

# Church News Ireland

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## Image of the day

### CSL Mourne country

**‘I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. Come further up, come further in!’**

It's small wonder that Belfast - born C.S. Lewis (1898 - 1963) found inspiration for his magical world of Narnia here in the Mourne Mountains; the whole place looks as if it literally tumbled out of a fairytale. We're on the summit of Slievenagloagh here, overlooking the Silent Valley and Ben Crom Reservoirs. Slievenagloagh peaks at 586 metres so it's by no stretch a difficult walk, and the views are well worth it.

Courtesy of Glenn at

<https://www.instagram.com/born2adventureni>

## News

### Knighthood for Baronscourt churchman for distinguished service to the Royal Family

**Parishioners in Baronscourt in County Tyrone are celebrating the news that a member of their Select Vestry has been knighted in the King's Birthday Honours.**





Robert William Lowry Scott OBE JP has been made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (K.C.V.O.), which recognises distinguished service to the monarch or the Royal Family.

Sir Robert is HM Lord-Lieutenant of County Tyrone, a role in which he serves as the King's representative in the county. With a commitment to fostering relationships across various sectors, he plays a key role in bridging the gap between the Crown and the people of Tyrone, engaging with local communities, supporting charitable and voluntary organisations, and promoting civic pride.

Sir Robert is an active member of the Parish of Baronscourt, serving on the Select Vestry and as a parochial nominator, and he is a former Parish Reader.





***Left to right: Sandy Lindsay, Roger McKee, Bob Loade and Davey Swann.***

## **A few rounds in Larne for Christian Aid**

**Our wonderful supporters from Larne, County Antrim have been ‘putting’ the fun into fundraising again this year with their sponsored golf challenge event at Ballyclare Golf Club.**

Sandy Lindsay from First Larne Presbyterian Church organised the event which raised almost £2,000 for our Christian Aid Week appeal.

June 20, 2025

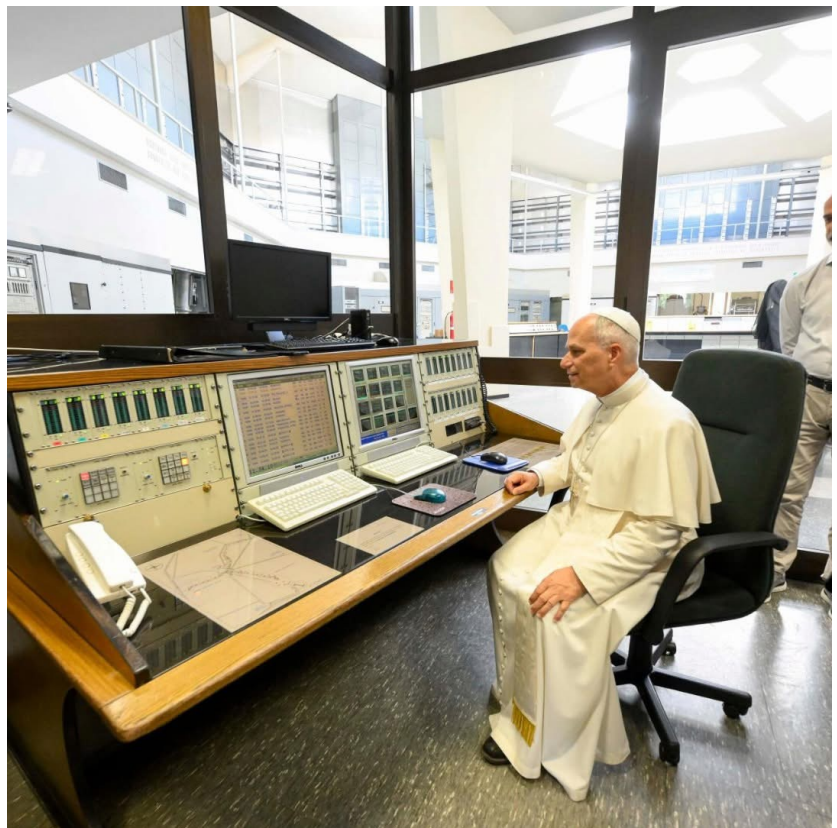
Sandy told us: “It was great to get two rounds of golf in lovely weather, playing with friends and to raise twice what we raised last year. I’m very humbled by the amazing generosity of so many people.”

We’re grateful to Sandy and all the golfers, as well as to all those who sponsored them so generously for their act of ‘solidari-tee’ with people living in poverty and crisis around the world.

## **Pope visits Vatican Radio's shortwave Radio Centre**

**On. Thursday morning, Pope Leo XIV traveled out of Rome's city center to Vatican Radio's shortwave Radio Center in Santa Maria di Galeria.**

During his visit, the Pope emphasized that during his missionary work in Latin America and Africa, it was invaluable to receive shortwave broadcasts from Vatican Radio as it reaches places where few other stations can. He also reaffirmed the missionary importance of communication.





Before leaving, he blessed everyone present and expressed his gratitude for the faithful work carried out at the station—even on a holiday like yesterday, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

## **Church members enduring direct attacks - Archbishop of Jerusalem**



*Archbishop Hosam Naoum (photographed at ACC-18) by Neil Turner for the Anglican Communion.*

**The Most Reverend Dr Hosam E Naoum, Primate and President Bishop of the Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East, has issued a pastoral letter in response to the conflict between Israel and Iran.**



The letter outlines that "many of our church members have endured direct attacks, while a greater number now face the ominous prospect of crossborder escalations."

Acknowledging the pain and difficulty of conflict, the letter calls for peacemaking, bridge building and for the Church to promote "understanding, mutual respect and goodwill." It also invites Anglicans across the wider Communion to "intercede on our behalf."

Read the letter in full: <http://bit.ly/4603viv>

## **Church of England bishops advocate for funding to support traditional crafts**

**In a House of Lords debate on support for the craft industry, bishops warned that recent funding cuts threaten both heritage and livelihoods across the country.**

Southwark Bishop Christopher Chessun described the reduction in the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme as "a real body blow," noting that the Church of England cares for the nation's largest portfolio of listed buildings, primarily through local parish efforts.

He warned that capping support for already-contracted projects is placing vital restoration works at risk, including a \$1.3 million shortfall at Holy Trinity, Clapham, and that another major fabric project in his diocese has been put on hold.

He stressed in the June 13 debate that churches sustain a wide range of endangered crafts, from stone carving and stained glass to bell founding, organ building and textiles. Without church commissions and the apprenticeships they support, these skills could disappear.

He highlighted recent work in the Diocese of Southwark, such as bell casting in Roehampton, organ refurbishment in Kennington and a contemporary Anglo-Saxon embroidery project in Kingston, all now under threat. Yet many of these crafts are not currently recognized by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as “core” heritage activities.

Chichester Bishop Martin Warner, a member of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, echoed these concerns, pointing to the multigenerational craftsmanship found in cathedrals like St. Paul’s, where today’s masons continue the work of their parents.

He spoke of the wider social and economic benefits of heritage projects, from appreciation of history by students from areas with high deprivation near Rochester and Durham cathedrals, to outreach through cathedral textiles that bring people of all faiths and backgrounds into creative engagement with sacred spaces. Cathedral music, he noted, is even being used effectively in probation services.

The bishops urged the U.K. government to secure and expand future funding for the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, not only to protect historic buildings but to safeguard the living traditions and skilled people who bring them to life.

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“Heritage is not just about bricks and mortar,” Chessun said, “but about the people and communities who flourish when these crafts are nurtured.”

## Education

### Day 1 of the Hatch Challenge at St Dominic's

**This week, our Year 10s have been taking part in Mini Careers Week—and today, it was Design Thinking time!**

In an exciting collaboration with Hatch Coffee and the Innovation

Factory, pupils engaged in a hands-on workshop exploring branding, creativity, and the design thinking process. Working in teams, they began developing a brand-new summer drink for Hatch.







This challenge is a brilliant example of our commitment to embedding industry and career skills into the curriculum—and it was inspiring to see our students working so collaboratively and confidently.

Tomorrow, it's Dragons' Den day! Pitches go live, the pressure's on, and one winning idea will be brought to life and served in Hatch Coffee Shop. Stay tuned to see which team takes the top spot!

Many thanks to Mrs L. Bannon and Mrs D. Murphy, who led the organisation of the event in collaboration with Hatch and the Innovation Factory.



## **Congratulations to the Graduates of Tralee**

**End of School Year Service at Saint John's Church, Ashe Street, Tralee**

Congratulations to the Graduates of St. John's Parochial School. Tralee and Dingle Group of Parishes

## **Inst on the ball**

**Well done to our 1st XI, winning the Schools' Cup for a historic 3rd time in a row!**

as follows:





Sullivan 88 all out ( D.Henry 4-16, J.West 3-15)  
RBAI 92-0 (G. Craigan 52 not out, J.West 26 not out)  
RBAI won by 10 wickets

## **This is NI Alcohol Awareness Week**

**Did you know that alcohol-related absence costs the UK an estimated £1.4 billion in lost productivity every year?**

Many employees may be drinking above the recommended guidelines without even realising it. That's why we're offering FREE Alcohol Awareness Sessions for workplaces across Northern Ireland.





RETHINK YOUR DRINK  
Time for a change?

ASCERT

**RETHINK  
YOUR  
DRINK**

PRACTICAL WORKBOOK

**NI ALCOHOL  
AWARENESS WEEK**

**17th - 23rd June 2025**

- ✓ 1-hour session
- ✓ Learn the recommended limits
- ✓ Understand when and where to seek help
- ✓ Discover how small changes can make a BIG difference

Give your staff the tools to make informed choices and support a healthier, more productive workforce.

June 20, 2025



Book your FREE session today – email [marketing@ascert.biz](mailto:marketing@ascert.biz)



## Cathedral Calls

### Dean with a bee in his cathedral

**Thanks to Dean Stephen Farrell for keeping us abreast of his bees...**

“The second strong swarm of the summer at Saint Canice's Cathedral. This is what happens when you can't get to the





colony inside the cathedral walls to deal with new queen cells. . .”



**Pipeworks is underway at St Patrick's**



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# Clergy and ministry



## Priest from Saul ordained in Rome

**On Wednesday in the Papal Basilica of St Paul's Outside The Walls, Thomas Hampton from Saul Parish was ordained to the Diaconate.**

Pictured (Left to



Right) Fr Sean Murphy (Kerry Diocese); Fr Chris Vincent Gault OP (Ireland); Fr Conor McGrath (PP St Colmcille's / Vocation Director); Rev Thomas Hampton; Fr Aidan Brankin (PP Saul & PP Strangford); Fr Gerry McCloskey (PP Dunsford & Ardglass); Fr Robert McMahon (Adm Christ The Redeemer); Fr Darach Mac Giolla Catháin (Chaplain Royal Victoria Hospital).

## **Waterford and Lismore Jubilee for priests**

**One of the celebrations for the Jubilee Year of Hope is to celebrate Priesthood. In Rome the Jubilee for priests will take place from June 25th - 27th.**

In Waterford and Lismore the Diocesan Jubilee Committee arranged for Sunday June 15th (Trinity Sunday) to be designated as a good day on which to gather to celebrate the gift of priesthood. June is the month during which most priests were ordained. Parishioners were encouraged to attend Evening Prayer in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity on Sunday 15th June.

## **Catch up on recent Pioneer Ministry Hopeful Renewal gathering**

**At this year's General Synod, the Pioneer Ministry Council made reference to a gathering as part of its vision to raise awareness about how the Church is growing in many places and to bring in gifted speakers who can encourage us about how there is much hope for the future.**





They will be sharing five videos from this Pioneer Ministry Hopeful Renewal gathering, to inspire and encourage leaders and members all across our island about the potential for growth.

Also, please save the date in your diaries for the **2025 Pioneer Ministry annual Gathering** which will be on Saturday, **22nd November**, from 10am to 3.30pm (venue to be



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confirmed over the next few weeks). For more details, please an eye on the Pioneer Ministry website or sign up to its newsletter here: <https://www.pioneerministry.org/connect>

An audience of 80 people from across Ireland joined Mark Sayers, Pastor of Red Church Melbourne, in Holy Trinity Rathmines on Friday, 30th May, and Saturday, 31st May. Mark is a well-known cultural interpreter and author of many books including Reappearing Church: The Hope for Renewal in the Rise of Our Post-Christian Culture. He also hosts a podcast called Rebuilders which you can find by clicking here: <https://rebuilders.co/podcast>

## CMS daily prayer

**Thank God for Lucy and Kathleen's visit to Ireland in May and for the wonderful welcome they received from Ballyclare/Ballynure, Dundela and the Girls Friendly Society.**



Please pray that the memories of this visit will be fruitful for both the hosts and the visitors.

## Events

### Carlow to host international celebration of Columbanus Weekend

**Kildare and Leighlin Diocese will play host to a major international celebration this July, as visitors from France, Italy, Germany and Northern Ireland, along with many more from local counties, will visit Carlow for the 26th Columbanus Weekend, taking place from Friday, July 11th to Sunday, July 13th 2025.**

The gathering, part of a rotating European tradition, which sees Columbanus Day celebrated every second year outside Italy, honours the life and legacy of St. Columbanus —a 6th century Irish missionary monk born in the shadow of Mount Leinster on the Blackstairs Mountains who had a fundamental impact on European Christian heritage.

The weekend's programme will highlight Carlow's spiritual, cultural and historical connections to the saint, with events taking place in Carlow Town and Myshall.

For more information and relevant booking links visit <https://www.kandle.ie/countdown-to-xxvi-columbanus-day-2025/>

## Resources

### C of I prayer for Refugee Week

**This year's Refugee Week began on Monday, 16th June and runs until this Sunday (22nd June) which will be celebrated as Sanctuary Sunday.**

To mark this, the Church of Ireland's Liturgical Advisory Committee has shared the following prayer which can help to encourage us in our thoughts and intercessions:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you call us to show hospitality and welcome to strangers.  
Fill us with your compassion  
for all who make difficult and dangerous journeys.  
Be with all who have endured unspeakable trauma.  
Help us work for the safety and well-being of all people.  
Empower us to be your light  
in every place where darkness reigns. Amen.

Please do feel free to share this with others for whom it will be helpful.

## **New hymn alert - Celebrate Refugee Week with Columban's Britain**

**Introducing "Welcome and Love", a powerful hymn for 'Community as a Superpower'.**

Listen now: <https://youtu.be/X5HW8RoOA3s?feature=shared>

What do you think of our new song?



[June 20, 2025](#)

In celebration of Refugee Week 2025, the Columban Missionaries are proud to release a new hymn, titled 'Welcome and Love', as a creative expression of this year's theme: 'Community as a Superpower'.

Access the song, lyrics, lesson plan and more... Download the resources [here](#)

Written by Columban Justice and Peace Co-ordinator James Trewby, this special hymn celebrates the strength found in togetherness and the power of communities to offer welcome, safety and belonging to those forced to flee their homes. It offers a powerful way to bring faith into action and nurture a culture of compassion among children, schools, and communities alike.

Accompanying migrants and refugees is one of the Columban Missionary Society's core global priorities. Inspired by our Catholic faith and the Gospel call to welcome the stranger, we are committed to building communities of compassion, justice and inclusion.

Whether offering shelter and solidarity to destitute asylum seekers at Fatima House in Birmingham, standing alongside displaced families at the US-Mexico border, or advocating for migrant rights in Taiwan, Columbans walk with displaced people recognising their dignity, resilience and the gifts they bring.

[www.columbans.co.uk](http://www.columbans.co.uk).

# 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

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Link in Monday through Saturday from  
early morning

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