

# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – Derry does Dublin**

July 8, 2025

## **Image for today - Derry does Dublin**

### **News -**

Down and Connor pilgrims survive the worst weather Lough Derg has experienced in 25 years

Cork mission in Funchal, Madeira

CMSI Nepal Team preparing to visit Kathmandu

A Night to Remember at Elephant Rock Hotel

'Open mind' needed to select next Archbishop, says CNC chair

King's message marking 20th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings in London

### **Education -**

RBAI Irish table tennis player brings home gold again

About to graduate with a Degree in Social Work? School

Summit NI 2025 Exhibition

### **Cathedral Calls -**

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa proud in Belfast

Lunchtime organ concert St. Columb's Cathedral, Derry

### **Clergy and ministry -**

Galway curate to be Rector of Arklow

UCD alumna Dr Anne Merriman, 'Mother of Palliative Care in Africa'

### **Events -**

Whodunit Hunt Portrush

Portstewart Red Sails Festival guided walking tour

Follies with Northern Ireland Opera

### **Poem for today**

Sunday Morning by Louis MacNeice

### **Speaking to the soul -**

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

July 8, 2025

## Image of the day



## Derry does Dublin

**Derry Cathedral Choirs were officially on tour as they headed south last Friday for a weekend of singing and sightseeing.**

After a quick stop at Dublin Zoo to start the adventure, the Cathedral Choirs of Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers

July 8, 2025

and Lay Clerks travelled on to the National Cathedral of Ireland - St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

On Sunday they sang at both services: 11:15am Choral Eucharist Summation in F, Elgar's Ave Verum, Rutter's Look at the World, and Come and Sing by Seán Doherty and at 3:15pm Choral Evensong - Hylton Stewart Responses, Dyson in F Canticles, and Philip Stopford's O Thou Who Camest.



You can watch live online: <https://www.youtube.com/@SaintPatricksCathedralDublin/live>

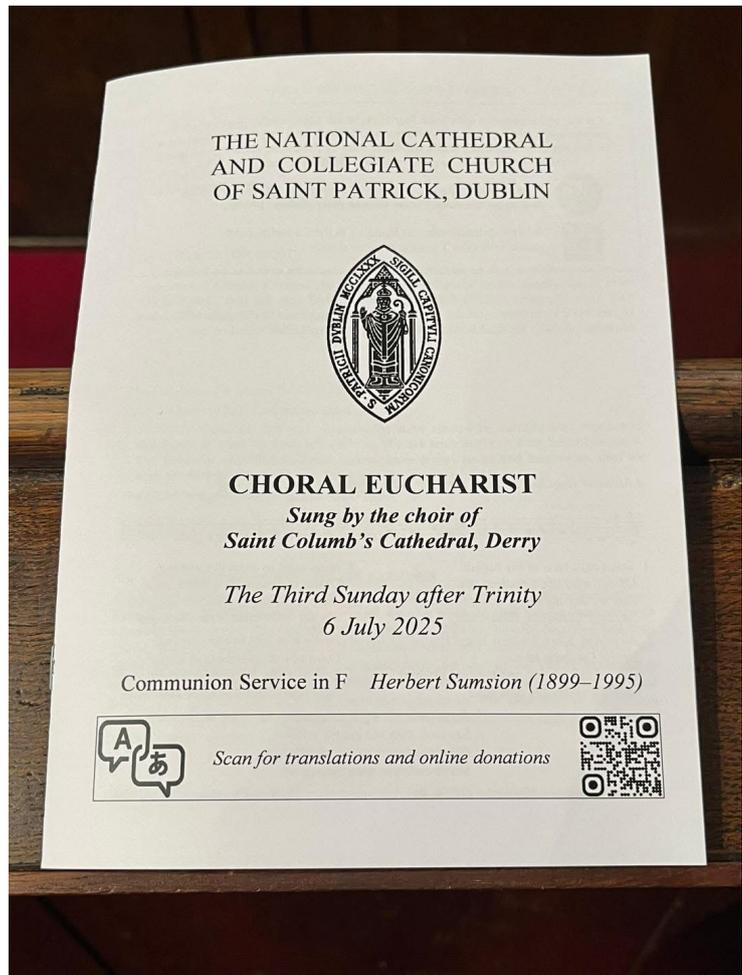
Front page - Hospitality at the Deanery

Back in St. Columb's Cathedral, Jasmine Munoz, St. Columb's School of Music Student of the Year 2024/25 provided music with Nicky Morton and Louis Fields on tour with the Choirs.

July 8, 2025

St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin - It was an absolute pleasure to have the choir of St Columb's Cathedral Choir singing our services yesterday whilst our own Cathedral Choir are enjoying a much needed break over the summer.

Next week we welcome **Christ Church Cathedral Girls Choir from Ottawa** to lead our worship.



Details of these services can be found on our website.

## News

### Down and Connor pilgrims survive the worst weather Lough Derg has experienced in 25 years

**The Down and Connor Lough Derg is complete! 45 Pilgrims led by Bishop Alan and Jim Deeds survived the worst weather Lough Derg had experienced in 25 years!**

July 8, 2025

A superb group of pilgrims who completed outdoor the stations barefoot in the pouring rain and wind fasted for 3 days and kept a vigil of prayer.

Praying for special intentions sustained each pilgrim on this remarkable pilgrimage and our thanks to all the Lough Derg team for the beautiful and meaningful liturgies. Rest well.

## Cork mission in Funchal, Madeira

**Bishop Adrian Wilkinson writes - The Church of Ireland network extends far and wide!**

“It was lovely to worship in Holy Trinity Church, Funchal on Sunday where the locum priest is the Revd Brian McAvoy. He was ordained in Cork in the 1960s. Interestingly Jonathan, the lay liturgical assistant, is also from Cork.



“The church is round and has an interesting history. It was opened in 1822 and is known as the English Church. Apparently it could only be built if it did not resemble a church building. Thank you for the warm welcome and for

July 8, 2025



the lovely refreshments in the church grounds afterwards”.  
Holy Trinity Church, Funchal, Madeira



July 8, 2025



## **CMSI Nepal Team preparing to visit Kathmandu**

**Pray for Roger and  
the CMSI Nepal Team  
who are preparing to  
visit Kathmandu in  
October/ November.**

The team will include his wife Fiona who is a former CMSI Youth Officer. They will visit SDSS, HDCS and SS, our AsiaCMS Local Mission Partner, as well as Namuna Community Hospital, Lamjung.

## **A Night to Remember at Elephant Rock Hotel**

**We were thrilled to raise £9700 for two incredible charities at our recent fashion show. Last week, we had the honour of presenting the cheques to the RNLI and Northern Ireland Hospice.**

A tiny synopsis of what these two amazing charities do day in and day out

**Northern Ireland hospice** provides specialist respite, symptom management, and end-of-life palliative care to over 4,000 infants, children, and adults each year.



**RNLi Portrush** is volunteer-led and dedicated to saving lives at sea by providing 24/7 search and rescue services.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us, donated, and supported this special event. Your generosity will make a real difference in the lives of those that the charities support

## **‘Open mind’ needed to select next Archbishop, says CNC chair**

**The Chair of the Church of England’s Crown Nominations Commission has said it must approach choosing the next Archbishop of Canterbury with an open mind.**

Lord Evans of Weardale, a former director-general of MI5 and a cross-bench member of the House of Lords, was elected as chair of the committee last year.

Outlining his vision in leading the CNC, he said the group is “there collectively to understand what God might be wanting from a new Archbishop... we should be coming, therefore, with open minds.”

He told Church Times the group is “on track” to announce the next Archbishop in the autumn, and described the process so far as “extremely interesting, and even, on occasions, joyful.”

Lord Evans denied that there had been any “malice aforethought” in the General Synod’s selection of representatives from the diocese of Canterbury – despite initial failed attempts to elect the Canterbury vacancy-in-see committee.

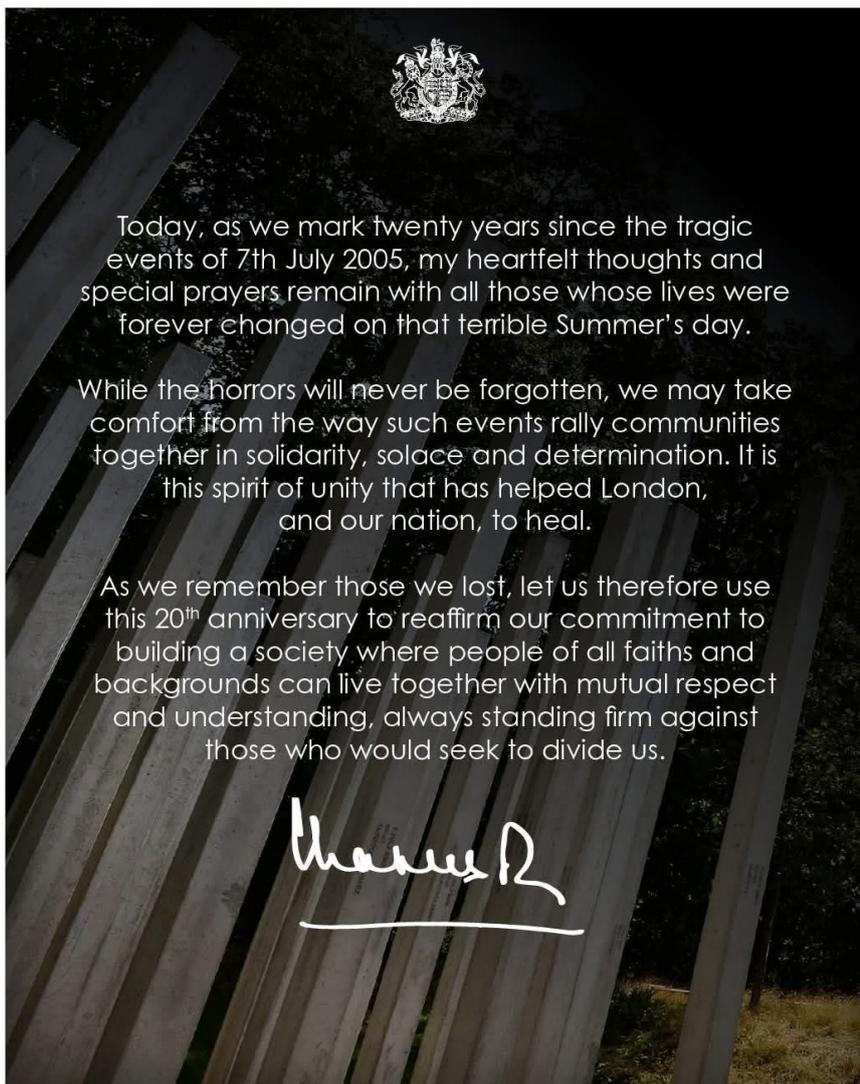
“I know that in the media there have been suggestions that this might be some cunning ruse by some particular party within the Church to try to maximise their influence, or something, but I don’t believe that was the case,” he insisted.

There have been over eleven thousand responses to a public consultation which closed on 28th March 2025, in which members of the Church of England were invited to share what they were looking for in the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

July 8, 2025

Lord Evans said the most popular prevailing qualities include “real spiritual leadership,” and someone who can “speak in a gracious way, but an authoritative way, with a Christian voice, into the life of the nation.”

The Church of England’s General Synod is set to gather in York, from Friday 11th to Tuesday 15th July, for its summer parliament.



## Message from The King marking 20th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings in London

**Today, as we mark twenty years since the tragic events of 7th July 2005, my heartfelt thoughts and**

**special prayers remain with all those whose lives were forever changed on that terrible Summer’s day.**

July 8, 2025



We remember with profound sadness the 52 innocent people who were killed in senseless acts of evil - and the enduring grief of their loved ones. We recall, too, the hundreds more who carry physical and psychological scars, and pray that their suffering may ease as the years pass.

In doing so, we should also remember the countless stories of extraordinary courage and compassion that emerged from the darkness of that day. The selfless bravery of our emergency services, transport workers, and fellow citizens who rushed towards danger to help strangers reminds us of the very best of humanity in the face of the very worst.

While the horrors will never be forgotten, we may take comfort from the way such events rally communities together in solidarity, solace and determination. It is this spirit of unity that has helped London, and our nation, to heal.

July 8, 2025

As we remember those we lost, let us therefore use this 20th anniversary to reaffirm our commitment to building a society where people of all faiths and backgrounds can live together with mutual respect and understanding, always standing firm against those who would seek to divide us.

Charles R.

Published 07 July 2025

## Education

### RBAl Irish table tennis player brings home gold again

**Congratulations to Christopher Allsop (11J)!**

We're thrilled to share that Christopher recently travelled to Prague to represent Ireland in a U15 table tennis team event —

and brought home gold once again! 🏆 He and his teammate, Peadar Sheridan, secured 1st place in a fantastic performance.



July 8, 2025

Christopher's dedication and talent continue to shine, and we're proud to announce that he'll be representing Ireland once more this July at the European Youth Championships in the Czech Republic.

Well done, Christopher — your school is cheering you on every step of the way!

## About to graduate with a Degree in Social Work?

**Keep an eye on your inbox – you'll soon receive an email with a personalised link to our fast-track registration process designed especially for Newly Qualified Social Workers.**

There's no need to take any action on your Social Care Council registration just yet – we've got you covered.

This is a big step – moving from student to newly qualified social worker registration and we're here to make it as smooth as possible.

Congratulations on your graduation – we can't wait to welcome you into the profession!

Northern Ireland Social Care Council

## School Summit NI 2025 Exhibition

**Welcome an incredible lineup of exhibitors to School Summit NI 2025, each playing a vital role in inspiring**

July 8, 2025

## **and informing the next generation of talent across Northern Ireland.**

✨ Thales – Innovation and careers in engineering, defence, and tech

🏗️ McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd – Building the future through construction

👤 Northern Ireland Social Care Council – Championing careers in care and community

💻 Bring IT On – Sparking interest in digital and tech pathways

🔨 Construction Futures – Showcasing careers in skilled trades and construction

🚗 Agnew Group – Driving opportunities in automotive and customer service

🛡️ The NI Prison Service central Benevolent Fund – Inspiring public service and justice careers

These organisations are helping students explore real pathways into meaningful, future-focused careers—and we're just getting started!

📢 Are you part of a tech company, healthcare provider, public service, trade, or construction firm? Join us! There's

July 8, 2025

still time to register and be part of this exciting event. Let's shape futures together!

 17 6–7 October 2025

 Eikon Centre, Lisburn

 Exhibitor registration open now

<https://schoolsummit.co.uk/exhibitor/>

## Cathedral Calls



**Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa proud in Belfast**

July 8, 2025



**The choir posted photos and this message -**

“A day to be very proud of our girls as they sung the morning Eucharist and Evensong. Ironing team; practising before the service; on the front steps; thanking The Reverend Cameron Mack. Thank you, Belfast Cathedral!”

July 8, 2025

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN  
CONCERTS AT  
ST. COLUMB'S  
CATHEDRAL**

 Derry City & Strabane  
District Council  
Comhairle Chathair  
Dhoire & Cheantair  
an tSrátha Bann  
Derry City & Strabane  
District Council



**DR DEREK COLLINS**

---

**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1.10PM - 1.50PM**

---

The former Organist and Master of the Choristers of St. Columb's Cathedral (2018-2024) returns to the Wells-Kennedy Organ for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunchtime Organ Concert this July.

## **Lunchtime organ concert St. Columb's Cathedral, Derry**

**Join Dr Derek Collins at St. Columb's Cathedral on Thursday 10th July from 1.10pm to 1.50pm for our 2nd Lunchtime Organ Concert this July.**

July 8, 2025

We're delighted to welcome back our former Organist and Director of Music, Dr Derek Collins, as he fills your lunchtime with some fabulous organ music.

Free entry | All welcome

## Clergy and ministry

### Galway curate to be Rector of Arklow

**St Nicholas Galway - It was announced on Sunday that our beloved curate, Reverend Alistair Doyle, has been appointed as Rector of Arklow, Inch, and Kilbride Group of Parishes.**

The institution will take place in late autumn.

Congratulations to Reverend Alistair, and we wish him and his family every blessing as they embark on this new adventure.

### UCD alumna Dr Anne Merriman, 'Mother of Palliative Care in Africa'

**Thoughts and sympathies are with the family and friends of UCD alumna Dr Anne Merriman, 'Mother of Palliative Care in Africa', who passed away peacefully in her home in Kampala, Uganda**

A former nun and medical doctor, Dr Merriman pioneered an affordable approach to expanding palliative care in

July 8, 2025

developing countries, bringing pain relief to poor, terminally ill patients.

After graduating from the UCD School of Medicine in 1963, she spent 33 years working in Africa, including 10 years as a missionary doctor in Nigeria and a further 20 years in Uganda. Her global career also included seven years in Southeast Asia, eight years in the United Kingdom, and five years in Ireland.

Among her many honours, Dr Merriman received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from University College Dublin in recognition of her pioneering work in palliative care across Africa. In 2016, she returned to UCD to accept the Alumni Award in Health Sciences.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

## Events

### Whodunit Hunt Portrush

**Hot on the heels of our recent Ballycastle launch we now have more seaside clue hunting fun... at Portrush.**

Discover the history behind the seaside town. Did you know that significant neolithic and bronze age finds have been made near Portrush? Find out about these, the history of the town as a port, its lifeboats, pass the White House, see many historic buildings as well as lovely sea views... and more...

July 8, 2025

Nearly 30 clues to solve with many historical info snippets packed into our Whodunit Hunt booklet.

Try something fun and different this summer!

Over 75 murder mystery trails available 🤔

[whodunithunts.com](http://whodunithunts.com)

## Portstewart Red Sails Festival

*Guided Walking Tour – Wednesday 23rd Jul*

Discover the sights and stories of Portstewart on this scenic walking tour delving into Portstewart's Fishing history!

 10:00am start

 Begins at Harbour Hill

 Finishes at The Berne

No booking required!

A great way to explore local history, enjoy the views, and start your day with a stroll!

## Follies with Northern Ireland Opera

**Northern Ireland Opera's next major production at the Grand Opera House is 'Follies', winner of 7 Tony Awards on its debut on Broadway in 1971.**

July 8, 2025

This legendary work features unforgettable songs that you won't want to miss! Catch a performance from 13–20 Sept 2025!

## Poem for today

### Sunday Morning

by Louis MacNeice

Down the road someone is practising scales,  
The notes like little fishes vanish with a wink of tails,  
Man's heart expands to tinker with his car  
For this is Sunday morning, Fate's great bazaar;  
Regard these means as ends, concentrate on this Now,

And you may grow to music or drive beyond Hindhead  
anyhow,  
Take corners on two wheels until you go so fast  
That you can clutch a fringe or two of the windy past,  
That you can abstract this day and make it to the week of  
time  
A small eternity, a sonnet self-contained in rhyme.

But listen, up the road, something gulps, the church spire  
Open its eight bells out, skulls' mouths which will not tire  
To tell how there is no music or movement which secures  
Escape from the weekday time. Which deadens and  
endures.

July 8, 2025

# 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**