

# Church News Ireland

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## Image of the day



### Glengormley school encounter

**Last week Edmund Rice College team took a well earned break from their project work in Zambia to explore the stunning Chaminku Game Reserve Park.**

The journey itself was an

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adventure & the experience was unforgettable with encounters with some of Africa's most iconic wildlife in their natural habitat.

From zebras grazing under the open sky to elephants meandering through the fields & even a rare

glimpse of a giraffe towering above the treetops, the experience was nothing short of awe inspiring. It was a chance for the group to pause, reflect, and connect with the beauty of the Zambian landscape.

This outing added a new dimension to the Project Zambia journey, reminding everyone that just as much as this trip is about giving, learning & building relationships, it's also about embracing the wonder of the world around them!





## News

### Proposing the Shandon way

**St. Anne's Shandon is delighted to congratulate Bernadette Shannon and Joshua Rowan, who got engaged at the top of the Shandon tower on June 17th.**



The couple had flown over from Edinburgh just that morning, and Joshua's plan was to surprise Bernadette by proposing in the very same spot her parents, Bernard and Margaret Shannon, got engaged over 40 years ago!

“What an honour to be the starting place for two generations of family! Blessings to you both and to your families.”

### Congratulations to Mrs Laura Barnett BEM

**Warmest congratulations to Mrs Laura Barnett who has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to**

## **music and the people of Craigavon in the King's Birthday Honours List.**

Laura has served as the worship leader at St Saviour's Church for 52 years, ever since the church opened in 1972. It is because of this faithfulness and longevity that she has been rightly honoured in this way.

Curate in Charge of St Saviour's, Stu Armstrong, said, "We are so incredibly proud of Laura. She has an amazing heart for Jesus and His people, and this is a wonderful way to honour that heart and the faithfulness with which she serves."

## **Racism and sectarianism are always wrong - Bishops in Derry**

### **Joint statement by the Bishop of Derry, Most Rev'd Dr Donal McKeown and the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev'd Andrew Forster on the recent violence in Derry-Londonderry**

Like the vast majority of people in our community, we are deeply saddened by the violence we have seen in our city in recent days. There can be no justification for attacks on police officers and property. Any attempt to foment trouble or foster division among us, or to intimidate and terrorise people because of their race or religion, should be resisted and rejected.



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Racism and sectarianism are always wrong. Jesus Christ could hardly have been clearer: he calls us to love one another.

The scenes we have witnessed here recently are countercultural. Our city enjoys a reputation for being a friendly, welcoming and neighbourly city. We should cherish that reputation and protect it.

The kind of trouble we have seen this week is described by some as “recreational rioting”, but it can have potentially disastrous and life-lasting consequences for the perpetrators, and life-changing consequences for its victims. It is distressing, too, for the youngest and oldest of our neighbours who live in the areas where it has been happening.

We call for calm and restraint at this time. We urge anyone with influence over young people involved in the trouble, and whose futures might be blighted by criminal records, to counsel them wisely: don't get drawn into violence; don't listen to hate mongers; you are better than this; we are better than this.

## **The Learning Process in Cork, Cloyne and Ross**

**The Children and Family Ministry Working Group in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, in dialogue with the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton,**

## **have developed a Learning Process to encourage all**



*Children after the annual Diocesan Schools Service at St Peter's Church, Bandon*

**parishes in the Diocese to reflect on their outreach, inclusion and engagement of children and families.**

The Learning Process was piloted in three parishes: Cobh and Glanmire Union, Fanlobbus Union, and Kinsale Union. They presented their experiences at the CCR Children and Family Ministry Gathering on 1st March, and a summary presentation on plans for the Learning Presentation was given at the clergy day conference on 3rd March.

The Learning Process is now being rolled out across the entire Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.



Bishop Colton explained: “A renewed focus on children and family ministry was one of the objectives I set for my silver jubilee year as bishop in 2024. I am delighted to have had the partnership in this of both the Children and Family Ministry Group in the Diocese which is convened by the Reverend Abigail Sines, and also the Diocesan Board of Education. A lot of work went into preparing the materials and testing the process in pilot parishes. Now I encourage every parish and chaplaincy to engage with this process”.

The upcoming summer offers a great opportunity to engage with families and to gather input for the learning process. This can place in a variety of ways — over a cuppa in the hall, a picnic in the church yard or an informal chat after a Sunday morning service.

All parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to complete their Learning Process portfolio by Friday, 14 November upon which they will receive a basket with family ministry resources and a framed certificate. All parishioners and visitors will be able to see the certificate displayed in the church or church hall once the parish’s participation is certified.

The convenor of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Children and Family Ministry Group, the Reverend Abigail Sines, said:

The Learning Process is an opportunity to engage with parishioners in an intentional and creative way. It will open up a space to develop ideas for projects or initiatives to strengthen engagement with children and families.

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If you have any questions please feel free to contact the CCR Children and Family Ministry Working Group here.

## **Live the gift of your priesthood with humility and meekness, Pope Leo**

**In a meeting with priests from the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy this morning, Pope Leo urged the men who have completed a year of missionary service to remain ‘shepherds with their feet on the ground.’**



“I urge you to live the gift of your priesthood with humility and meekness, with the ability to listen and to remain close to others,” the Pope said, calling them to be “faithful and tireless disciples of Christ the Good Shepherd.”

The purpose of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy is to prepare young ecclesiastics for the diplomatic service of the Holy See through a program of specialised studies, following the completion of an ecclesiastical degree.



# Education

## Queens Archaeology at the Áras

**On Friday 13th June, our Level 1 student, Michael Higgins, had the fantastic experience of being invited to attend a garden party at the Áras an Uachtaráin in Dublin, hosted by his namesake President Michael D. Higgins.**

Our Michael had a fantastic time and he took the opportunity to promote Queen's and the Community Archaeology Programme Northern Ireland (CAPNI - funded by the National Lottery





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Heritage Fund), even managing to get a photo of President Higgins' wife, Sabina, holding one of our flyers! Well done Michael.

Queen's University Belfast Public Engagement  
The National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland



**Very  
special  
new  
member of  
the team**

**St Peter's N.S  
Dunboyne PTA  
have a very  
special new  
member of the  
team...**

Kelsey is  
training to be a  
therapy dog to  
provide comfort  
and  
reassurance  
around the

school. Warmest thanks to Ms McGovern for arranging this wonderful new addition to our school. Dunboyne and Rathmoylon Parish, Meath diocese.



## **Life time service by Chairman of The Incorporated Society**

**Dean Stephen Farrell - I'm delighted to have been in Bandon Grammar School today as Chairman of The Incorporated Society to recognise the lifetime of service given to the Society by Mr Jim Good.**

Jim attended his first meeting of the Society in 1969, on the advice of JLB Deane. Today the Governors of the Society with much thanksgiving recognised Jim's decades of dedication, good counsel, wisdom and friendship.

The Society and the Grammar owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

TIS is the Patron body of Bandon Grammar, Sligo Grammar, Dundalk Grammar and Kilkenny College.

## **Leaving assemblies - Holy Trinity National School**

**We bade a fond farewell to 6th class. In class we played Mr Fallon's brilliant boardgame Bainisteoir.**

And in the playground there was a brisk business in signing t-shirts.

At the Leaving Assembly we enjoyed a photo-story recap of the year. The children shared poems they had written, and they danced. (Thank you to Bernadine Cresham-Ball our



tireless dance teacher)

We then watched a whistlestop visual collage of the children's 8 years in primary school from when they were tiny tots in Junior Infants right up to their present 6th class fully fledged form.

We will miss these wonderful children who have contributed so much to our school, and we look forward to their return visits in the future.

## Cathedral Calls

### 80 years of Christian Aid's impact celebrated in Belfast Cathedral

**Eight decades of generosity, prayer, advocacy and humanitarian response were celebrated on Friday evening (20th June) at Belfast Cathedral at a special service of thanksgiving to mark Christian Aid Ireland turning 80.**

The service was held to commemorate World Refugee Day, reflecting Christian Aid's foundation in 1945 to respond to the plight of refugees in Europe at the end of the Second World War.

Guests included the Church of Ireland's Primate, Archbishop John McDowell; the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Moderator, the Rt Revd Dr Trevor Gribben; the Methodist Church in Ireland's President and Lay Leader, the Revd Alan Wardlow and Mrs Elaine Barnett; Junior Minister in the





***The Dean; Mrs Elaine Barnett; Junior Minister in the Executive Office, Pam Cameron MLA; the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tracy Kelly; and Dr Howard Hastings OBE DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast.***

Executive Office, Pam Cameron MLA; the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tracy Kelly; and Dr Howard Hastings OBE DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast.

Christian Aid's work tackles both the symptoms and root causes of poverty around the world, enabled by its partners, volunteers, staff, member churches, and local congregations and parishes. The service focused on the challenges ahead and recommitted Christian Aid to striving for a world free from the scandal of poverty. Contributions included reflections from Christian Aid's history, and music from Renaissance Choir and Intercultural Worship Ireland.



***The Dean and Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett with the Church leaders - Archbishop John McDowell; the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Moderator, the Rt Revd Dr Trevor Gribben; the Methodist Church in Ireland's President, the Revd Alan Wardlow.***

Bishop Trevor Williams, who was formerly Chair of Christian Aid Ireland, preached on how eternal values enable us to live well together by loving God “with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbours as ourselves ... and, remember, Jesus showed us in the parable of the Good Samaritan that neighbourliness is caring for those in need.”

He added: “How many times have you said: ‘When I listen to the news, I feel so helpless, the suffering is so awful and

there is nothing I can do about it?” I have good news for you, this is precisely why Christian Aid exists.”

Bishop Williams recalled a visit to Mali, in West Africa, during his time as a Christian Aid trustee, in which he visited a village where a large reservoir had been built by local people to irrigate a market garden and provide a reliable and healthy food supply for the community. However, out of all of the progress made, the villagers concluded that the greatest achievement was peace – the resolution of a tense dispute over leadership in the village, settled with the help of the Christian Aid partner agency; this, in turn, enabled all the other life-changing development work to take place.

“Thank God for Christian Aid,” he remarked in conclusion. “For its 80 years of seeking to be an agency of God’s loving concern for the world. For its way of working respecting the dignity, intelligence and integrity of those they work with, and for its commitment to the Churches, to enable us to play our part in being agents of God’s loving concern for all of God’s creation.”

Christian Aid Ireland Chief Executive Rosamond Bennett said that the service was an opportunity to celebrate 80 years of global impact, and to thank the supporters, partners and staff who had made it possible.

She added: “Since 1945, Christian Aid has brought hope to people living in poverty and crisis around the world. Yet our anniversary is also a reminder that our task is incomplete. Conflict, the climate crisis, and inequality for women and girls mean that poverty continues to scar millions of lives. Today, 80 years after we were founded, we recommit



ourselves to continuing our work to create a world in which everyone can have a full life, a life free from poverty, a life before death.”

Christian Aid Ireland is sponsored by the Irish Council of Churches and seven church denominations – the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, the Moravian Church in Britain and Ireland, the Salvation Army, and the Society of Friends (Quakers).

Supporters and guests gathered afterwards for refreshments and a further opportunity to catch up and chat about their own memories of being involved in Christian Aid. With thanks to Frank Dillon Photography

## Clergy and ministry

### 30th anniversary of Canon Leonard Ruddock's ordination

**Irishtown Marks 30th Anniversary of Rector's Ordination: A special service in St Matthew's Church, Irishtown, on Trinity Sunday celebrated the 30th anniversary of Canon Leonard Ruddock's ordination to the priesthood.**

The service was presided over by Canon Ian Gallagher who also preached.

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A full church of family and friends from St Conan's Roscrea, St Brigid's Stillorgan and All Saint's Blackrock, Blessington Union and Irishtown and Donnybrook Union attended. They were also joined by clergy of neighbouring Catholic parishes.

## Double Celebration for Agherton Parish, Portstewart

**The parish has had two special milestones this month.**

Brian Shaw, was ordained in Agherton Parish on 9th June.

The ordination was conducted by







the Bishop of Connor. The preacher was a former rector of the parish, Rt Reverend Patrick Rooke. (Left photo)

On behalf of the parishioners a portable communion set was presented by the Rector, Canon Malcolm Ferry. (Left 2)



The second occasion was when James Sheils, the parish's former theological intern, was ordained deacon on 15th June in Glendermott Parish Church.



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## Events

### EastSide Arts Festival

**EastSide Arts has revealed its programme for the annual EastSide Arts Festival, 24 July – 2 August 2025.**



Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive Arts Council of Northern Ireland, said: “The Arts Council is proud to be the principal funder of the EastSide Arts and this flagship Festival... ten amazing festival days... that will bring communities together and attract people from across the city, to be entertained, uplifted, educated and inspired.”

<https://www.eastsidearts.net/whats-on/>

### Northern Ireland International Organ Competition

**Almost £8,000 of prizes, international recitals, the Dame Gillian Weir Medal and masterclasses, workshops, feedback, plus professional recordings! JUST 3 WEEKS TO GO until applications for the 13th NIIOC closes.**

<https://www.niiloc.com/2025competition>

Or email us with queries to [info@niioc.com](mailto:info@niioc.com)

See also -

<https://www.cauchefer-choplin.org>

## Resources

### Church of Ireland promotes support for refugees

**Members of the Church of Ireland share stories on how they welcome and integrate refugees in a new video released today ahead of World Refugee Day on Thursday 20 June.**

The film includes interviews with Helen Livingstone and David Maganda from All Nations Ministries in Belfast, and the Revd Abigail Sines and Dr Naomi Masheti from the Carraig Centre and Cork Migrant Centre. It seeks to inspire and encourage local churches to support refugees not only in this year's Refugee Week but at any time throughout the year.

Produced by Pelumi Adewuyi for the Primate's Reference Group on Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice, the project was funded by the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund. The Primate's Reference Group is an initiative of Archbishop John McDowell, chaired by him with Dr Lucy Michael as the group's secretary.



In a motion proposed by Dr Michael and seconded by Stella Obe at the General Synod's 2023 meeting in Wexford, the General Synod acknowledged 'the impact of anti-refugee and migrant hatred in our communities' and sought suggestions from the Church's dioceses 'regarding ways in which the Church can counter the language of anti-refugee and migrant hatred at the local level and communicate a strong message of Christian welcome to all.'

The video can be viewed on the Church of Ireland's website [HERE](#) and its Facebook.

<https://www.churchofireland.org/news/12933/marking-world-refugee-dayweek-and>

YouTube - Our Church welcomes refugees

## **Search Journal summer issue out**

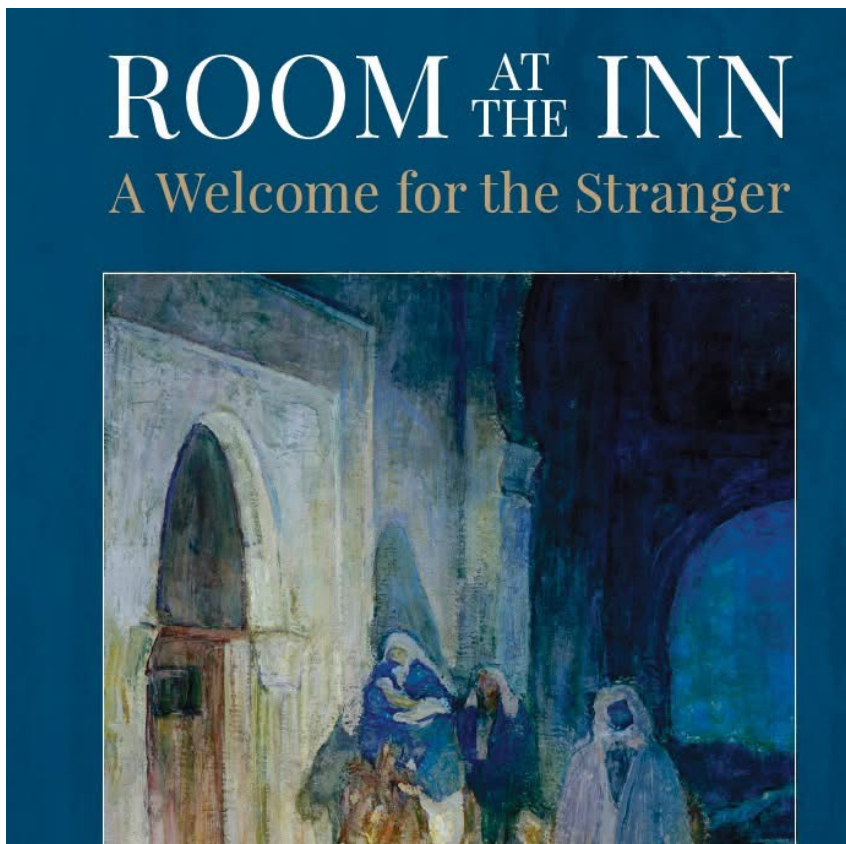
It is available via subscription.

Click in to their fb page for more info -



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<https://www.facebook.com/497136443069374/posts/708555541927462>



## **New Leaflet Encourages Christians' Role in Welcoming the 'Stranger'**

**Yesterday, June 20, was World Refugee Day, a day designated by the UNHCR**

**(the UN Refugee Agency) to honour people who have been forced to flee.**

A new leaflet produced by Belonging Without Boundaries, an ecumenical group supported by the Church of Ireland's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue among other organisations, aims to prompt Christians to consider their role in welcoming those who have arrived on this island.

'Room at the Inn – A Welcome for the Stranger' notes that the people of Ireland are no strangers to the migrant experience. As Christians, the leaflet observes, we have a core belief that we are all made in the image and likeness of

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God and this respect for the integrity of human life is best displayed in the commandment to 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

The leaflet is available to download [here](#) and hard copies are available by arrangement by emailing [dcodublin@gmail.com](mailto:dcodublin@gmail.com).

Belonging Without Boundaries is an ecumenical group promoting truth with compassion towards an inclusive and welcoming society throughout the island of Ireland.

## Introduction to Ulster-Scots

**Ulster-Scots Agency - We are pleased to announce that we will also be running our OCN-accredited Level 1 Course online via Zoom, in addition to the courses advertised in person! You can attend these courses from anywhere in the world!**

We are finalising numbers for our popular courses, accredited by in Ulster-Scots in autumn/winter 2025/2026. These courses, offered FREE of charge to the voluntary, are accredited by the Open College Network NI.

In response to demand, these will be Level 1 courses either delivered onsite or via Zoom.

### **Level 1: Introduction to Ulster-Scots:**

Duration: X4, 2.5hr sessions covering-

- Definitions and indicators of an Ulster-Scots Identity

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- Overview of Plantation of Ulster;
- Takin with Ulster-Scots (language) and
- Ulster-Scots and family history

### **Option 1: Onsite at Discover Ulster-Scots Centre, Belfast**

Schedule: 23rd, 30th September and 07th and 14th October, 11.00am to 13.00

### **Or Option 2: By Zoom**

Schedule: Dates and times will be decided later based on availability with participants.

To secure one of the few remaining places on one of these courses send an email to [charlesn@ulster-scots.com](mailto:charlesn@ulster-scots.com) and we will revert to you with further details.

## **In the media**

### **Accountant accused of cheating church children's charity out of more than £200k**

**An accountant is accused of swindling a children's charity established mainly by Mothers Union members out of more than £200,000 throughout a period of just over 12 years. He was a member of the board of St Anne's Cathedral, Church of Ireland Trustees, The Northern Ireland Network of Child Contact Centres and The Church of Ireland Retirement Trust.**



## **Report by John Toner in Sunday Life yesterday.**

Robert Moore (72) appeared at Laganside Magistrates Court in Belfast on Tuesday morning to face a total of seven charges.

Moore, of Circular Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, is charged with fraud by abuse of position, four counts of forgery and two counts of false accounting.

According to the indictment it is alleged he defrauded the trustees of Central Belfast Contact Centre out of £206,647.96p by having bogus cheques written out to himself between December 2009 and January 2022.

He is also accused of producing four fake accountant's reports under the names of Peter Cosgrove and Aisling McCrory on dates between January 2018 and February 2022.

Lastly, he is charged with falsely submitting forged accountant's reports to the Charity Commission and Companies House.

### **bail**

Standing in the dock at Laganside Courthouse on Tuesday wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt and gold tie, he acknowledged the charges against him but no pleas were entered.

His solicitor Denis Moloney accepted the defendant had a case to answer and Moore was freed on his own bail of

£500, with the matter sent to the crown court on a date to be fixed.

According to the Charity Commission website, the Central Belfast Contact Centre is “a safe, friendly and neutral place where children of separated families can spend time with one or both parents, and sometimes other family members.”

According to Companies House records Moore was a director of the Central Belfast Contact Centre until resigning his position on February 18, 2022.

He was also formerly a director of several other companies, including the board of St Anne's Cathedral, Church of Ireland Trustees, The Northern Ireland Network of Child Contact Centres and The Church of Ireland Retirement Trust.

All these directorships were resigned in 2022.

## **defunct**

Moore was also formerly a director of housing association Choice Affordable Housing and its maintenance branch, Choice Services, before resigning those directorships in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Lastly, he was a director of two now defunct companies in Trinity Developments (Northern Ireland) Ltd, which was dissolved in 2016, and Oaklee Employment Services Limited which was wound up in 2018.

There is no suggestion of any wrongdoing on the part of Central Belfast Contact Centre or any of the other companies.

## Poem for today

### Character of a Happy Man

by Sir Henry Wooton

How happy is he born or taught,  
That serveth not another's will;  
Whose armour is his honest thought,  
And simple truth his highest skill;

Whose passions not his masters are;  
Whose soul is still prepar'd for death  
Untied unto the world with care  
Of princes' grace or vulgar breath;

Who envies none whom chance doth raise,  
Or vice; who never understood  
The deepest wounds are given by praise,  
By rule of state, but not of good;

Who hath his life from rumours freed;  
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;  
Whose state can neither flatterers feed,  
Nor ruins make accusers great;

Who God doth late and early pray,  
More of his grace than goods to send,



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And entertains the harmless day  
With a well-chosen book or friend.

This man is free from servile bands  
Of hope to rise or fear to fall;  
Lord of himself, though not of lands;  
And having nothing, yet hath all.

## 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)

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

**Please recommend to your friends**