

# Church News Ireland



Image of the day – One Single Act

## **Image for today - One Single Act**

### **News -**

Hate-fueled attack on Fermanagh church hall

Strictly Goes Country event

Fifty-three graduate from Down & Dromore Diocesan Bible Courses

Pope Leo arrives at lakeside residence of Castel Gandolfo

### **Education -**

Skill up at Stranmillis University College

Foyle College Congratulations

### **Cathedral Calls -**

C.S. Lewis Summer Institute service in Belfast Cathedral

Lunchtime Concerts at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

St Patrick's C of I cathedral, Armagh

Columbanus Day Mass in Carlow cathedral

The Mighty Derry Organ Speaks: Lunchtime Recitals

### **Clergy and ministry -**

Former parish marks Canon Stewart Wright's 30th anniversary of Ordination

Ordained priest at St. Fethlimidh's Cathedral, Kilmore

### **Events -**

Step inside the Orange Hall at Ulster Folk Museum

Armagh Observatory and Planetarium marks 230 years

John Hewitt Summer School, Armagh

The first - Arts Across Belfast Bus Tour

### **Heritage -**

Ken Goodall's Lions Cap

### **Speaking to the soul -**

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

## Image of the day

### One Single Act social media campaign

#### **Episcopalians invited to share stories of care, connection and courage to social media**

The Episcopal Diocese of New York, the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City and other faith partners have launched a new social media campaign aimed at helping people share the good things taking place in their communities.

Called One Single Act and using the social media tag #onesingleact, the 100-day project was announced July 1 from the cathedral steps.

**New York Bishop Matthew Heyd** said during the launch event that when people experience “chaos, cruelty and carelessness” in the world around them, one antidote is to respond with “care, connection and courage.” Sharing the good things they see taking place – or doing one themselves – are “the deepest expressions of our faith.”

**The Very Rev. Winnie Varghese**, the cathedral’s new dean, told Episcopal News Service she knows people can feel powerless in the face of huge global and local forces that affect them. But this campaign offers people a chance to emphasize a very fundamental spiritual value.

July 11, 2025

“How we engage with one another, engage the stranger, engage our neighbor, is actually a fundamental power to be the conduit for God’s love in the world,” she said.

The campaign’s encouragement to see or to do, and then share, one single act daily is “a really accessible way to make a pretty complex spiritual reality manifest in people’s lives,” she said. And she intentionally has been trying to be more aware of good things happening in the world so she can add her own stories.



Heyd told ENS he is finding that people across the diocese and beyond “intuitively understand what the campaign is about.” He said organizers wanted to make it easy to do and to share acts of goodness, whether big or small, across social media platforms. “I’m excited to be surprised by what we hear people are doing and the places we are hearing it,” he added.



He hopes this campaign gives people a way to express the fact “that the world is transformed by our connections with each other.”

Among Facebook posts using the hashtag include a man sharing a music-themed drawing given to him by a young fellow parishioner; a photo from St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Durham, North Carolina, of a cooler of chilled bottled water at the entrance to their courtyard; and a video of a favorite piece of music. An Instagram photo shows a smiling man “using his first day of retirement” to set up the food pantry at St. Mary’s Castleton, on Staten Island, New York.

The other partners in One Single Act are Episcopal Charities, Episcopal Divinity School and the Interfaith Center of New York.

## News

### Hate-fueled attack on Fermanagh church hall

**Hate-fueled attack on Fermanagh church hall, which was ransacked by vandals overnight on Monday, July 7 - Impartial Reporter.**

Ulster Unionist and parishioner Councillor John McClaughry expressed his concern and shock over the distressing act of vandalism.

Read More 🖱️ <https://tinyurl.com/2trsy5bc>

## **Strictly Goes Country event**

**What a tremendous success! Our parish's Strictly Goes Country event at the Kilmore Hotel, Cavan in May has raised an incredible €52,000 profit.**

Thanks to Rev Tanya Woods for organizing this wonderful evening, and to everyone who took part, attended, sponsored the event, and donated prizes. Your generosity has made such a difference.

We're delighted to present €20,000 to Friends of Oncology Cavan for their vital work, with each of our four churches receiving €8,000 to support their ministries.

This fantastic result shows what can be achieved when our community comes together. It has truly been a celebration of both entertainment and giving back.

Thank you to all who made this evening such a memorable and impactful success!

## **Fifty-three graduate from Down & Dromore Diocesan Bible Courses**

**Congratulations to the incredible total of 53 graduates of the Diocesan Bible Courses who were awarded their certificates at the end of June!**



**Archdeacon Jim Cheshire made the presentations on the last night of each course.**

Twenty-six people completed the 1 Year Course which ran in Banbridge on Wednesday evenings and twenty-seven graduated from the 2 Year Course (above) which ran in St Donard's on Tuesdays.

The feedback from both has been overwhelmingly positive and demonstrates a hunger for more of the same. Here are just a few of the comments:

It was fantastic and really opened the Bible for me. Made me think of things I've never thought of before, even passages I've read over and over.

One of the things I enjoyed most about the course was making links between Old Testament and New Testament. The course brought 'the Bible to life.

There was no pressure on me to do exams, everything was explained very clearly, which meant that I didn't feel out of my depth.

July 11, 2025

I had some lovely times of fellowship, and this has been one of the best things I've ever done.

The courses were devised and taught by Josh Hooker, a Crosslinks Mission Partner who has spent 17 years teaching the Bible in southern Africa. Josh and his wife Cathy have been seconded to the diocese for three years and are returning to Namibia in the autumn. We are very grateful to them for all they have contributed to the life of Down and Dromore.





## **What's next?**

In the coming year the diocese will run the 1 Year Course again in Banbridge and hopefully also in Belfast on a different evening. We will have new teachers but the same wonderful experience!

A reminder that the 1 Year Diocesan Bible Course is for Christians at any stage on their journey with God who want to know more about the Bible and how it relates to their lives. No prior theological knowledge or qualifications are needed. It comprises three modules each 10 weeks long, beginning in October and ending in June.

## **Pope Leo arrives at lakeside residence of Castel Gandolfo for two-week summer break**

**Pope Leo has travelled to the lakeside town of Castel Gandolfo, on the outskirts of Rome, where he will spend a two-week summer break, reviving a centuries-old tradition that had been interrupted by his predecessor.**

The Vatican has owned a papal palace in the town, including vast Renaissance-style gardens, since 1596, but Francis, who shunned much of the pomp and privilege of the papacy, chose not to take vacations, spending the summer in his Vatican residence.

In contrast, Leo, who was elected pope on 8th May, has decided to take a break during his first summer in office,

July 11, 2025

escaping the heatwave in Rome to enjoy the cooler temperatures in Castel Gandolfo, on the shores of Lake Albano.

Business owners in the town, home to around 8,900 people, hope for a tourism boost during the pope's stay, which will conclude on 20th July. He may also return to the lakeshore for at least one weekend in August.

While Leo is expected to spend most of his holiday out of the public eye, residents and tourists will have the opportunity to see him at religious celebrations on 13th July and 20th July.

## Education

### Skill up at Stranmillis University College

**We are delighted to be able to offer Skill Up Funded for 2025/2026 for various postgraduate courses and modules, commencing September 2025.**

Skill Up Northern Ireland is an initiative from The Department of the Economy, in cooperation with the Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Finance, offering funded courses to individuals in Northern Ireland who want to skill up, upskill, or reskill.

It focuses on improving the local workforce's skills by providing access to training through further and higher education providers. The program is part of the **Flexible**

July 11, 2025

**Skills Fund** and aims to help people gain skills in various areas.

## Foyle College Congratulations

**Congratulations to Conall Kuan, Class of 2020, who, having graduated with a 2:1 LLB in Law and Business from University of Aberdeen last year, has this summer graduated with a Diploma in Professional Legal Practice.**



Conall has secured a training contract with a Scottish law firm, Stronachs LLP, commencing in 2026. Well done, Conall! 🙌

At Foyle College, we are committed to celebrating the successes of our #foylefamily beyond their school years.

If you are a summer 2025 graduate, and former pupil, we would love to join with you in celebrating your tertiary level achievements by sharing them with our wider school community.

July 11, 2025

Please send us information on your course, university and a photograph, and we will be delighted to showcase your achievements.

## Cathedral Calls

24 — 30 JULY  
BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

The C.S. Lewis  
Summer Institute

# RETURNING HOME

C.S. Lewis, Roots, & Transformation

**Featuring:**  
JOHN LENNOX ♦ ALISTER MCGRATH ♦ CURT THOMPSON ♦ AMY ORR-EWING  
MALCOLM GUTE ♦ JOANNE HOGG ♦ KIRSTIN JEFFREY JOHNSON ♦ DIANA PAVLAC GLYER  
SHERIDAN VOYSEY ♦ EDWIN COLON ♦ AD DEUM DANCE COMPANY ♦ AMY BAIK LEE  
CRYSTAL HURD ♦ SANDY SMITH ♦ LANCIA E. SMITH ♦ CHRISTIN DITCHFIELD LAZO  
ANDREW LAZO & MORE...

REGISTER TODAY:  
[www.cslewis.org/si](http://www.cslewis.org/si)

Special Regional  
Resident Rates & Day Rates  
Available

## C.S. Lewis Summer Institute service in Belfast Cathedral

**Belfast Cathedral is hosting the C.S. Lewis Summer Institute for a service of worship to close their 2025 Conference on 30th July.**

We are especially looking forward to welcoming the **Rev'd Dr Malcolm Gute** as our guest preacher, who will speak from Hebrews 13 with the title, 'Further Up and Further In: the Call of Aslan's Country'.



July 11, 2025

The conference itself is 'designed to enliven the mind, spark the imagination, and deepen faith' by bringing together scholars and artists for lectures, performances, worship and fellowship, and includes an impressive line-up of guests including Alister McGrath, Amy Orr-Ewing, Ad Deum Dance Company, and many, many more.

This year the institute explores, in dialogue with the writings of C.S. Lewis, the themes of roots, home, growth, travel, transformation, pilgrimage, and the hero's quest, with the intent of helping us examine our individual and corporate journeys of faith amid the challenges of our contemporary culture.



July 11, 2025

Anyone who is interested can sign up at their website,  
[www.cslewis.org/si](http://www.cslewis.org/si)

## **Lunchtime Concerts at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick**

**This week we were treated to a wonderful performance by Luke Lally Maguire - thank you to all who joined us!**

Our next concert takes place on Tuesday 22nd July at 1:15pm. Escape the midday rush and enjoy a moment of musical peace in the stunning surroundings of the cathedral. All are welcome!

## **St Patrick's C of I cathedral, Armagh**

**Due to staff and public holidays, the Cathedral and grounds will be closed on Saturday 12th July, Monday 14th July and Tuesday 15th July.**

There will be no afternoon service on Sunday 13th July but the 10am Eucharist and 11am Eucharist will take place as normal.

## **Columbanus Day Mass in Carlow cathedral**

**This weekend the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin will celebrate St Columbanus at various events in Myshall and Carlow town.**

July 11, 2025

While most events are now fully booked all are very welcome to the XXVI Columbanus Day Mass in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow at 10.30am on Sunday 13th, Bishop Nulty will be the chief celebrant and will be joined by fellow Bishops from Ireland and Europe.

Full programme details on <https://www.kandle.ie>

## The Mighty Organ Speaks: Lunchtime Recitals



**Every Thursday in July - 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31th**



**1:10pm**



**St Columb's Cathedral**

Experience the power and beauty of the third largest organ in Northern Ireland in the historic setting of St Columb's Cathedral. Each week features a different guest organist, performing music that lets this magnificent instrument truly speak.

👉 Find out more about events in Derry & Strabane:

<https://pulse.ly/w8cc4jhtqn>

## Clergy and ministry

### Former parish marks Canon Stewart Wright's 30th anniversary of Ordination





**It was wonderful to welcome Canon Stewart Wright and his wife Eva back to Conwal Church to mark the thirtieth anniversary of his Ordination.**

Stewart was ordained in Dromore Cathedral on 11th June 1995. At the Rector's invitation, he came to Conwal for the Midweek Eucharist today for a belated chance to mark this significant anniversary in the place where he spent much of his ministry.

Revd Adrian noted how many uplifting things he'd heard about Stewart and Eva's ministry in the Parish and the Community since his arrival, and spoke of Stewart's gentle affirmation of him as a new Rector of Conwal and Gartan.

The large number of parishioners present signed a card, which was presented to Canon Stewart along with a replica of an Ancient High Cross from Down Cathedral.



## **Ordained priest at St. Fethlimidh's Cathedral, Kilmore**

**Last Sunday afternoon, 6th July, a large congregation gathered in St. Feithlimidh's Cathedral Kilmore to mark the ordination of Revd. Faith Sithole as a priest by Rt. Revd. Ferran Glenfield, the Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.**

The service organised by Dean of Kilmore Revd. Nigel Crossey, was witnessed by family, and friends.

## **Events**

### **Step inside the Orange Hall at Ulster Folk Museum**

**What stories live within the walls of the Orange Hall at Ulster Folk Museum?**

Step inside the Orange Hall at Ulster Folk Museum, a space shaped by tradition, identity and community.

As part of our Reawakening project, we're exploring its history, meaning, and evolving place in Northern Ireland's cultural landscape, in partnership with the Museum of Orange Heritage.

Learn more here → [bit.ly/Hand-And-Pen](https://bit.ly/Hand-And-Pen)

## **The Open, parades and traffic**

**Traffic & Travel Notice : There will be a number of parades taking place throughout the Causeway Coast & Glens District over the July 12th period, with main demonstrations taking place in Coleraine and Rasharkin.**

In Coleraine, the larger feeder parade will begin at 9.15am at Union Street following a route to Waterside for the assembly of the main parade. The main parade will move off from Waterside at 11.15am with the outward route completing at approximately 2pm, before the return parade begins at 3.15pm and disperses at approximately 5.30pm.


The main parade in Rasharkin will begin at 1pm and finish at approximately 6pm.

Officers will be on the ground across all main parades and traffic management will be in place to assist with traffic flow. If you are not attending the parades this year please bear in mind the potential for delays.

With the increased volume of traffic already on the roads due to The Open, it's advisable to find an alternative route.

**Armagh Observatory and Planetarium marks 230 years of continuous daily weather measurements July 14**

On **Monday 14th July**, join us at Armagh Observatory and Planetarium as we mark an incredible milestone - 230 years of continuous daily weather measurements!

 Be part of history at **9:50am** with a live commentary of the daily 10am weather readings! All participants that have joined for the weather reading will receive **FREE admission** to the Planetarium's exciting family fun activities! (Exhibition only or dome show tickets can be purchased if you are NOT apart of the weather reading)

Stick around afterwards for a jam-packed day of discovery and creativity:



- Stellar Science Lab – 12 hands-on stations full of fun physics and playful experiments



- Arts & Crafts



- Face Painting



- Weather Trail



- Food Stalls

Want to make the day even more unforgettable? Book a dome show!



- <https://armaghobservatoryplanetarium.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173651435/events/428690364>

## John Hewitt Summer School, Armagh

July 11, 2025

## **Literature, discussion, music, drama, workshops and more literature... It's the 38th John Hewitt International Summer School!**

The theme of this year's John Hewitt Summer School is: "Our country also: difference and belonging".

Join us in Armagh from 28 July - 2 August for a week-long programme of events featuring celebrated speakers, writers and performers across literature, poetry, art, drama, music, and politics. From avid readers to aspiring writers, published writer seeking inspiration, or simply lovers of literature and the arts, there's something for everyone.

[johnhewittsociety.org](http://johnhewittsociety.org)

Events and bookings -  
(<https://fb.watch/AL4vB5VED2/?>)

## **The first - Arts Across Belfast Bus Tour - departs 20th July 2025**

**Think you know Belfast's musicians, writers, actors, painters and street artists?**

Join this tour to uncover Belfast's vibrant creative scene. As creativity knows no bounds, this tour will bring you to all corners of Belfast - north, south, east and west! Stop for four visits:

- The MAC
- Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
- Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's



July 11, 2025

-EastSide Visitor Centre

A performance by local musicians is included 🎵 and lunch too on this fun half-day tour!



Jump onboard here: [https://](https://www.creativetoursbelfast.com/artsacrossbelfastbustour)

[www.creativetoursbelfast.com/artsacrossbelfastbustour](https://www.creativetoursbelfast.com/artsacrossbelfastbustour)

Or at Visit Belfast

## Heritage

### Ken Goodall's Lions Cap

**The Mark Patterson Show on BBC Radio Foyle produced this topical and much - cherished memento of the Derry rugby player.**

It had lain in an office in Dublin for decades, but finally this week, legendary Derry rugby player Ken Goodall's one and only British and Irish Lions cap has been given to his family.

Many serious rugby heads in the late 60's and 70's reckoned Ken - a former Faughan Valley HS Principal - was the finest forward playing in the northern hemisphere.





In his early days he played for Foyle College and City of Derry. Then came Ulster, Newcastle University, Ireland, the Barbarians and the Lions. He was only a teenager when he made his Ireland debut in 1967. Because he was so young, he was only a squad member on the 1968 Lions tour of South Africa but played once, scored, and broke his hand, ending his Tour. Ken Goodall died in 2006.

Meet his brother Alan, and a wee exclusive; the family are letting us share these photos of Ken's Lions cap ...

## 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)

---

# Church News Ireland

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

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

**Please recommend to your friends**