches.

The Mother Weronika Orphanage has provided a home for about 100 abandoned youngsters since opening its doors in 1996.

“Of course, nuns don’t really need to know how to box or floor each other,”

Sister Cecylia told CNS the Capuchins had routinely kept fit by exercising with their orphanage charges, making the switch to combat sports easier.

However, she cautioned that some had had trouble with a “tendency to giggle” while making the video.

“Of course, nuns don’t really need to know how to box or floor each other,” she said.

“This was a spontaneous idea, which took shape as we did it. Convents like ours are free to come up with ways of publicising their work, and this seems quite a promising one. If people trust us and wish to help, they’ll be assured of our thanks and prayers.”

Besides laying into each other with right jabs and left hooks, the nuns lift weights, hit punching bags, beat tires with heavy mallets, heave ropes and work out on rowing and cycling machines. The video ends with a warning, “We will fight — check what for” before outlining the orphanage renovation scheme.

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Sister Cecylia said she regretted she was too old to join the boxing bouts herself. Asked if the initiative might lead to a nationwide boxing contest for Polish nuns, she said the sisters had not yet “thought that far ahead.”

Video at -

[https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?
u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F439133259530430%2Fvideos%2F145539
2174571195%2F&display=popup&ref=plugin&src=video](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F439133259530430%2Fvideos%2F1455392174571195%2F&display=popup&ref=plugin&src=video)

