

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Limavady High on Hadrian's Wall**

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



June 11, 2025

## Image of the day



## Limavady High on Hadrian's Wall



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The Year 8 and 9 students have experienced a great two days on their educational visit to Hadrian's Wall.

They have experienced what it would have been like on the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, with visits to Vindolanda, the Wall and the Roman Army Museum.

They have visits to Carlisle and Lanercost Priory to look forward to before they get the ferry back.

## News



## Lord Eames celebrates 50 years of service as bishop





**Half a century of service in episcopal ministry was celebrated on Monday morning (on St Columba's Day) when a congregation gathered for a Choral Eucharist in St Columba's Cathedral, Londonderry, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of Bishop Robin Eames.**

Lord Eames served as Bishop of Derry and Raphoe from 1975 to 1980, and thereafter Bishop of Down and Dromore, and Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland from 1986 until his retirement in 2006. He was consecrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, on 9th June 1975, by Archbishop George Otto Simms, at 38 years of age.

The service was led by Archbishop John McDowell and the preacher was Bishop Andrew Forster, the current Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. Bishop George Davison (Bishop of

Connor), Bishop Ian Ellis (Bishop of Clogher) and Bishop Patrick Rooke (formerly Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry) were also present, and Archdeacon Mark Harvey (Archdeacon of Dromore) represented Bishop David McClay (Bishop of Down and Dromore).

Scripture was read by Bishop Forster and Dean Shane Forster (Dean of Armagh) and intercessions led by Archdeacon Robert Miller (Archdeacon of Derry).

A reception was held afterwards in the Chapter Room, giving many representatives from parish life in the diocese, and guests who had travelled from elsewhere, the opportunity to congratulate Lord Eames, Lady Christine Eames and their sons Michael and Niall.

To read more, including Bishop Andrew Forster's full sermon see the link below:

<https://www.churchofireland.org/news/12925/lord-eames-celebrates-50-years>

## **C of E to invest more than £1.6 billion in the work of churches**

**The Church of England on June 11 unveiled plans to invest more than £1.6 billion in the work of churches over the next three years – a 36 per cent rise on the national funding made available in 2022 for the current three-year period.**

The distributions from the Church Commissioners, which manages the Church's national endowment fund, will support key priorities such as





- ➡ a major package of measures for clergy well-being
- ➡ supporting parishes in the lowest income communities
- ➡ safeguarding and redress

Read the full announcement at [cofe.io/ThreeYearFunding](https://cofe.io/ThreeYearFunding).

## Methodist world development review

**“It was great to have the opportunity to share the findings from our review at The Methodist Church in Ireland Conference on Saturday, as well as our new strategy”**

🔗 If you missed it, you can find out all about it on our website: <https://irishmethodist.org/wdr-review>



## Planning Excellence winners award for Derry parish

**The Clooney Cannon Site has been awarded 'Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture.'**

Canon David McBeath and Lloyd Magee attended a reception in Malone House, Belfast, to receive the award.

Parish comment  
- "We're thrilled the Royal Town



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Planning Institute has recognised the preservation of the Cannon and the regeneration of the surrounding space for everyone to enjoy.

“A huge thank you to everyone who supported the project along the way.”



## **Funding spotlight on rising star**

**Meet Harry Douglas, a gifted flautist whose musical journey started at age seven and has taken him to world-class stages including the Royal Albert Hall and Ulster Hall.**

Currently Principal Flute with both the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra and the Ulster Youth Orchestra,

Harry has performed alongside major talents like Barry Douglas and Michael McHale.

With the help of an Ards and North Down Borough Youth Arts Grant, Harry will soon join CBYO on tour in Italy and take part in the Ulster Youth Orchestra Summer School, a 10-day musical residency culminating in concerts in Londonderry and Belfast.

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For an example of more information on Arts and Heritage funding opportunities via local councils, visit <https://engage.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/crafts/youth-arts-grant-2025-26/>



## HopeFest in the Pro-Cathedral

**What a night of joy, faith, and community. Last evening, over 100 young adults came together for HopeFest in the Pro-Cathedral — and it was amazing.**

Organised by young adult groups from across the North City Centre Deanery (the Dominicans, Jesuits, Shalom, Jesus Youth, Legion of Mary, CFC Youth for Christ, Aughrim St. Parish, Católicos Hispanos en Irlanda, Católicos Em Dublin, North Wall–Seville Place) and the Office for Mission and



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Ministry of the Diocese, each group played a vital role in making the evening a joyful celebration of faith.

There was music, laughter, and deep moments of reflection.

New connections formed, stories shared, and games played.

We adored Jesus in the Eucharist and listened to moving talks.

Teresa Menendez invited everyone to reflect on the importance of community, service and hope. Fr. Michael Casey then led us to the statue of Venerable Matt Talbot, sharing how his witness still speaks powerfully to young people today — marking the centenary of his death.



*The Causeway Coast Peace Group*



*Invite you to*

*23rd Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving*

*Bishop: Trevor Williams*

*St Mary & St Joseph*

*Ballintoy*

*On Sunday 15th June 2025*

*6.30pm*

*Everyone is Welcome*

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In a beautiful act of solidarity, young people brought non-perishable goods, which will be donated to the Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless. 🧡

It was so uplifting to see so many young adults alive in faith and sharing the joy of the Gospel. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped bring HopeFest to life! 🌍💬

## 400+ in Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

**“It was great to be part of the 400+ in Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine”**

In excess of 400 people represented the diocese.



The poster features a background of pink and red roses. In the center, the text reads: **Christian Aid** (in red), **Coffee Morning & Plant Sale** (in green), **Saturday** (in red), **14th June 2025** (in red), **10am 12noon** (in red), and **Ramoan Parish Centre** (in black). To the left of the text is an illustration of a white cup of coffee on a saucer with a spoon. To the right is an illustration of a green plant in a brown pot. There are two 'Christian Aid' logos: one in the top right corner and one in the bottom left corner, both in white on a red background. At the bottom right, a red banner contains the text **11-17 May 2025** and **Christian Aid Week** in white. A small 'Photo by Microsoft' watermark is visible at the bottom left of the poster.



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Mass was celebrated by Bishop Alan, Fr Vincent Cushnahan Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage Coordinator concelebrated at Mass along with Fr Michael Spence.

The Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage Choir, directed by Mr Louis McVeigh added great joy and prayer to the celebration of Mass.

In his homily Bishop Alan reminded those present of the courage and confidence with which the Apostles spoke the



**Charity Car Run**  
CLARKE

# Charity Car Run 2025

Hosted by Clarke  
**Saturday 28th June 2025**

Meeting & Rollout Location:  
**132a Raceview Road BT424HY**

## Coastal Car Run

CLARKE

**Car Arrival Time 9am - 10:45am**  
**All Cars in Place by 11am**  
**Coastal Car Run Rollout 2pm**  
**Optional Dinner (Royal Court Hotel, Portrush)**  
**Dinner - £26 per person**  
**Early Bird Registration Fee - £20**  
**On the Day Registration Fee - £25**

**In Support of NI Children's Hospice**  
Event Packs to follow after registration

**REGISTER HERE:**



CLARKE

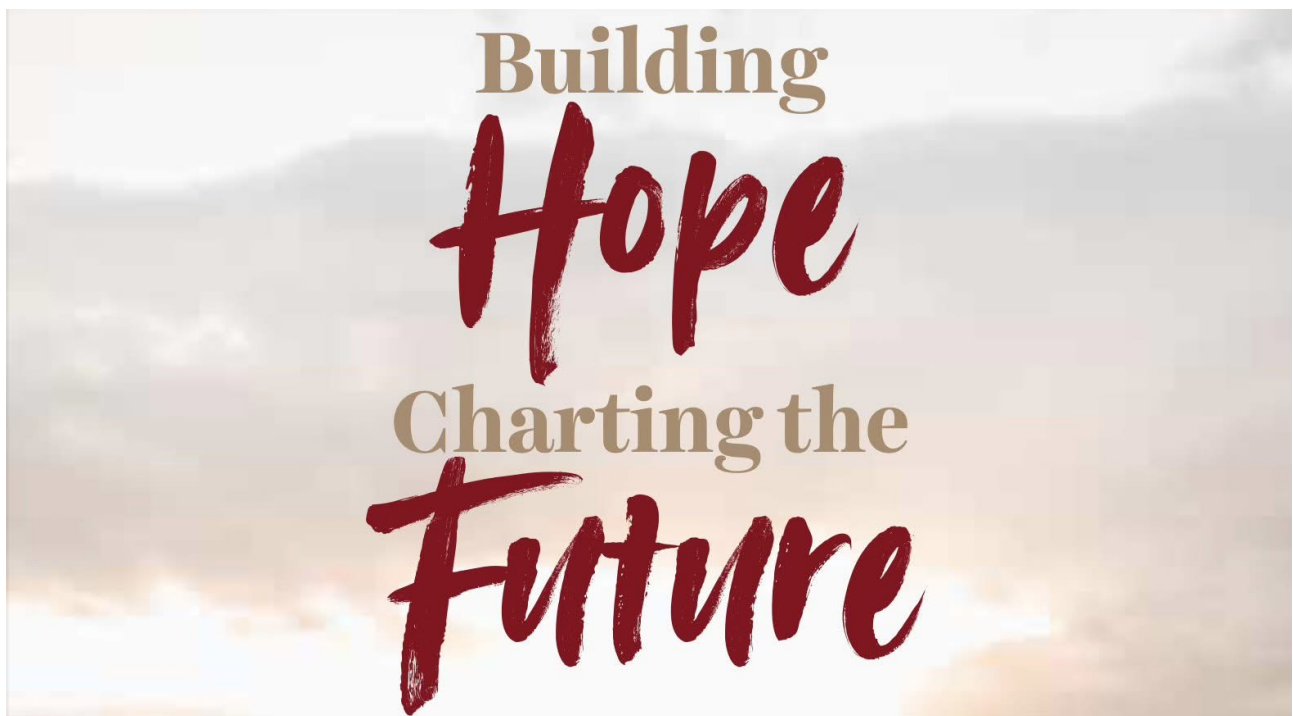
In aid of Northern Ireland Hospice

In aid of Northern Ireland Hospice

[June 11, 2025](#)

Good News of Jesus death and resurrection to the crowds. Bishop Alan challenged us to allow our hearts to be set on fire by the power of the Holy Spirit to speak with the same confidence and conviction into the opportunities and challenges of everyday life.

Thankfully the rain stayed away which allowed us to enjoy all the sights and sounds that Knock Shrine has to offer.



## **[Derry and Raphoe encouraging parishioners and clergy to complete survey](#)**

**The Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, has embarked on its biggest ever consultation exercise as part of its ongoing Diocesan Review.**

Bishop Andrew is encouraging parishioners and clergy to complete this survey (see link below) which will gather their

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views on a range of matters concerning the ministry, mission and future of the Diocese.

The responses will be anonymous and will help shape the outcome of the review. “We want to hear from the whole of our church family, whether you're a regular and active member of your parish or even if you attend services and events only occasionally.

“The questionnaire can be completed online between Monday 9th June and Wednesday 9th July (if you prefer, you can request a paper version from your local parish contact or from the Diocesan Centre).”

Completed surveys – online or in paper format – must be submitted by Wednesday 9th July.

To complete the survey, please click the following link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DRsurvey2025>

## **Christian Aid Week support from Clonakilty Methodist Church**

**Huge thanks to the members of Clonakilty Methodist Church (one of the Methodist Churches in West Cork) who organized a coffee morning for Christian Aid Week that brought in €850 for our work. We're especially grateful to Rev Jeremy Nicoll and everyone who helped with the baking, serving and washing up.**

A group of volunteers from Clonakilty Tidy Towns (pictured) was out lifting litter in the vicinity of the church when they



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spotted the coffee morning was taking place, so they came in to enjoy a cuppa and some delicious home-baked treats. Our thanks go to them and to everyone who supported the event with their donations.



## Anglican Communion declaration to foster public support for ocean protection

**On Monday an advocacy group representing multiple faiths and traditions at the United Nations Ocean Conference, including the Anglican Communion, launched a declaration for public support.**

This document was drafted with collaboration from multiple faith groups and the Anglican communion's United Nations representatives, to show support for several proposed policy recommendations, including:



The protection and restoration of at least 30% of our ocean by 2030

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A moratorium on deep-sea mining



To ratify and implement the High Seas Treaty



To address marine pollution comprehensively



To recognise the ocean's vital role in regulating climate and support ocean-based climate solutions

Find out more about Faiths for UNOC3 and the Declaration:  
<https://bit.ly/45fG2JT>

## Education



## St Matthew's Primary School occasions



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## **Fr Peter celebrated on Saturday 7th June Céad Comaoineach for Rang a Ceathair for Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain in St Patrick's Church, Belfast.**

We look forward to our own Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday 22nd June at 12 noon Mass involving the 1st Communion classes in St Matthew's Primary School.

The children's choir will also sing at this occasion under the guidance of Miss Emma Colton. The P5 children will also sing at the Eucharistic Healing Service on Wednesday 25 June in St Matthew's Church.



## **Methody's Rewilding Society**





**Members of Methodist College, Belfast Rewilding Society were honoured to take part in the 10-year anniversary celebration of Wildflower Alley, South Belfast's original alleyway regeneration project.**

Alex, Vihaan, Eve, Uilleac, and Conor

proudly presented our own urban garden project to the Lord Mayor of Belfast and members of the local community.

To commemorate this significant milestone, the pupils were delighted to present a specially designed and hand-painted plant pot, created by Eve, as a gift to the pioneering group behind the initiative.

## **The Pantry at Queen's**

## **The Russell Group's new briefing, Building Opportunity For All, looks at ways universities are supporting students to not only access university, but thrive during their studies.**

It also highlights how government needs to be a partner in this mission. One way they can do this is by improving maintenance support to help students facing financial barriers - reviewing parental thresholds that determine loan support, and reintroducing grants for the poorest students.

Our universities are all doing what they can to help students overcome financial worries. At Queen's University Belfast, the university and Queen's Students' Union teamed up to launch The Pantry - a free essential food refill station which has been accessed almost 40,000 times to date.

The Pantry model differs from traditional food banks in that it doesn't just provide access to food and essential goods, but also provides support for students to develop skills in budgeting, debt management, cooking, meal preparation and nutrition.

Find out more  <https://lnkd.in/eEgkPrPp>

And read our latest briefing  <https://lnkd.in/evv4eiHA>

## **Clergy and ministry**

## **Pentecost ordinations**







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The **Revd Scott Ernest Elliott** (third from left in top photo above) was ordained to the diaconate at **Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick** on Sunday evening. The address was given by the Very Revd KRJ Hall, Dean of Clogher.



The **Revd Matthew Gaw** has been ordained deacon for the curacy of **Donaghcloney and Waringstown**. Bishop David McClay ordained Matthew at a service in Holy Trinity Waringstown in the evening. The address was given by the Revd Canon Terence Cadden, Rector of Seagoe Parish. Read about Matthew's journey to ordination - <https://www.downanddromore.org/news/2025/06/matthew-gaw-is-ordained-deacon>

It was a very happy occasion for **Christ Church Ardkeen** when Bishop David McClay ordained **Melanie Houston** as OLM deacon for ministry in the parish. Supported by her husband Russell, Melanie has been serving Ardkeen in her



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capacity as a diocesan reader for the past 3 years.

## Mountmellick Group welcomes Rector



**Mountmellick Group of parishes welcomed their new rector, Rev Lesley Robinson, at her Institution service on the evening of 9th June.**

A large congregation from across the community joined parishioners and colleagues for the Institution, in St Paul's Church in Mountmellick. She was instituted as the new rector by Bishop Pat Storey. More at - <https://meathandkildare.org/news/mountmellick-group-welcomes-new-rector/?utm>

## Events

### **Dare to Hope – A young adult faith gathering**

**On 14 June, the Irish Bishops' Conference, in collaboration with Knock Shrine, will host Dare to Hope – a dynamic and prayerful gathering for young adults aged 18 to 30.**

The event will take place in the Youth Village at the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock. A twenty-euro attendance charge will enable participants to hear guest speakers, to attend workshops and related events. Dare to Hope will conclude with the con-celebration of Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady, with Bishop Fintan Gavin of Cork and Ross as the chief celebrant.

### **Kilkenny June organ recital series is in full swing**

**There are 2 more Saturday recitals left: 14th and 28th of June.**



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The Bevington/Crowe organ in Kilkenny is generally regarded as one of the finest pipe organs in Ireland. This is a great opportunity to hear it!

More info about the cathedral's musical life is available here: <https://www.stcanicescathedral.ie/music/>



## Von Trapp children at St Anne's Cathedral

**The Sound of Music is all about heart, harmony - and the next generation of performers.**

This June, our incredible young stars will step into the spotlight as part of our Belfast Operatic Company as the beloved Von Trapp children at St Anne's Cathedral

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These talented young actors have been working tirelessly to bring the magic of this timeless musical to life - and they're set to steal the show.

👏 Come show your support and witness something truly special as these future stars shine in one of the most iconic venues in the country.



24–28 June



St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast



Tickets on sale now: <https://bit.ly/3H00F2K>

✨ Be part of the magic. Celebrate 60 years of The Sound of Music with us and help these amazing young performers feel the love from a home crowd.

## 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**

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