

Church News Ireland



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News -

Charles Wood Singers return to Armagh

The Pope and the peelers

Third Londonderry Scout Troop leave for Gilwell Park 1963

Education -

Celebrating Literary Success at RBAI

Bishop's visit to Gurteen College

Foyle College mechanical engineer

Foyle College flyer

RBAI winner of Ulster U18 Open Golf Championship

Trinity Rugby alumni

Andy Murray's Signature Serve

Cathedral Calls -

LEGO choristers at Beverley Minster

Five organ recitals in St Fin Barre's Cathedral in August

Peter and the Wolf at St Patrick's Dublin - organ by Stuart Nicholson

Events -

For women in Down & Dromore diocese

An Evening of Brass music to celebrate the life of Martin Wilson

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

July 26, 2025

Image of the day

Montalto hydrangeas

Sharon Graham -
“Went for a wee dander at Montalto...so many beautiful hydrangeas... couldn't help but shoot them all...”



News

Charles Wood Singers return to Armagh

The Charles Wood Singers return to Armagh for this year's Festival, bringing together a professional vocal ensemble made up of some of the finest singers from across these islands and beyond.



Under the direction of David Hill, the choir will feature in several of the week's major events.

Their appearances include Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral on Tuesday 12th at 5.00pm, and a special BBC Radio 3 broadcast Evensong on Wednesday 13th at 4.00pm. They also feature in the Gala Concert on Friday 15th at 8.00pm, and the Festal Evensong





on Sunday 17th at 3.00pm, following Sung Mass that morning in St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Alongside public performances, the singers will take music into local care homes on Saturday 16th, and join forces with singers from all over Northern Ireland for our Community Prom on The Mall at 6.30pm.

Open rehearsals will take place in the Methodist Church Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10.00am, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the work of this outstanding ensemble.

We're also proud to share that two of their performances—Morning Worship for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Ulster—will be broadcast on Sunday 31st August.

Renowned for their versatility, precision and expressive sound, the Charles Wood Singers form the musical backbone of the Festival each year.

July 26, 2025

Tickets are now available at
www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/



The Pope and the peelers

During his summer stay in Castel Gandolfo on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, Pope

LeoXIV presided over the Holy Mass in the chapel of the Carabinieri station, located in this town situated 25 kilometers from the city of Rome.



The headquarters is located in the Villa dei Gesuiti ("House of the Jesuits"), property of the Holy See and currently leased to the Carabinieri, the Society of Jesus, and some local residents.

Third Londonderry Scout Troop leave for Gilwell Park 1963



Here we have a photo of Third Londonderry Scout Troop leaving from the old Midland Station for summer camp in Gilwell Park, Essex in July 1963.

Our contributor says - We think we have all the names, including a few nicknames. Happy to be corrected.

Back row: Skipper Albert Smallwoods (aka “TAS”), Derek (Sligo) Rowe, Billy Philson, Jim Devine, Uel Carey, Richard Wilson, Alistair Campbell, Rev. Richard (Rikki) Doherty

Middle Row: Brian Patterson David (DSL) Brown, John McElroy, Ian Bartlett, Hilles Kelly, Sam Baird, Richard Waring, Kenny Brown

Front Row: Adrian Burns, “Dinger” Bell, Matt Philson, Jim Carey, Robin Kennedy, Kenny Graham, Peter Hope, Richard Patterson, Bobby Hunter, Ken Baird.

Thanks to Sam Baird for sharing this image.

Education

Celebrating Literary Success at RBAI

Congratulations to all the boys who received awards at our end-of-term Celebrating Literary Success event.

A special thank you to **Mr Ed Axon** (RBAI Class



July 26, 2025

of '88) for distributing the awards. With over 30 years experience across media marketing and technology, Mr Axon has certainly benefitted from the passion for literature he discovered while a pupil at RBAI under inspirational teachers such as **Frank Ormsby**. His words of encouragement and wisdom made the occasion even more special.

We were proud to recognise KS3 pupils for their achievements across the literary spectrum — including **Paul Hollway**, our top reader of the year, who read over 5 million words.



Bishop's visit to Gurteen College

The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory said - It was great to spend a day at Gurteen College...

... to meet the young people attending the senior youth camp and to thank the team of leaders for all the good work they are doing. This is an example of excellent youth work in action.

Foyle College mechanical engineer

Congratulations to Peter Hunter, Class of 2020, who has graduated with a 2:1 Master of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering from Queen's University Belfast. Well done, Peter!

Foyle College flyer

Congratulations to Asha Hughes, Class of 2019, who has graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Aerospace Engineering from Queen's University Belfast.

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

RBAI winner of Ulster U18 Open Golf Championship

Congratulations to Bruce MacDonald of RBAI on winning the Ulster U18 Open Golf Championship.

July 26, 2025

Alongside Bruce's results in the other national U18 events Bruce will finish the season as Number one on the Ireland U18 Order of Merit.

This success follows his 2nd place at the Irish Schools competition and 2nd place in the Irish U18 Championships. A very good season, all in all!



Bruce has also been selected to represent Ireland in the U18 Home Nations series taking place in Cork in August in which he will play against England Scotland and Wales. We wish Bruce all the best representing Ireland again.

Trinity Rugby alumni

Alumni Dan Sheehan and Joe McCarthy scored big in their debut for the British and Irish Lions.

Dan Sheehan captained Andy Farrell's squad to a 54 -7 victory against Western Force in Perth, Australia, on

July 26, 2025

Saturday, 28 May, the Lions' first fixture in Australia. McCarthy went on to win Man of the Match, and Sheehan's try was a record-setting one: with only 95 seconds on the clock, it was the fastest ever scored by a British and Irish Lion on their debut.

"It's a really special day for me, and a lot of the lads are making their first appearance in this jersey," the Leinster and Ireland hooker said.

There was another DUFC and Trinity alumnus on the pitch: **Johnny Iliff** captained Trinity Rugby for the 2009/2010 season. Having studied medicine at Trinity from 2006 to 2011, he eventually made his way to Perth, where he works for Western Force as a doctor.

Thomas Clarkson, another DUFC alumnus and Leinster player, has been welcomed as a last-minute addition to the British and Irish Lions squad.

Wishing them all the best of luck in this next match - you're doing us proud.

Andy Murray's Signature Serve

Former Wimbledon tennis champion Andy Murray joined forces with Walker's Shortbread in Wimbledon town at the recent tournament to serve up classic strawberries with a Scottish twist for tennis fans.

Inspired by Murray's famous comment about enjoying eating strawberries 'with my fingers', the duo offered tennis goers



the chance to try 'Andy Murray's Signature Serve', a playful reimagining of the summer treat.

Andy Murray, tennis champion and Walker's Shortbread brand ambassador, said: "For me the best way to enjoy strawberries and cream is with my fingers – and I love that Walker's have created this special treat with their delicious Shortbread fingers inspired by that. I like to eat my strawberries whole, the bigger the better. Strawberries with Walker's Shortbread fingers is a classic serve."

Combining fresh, whole strawberries with a swirl of cream and Walker's all-butter shortbread fingers, the serve reinvents the classic staple enjoyed since its first appearance in 1877.

Story via PSC: tinyurl.com/AndysShortbread

Cathedral Calls



LEGO choristers at Beverley Minster

At Beverley Minster we celebrated our end of term with a choir concert.

And we congratulated all those choristers who have recently passed their diocesan chorister exams - Dean's and Archbishop's Awards.


Here they are represented in Lego.

Five organ recitals in St Fin Barre's Cathedral in August

St Fin Barre's Cathedral will host five organists during the month of August.

Each Friday at 1.10pm there will be a recital lasting for around 50 minutes in the cathedral.

Audience members will be able to see the performer in detail on the screen in the nave. Joseph Ripka from Oklahoma, USA will begin the series on 1st August with music by Americans Stephen Paulus and Calvin Hampton, and by the French composers Litaize and Alain.



SAINT FIN BARRE'S
CATHEDRAL + CORK

ORGAN RECITALS AUGUST 2025

Friday 1 st August 1.10pm	Joseph Ripka <i>St Paul's Cathedral Oklahoma, USA</i>
Friday 8 th August 1.10pm	Christos Theel <i>Frankfurt am Main Germany</i>
Friday 15 th August 1.10pm	Harry Meehan <i>St Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny</i>
Friday 22 nd August 1.10pm	Oliver Waterer <i>Selby Abbey UK</i>
Friday 29 th August 1.10pm	David Leigh <i>St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin</i>

Admission €10 on the door
or from stfinbarres.ie
Season ticket available

July 26, 2025

HERITAGE WEEK @ SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN

PETER & THE WOLF

by Sergei Prokofiev



performed on the organ by *Stuart Nicholson* and narrated by *Morgan Crowley*
Programme also includes music from *How to train your dragon* & *Fantastic Beasts and where to find them*

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST | 6.30PM | ADMISSION FREE

A whirlwind tour of all 4,000 pipes
of this the King of Instruments.
*Suitable for all ages,
especially the young at heart.....*

ADMISSION FREE | SEATING LIMITED
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/heritage25

**PLAY THE
ORGAN
YEAR 2025**

Events



For women in Down & Dromore diocese

Join us for worship, teaching, ministry and food on Saturday morning 8 November.

Tickets will be released at the end of August so please share the news now and save the date! Find out more at: <https://tinyurl.com/nevvr3h>



An Evening of Brass music to celebrate the life of Martin Wilson

In January, we lost our dear friend and colleague, Martin (Marty) Wilson.

To celebrate Martin's life, the band will be joining with the **Ulster Orchestra Brass Ensemble** for a special concert on Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.30pm in **Bangor Parish Church**.

There will be an opportunity, if desired, to donate to an award in memory of Martin created by The Education Authority Music Service to support young, talented trombonists in Northern Ireland progressing to Further Education.

The event starts at 7.30pm. Doors, 6.30pm.

Tickets are free, but advanced booking is necessary.

Please use this link to book your attendance:

<https://bangorparish.churchsuite.com/events/vtgonbt9>

We look forward to seeing you for what will be a wonderful evening of music to celebrate a special man and musician.

Perspective

Greatness often walks in quietly

One quiet morning in the late 1800s, a plainly dressed couple stepped off a train in Boston and made their way through Harvard's ivy-covered campus. They didn't arrive with fanfare or titles—just a sincere purpose and heavy hearts.

The woman wore a simple cotton dress, and her husband a modest suit. Without an appointment, they humbly asked to speak with the university's rector. The secretary, unimpressed by their rural appearance, let them wait for hours before finally—perhaps out of irritation—passing the request along.

Reluctantly, the rector agreed to see them for a few minutes, expecting little more than idle chatter. When the couple entered, he sized them up immediately: just another pair of country folk out of place among Harvard's refined halls. But then, the woman spoke with calm clarity. She explained they had lost their beloved son, who had studied at Harvard for a year and had cherished his time there. In his memory, they wanted to make a donation—perhaps even fund a building. The rector almost laughed. “A building?” he asked, masking his disbelief. “Do you have any idea how much a building costs? We've poured more than \$7 million into this place.” He dismissed them with polite finality, certain they had no idea what they were talking about.

The woman turned to her husband with quiet resolve. “If that’s all it takes to start a university,” she said, “why don’t we just build our own?” And that’s exactly what they did. The couple—Leland and Jane Stanford—went on to establish Stanford University in 1891 in Palo Alto, California, naming it after their only son, Leland Stanford Jr. What Harvard overlooked became one of the world’s greatest institutions. The story stands as a powerful reminder: greatness often walks in quietly, without titles or status, and the people most underestimated sometimes leave the most enduring legacies.

In the media

Bible of 'father of modern policing' set to go on show at new museum - Belfast Telegraph

A Bible which belonged to a man known as the father of modern policing is set to be among exhibits at a new museum planned for Belfast, Rebecca Black writes.

The Bible, which dates to 1608, belonged to Sir Robert Peel and will be the oldest item on display at the Museum of Policing for Northern Ireland.

It is hoped the museum will be completed and open to the public by autumn 2028.

It is to be run by a new charitable company within the grounds of the existing police headquarters at Knock Road in east Belfast.

The Board of Trustees is to include representatives from the PSNI, the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation and the Police Historical Society (NI), alongside a number of independent members yet to be appointed.

Some £5.5m has been set aside by the government to fund the building project, while a further £385,000 has been secured from the Part-Time RUC Reserve pension settlement.

Chief Constable Jon Boucher said it will be a facility for the whole community.

“I am delighted that we will be able to progress the building of a new museum here at police headquarters,” he said.

“The museum will offer cross-curricula and whole-life learning opportunities for schools, students, adults and community groups through exhibitions, educational programmes and engagement activities.

“This will be a facility that the whole community can enjoy as we highlight the ongoing role of policing in conflict resolution, reconciliation and keeping people safe.”

Stephen White, of the RUC GC Foundation, said the stories of police officers will be preserved for future generations.

“The foundation is proud to support this project to make the important role of policing more accessible,” he said.

July 26, 2025

“It will exhibit the service and bravery of police officers across the decades and ensure that their stories are preserved.”

George Clarke, of the Police Historical Society (NI), added: “The Police Historical Society is delighted with plans for a new and fitting museum.

“The new facilities will enable us to present and preserve the many artefacts we hold relating to policing in Ireland.

“Our collection contains approximately 12,000 artefacts of a diverse nature, including uniforms, medals and other items telling the story of policing from 1814 to the present day; our oldest exhibit is a Bible from 1608, which belonged to Sir Robert Peel.

“We look forward to these being accessible to the wider public to illustrate the history of policing over more than 200 years.”

Peel established the Metropolitan Police Force for London in 1829 at Scotland Yard with 1,000 constables. His name led to them being nicknamed 'bobbies' or 'peelers'.

Heritage

The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre

Step into history at the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre in Co. Meath



Experience life as a 17th-century soldier with Laoch Living History.

Meet musketeers, artillery gunners, and more from all over 17th Century Europe. Don't miss the chance to join our costumed historian, Tóla Collier, on an immersive battlefield walk. Discover tactics, strategy, and the stories of the past. Book your tour today and relive history at the Oldbridge estate!

For more information and list of events see - <https://cutt.ly/urPcrpR6>

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

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

Please recommend to your friends
