

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry

St Eugene's Cathedral is the heart of Derry Diocese. Take a tour at -

<https://steugenescathedral.com/>

Photography courtesy of <http://www.patryksadowski.com/>

News



Change of Methodist Presidents

Reflecting on his year as President, the Rev Dr John Alderdice has shared his optimism for the future of the Church.

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As he travelled around the Connexion, he witnessed 'green shoots' of growth - through prayer, collaborative leadership, and attentiveness to the most vulnerable in our society.



Congratulations to the President Designate for 2026-27, the Rev Dr Janet Unsworth and to Mrs Laura Griffith who has been designated as Lay Leader for 2026-27.

Pentecost highlights Diocese of Ezo link with Ballynahinch and Hillsborough

Pentecost was the perfect day to be reminded that the Spirit of Jesus fills the Church of Jesus to do the work of Jesus. Linda Abwa from CMS Ireland was the guest speaker.



“We step into this mission as one Spirit-filled family, so it was a particular joy to have Linda introduce us to our mission partners from the Diocese of Ezo, along with some stories of the incredible ways God is working in and through Bishop Isaac and the churches there.

“Hillsborough Parish gave a warm welcome to us for Pentecost Praise on Sunday evening

“As we seek to deepen our partnership with the churches in Ezo, please remember our brothers and sisters there in prayer - and get in touch if you'd like more information”.

Annual St Columba's Day service at Gartan Abbey



A less than benign weather forecast failed to deter scores of people from attending the annual St Columba's Day service at Gartan Abbey, near Church Hill in Donegal.

The service - which was the highlight of a festival weekend in the area where the saint was born – drew people from many parishes well beyond The Parish of Conwal Union.

For the local Rector, Rev Adrian Dorrian, it was a first visit to the abbey, but all his co-celebrants – the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster; the Archdeacon of Raphoe, Ven. David Huss; the Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev Liz Fitzgerald; two former ministers in Gartan - Rev Canon Judi McGaffin and Rev Canon Katie McAteer – had visited before and taken part in the service. Two other clergy from



the Diocese of Raphoe were in the congregation, Rev Canon David Skuce and Rev Chris Matchett.

In his sermon, Rev Dorrian urged those present – at times listening from under a canopy of raised umbrellas – to be like Columba and follow the Holy Spirit "beyond the horizons" of their comfort zones.

"Today," the Rector said, "St Columba's weekend – that Sunday nearest St Columba's Day – falls on one of the most important days in the history of the church, the Feast of Pentecost. And it's impossible to separate Columba and the Holy Spirit and Pentecost on a day like today, especially given that fact that Columba or Colmcille, the dove of the church – the symbol of the dove – is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit. And, of course, we have those contrasting symbols of the Holy Spirit: we have the dove that rests on Jesus, as we heard in our gospel, and we have the fire and the wind and the tongues of Pentecost. Gentle and

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powerful. But, isn't that our God? Isn't that the God of the Holy Spirit – gentle and powerful at the same time?...

The worship at the service was led by the **Britannia Band** and vocalist-guitarist **Maria McCormack**, and two pupils from the nearby **Gartan National School** helped with the prayer readings.



Throughout the service, the younger children present enjoyed crafts and activities under the care of the Diocesan Children's Ministry Officer, Kirsty McCartney and, after the service, everyone present was invited to join in fellowship and enjoy the ample refreshments provided so generously by the parishioners of St Columba's Church in Gartan.

Discover a new way of seeing and living life, Pope Leo XIV



At this Sunday's Pentecost Mass, Pope Leo XIV invited the faithful to allow themselves to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, who acts first in the heart, overcoming selfishness, fear, and indifference.

In a world divided and wounded by wars and forced migration, the Pontiff recalled that the Spirit inspires us to build authentic relationships, overcome prejudices, and live the commandment of love: "He makes us discover a new way of seeing and living life."

Education

RBAI Summer Book Swap : Make this summer epic One Book At A Time



Looking for some exciting new reads to dive into this summer? Ready to swap some of your old favourites for exciting new titles? Join us for the Summer Book Swap!

Bring in books you've already read and swap them for ones that are new to you. Whether you're into adventures, mysteries, sports, comics, or fantasy—there's something for everyone!

Simply bring your preloved books to the library by Friday 13th June and then come to Q1 on Wednesday 18th at lunch to find a new favourite for your collection. Please only bring books in fair condition. See you there!



Project Refresh at Wallace High School

We're excited to share that the first phase of Project Refresh is now complete!

From hybrid heating to sustainable upgrades, this marks a significant step towards a greener, more dynamic future for our school.

Find out more via this link: <https://zurl.co/NcvpF>

Specialist training for disabled individuals using Microsoft Teams

Belfast Harbour has funded Cedar's User Forum Digital Skills Training Programme through its Community Awards programme.

The programme invests in specialist training for disabled individuals using Microsoft Teams for communication, collaboration, and productivity. The five-week hybrid course will enhance real-time collaboration and support active participation in the group's regular sessions.

Cedar's User Forum hosts local groups in Ballymena, Belfast, Downpatrick, North Down & Ards, Enniskillen, Foyle and Newry. The group aims to be the voice of service users province-wide. It influences and informs services, contributes to external consultations and co-produces initiatives that promote an inclusive society for all. Therefore, the expansion of digital skills is invaluable to facilitate accessibility and information sharing.

<https://syncni.com/article/13563/belfast-harbour-supports-cedar-s-user-forum-via-digital-learning>

From pupil to principal: Jonny Brady's towering legacy at St Killian's

The principal of St Killian's College, outside Carnlough, has spoken of the “privilege” of being able to head the school he attended as a pupil.

Mr Brady - “I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed the sports. I made friends and developed friendships.”

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Originally, from Holywood, County Down, he said that his parents saw an opportunity for him to attend the school, then an all-boys grammar, known at the time as St MacNissi's College, Garron Tower, through a family member who was a pupil.

He recalled: "We had a diverse group of boys in my year group. Forty-five of the year group boarded. Half the school were boarders. I became independent very quickly."

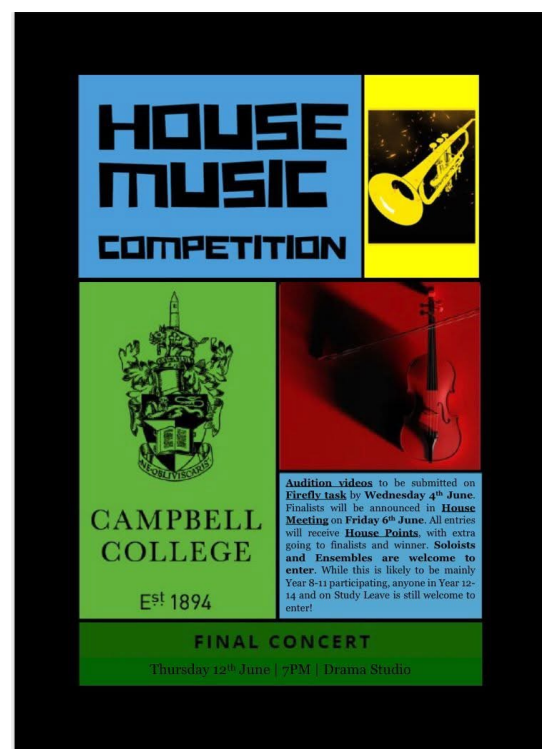
Campbell College House Music competition

We are looking forward to welcoming you to this year's House Music competition, taking place on Thursday, 12th June in the Drama Studio at 7pm.

The evening promises to be both competitive and entertaining, and we hope it will be well supported by boys, parents, friends, and family.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Cathedral Calls



Bishop's flag flies over St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick

The bishops flag was raised on Saturday evening in preparation for Sunday's ordination of Scott Elliott at 7.30pm. Please hold Scott in your prayers at this important time.



New light on Lady Chapel of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

A set of radiant chandeliers have recently been installed in the Lady Chapel of St Mary's Cathedral,

Edinburgh, thanks to a generous gift from Dr Malcolm Donaldson.

Commenting, the Rev Canon Dr Marion Chatterley, Vice-Provost of St Mary's, said: "I'm very pleased with the chandeliers. They are much more elegant than the light fittings we had here before. And we've worked out that they

each cost about a pound an hour to run, when on full heat settings. So far, we have only needed the chandeliers on one-third heat setting during a chilly morning service. We feel Herschel were well worth the money as the heaters do not glow red and they look so elegant."

You can read more about the chandeliers in this blog post at the Net Zero hub:

<https://netzerochurch.scot/case-study-radiant-chandeliers-warm-the-lady-chapel-of-st-marys-cathedral/>



Clonfert Cathedral's mermaid

A 600 year old mermaid with a comb and mirror on the chancel arch of Clonfert Cathedral, Co Galway

Clergy and ministry



New Provincial Minister of the Irish Capuchin Province

Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin, with Fr Richard Hendrick OFM Cap and Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh.

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Best wishes to Fr Richard, who has been elected Provincial Minister of the Irish Capuchin Province. He is Parish Priest of Halston Street in Dublin.

Reader Day at St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe

Reader Day at St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe where Diocesan Readers from across TLK gathered for Holy Communion with Bishop Michael Burrows.

This was followed by training and discussion led by the Diocesan Education Officer, the Very Revd Richard Marsh, Dean of Killaloe.

First Church Of Ireland Women Priests in RTÉ Archives

The first women priests in these islands were ordained in Belfast by Bishop of Connon, Samuel Poyntz, at Saint Anne's Cathedral.

Several hundred people attended the historic ceremony. The report shows procession up aisle including the two new priests, Reverend Kathleen Young and Reverend Irene Templeton and Bishop Poyntz.

The archive contains 1. Interviews with Reverend Young and Reverend Templeton after ceremony, and 2. Interview

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with Bishop Poyntz on the effect of the ordination on relations with other churches.

The reporter is Kieron Wood.

<https://www.rte.ie/archives/collections/news/21430155-church-of-ireland-women-priests/>

Events

Church Resources day

This is a final message before the summer, to update you on our forthcoming Church Resources event - and to encourage you to pick up your free Admission Tickets now - for you and your leadership team. (Over 100 people have already registered to attend.)

The Church Resources day is for Ministers, Leaders, Committee Personnel and Lay Members of churches across Northern Ireland - and takes place on Thursday 18 September, 2025 at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.

Please diary the date now and plan to join us, to discover resources, information and support for your latest church projects. Plus, see a wide range of supplies for the various day-to-day needs of your church.

In addition to **Rea Sound** (sponsors of the event) who supply church AV solutions - let me highlight another half dozen of the exhibitors on the day:

McNickle Church Furniture: Manufacturer of bespoke joinery and supplier of church seating.

Thermal Surveys NI: Discover where you are losing heat from your church / manse buildings.

AA Music: Supplier of organs and pianos.

Solar Power NI: Have you considered solar energy for your church buildings?

Galgorm Group: Supplier of catering, hospitality and hygiene products.

AJ Utilities: Check if you are receiving the best deal for gas / electricity used by the church.

These are just a few of the people you can meet on the day . . . plus Publishers, Mission Groups, Printers, Church Envelope suppliers etc.

Admission Tickets are now available FREE OF CHARGE and you may request as many as you require by visiting www.eventbrite.com/e/church-resources-2025-belfast-tickets-1203780944209

Please note:

The event is open from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm.

Excellent car parking is available at the Stormont Hotel.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchresources2025 for updates.

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For further information, contact the event organiser at churchresourcesni@gmail.com

Best wishes

Paul Scott.

Church Resources

Bryson Care West Recruitment Day

Come join us on Wednesday 18th June & Saturday 21st June at our Derry/Londonderry office in Glendermott Valley Business park Drumahoe for information on jobs we currently have available within the group.

Bryson Care are currently recruiting Community Care Workers in Derry/Londonderry, Limavady, Strabane. You can come along and get some information, Drop off your CV and even interview for the job on the day you visit.

Information on current vacancies can be found on our website:

<https://bryson.getgotjobs.co.uk/home>

Ride out for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland

Calling all bikers, and Groups, Ride out next Sunday the 15th June, please contact names on flyer if want to take part as all is in aid of Air Ambulance Northern Ireland.

Mccrum's Motorcycles in case anybody wants to take part also.

Please help keep your Emergency Helicopter Medical Service in the Air..any donations would be great.

Contact CO DOWN MARSHALLS RIDE OUT if looking to take part.

Perspective

Letter to TCD from Alan Shatter and Maurice Cohen

"We are writing to you following the publication of the statement by the Board of Trinity College on 4th June 2025, subsequent to its receipt of the as-yet-unpublished report of the College-Appointed Task Force on Academic and Institutional International Links and Related Matters.

We do so out of deep concern regarding several fundamental issues:

The total absence of transparency and proper consultation in the work of the Task Force;

Our knowledge that a number of Task Force members are either known Israel boycott advocates and/or represent unions supporting such boycotts;

The gross violation of fair procedures and of the College's own formal decision-making processes and value systems by the Board;

The Board's prejudgement and determination of complex matters that require wide consultation across the College;

The Board's total failure to apply Trinity's own published Equality Policy in its announced decisions, particularly regarding their impact on Jewish, Israeli, Zionist, and other international students;

The Board's blatant violation of the Equal Status Acts, the Universities Act, and relevant EU regulations — particularly those governing Erasmus Plus, Horizon programmes, and also relating to procurement matters (see EU Directive 2014/24);

The Board assuming a capacity and expertise which it lacks to adjudicate on the tragic ongoing Israel/Gaza conflict and other Israel-related matters, and wrongly concluding that Israel — which is fighting a defensive war against Hamas, a Jihadist terrorist death cult sponsored by Iran that abducted and still holds captive Israeli hostages and threatens to repeat the atrocities of 7 October 2023 — is engaged in ongoing violations of international and humanitarian law.

It is particularly noteworthy that while acknowledging the need to “send the report now for further consideration to relevant college committees with a particular focus on governance, in line with the terms of the resolution statement” under which the Task Force was established, the Board proceeded to announce implementation of a variety of its recommendations regarding institutional links with the State of Israel, Israeli universities, and companies headquartered in Israel. Essentially, the Board has

announced implementation of a boycott-Israel policy prior to engaging in required consultation.

It is also noteworthy that the Task Force's published terms of reference tasked it with "developing a set of ethical principles to inform current and future links and exchanges between Trinity College Dublin and higher education institutions, commercial enterprises and/or other relevant bodies in jurisdictions involved in armed conflicts and/or where there are violations of international law."

No explanation is given as to why the Board, in its pre-emptive decision-making, has failed to address the: -

The Russia/Ukraine war;

Turkey's illegal occupation of Northern Cyprus;

China's illegal occupation of Tibet, persecution of its Uyghur population, and violations of international law and human rights obligations in Hong Kong;

Iran's sponsorship of the Houthis attacking international shipping and daily targeting Israel with ballistic missiles, its sponsorship of Hamas, Hezbollah and other terrorist groups;

The catastrophic civil war in Sudan.

There are other areas of conflict in the world which could also be referenced.

As the Task Force report has not been published, its full reasoning — which the Board states it is relying on for its announced decisions — is unknown.

We seek a copy of the report and of all submissions made to the Task Force. It should be noted this is just an initial response to the Board's announcement of 4th June 2025.

It is noteworthy that the remit of the Task Force required it to seek submissions from “the College community” and to “invite presentations to inform its deliberations.” Despite the many hundreds of past Irish Jewish student graduates of Trinity, Jewish international students, Jewish students presently attending the college, and Trinity’s various Jewish professors and lecturers over the years — and the profound implications for its Jewish students and lecturers of any recommendations relating to Israel — no invitation was extended to the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland to make a submission. It seems that to the Board, and the College, the Irish Jewish community is either irrelevant or invisible.

Due to its impact, we believe it imperative to reference the intended boycott of academic and research ties further. Excluding Israeli institutions from collaboration will discriminate in practice against Jewish, Israeli, and/or Zionist students and staff, contrary to the Equality Acts, and violate Trinity’s own published equality policy, since scholars and students with connections to these institutions are more likely to be Jewish and/or Israeli by nationality and/or Zionist by belief.

It will also discriminate against Israeli Muslim, Christian, Druze and other students of various faiths. It will make Trinity a colder and more hostile environment than it already is for such students and will totally undermine the credibility of the College’s proclaimed commitment “to a culture of academic freedom, diversity of scholarship, the pursuit of truth, and the highest level of academic standards.” It will also profoundly undermine its stated commitment “to engage in research with the quality, intensity, depth,

diversity and openness that leads to fundamental breakthroughs and new understandings.”

Additionally, it will detrimentally impact the College’s global standing — particularly in the United States — and Jewish students from both within and outside the State will be inhibited from attending Trinity.

As we assume both the Task Force and the Board are aware, there is significant opposition to aspects of current Israeli government policy within Israel, and Israeli academics across a broad range of institutions have been prominent critics of the Israeli government.

Boycotting Israeli academics — a majority of whom are Jewish — and Israeli research institutions is holding them collectively responsible for actions of the Israeli State. This is antisemitism according to the IHRA definition, which the Irish Government endorsed in January last.

It also constitutes discrimination against non-Jewish Israeli academics, of whom there are many in Israel’s universities and research bodies.

We are asking the Board to immediately publish the Task Force report and all related submissions and — in response to this letter — to cancel its premature decisions of 4th June. It must then facilitate a proper, transparent consultative process both within College and involving its graduates. We also state that, prior to any decisions being made or implemented, representatives of Ireland’s Jewish community should be given the opportunity to consider and respond to the report. So too should the Government and

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relevant departments, given the substantial public funds annually received by Trinity.

We trust that Trinity will act to uphold its stated values of academic integrity, equality, and transparency.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Cohen 087-2803907
Chairperson
Jewish Representative Council of Ireland

Alan Shatter, MA (Trinity College, Legal Science)
086-2416762
Former Minister for Justice, Equality & Defence
Former Chairperson, Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee
Jewish Representative Council of Ireland
20045579 Registered Charity Number

Poem for today

Ozymandias

by Percy Bysshe Shelley

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—“Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

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The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

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

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

Please recommend to your friends