

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Sea Sunday Service at Cobh**

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



July 28, 2025

## Image of the day

### Sea Sunday Service at Cobh

With the colour party following the recent Sea Sunday Service in Christ Church, Rushbrooke in Cobh & Glanmire Union of Parishes in the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross

## News



### Belfast Pride on Saturday

Some colleagues and friends from various churches in faith and love with LGBTQIA+ people of faith.





## Conversation in the Spirit: Meath Diocese strengthens synodal practice

**The National Synodal Team's Chairperson, Fr Declan Hurley, writes about the diocese of Meath's recent training in Conversation in the Spirit and how 180 parish pastoral council members took part.**

Read the full story in The Irish Catholic Newspaper here - <https://www.irishcatholic.com/conversation-in-the-spirit-meath-diocese-strengthens-synodal-practice/>



## Off to Ganaway 1958

**Boarding the buses for camp at Ganaway. 63rd Boys Brigade Company, Whitehouse Presbyterian. and at least one other Company. in 1958.**

The following year 63rd became 5th Newtownabbey.

## Christian groups petition government on climate, as ICJ delivers historic ruling

**Eighteen Christian groups have co-signed a petition to the Prime Minister, urging him to halt the exploration of**



## **new oil and gas at the Rosebank oil field off the Shetland coast.**

The letter, addressed to Sir Keir Starmer and the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero, Ed Miliband, was delivered on the same day that the International Court of Justice delivered a historic ruling, declaring that UN states have a duty to prevent fossil fuels from causing climate breakdown.

The letter called for the Labour government to show the climate leadership promised in its manifesto, warning that the proposed exploration of new oil and gas is incompatible with safe climate limits.

The Revd James Grote, who attended the department to deliver the letter, said: “Climate



**All-Ireland Communion Service**

*Celebrating Mary Sumner's day*

**Thursday 7th August 2025**

**St. Andrew's Parish Church,  
Killyman at 7:30pm**

Service Conducted by: Rev Alan Cross  
Guest Preacher: Rev Derek Kerr  
Organist: Mrs Yvonne McFarland

Tea will follow in the Parish Hall  
after the service

Hosted by Armagh Diocese Mother's Union

change has now become today's emergency in Europe. If we are to continue to live in hope, we have to act now and move away from burning fossil fuels. This is our only hope for our one and only planet. Agreeing to the development of the Rosebank oil field would be a step closer to despair. The British government must give us hope."

Earlier this year, the previous Conservative government's approval of Rosebank was overturned in the courts, after it was found that developers had not accounted for the

CHRIST CHURCH LIMAVADY

*Musical Recitals*

WEDNESDAY LUNCH TIMES  
1:05PM - 1:50PM

13TH AUGUST  
DAVID CHANCELLOR - PIANO

20TH AUGUST  
STEWART SMITH - ORGAN

27TH AUGUST  
JANINE BURNSIDE - SOPRANO

EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND  
ADMISSION IS FREE  
DONATIONS WELCOME TOWARDS PARISH FUNDS

emissions produced by burning the oil and gas extracted from the field. The emissions expected from Rosebank are so significant that they exceed the combined emissions of the world's 28 poorest countries.

The court ruling was hailed as a significant legal win in the fight to end fossil fuel production in the UK.

In June, the government announced new rules for approving oil and gas projects. With these changes, Rosebank's lead developer, Norwegian oil giant Equinor, is expected to submit a new application that will include the calculation of the project's lifetime emissions.

Mark Francis, Local Groups Coordinator for Christian Climate Action, told Premier Christian News: "We hope this will have an impact on the Prime Minister. We know he has various different influences affecting his decisions, but for us this is very significant.

"We're called to care for the planet. We're called to care for our brothers and sisters in the global south, who are already experiencing severe difficulties due to this climate emergency."

## Cathedral Calls

### Mothers' Union at York Minster

**Archbishop Stephen joined members of the Mothers' Union at York Minster at 11am yesterday for a service to commission the new Provincial President and Chaplain.**



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Pray for Christine Sharp and John Thomson as they step into these roles.



## New Era at Old Leighlin Cathedral

### The Installation of The Very Revd Máirt Hanley

A joyful and reverent service took place in Old Leighlin Cathedral last Friday evening as The Very Reverend Máirt







A joyful and reverent service took place in Old Leighlin Cathedral last Friday evening as The Very Reverend Máirt Hanley was formally installed as Dean of Leighlin and instituted as Incumbent of the Leighlin and Dunleckney Group of Parishes.

Clergy, parishioners, and guests from across the diocese gathered to mark this significant occasion in the life of the Church.

## Clergy and ministry

### **The Rev Dr. Ron Elsdon**

**It is with sorrow we record the passing of The Rev Dr. Ron Elsdon, former Rector of St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis (2002–2013).**



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We hold his wife, Rev. Janice, and their family in our prayers. Dr Elsdon was a contributor to the C of I Gazette and in retirement enabled the ministry of Belfast Cathedral. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



## **Retirement of Christian Aid Ireland's Church and Community Officer**

**Join us in saying  
a very fond  
farewell to Dee  
Huddleston who  
leaves Christian  
Aid Ireland to  
begin a well-  
earned  
retirement.**

In her role as  
CAI's Dublin-  
based Church and  
Community

Officer, Dee has spoken in churches and schools all over the country, inspiring people to give, act and pray in support of our work. Her gifts as a speaker have inspired churchgoers and schoolchildren to donate and fundraise to help end the scandal of extreme poverty around the world.

From Straffan in County Kildare, Dee belongs to the Church of Ireland Parish of Celbridge & Straffan with Newcastle-Lyons, part of The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough.

Dee has been a very kind, caring and supportive colleague to all of us, and she has a great rapport with supporters and church leaders too. We will all miss her warmth, energy and positivity.

In her retirement, Dee is looking forward to spending time visiting her daughter in Canada, her son in the Philippines and her sister in New Zealand.

Dee volunteered for us for a number of years before joining the staff team in 2019 and even in her retirement, she's promising to come back and volunteer when she can - another mark of her generous spirit.

Please join us in wishing Dee every blessing for this new chapter in her life and for the exciting adventures that lie ahead.

## Events

### **Art + Soul International Exhibition at Culloden**

**Art + Soul, the International Art & Sculpture Exhibition, will showcase artwork and sculptures by some of the**



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## **biggest names in international and Irish art from Sunday, 27th July to Sunday, 31st August 2025.**

The event held over 5 weeks, will showcase over 350 artworks by some of the biggest names in international and Irish art, including Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst, Banksy, Julian Opie, and Salvador Dali. The highlight will be an outdoor display of over 100 sculptures carefully curated throughout the hotel's private gardens.

On display within the hotel itself, there will be over 200 artworks by many leading Irish and international artists, including Peter Monaghan, Gordon Harris, Martin Mooney, John Redmond and Stephen Forbes.

Art and Soul is open to the public daily from 11am to 7pm. Why not enhance your experience and take a guided tour delivered by the experts at Gormleys each day at 12pm, 2pm and 4pm to learn about each sculpture and artwork on display.

## **One final lap for NI Hospice**

**Our final lap is a most powerful event. At 11PM on Saturday 16 August, supporters will walk by candlelight through Stormont Estate in memory of loved ones.**

This is an opportunity for individuals, families, and colleagues to come together, reflect and honour lives lived. Join us for this moving part of #OneBigWalk — whether you're walking one lap or the whole 12 hours.

Register here: <https://loom.ly/JRSr4Fs>

## Perspective

### Pope Leo says mission of evangelism belongs to all the baptised

**Pope Leo XIV has said all Christians are called to enter “the dynamism of mission and to face the challenges of evangelisation.”**

On Friday, the Pope addressed two separate groups: seminary formators and participants in the Xaverian Missionaries’ General Chapter, which he acknowledged were “certainly two different events.”

The Holy Father said the call to be missionaries “requires of us all, ordained ministers and lay faithful alike, a solid and integral formation, which is not limited to specialised knowledge, but must aim to transform our humanity and our spirituality so that they reflect the Gospel, and so that we have ‘the same mind’ as Christ Jesus.”

“Recently, the Dicastery for the Clergy hosted an international gathering dedicated to priests on the theme, ‘Joyful Priests’. We can add that to be enthused by the joy of the Gospel is not just for priests, but for everyone, and so we can speak of happy Christians, happy disciples and happy missionaries,” the Pope said.

“If this hope is not to remain a mere slogan, formation is essential. Indeed, it is necessary that the ‘house’ of our life and vocational journey, whether priestly or lay, be founded





on ‘rock’ [cf. Mt 7:24-25](#), that is, on solid foundations with which to face the human and spiritual storms from which even the lives of Christians, priests and missionaries are not exempt. How can we build our house on rock?” Leo asked.

He said missionaries must first cultivate friendship with Jesus.

“This is the foundation of the house, which must lie at the heart of every vocation and apostolic mission. We need personally to experience the closeness of the Master; to know that we have been seen, loved and chosen by the Lord by pure grace and without merit on our part, because it is above all our own personal experience that we then exude in our ministry,” the Pope said.

“Moreover, when we form others in the priestly life and, according to our specific vocation, proclaim the Gospel in mission lands, we first radiate our personal experience of friendship with Christ, which shines through in our way of living, in our attitude, in our humanity, and in how we are capable of living out healthy relationships.”

Leo said formators, and those responsible for them, must not forget that they themselves are on a journey of permanent evangelical conversion.

“At the same time, missionaries must not forget that they are always the first recipients of the Gospel, the first to be evangelised. This means that we are constantly to work on ourselves. A concerted effort is needed to look into our hearts in order to see the shadows and wounds that mark us, and then to have the courage to abandon our masks and cultivate an intimate friendship with Christ. In this way, we will allow ourselves to be transformed by the life of the Gospel and become authentic missionary disciples,” he said.

The Pope also called on evangelists to share the mission with all the baptised.

“During the first centuries of the Church, it was usual for all the faithful to be like missionary disciples and to commit themselves personally to evangelisation. The ordained ministry was at the service of this mission shared by all,” he said.



“Today, we feel strongly that we must return to this participation of all the baptised in witnessing to and proclaiming the Gospel,” he continued.

“At the same time, I would like to say to the formators that priests must also be trained in this – not to think of themselves as lone leaders, nor to live out the ordained priesthood with a sense of superiority,” Leo added.

“We need priests who are able to discern and appreciate in lay people the grace of Baptism and the charisms that flow from it, perhaps even helping them to open up to these gifts and then to find the courage and enthusiasm to commit themselves to help the life of the Church and society.”

## Heritage

### Ballylesson to remember Michael Thomas Sadler, the forgotten MP

**On Tuesday 29th July at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Ballylesson there will be an unveiling of a memorial plaque to Michael Thomas Sadler.**

From 7.30pm a short ceremony will be held at his grave conducted by the rector, Rev. Mervyn Jamison. It will mark the 190th Anniversary of his death. The Rev. Thomas Drew the rector of Christ Church, College Square in Belfast conducted the funeral service held at 8am on Tuesday 11th August 1835. Sadler, for health reasons moved with his family from Leeds in July 1834 to the New Lodge in Belfast.

During his time living in Belfast, he attended Christ Church and it was the Rev Thomas Drew, the rector of the church, who was with him during his final hours.

Although much has been written about Sadler, he has been forgotten and his grave at Ballylesson remained 'hidden' behind a rusted iron enclosure and over many years had become overgrown and covered with weeds.

There was no way of knowing that it was Sadler's grave. Recently the church had the enclosure cut away and the overgrown vegetation removed from the flat gravestone, but writing on the headstone was still barely visible.

The work has made it possible for a memorial plaque to be made and placed on the grave. It has the same wording that is on the existing gravestone, this will make the grave easier to locate. The new plaque is just a first step in making a greater number of people aware of the life of Sadler and where his grave is. We are sure schools and those involved in the tourist industry will be particularly interested in knowing more about Sadler.



The internet is a great source of information about Sadler, but as a very brief introduction, it should be pointed out that Sadler was born into an Anglican family with evangelical sympathies. They were greatly influenced by the early Methodists and attended their meetings at Doveridge. His evangelical faith was the main driving force throughout his life. Sadler became an MP for Newark in 1829 and Aldborough in 1831. He introduced on 16th March 1832, a bill for regulating the labour of children and young people in the mills and factories. The bill became known as the Ten Hour Bill, proposing the limit of 10 hours of labour he wanted to see for children 9 to 18 years. It was passed, but not until after his death. Sadler's health was fatally impaired due to his strenuous work of chairing what was known as the Sadler Committee.

After Sadler's death the campaign for factory reform continued with the support of Ashley Cooper, Lord Ashley (afterward 7th earl of Shaftesbury), who succeeded Sadler as parliamentary leader of the labour reform movement. The work of Michael Thomas Sadler, Lord Shaftesbury and others led to the Factory Act of 1833 being passed by Parliament. The Factory Act of 1833 stated that: Children under the age of nine are forbidden to work in factories. Those aged between nine and 13 are limited to working nine hours a day and 48 hours a week. Under 13s have to attend school for two hours a day. Those aged between 13 and 18 are limited to working 69 hours a week. Inspectors are to be appointed to ensure factory owners do not break these laws.

Anyone who is interested and free can go along on the 29th July to Holy Trinity Parish Church at 7.30pm to witness the



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unveiling of the Michael Thomas Sadler Memorial Plaque  
and hear a little more about Michael Thomas Sadler.

Born 3rd January 1780 at Snelston, Derbyshire. Died 29th  
July 1835 at the New Lodge, Belfast.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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)

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# Church News Ireland

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

**Link in Monday through Saturday from  
early morning. Please recommend to your  
friends**

