

Church News Ireland



Image of the day
Local C of I parishes invited to Reek Sunday

Image for today - Local C of I parishes invited to Reek Sunday

News -

Presbyterians and the End of the Second World War
Methodists and Anglicans to equip churches for wartime
'Sole Mates' Walking Group explore Whitehead coast
C of I Priorities Fund now open for applications
Stay on track with the Charity Commission for N Ireland

Education -

Methody Rowing Club makes history at the Irish Rowing Championships 2025
MessyPlayNI new grant funding is now available
Registration for The Fore Autumn 2025 funding round is now open

Cathedral Calls -

Glasgow Cathedral Choir in Southwell Minster this week
Tuesday lunchtime recital in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

Clergy and ministry -

National Come and See day

Events -

Ballymoney Country Market on Friday
The Band of the Irish Guards are visiting Northern Ireland

Heritage -

Dundrum Free Festival - Love Heritage NI
OPW free admissions in Heritage week

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day

Local C of I parishes invited to Reek Sunday, 27 July

Service on the Mountain

“This year the local Church of Ireland parishes have been invited, most kindly, by our ecumenical friends from the Roman Catholic Church and Archdiocese of Tuam to meet at St Patrick's Oratory on Croagh Patrick and to hold a service in our own church tradition. We are grateful for their welcome and generosity. The Service on the Mountain is at - 10.30am

Gentle walk-and-talk-and-pray

“For those who wish to enter in to the spirit and joy of the day but are unable to make the climb, there will be the opportunity to gather in the Murrisk carpark and with a few others to walk to

Bishop Michael Burrows



July 24, 2025

the St Patrick statue at the foot of the mountain, for prayer and reflection. This will be led by a few of our trainee 'LLLMs' and accompanied and blessed by Bishop Michael. Everyone is invited and welcome! Gentle walk-and-talk-and-pray is at 2.30pm”

Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe : St. Mary's Church, Westport, John Kenny Westport Eco-Congregation

Reek Sunday from Aughaval Parishes:- ‘We are blessed as Church of Ireland parishes, this coming Reek Sunday, 27 July, to be able to join in the spirit of the Pilgrims of Hope, with a service at the Oratory at 10.30am, led by our good friend Canon Alex Morahan, and gathering a little later, at 2.30pm at Murrisk carpark, for the short walk to the St Patrick statue at the foot of Croagh Patrick, led by a few of our trainee 'LLLMs' (equivalent to Parish Readers) and blessed by Bishop Michael Burrows’

Killala Group of Churches. Holy Trinity, Westport.

News

Presbyterians and the End of the Second World War

Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland lecture.

“Presbyterians and the End of the Second World War: Reconstruction and Reflection” by Dr Matthew Houston.
On Thursday 18th September 2025 at 8.00pm at



‘Sole Mates’ Walking Group have been out on their travels again when, on Saturday 19 July, they took the train up to Whitehead on the Antrim coast.

Rosemary Presbyterian Church, North Circular Road,
Belfast BT15 5FE

This lecture will examine how Presbyterians in Northern Ireland planned for and responded to the end of the Second World War, measure the extent to which Presbyterian churchmen held influence in the mid-20th century and how far those churchmen were connected with the work of their peers in Britain.

Everyone welcome. Refreshments provided.



Sole Mates walk along the coastal path from Whitehead to Blackhead provided a choice of stages to cater for all abilities. The first section offered a pleasant level path along the shore which made it suitable for all.

Methodists and Anglicans unite to equip churches for wartime

The Methodist Conference in Telford has received a fresh call to strengthen support for its military chaplains as global tensions grow.

A report from the Methodist Forces Board warns that rising security threats mean church communities need to understand what it means to “be church” during times of conflict and be ready with practical and theological resources.



Sole Mates numbers reduced slightly as they negotiated the second stage through narrow passageways and rocky overhangs on the edge of the sea, to the base of Blackhead.

Ecumenical work with the Church of England is already underway to create materials rooted in scripture and Methodist teaching to help churches reflect on issues of war and peace and offer better support for military personnel and their families.

Rev Kevin Highfield, Chair of the Forces Board, said the Church must adapt its mindset: “This work may involve a significant mental shift from the long period of relative peace that Europe has experienced... Our processes are currently designed for periods of stability and peace. It may become necessary to discern a call to chaplaincy from a wider range of ministerial experience than at present.”



Sole Mates returned to Whitehead, fellowship continued after their walk as they adjourned to a local 'hostelry' for a very enjoyable lunch before catching their train back to Belfast.

He told Premier Christian News he hopes the announcement will help ease growing anxiety as global tensions rise, saying: "We want to be a church that is providing healing and hope to the people around us the best we can...And to do that, we need some resources that recognise the reality of the situation we're currently facing and says well how then do we do church?"

Church of Ireland Priorities Fund is now open for applications

The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund is now open for applications in relation to projects to be considered for funding in 2026.

Church of Ireland



Priorities Fund

Contributions to the fund come directly from Church of Ireland dioceses and since its establishment in 1980 over €20 million (£17 million) has been distributed in grants.

The following categories are currently supported by the fund:

Training – lay and ordained

Christian education

Outreach initiatives

Innovative ministry in a rural context

The closing date for the receipt of completed applications is Friday, 31st October 2025.

Decisions on funding are approved at the March meeting of the General Synod's Standing Committee each year, following consideration by the Priorities Fund Committee.

July 24, 2025

Applications can be made through an online form or a downloadable PDF form which can then be forwarded to the Administrator – both are available at <https://priorities.ireland.anglican.org/applications>

For further information, please contact Gordon Woods, Administrator of the Priorities Fund (on behalf of the Representative Church Body's Finance Department), at Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF47.

Email: priorities@ireland.anglican.org

Telephone: 00 353 (1) 4125 636

Office open: 9.30am – 4.45pm (Monday-Friday)

Registration for The Fore Autumn 2025 funding round is now open

Exciting News! Registration for The Fore's Autumn 2025 funding round is now open! Here's everything that you need to know:

“We are looking for brilliant small charities and social enterprises to help them increase their impact and improve their financial sustainability.

“We offer unrestricted grants of up to £45k spread across 1-3 years.

“The first step is to register your interest in applying. Our registration form takes 2-3 minutes to complete, and you

July 24, 2025

have one week to get it done (until midday on Tuesday, 29th July).

Register your interest here:

<https://thefore.org/apply-for-funding/>

Who's eligible?

✓ Registered Charities, CICs limited by guarantee, Charitable CBSs and Non-Charitable CBSs with an asset lock

✓ Your revenue must be under £500k

Not sure if you are eligible? Take our eligibility quiz (at the bottom of our Who We Fund page)

Once you register, we will email you on Wednesday 30th July to confirm whether you have been allocated a place on the funding round. If you have, we will then invite you to submit an application.

NB applications close on 29th July.

Stay on track with the Charity Commission for N Ireland

Stay on track - check your charity's listing at
(<https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/>)

Education



Methody Rowing Club makes history at the Irish Rowing Championships 2025

Methodist College Belfast's Rowing Club has achieved success at the 2025 Irish Rowing Championships, marking a historic moment for the school and the wider rowing community.

In a performance of exceptional calibre, the club secured 8 medals—including 4 golds, 2 silvers, and 2 bronzes—representing our first medal success at the Championships since 2004.

A particular highlight was the outstanding achievement of Sophia Young, who made history by winning gold in all three



sculling events—a first for Methody and a rare accomplishment in Irish rowing.

🏅 Medal Summary:

Gold – WJ18 Single Scull
Gold – WJ18 Double Scull
Gold – WJ18 Coxless Quad
Gold – MJ16 Coxed Quad
Silver – MJ18 Coxless Quad
Silver – WJ16 Double Scull



Bronze – JM16 Double

Bronze – WJ16 Single

Congratulations to Jenson Millar for his commendable 4th place finish in the MJ16 Single Scull.

This achievement reflects the dedication, discipline, and teamwork of our athletes and underscores the growing strength of youth rowing at Methody.

Thank you to Lydia Neff for the fantastic photos.

MessyPlayNI new grant funding is now available

“At MessyPlayNI, we’re excited to offer our services again, this time with an extra 10% added to your order value as a thank-you for choosing us”.

July 24, 2025

It was our absolute pleasure to help create so many amazing spaces for successful Live Here Love Here applicants in the previous funding round, and we can't wait to do it all again.

Whether you're planning a school play park, raised planters for a community garden, or a youth den for your church, our team is here to help bring your ideas to life.

Let's chat about your next project — and don't forget, all grant-funded orders placed through MessyPlayNI will receive an additional 10% value, completely free.

Apply Now:

<https://www.liveherelovehere.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=44>

Cathedral Calls

Glasgow Cathedral Choir in Southwell Minster this week

“We’re here for the week in Southwell Minster / Cathedral, with St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Choir, Glasgow on top form, and have so far sung two lovely evensongs.

“There’s a wide range of music on the list; so far we’ve sung music by Andrea Gabrieli, Johannes Brahms, Charles V.



Stanford, Graham Ellis and Sarah MacDonald. Tomorrow the anthem is by Kerensa Briggs, the canticles are by yours truly, and the organ voluntary, played by the incomparable Geoff Woollatt is by Judith Bingham.

“What a privilege to sing such wonderful music in this glorious place with these fabulous people. Deo Gracias!”

Tuesday lunchtime recital in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

July 24, 2025

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for a stunning celebration of Maurice Ravel, beautifully performed by the talented pianist Deborah Armstrong.

Her interpretation of Ravel's music was both captivating and deeply moving - a real treat for all in attendance.

It was fantastic to see such a great crowd filling the cathedral with warmth and appreciation. Thank you all for your support and presence!

Our next lunchtime concert will take place on Tuesday, 5th August at 1:15pm - we look forward to welcoming you again for another uplifting musical experience.



July 24, 2025

Clergy and ministry



National Come and See day

At the recent at the National Come and See day in Knock House Hotel.

17 men attended including one from the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore. Please keep all those who are discerning a call to priesthood in your prayers.

Events

Ballymoney Country Market on Friday

July 24, 2025

Country Market is back in Ballymoney this week on Friday 25th July

Location - Castlecroft Square, Ballymoney

Time - 11am – 3pm

Whether you're popping out for a bite to eat, browsing for gifts, or picking up something unique, there's plenty to enjoy, including food and drink, crafts, homewares, cosmetics, flowers, jewellery, gifts, kids toys and more and community stalls.



The world - renowned
Irish Guards
are celebrating 125 years
of loyalty and bravery



The Beating Retreat Ceremony
Thursday 4 September
16:00 - 17:00
Carrickfergus Castle

Service of Remembrance
Friday 5 September
11:00
Belfast City Cenotaph

The Beating Retreat Ceremony
Friday 5 September
18:30
Edenmore Golf & Country Club

Bangor Parade & Concert
Saturday 6 September
15:00
Castle Town Hall

Parade and Laying up of Old Colours
Sunday 7 September
14:00
Belmont Road - St Marks
Dundela

The Band of the Irish Guards are visiting Northern Ireland



Between 4th and 7th September the Band of the Irish Guards are travelling to Northern Ireland alongside the

July 24, 2025

Irish Guards for a weekend of events across the country celebrating the regiment's 125th anniversary.

📍 Carrickfergus, Belfast, Edenmore, Bangor and Dundela
Take a look at our events below and we look forward to seeing you there! Follow us on Facebook for more updates as we get closer to the events.

Heritage

Dundrum Free Festival - Love Heritage NI



Family fun festival

Saturday 2nd August 2025, 11am-4pm
Dundrum Castle, Dundrum Co. Down

FREE event, no booking required
Parking in Dundrum Village

- Free family fun day
- Living history
- Music
- Family activities
- Pop up museum
- Falconry
- Archery
- And much much more



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Pobal

Department for
Communities



Love
HERITAGE^{NI}



@LoveHeritageNI

July 24, 2025

Join Historic Environment Division (HED) on Saturday, 2nd August, from 11am to 4pm for a free festival.

No need to book in advance, just show up and enjoy a variety of activities for all ages! Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/94ehpxn>

OPW free admissions in Heritage week

The OPW announce free admission for over 70 sites for Heritage week.

Here's 5 underrated spots you should check out from August 16–24

1. Kilkenny Castle, Co. Kilkenny
2. Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary
3. Trim Castle, Co. Meath
4. Ross Castle, Co. Kerry
5. Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

Please recommend to your friends