

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

Floral support

This year's Edinburgh's floral clock celebrates The Royal National Institute of Blind People and 200 years of braille.

Now fully in bloom, more than 35,000 flowers and plants have been used in the clock, which lies proudly in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens for all to admire.

News



Arts Council rejected funding of Northern Ireland's National Youth Choir

Northern Ireland's National Youth Choir is facing closure after the Arts Council rejected its application for funding.

It could make NI the only part of the UK and Ireland without such a choir.

UTV report - on ITVX: <https://www.itv.com/watch/news/northern-irelands-national-youth-choir-faces-closure-after-arts-council-rejects-funding-application/531ycj6>

Musical Instruments Programme applications close soon, don't miss out

The Musical Instruments Programme, is broken down into 3 strands.

Individual Professional Performing Musicians Programme

Deadline: Noon, Monday 28 July 2025

Grants of up to £10,000. This is designed to provide support for highly-skilled performing musicians based in Northern Ireland, working at a professional level, who seek support for the purchase of high quality instruments that are central to their performing career.

Musical Instruments for Bands Programme

Deadline: Noon, Friday 1 August 2025

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Grants of up to £10,000. This funding is designed to help bands replace worn-out instruments and purchase new ones.

Professional and Non-Professional Performing Groups Programme

Deadline: Noon, Friday 1 August 2025

Grants of up to £30,000. This is open to schools and to professional and non-professional performing groups in any genre of music, including community, youth and resource organisations.

<https://artscouncil-ni.org/news/departments-for-communities-750-000-musical-instruments-scheme>

Funding now open for community defibrillators

The British Heart Foundation has launched a new Defibrillator Funding Programme — helping to place life-saving equipment in the heart of our communities.

Defibrillators can make all the difference during a cardiac emergency, and this funding offers local organisations the chance to apply.

Eligible groups include:

Sports clubs
Churches and faith groups
Community centres and halls

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This is a fantastic opportunity to make our communities even safer for everyone. If your group is interested, see link below -

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/apply-for-a-free-defibrillator-for-your-community>

New Anglican Primate of Australia

The Anglican Church of Australia has elected the Rt Revd Dr Mark Short as the 18th Primate.

Bishop Mark will take up his new duties on 1 November 2025,

succeeding the

Most Revd Geoffrey Smith, Primate of Australia, Archbishop of Adelaide and Metropolitan of South Australia, who concludes his role on 31 October 2025. Bishop Mark will serve as Primate along with his current role as Bishop of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.



Bishop Mark shared that he was “honoured and humbled by this call to serve,” and stated that he looked forward to

“working together with Anglicans across Australia to share the lasting hope we are given in the Lord Jesus Christ”.

The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, shared his support for the newly elected Primate, saying, “I extend my congratulations and support for Bishop Mark as he prepares to take on this new responsibility as Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia this November. We give thanks for their part in the global Anglican family. I pray that God will grant him wisdom in this new chapter of his ministry and will be a blessing to all those he serves.”

Read the full article: <https://bit.ly/3UpJmvd>

Passing of foremost Irish athlete

Irish athletics has been saddened by the passing of one of its greatest ever athletes – Maeve Kyle.

She passed away peacefully on Wednesday, aged 96, having left an indelible mark on the sport in this country. She is survived by daughter Shauna and family.

Many words have been used over the years to describe Maeve Kyle’s place in the pantheon of Irish athletics – trailblazer, pioneer, front-runner, ground-breaker, and suffragette

Her legacy was secured in 1956 when she became the first woman to represent Ireland in athletics at the Olympic Games, in Melbourne, and was further cemented when she



became Ireland's first triple Olympian – Melbourne 1956, Rome 1960 and Tokyo 1964.

She was also the first Irish female representative at the European Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, in 1962, and in 1966 at the inaugural European Indoor Games at Dortmund in Germany, where she became the first Irishwoman to win a medal at a major international athletics championship.

Maeve Esther Enid Shankey was born on October 6, 1928 in Kilkenny, daughter of Carrodus Gilbert Shankey, headmaster of Kilkenny College, and Enid Kathleen (née Thrift). She was eldest of five children.

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Maeve moved to Ballymena after meeting her husband, the late Sean Kyle, on a blind date and would become one of the founders of Ballymena AC, later Ballymena & Antrim AC, and head of women's athletics in Northern Ireland.

She spoke to The Irish Times in 2016 about her sporting career. Read more:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/athletics/2025/07/23/trailblazer-maeve-kyle-irelands-first-female-olympian-in-athletics-dies-aged-96/>

Education





Gold D of E - King's Scout Award Qualifying Expeditions

Inst Explorer scouts enjoyed unexpected good weather for the final day of a tremendous challenge.

Hiking for 4 days over about 70 kms and being self-sufficient is an amazing achievement! Congratulations guys!

Thanks to supervisors Mr Roy, Mrs Rogers and Mr Titterington for their efforts and commitment too.

Foyle student top of Glasgow uni dentistry

Congratulations to Grace Hand, Foyle Class of 2019, who has graduated with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree with Honours, from University of Glasgow.

Grace was also presented with a special award on her graduation day, The Dean Webster Prize for the most distinguished Dental graduate, having achieved the highest results over all 6 years of the degree programme. Well done, Grace!

Limavady High School pupils involved in The Open





Great to see some LHS pupils involved in The Open at Portrush.

Well done to former pupil Lucy, and current pupils Olivia and Lucy, who were serving VIPs. We hope you enjoyed the experience.

CAFRE students role at 153rd Open at Royal Portrush

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) Sports Turf students were part of Royal Portrush Golf Course's greenkeeping team during the 153rd Open.

The students were among an army of workers and volunteers who welcomed world-famous golf professionals



and 278,000 fans to the 153rd Open Golf Championship last week.

Royal Portrush is one of a host of courses that have a longstanding relationship with CAFRE, with many of the greenkeeping staff having completed their training at Greenmount Campus, Antrim.

CAFRE student and greenkeeper at Royal Portrush Golf Club, Jason Chambers stated: “To be involved in maintaining the Royal Portrush Golf Course throughout The Open Championship, brushing shoulders with some of the biggest names in golf was a phenomenal experience. It was a dream come true for me as a greenkeeper.”

Considered to be one of the world’s top golf courses, Royal Portrush Golf Club sets the standard for greenkeeping



excellence. CAFRE is delighted to deliver the sports turf courses that provide many of their staff with the qualifications, knowledge and skills needed to perform at this high level.

Senior Lecturer, Adam Ferguson said: “We are incredibly proud of all our greenkeeping students. They have been working immensely hard over the past number of months to prepare for the Open and keep up with their studies. Their commitment and dedication to maintaining a world-renowned course that brings so many tourists to Northern Ireland is to be commended.”

If you or someone you know has been inspired by The Open, consider pursuing a career in Sports Turf, please visit www.cafre.ac.uk for course information. We are still

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accepting applications for Horticulture (Sports Turf) courses starting this September.

Passing of Mr. John Young, former Headmaster of Sullivan Upper School

Mr Young served as Headmaster from 1980 to 1998 and was a dedicated member of the school community for 18 years.

Many former pupils will recall his words of encouragement, especially those who took time to find their path in life. It is often said that John had a quiet way of seeing people—not just their academic scores or immediate achievements, but who they might one day become. Former students have spoken of his advice echoing long after they left school, giving them confidence when they needed it most.

He will be greatly missed and the whole Sullivan community extends its deepest sympathy to his wife Margaret, his children Patrick and Sarah and his whole family circle

<https://sullivanconnect.co.uk/news/school/197/197-Remembering-John-Young>

Cathedral Calls

Spot the Minifig at Saint Mary's Cathedral

It has been wonderful seeing so many LEGO lovers - young and old - exploring Limerick's oldest place of

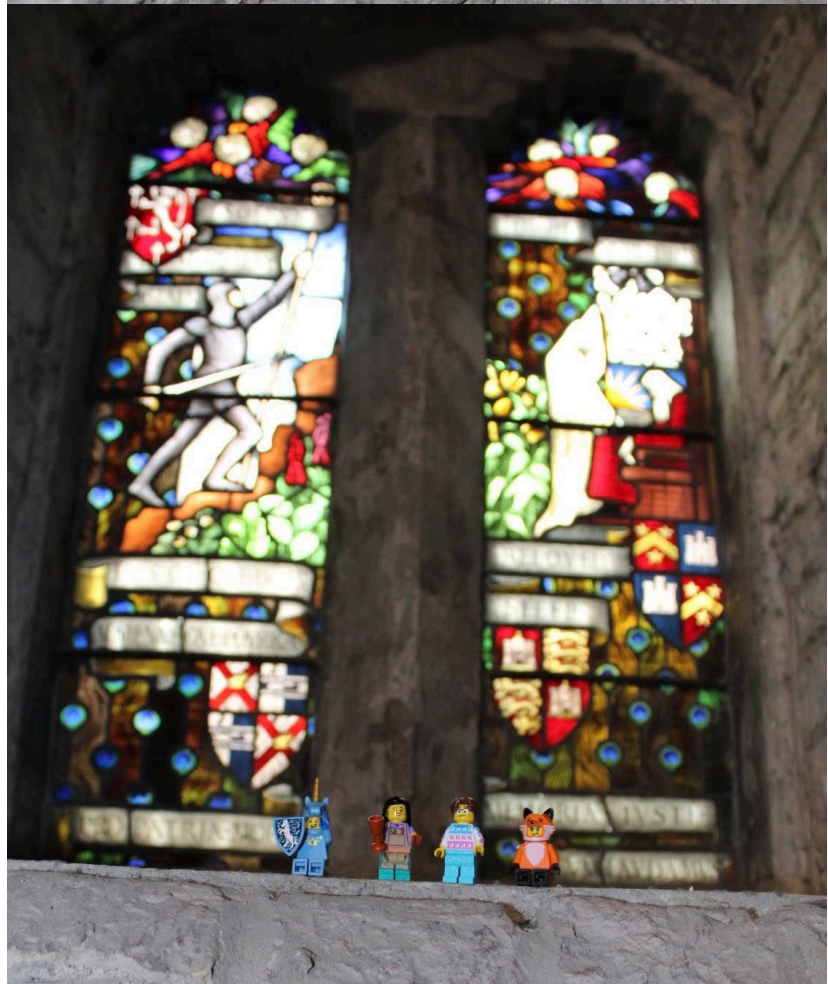
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worship this past week as part of our Spot the Minifig challenge.

The hunt continues all summer long, and there's still plenty of time to get involved. Whether you're a curious visitor or a dedicated enthusiast, this is a fun and unique way to discover the beauty, history and sacredness of Saint Mary's Cathedral.

Certificates of Completion are being handed out to those who find all the minifigs - don't forget to claim yours.

We'd love to see you here - come and join the fun, explore the cathedral, and see if you can spot them all.



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Edinburgh Cathedral riot which sparked war across the British Isles

In 1637, a riot broke out in St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh that sparked war across the British Isles.

King Charles I had been behaving in an increasingly tyrannical way and dictated the issue of a new Prayer Book for the Presbyterian Church of Scotland modelled on that used in the Church of



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England.

When Dean James Hannay began to read from the new Prayer Book, a local woman named Jenny Geddes stood up and hurled the folding stool she had been sitting on at his head, shouting, ‘Dinna say Mass in my lug!’ (‘Don’t say Mass in my ear!’).



Jenny Geddes earned a long-lasting reputation as a Protestant heroine who stood up for her ecclesiastical principles.

This banner from a ladies' Orange Lodge in Edinburgh depicts the incident and includes a fuller version of the quote in the Scots language.

In 1992 a group of some forty Scotswomen presented St Giles' with a bronze sculpture representing her three-legged stool, by Marilyn Smith. Photos courtesy Ulster Scots Agency.



Clergy and ministry

Church Army's Admitting and Commissioning service

It was an amazing time for those present at the recent Admitting and Commissioning service in Sheffield Cathedral.

Nine new Evangelists were welcomed including one from Ireland.

Congratulations and a big well done to Laurence, Meg, Sarah, Bing, Anna, Rachel, Tracey, Hannah, and Jack.

The Evangelists will work in areas such as addiction recovery, leading youth groups, and building communities as they share the good news of the Gospel in words and actions.



Thank you to the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford and Chair of the CA's Board of Trustees, who led the service.

Read more about each of the Evangelists here:
<https://churcharmy.org/ac2025/>

Events

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Live in Belfast - LORE & Dublin Gospel Choir

One Night. Two Incredible Forces. One Unforgettable Show.

Pop with soul. Gospel with grit. Harmonies that'll raise the roof. Lore join forces with the phenomenal Dublin Gospel Choir for a night of music that will move you—heart, soul, and feet.

This is a fully seated event. Bar open before the show, during the interval, and after. Closed during the performance.

Don't miss this epic collaboration – book now!

St Comgall's – Ionad Eileen Howell, Divis Street, Belfast, BT12 4AQ ,

Fri 27th March. Doors: 6.45pm | Show: 7.30pm

Tickets: £20+bf Book tickets here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lore-dublin-gospel-choir-tickets-1495323907059?>

www.loreband.com | www.dublingospelchoir.com
www.musiccapital.org for all upcoming events

Integrated Education Funds event at 2025 Féile Festival.

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IEF writes - Northern Ireland is becoming an increasingly diverse place, so how can we encourage more inclusivity in Faith & Belief policies and practices in our schools?

Join us on Thursday 07 August from 6pm - 7:30pm at St.Mary's University College, Belfast as we explore this conversation further. A light supper will be served from 5:30pm.

This event is organised as part of the 2025 Féile Festival.

Gospel concert in aid of Teen Challenge

Colin Elliott writes - Tickets are starting to sell well for a special charity concert we are running on Friday 19th September in the fabulous T3 Conference Centre at the House of Vic-Ryn in Lisburn.

This concert is to help raise funds for the tremendous work of Teen Challenge NI, which supports local young people with addictions. Joining me that evening will be Leigh Brown on lead guitar and Tim Boyle on bass, along with special guests, Kate Weir, Katherine Park and Aisling Neill.

This will be a great night of inspirational and Gospel music and tickets are available by clicking on the link below, scanning the QR code on the poster or by purchasing them at the FM Bookshops in Portadown and Lisburn. Tickets are £10 with free tickets for under 12s available online.

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We would love to see you there supporting the evening and this very worthwhile charity.

Tickets purchased online through Eventbrite have a nominal booking fee, as do all online booking services.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-of-inspirational-and-gospel-music-tickets-1383756556109?aff=oddtcreator>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

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