

# Church News Ireland



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## Image of the day

### Westminster honours Lord David Trimble

#### Lord David Trimble Nobel Peace Prize Laureate commemorated at Westminster

Ulster Unionist Party Leader, Mike Nesbitt MLA and leading members of the party attended the unveiling of a commemorative bust of Lord David Trimble in Westminster alongside Lord Trimble's family and party colleagues.

*Photos - Above: Archbishop Lord Eames. Right Mr Danny Kennedy and Lady Trimble*

Mr Nesbitt said, "I am honoured to attend the unveiling of the bust of Lord David Trimble in the Palace of Westminster. A rare privilege for a Westminster Nobel Peace Prize Laureate."





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This very special event in the Palace of Westminster was to recognise the political life and achievements of Lord David Trimble in the presence of Lady Daphne, members of the Trimble family and a large number of distinguished parliamentarians and former colleagues.

## News

### New purpose-built Presbyterian Church

**Buckna Presbyterian Church in east Antrim are moving from their 269-year-old-meeting house to a brand new purpose-built church, which the Moderator will officially open in September**

BBC Radio Ulster's Kintra programme spoke to Rev Stephen Kennedy, Buckna's minister, about the forthcoming move. You can listen via the BBC Sounds App (you will need a BBC account to access the programme):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002f6yl>

### Statement by Archbishop John McDowell on Moygashel Bonfire Effigy

**Archbishop McDowell - "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34).**



These are the words from the Law of God to his people. He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we compare them with the effigy of a boat of migrants which sits, to our humiliation and lasting shame, on top of a bonfire in Moygashel, it exposes that effigy for what it is – racist, threatening and offensive. It certainly has nothing whatsoever to do with Christianity or with Protestant culture and is in fact inhuman and deeply sub-Christian.

I hope that the many people from other countries, who live in that area, and who contribute so much to the economy and to the diversity of Dungannon, can be reassured that it does not in any way represent the feeling of the vast majority of their neighbours.

## **Anglican Communion celebrating the ministry and charity work of The Salvation Army**

**The Anglican Communion is presently celebrating the ministry and charity work of The Salvation Army as they mark their 160th anniversary.**

The Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo was pleased to attend an anniversary gathering, held at The Salvation Army's International Headquarters in London.

The Secretary-General said: "It has been an honour to join The Salvation Army today, as they celebrate 160 years of their tradition. As an international church and charity, their ministry is respected by faith groups, governments and civil society around the world.

"We give thanks for their founders, William and Catherine Booth, whose bold vision for evangelism and social justice created a movement devoted to reaching the most marginalized in their society. Today, we commend the faithful way in which The Salvation Army has built on this legacy over the decades.

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“I give thanks for the friendship and ecumenical dialogue that the Anglican Communion enjoys with The Salvation Army. When I attend an international ecumenical event I expect to see a Salvation Army uniform somewhere nearby, and happily, I always do.

“As we seek to reach diverse international communities with the hope of the Gospel, may our traditions continue to strengthen one another in mission and may we always respond to the winds of God’s Spirit.”

Find out more about the work of The Salvation Army here:  
<https://www.salvationarmy.org/>

## **Papal Nuncio celebrates historic Catholic Mass in Canterbury Cathedral**

**The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Pope Leo's representative to the Church in the UK, celebrated an historic Catholic Mass in Canterbury Cathedral on Monday, commemorating the Translation of St Thomas of Canterbury.**

The packed congregation included many church and state dignitaries, among them the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Keji Moses, Dr Caroline Hull, director of Aid to the Church in Need, members of the Ordinariate and Opus Dei.

Joining the spectacular procession at the start of the Mass was the auxiliary Bishop of Southwark, Rt Rev Paul Hendricks, members of the Ordinariate, Knights and Dames from the Papal Order of St Gregory the Great, the Order of

the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Order of Saint Sylvester, Knights of Malta and 50 priests. **The Vatican Cricket team (priests and seminarians in their bright yellow jackets) also attended.** Music for the Mass was directed by Nigel Short and Tenebrae, the internationally acclaimed English choir.

St Thomas Becket, was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170. He was killed by followers of King Henry II after he refused to agree to allow the King to have authority over the Church. He was canonised by Pope Alexander III soon after his death.

Fifty years after his martyrdom, the remains of St Thomas Becket were removed from his tomb in the Canterbury Cathedral crypt and transferred ( 'translated') to a bejewelled golden casket in a purpose-built chapel, behind the high altar. The event was attended by dignitaries including the teenage King Henry III. The translation was established and presided over by Archbishop Stephen Langton

The anniversary of the 'translation' of Becket's bones to his shrine, was the most important and well-attended pilgrimage feast in England for many centuries.

**More than 5,000 pilgrims made the pilgrimage each week. These journeys were immortalised in the Canterbury Tales by Chaucer.**

At the Reformation in 1538, the Shrine was demolished on the orders of Henry VIII and the Cathedral became Anglican. The first Catholic Mass to be celebrated at Canterbury Cathedral after the Reformation took place on St Thomas



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Becket's feast day, 29 December 1980 at the site of his shrine. The late Canon Jeremiah Cronin, parish priest of St Thomas of Canterbury's church from 1979 - 1991 was the celebrant.

Many Catholic Masses have been held here since, but Monday's Mass was a historic 'first' in that it was the first time a papal nuncio had celebrated Mass there. It is particularly significant as a papal legate was said to have been present when the saint's body was moved.

In his homily Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía said: "This Mass of pilgrimage takes place within the context of the Jubilee Year. It highlights the Christian life as a spiritual journey, moving through life's trials and joys with hope anchored in Christ. Having travelled as pilgrims today, we do more than just honour a figure from history. The stained glass windows all around us illustrate the many miracles attributed to St Thomas in the medieval period. This should be a living story, too. Our world, today as then, is in need of hope. We come in this Jubilee Year as 'Pilgrims of Hope' to be inspired by St Thomas' holiness and his courageous witness to Christ and His Church."

At the end of the Mass the Nuncio blessed the congregation with the relic of St Thomas Becket, He also read a papal greeting from Pope Leo XIV. This was particularly poignant as the Pope is an Augustinian priest and would therefore know that the cathedral was founded by a fellow Augustinian - St Augustine of Canterbury in 597 AD.

Full text of the homily of His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, given in Canterbury Cathedral on Monday, 7 July 2025.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am very pleased to be here with you this evening and to celebrate this Mass in honour of St Thomas of Canterbury. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Very Reverend Dr David Monteith, Dean, and to all the Chapter of the Cathedral, for their gracious hospitality and to those who have helped in organising this liturgy, especially Canon Anthony Charlton, Fr Giovanni Prandini and Elizabeth Forrester. Thanks also to the concelebrating priests, altar servers, and musicians - the Tenebrae Choir - for their participation in this evening. I also greet in particular the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, the Right Worshipful Keji Moses.

***We are in the oldest Cathedral of the English-speaking world.***

I would like to express in this emblematic place the Christian closeness of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to our Anglican brothers and sisters, passing them the invitation to listen, together with us, to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches (cfr. Rev. 2:7). We are in the oldest Cathedral of the English-speaking world. It was Pope St Gregory the Great who sent St Augustine to England to convert the Anglo-Saxons. I invite you to pray now in a particular way for Pope Leo, who I represent in this land and who I met a few weeks ago in Rome, assuring you of his nearness and blessings.

This Mass of pilgrimage takes place within the context of the Jubilee Year. It highlights the Christian life as a spiritual journey, moving through life's trials and joys with hope anchored in Christ. Having travelled as pilgrims today, we do more than just honour a figure from history. The stained glass windows all around us illustrate the many miracles attributed to St Thomas in the medieval period. This should be a living story, too. Our world, today as then, is in need of hope. We come in this Jubilee Year as 'Pilgrims of Hope' to be inspired by St Thomas' holiness and his courageous witness to Christ and His Church. We join our prayers with those of so many who have gone before us down the centuries.

In the First Reading, St Paul proclaims that our hope of glory is the living presence of Christ in us. It is this personal relationship with Our Lord which enables us to rejoice even in the midst of trial and persecution. St. Paul's words in Colossians are a direct spiritual parallel to St. Thomas Becket's martyrdom. Like Paul, Becket rejoiced in the sufferings he endured-not for personal gain, but for the sake of the Body of Christ, particularly in defending the Church's freedom from secular interference. St Thomas embraced his cross with a self-emptying love: a model of the new teaching on authority that Jesus makes in the Gospel we have just heard. He made himself a servant, in order to bring others to a knowledge of Divine Love. St Thomas did not die for an ideology. His martyrdom was a witness to the relationship with Christ he nurtured in his episcopal ministry: a participation in Our Lord's Paschal mystery.

In his first Mass celebrated as the Roman Pontiff, our Holy Father Leo XIV addressed the College of Cardinals, quoting St Ignatius of Antioch to illustrate the deep spiritual

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connection between martyrdom and an authentically Christian exercise of authority.

Pope Leo said:

"There is an indispensable commitment for all those in the Church who exercise a ministry of authority. It is to move aside so that Christ may remain, to make oneself small so that he may be known and glorified (cf. Jn 3:30), to spend oneself to the utmost so that all may have the opportunity to know and love him."

This same commitment was the force of love behind the life and death of St Thomas of Canterbury. We pray to him as pilgrims in need of hope and healing, and we ask Our Blessed Mother, Queen of Martyrs, to intercede for us - that we might be faithful witnesses to Christ, growing each day in love of Him and each other. Amen.

## Education

### Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Curriculum

**Education Minister, Paul Givan MLA has responded to the findings and recommendations from the Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.**

The response considers the 21 recommendations made by Lucy Crehan which primarily focus on the need for a new





## Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Curriculum

**PAUL GIVAN** Minister of Education

“

I am pleased to have accepted many of the recommendations made by Lucy Crehan and would like to express my thanks for her dedication and thoroughness in delivering this comprehensive Review. There is no doubt that the recommendations, taken as a whole, will represent the most ambitious and far-reaching programme of curriculum reform over the past 20 years.

”

curriculum framework in Northern Ireland and the appropriate approach to delivering reform.

Find out more at [www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/givan-responds-strategic-review-northern-ireland-curriculum](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/givan-responds-strategic-review-northern-ireland-curriculum)

## Adult Nursing graduate of Queen's University Belfast

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**Warmest congratulations to Jodie Kernohan, who graduated from Queen's University Belfast this week with a degree in Adult Nursing.**

A proud former pupil of **Broughshane Primary School** and **Cambridge House Grammar School**, Jodie is now putting her skills and compassion into practice at Belfast City Hospital, working in the Haematology department.



Wishing Jodie every success as she begins this exciting new chapter in her nursing career.

## **Queen's Widening Participation's Pathway Opportunity Programme**

**"There's no 'one type' of student and no young person should believe they cannot achieve things because they**





**come from underrepresented backgrounds. Our differences should be an asset, not a barrier.”**

**Sophie Crumlin** graduated this week, the first in her family to do so, with a degree in Law with Politics, having spent time during her studies not only enriching her own education, but also advocating for others, like her, whose access to higher education and career pathways may have added challenges.

She began her Queen’s journey through the University’s Widening Participation’s Pathway Opportunity Programme. This programme seeks to broaden access to higher education for underrepresented groups, and Sophie credits their work and dedication with helping her overcome all of the doubts she had about studying law, based on her own background.

Since stepping through the doors of Queen's, Sophie has gone on to support the University's outreach programmes in any way she can; leading campus tours for primary school pupils, mentoring sixth form students, speaking at major events on access to education and women in leadership, and championing widening participation initiatives across the board.

Amazing work, Sophie. Congratulations!

Read her story: [ow.ly/kPiB50Wkpfl](https://www.ow.ly/kPiB50Wkpfl)

## Cathedral Calls

### 2025 Cathedral Music Trust Awards announced

**Cathedral Music Trust is investing £470,000 to support 27 church and cathedral music departments across the UK.**

This is allocated through the Cathedral Music Support Programme and Church Choir Award. Find out more on their website:

<https://www.cathedralmusictrust.org.uk/trust-invests-470000-in-cathedral-music/>

### Chapel Royal Scotland style

The Dean of the Chapel Royal Scotland, elegant in purple stock and clerical frock coat at Hoyrood Palace Royal Garden Party.





The Dean of the Chapel Royal Scotland, elegant in purple stock and clerical frock coat at Hoyrood Palace Royal Garden Party.

## Events

**Damhead Miniature Railway Open Day,  
Bank Holiday 14th July 2025**





**We're open again and we hope the weather will stay good for our first Open Day in July 2025!**

Our last Open Day Saturday 28th June was a good day, fine weather and a steady flow of visitors throughout the whole day during which Jack one of our steam locos, with a little help from Red Arrow, did all the passenger hauling. Members of a Vintage Motor Cycle visited and stayed most of the day enjoying the site and the general goings on. All the usual animals, gnomes and layouts etc were on display and operating.



So here we go again, this coming Bank Holiday Monday 14th July, our next open day is upon us and we are ready with our screened coaches ready for passengers. So, looking for somewhere to visit why not come along to the Damhead Miniature Railway and have a train ride, see the gnome's village, various train related items and spot the various animal figurines around the site. If good weather, bring a picnic and use one of our picnic tables.


If you are unfortunate that one of our days does not suit, our full schedule of Open Days for the 2025 season appears at the head of our Facebook Page for Reference at any time. On these days we will be open from 12noon with last train leaving 4.45pm. Child tickets £2.00 and Adults £3.00 See you all there!

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## 7 Hills Blues Fest returns to Armagh City this summer

Get ready for three unforgettable days of FREE live music and family fun from Friday 1st – Saturday 3rd August

With 40+ gigs across 15 venues, street acts, artisan markets, and family entertainment, this is a celebration of music that you don't want to miss! ✨

Check out the full line-up here  <https://visitarmagh.com/7hills/>

## Climate Action PlanNI public consultation information sessions

**Join us at one of a series of public consultation information sessions to hear more about the draft Climate Action Plan and to HaveYourSay.**

Full list of dates and venues are available online – <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/climate-action-plan-event-booking/>

## Run Through Hillsborough Castle & Garden Running Festival

**Join thousands of fellow runners at RunThrough Hillsborough Castle & Gardens Running Festival on Sunday 27th July 2025.**



This road closed race will start and finish within the beautiful gardens of Hillsborough Castle making this a unique opportunity for a fun morning run!

What you get at RunThrough Hillsborough Castle & Garden Running Festival!



FREE Post-race snacks!



Official chip timing



Event themed medal



Toilets



FREE race photos



Clearly marked UKA certified course



Beautiful Scenery

Limited entries available. Book Now!

## Heritage

### VC for Scottish-born Canadian piper

**Following Canada Day 🇨🇦 and the 109th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July, we're sharing the story of Piper James Cleland Richardson, V.C. – a remarkable figure from the First World War.**

One of only two pipers in WWI to be awarded the Victoria Cross, Richardson was a Scottish-born Canadian who showed extraordinary bravery during the 1916 Somme offensive.



His citation reads: "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, prior to attack, he obtained permission from his Commanding Officer to play his company "over the top".

As the Company approached the objective, it was held up by very strong wire and came under intense fire, which caused heavy casualties and demoralised the formation for the moment. Realising the situation, Piper Richardson strode up and down outside the wire, playing his pipes with the greatest coolness. The effect was instantaneous. Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the position captured.

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Later, after participating in bombing operations, he was detailed to take back a wounded comrade and prisoners.

After proceeding about 200 yards, Piper Richardson remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly urged not to do so, he insisted on returning to recover his pipes. He has never been seen since, and "death has been presumed accordingly owing to lapse of time."

We will remember them.

## Poem for today

### To the Memory of Some I Knew Who are Dead and Who Loved Ireland

by George William Russell (A.E)

Their dream had left me numb and cold,  
But yet my spirit rose in pride,  
Refashioning in burnished gold  
The images of those who died,  
Or were shut in the penal cell.  
Here's to you, Pearse, your dream not mine,  
But yet the thought, for this you fell,  
Has turned life's water into wine.

You who have died on Eastern hills  
Or fields of France as undismayed,  
Who lit with interlinked wills  
The long heroic barricade,

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You, too, in all the dreams you had,  
Thought of some thing for Ireland done.  
Was it not so, Oh, shining lad,  
What lured you, Alan Anderson?

I listened to high talk from you,  
Thomas McDonagh, and it seemed  
The words were idle, but they grew  
To nobleness by death redeemed.  
Life cannot utter words more great  
Than life may meet by sacrifice,  
High words were equalled by high fate,  
You paid the price. You paid the price.

You who have fought on fields afar,  
That other Ireland did you wrong  
Who said you shadowed Ireland's star,  
Nor gave you laurel wreath nor song.  
You proved by death as true as they,  
In mightier conflicts played your part,  
Equal your sacrifice may weigh,  
Dear Kettle, of the generous heart.

The hope lives on age after age,  
Earth with its beauty might be won  
For labour as a heritage,  
For this has Ireland lost a son.  
This hope unto a flame to fan  
Men have put life by with a smile,  
Here's to you Connolly, my man,  
Who cast the last torch on the pile.

You too, had Ireland in your care,



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Who watched o'er pits of blood and mire,  
From iron roots leap up in air  
Wild forests, magical, of fire;  
Yet while the Nuts of Death were shed  
Your memory would ever stray  
To your own isle. Oh, gallant dead—  
This wreath, Will Redmond, on your clay.

Here's to you, men I never met,  
Yet hope to meet behind the veil,  
Thronged on some starry parapet,  
That looks down upon Innisfail,  
And sees the confluence of dreams  
That clashed together in our night,  
One river, born from many streams,  
Roll in one blaze of blinding light.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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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**

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