

# Church News Ireland

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Red Sails Fireworks display**

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## Image of the day

### St John's Ambulance Cadets cover Red Sails Fireworks display

**A huge well done to the fantastic team from the Coleraine Cadet Unit, who joined forces with their adult colleagues to provide medical cover at this year's Red Sails Fireworks display in Portstewart.**



From fireworks to fun characters, it was a brilliant evening of community spirit - and a great example of how St John's volunteers of all ages step up to support local events.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to keep the public safe while enjoying the show!



# News

## Church Leaders visit Lough Neagh

**The Church Leaders Group visited Lough Neagh and Coney Island on Wednesday 23rd July, where they heard from local communities, fishermen and conservationists.**



The leaders are President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Rev Alan Wardlow, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, The Most Revd John McDowell, Presbyterian Moderator, the Rev Trevor Gribben and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, The Most Revd Eamon Martin. The group also spent time in prayer.

Last year, the Stormont Executive launched an action plan to deal with the environmental crisis at the lough. Click photo above and watch the 'Prayer for Creation' video.



## Happy anniversary, Scouts

**It is 105 years since the very first World Scout Jamboree began in London, on July 30, 1920.**

Over 8,000 Scouts from 34 countries came together at Olympia, united by a vision of global friendship and peace after the First World War

From that historic beginning, the Jamboree has become a global tradition, bringing young people together to build a better world. In just two years, Scouts from around the world will meet again - this time in Poland for the 26th World Scout Jamboree in 2027.





## Jubilee of Youth Mass for Irish group in St. Peter's Basilica

**Great excitement as the Pope made a surprise appearance in St. Peter's Square at the end of the opening Mass for the Jubilee of Youth.**

Bishop Michael Router - What a wonderful day it was here in Rome at the Jubilee of Youth.

We had a beautiful Mass for our group in St. Peter's Basilica in the morning celebrated by Bishop McKeown and got to see Pope Leo twice!

Nice to meet Cardinal Tagle and Bishop Robert Barron as well.

# Education



## Campbell College Somme battlefield tour

**Day 1 of Ex Campbell Reflect 2025 - the Bugles, Pipes and Drums of Campbell College returned to the Somme to take part in a battlefield tour.**





After a very early start the band arrived safely into Brussels before making their way to Albert.

On the way we stopped to commemorate OC 45 Captain James Davidson who was killed on 1 July 1916. After being declared missing, James' remains were located in 1930 and he was buried in Serre Road No 2 Cemetery. James was a former member of the Royal Ulster Yacht Club and Ulster Reform Club. Pipe Major Shaun T played 'The Battle of the Somme' and thanks to our two youngest members, Dylan and Hugo, for their assistance in this short act of remembrance.

Thanks to RFCA NI, Cadets In Schools and The Royal Irish Regiment for their assistance in making this trip possible.



## **Education Authority Chair pays tribute to John Wilkinson OBE**

**The Education Authority (EA) was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John Wilkinson OBE, a valued member of the EA Board and a lifelong advocate for education in Northern Ireland.**

John, who was appointed to the EA Board in April 2024, was a distinguished leader and made an exceptional contribution to the education system for more than four decades.

A former Principal of Dromore High, John inspired and shaped the lives of countless young people, improving educational outcomes, giving them the very best start in life.

EA Chair Mervyn Storey said: “John was a highly respected colleague who made a significant contribution to education throughout his long and illustrious career, including during his time at the EA Board.

“Children and young people were at the very core of every decision John made and he leaves a lasting legacy to be proud of.

“My sincerest condolences go out to John’s family, friends and colleagues at this very difficult time. They are in our thoughts and prayers.”

## **Strabane Academy kindness**

**Pupils from Kenya Subshine Mission School are thankful for Strabane Academy's gift.**

Students donated 'Coppers for Kenya', raising £50 at the end of the term.

## **Cathedral Calls**

### **St Eugene's Derry Summer Day Pilgrimage**

**Parish Summer Day Pilgrimage on Thursday 21st August.**

Bus leaves the Cathedral at 9.30am and returns approximately 5.30pm. Morning Tea in the Clanree Hotel followed by morning prayer at Doon Well. Mass in Ards Friary and lunch in the Carrigart Hotel. Price £40 includes - Transport, Morning Tea & Lunch.

For more information or to book a place call into the Parish Office or call 71262894 or email

[cathedral@derrydiocese.org](mailto:cathedral@derrydiocese.org)

Please note that this must be Pre-Booked

## **Clergy and ministry**

### **History made with a woman Dean for Aberdeen & Orkney**



**The Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney, one of the seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church, has announced the Revd Canon Dr Jennifer Holden as its new Dean—marking a historic milestone as the first woman to hold the office in the Diocese’s 160-year history.**

Canon Jennifer brings with her a background in education, communication, and research, including time as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen. She commented:

“This Diocese has been my spiritual home for nearly 15 years,” she said. “It is an incredible honour to accept this appointment.”

Read the full story on the Anglican Communion News Service: <https://bit.ly/4ISDU0b>

## Events

### Keith and Krystin Getty home for Christmas

**After two unforgettable sold-out nights at the SSE Arena Belfast last year, we’re thrilled to announce that Home for Christmas is back with three special concerts in three iconic UK venues:**

December 17 – SEC Armadillo, Glasgow

JULY 31, 2025

December 19 – Royal Albert Hall, London

December 22 – SSE Arena, Belfast

We won't be doing a regular Christmas tour this year so are especially excited to be spending extra time at home this December.

## Maiden City Festival 2 Aug - 9 Aug



### The Siege Museum

Witness the drama unfold as characters from the famous siege come to life on the city walls. Let the infectious rhythms of traditional pipe bands sweep you off your feet!



Find out more about events in Derry & Strabane:  
<https://pulse.ly/ch0u05aofq>

ULSTER MODEL  
RAILWAY CLUB

BELFAST  
**MODEL  
RAILWAY**  
EXHIBITION



**ROYAL BELFAST  
ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION (RBAI)**  
College Square East, Belfast BT1 6DL

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
10am - 5pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August  
12pm - 4pm

- Selection of railway layouts.
- Model trade stands.
- Society displays.

A short walk from Belfast Grand Central Station.

Onsite free parking and disabled access.

**Admission:**

Family Pass (2+2)	<b>£16</b> + £1 per extra child
Adult	<b>£6</b>
5-16 Years	<b>£4</b>

UNDER 5'S ARE FREE

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## Heritage Week 2025

### Exploring Our Foundations

You are cordially invited to an engaging session with Archaeologist Caimin O'Brien, during which we shall explore the foundational elements of the Rahan Monastic Site, which includes the Ancient Church and Graveyard of St. Carthage.

**Date: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**Time: 2 – 4 pm**

**Tea & Refreshments will be served.**

Organised by Anna Orman,  
COI St. Carthage Church & Graveyard Heritage  
Interpreter.

For queries, please email  
[annaorman@yahoo.com](mailto:annaorman@yahoo.com)



Photograph: Loughnan Hooper

## Art at the Culloden estate and hotel





## Perspective

### Irish Church Leaders visit to Lough Neagh and Coney Island

**On Wednesday, 23 July 2025, the Irish Church Leaders' Group (Ireland) visited Lough Neagh and Coney Island – a landscape rich in beauty, history, ecological significance, and growing crisis.**

The visit was not only an opportunity to witness the natural wonders of Lough Neagh, but also a moment to listen deeply to the voices of local communities, conservationists, and those whose livelihoods have long been connected to the Lough.

#### **A shared call to care**

The theme for the visit, “Put out into the deep,” invited profound spiritual reflection. As the Church leaders journeyed to and walked the grounds of Coney Island – including a visit to Saint Patrick’s Stone – they were reminded of the Gospel call to trust, to listen, and to act boldly for the sake of God’s creation. Lough Neagh is more than just a lake; it is a place that represents a shared heritage that transcends political, religious, and social boundaries. The Church Leaders’ visit offered an opportunity to model collaboration, care, and prophetic witness in the face of ecological collapse.

#### **Towards renewal and responsibility**

Archbishop Martin acknowledged that environmental degradation is not only a scientific and political issue, but also a deeply spiritual and moral one. Reflecting on his visit, he posed important questions for all people of faith: What does it mean for faith communities to “put out into the deep” and face the ecological crises of our time? How can we collaborate across denominations, sectors, and borders to renew our responsibility as stewards of creation? What prophetic voice might the Churches raise in solidarity with vulnerable ecosystems and communities? He invited all people of goodwill to consider how each of us might respond with prayer, advocacy, and action.

## **A symbol of unity and hope**

Coney Island, with its 5,000 years of human habitation, from neolithic farmers to the present day, has stood as a symbol of continuity, resilience and renewal. Today, cared for by the National Trust, it also symbolises the need to protect what is precious before it is lost. The visit included a moment of shared prayer and reflection on Coney Island, allowing the Church Leaders the opportunity to offer a quiet but powerful witness to the Churches’ desire to walk together, listen deeply and act with courage in response to the unfolding crisis.

A Prayer for Creation - July 2025 - at  
<https://vimeo.com/1104891551?share=copy>

# Heritage



## Dean Swift's Cottage, Loughry, Cookstown

**New to Heritage at Risk NI - This is a detached single-room summer house, built c.1730. It is square in plan with a pyramidal pavilion roof. It is set into a steep cliff face looking down to the Killymoon River below.**

Adjacent to this is an ice house in fair condition. Robert Lindesay, the fourth owner of Loughry inherited the estate in 1691. He died in 1742 and it was probably during this time that the house known as Dean Swift's Cottage. Robert was



a lawyer, eventually becoming a judge, as well as, being a member of Parliament for Tyrone. He maintained a house in Dublin and it was there that he met Jonathan Swift, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral and author of Gulliver's Travels.

It has been suggested that the Dean wrote poetry and other words in the Summer House, but this cannot be confirmed. The structure was repaired in the 1990s, plans for the building were found on the walls as well as some marks on the timber left behind by the carpenters.

The structure is currently unused and was added to the heritage at risk register in 2023 alongside neighbouring Loughry House/Manor. Perhaps all is not lost with this structure, it is close by to the CAFRE campus which is due to be redeveloped and perhaps this could offer some quiet study space for students.

Check out this historic photograph here:

<https://collections.st-andrews.ac.uk/item/dean-swifts-arbour-loughry/28447>

The Heritage At Risk NI project is funded by and delivered in partnership with Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division, Love Heritage NI

## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

# Church News Ireland

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

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

**Please recommend to your friends**

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