

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Blooming Bangor**

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



June 25, 2025

# Image of the day

## Blooming Bangor

**Summer  
flowers bring  
a burst of  
colour to the  
city centre**

Once again this  
summer, the  
city centre is



looking blooming  
beautiful thanks to the  
return of the colourful  
council-installed railing  
planters. These bright  
floral troughs, overflowing  
with trailing flowers and  
vibrant foliage, have  
become a familiar and  
much-enjoyed feature of  
the season, bringing life,  
colour and charm to our  
streets.





However, it's not just the council doing the heavy lifting; many of our local shops, bars, and restaurants have added their own floral flair, with window boxes, hanging baskets, and pavement planters helping to create a joyful and welcoming vibe all across town.

From Abbey Street to High Street, the floral displays are turning heads and lifting

spirits, and we think it's just another great reason to take a stroll around this evolving city centre.

## News

### Grand Night for Singing in St Molua's

**It was indeed A Grand Night for Singing in St Molua's Church on Friday evening 20 June as the Stormont Community Choir was joined by the Lagan Seahorses male voice choir and guest soloists Melissa Murray and Ellen Beattie.**





A large audience was entertained to a wide range of songs from the rousing 'Another Opening Another Show' to the hauntingly beautiful Faure's 'Pie Jesu' and Marta Keen's 'Homeward Bound'. "Thank you so much to all who supported the evening and especially to our own Audrey Gillian who made it all happen".

## **70th anniversary of Ballymoney service fundraiser for RNLI**

**The RNLI fundraising team at Ballymoney held their annual Service of thanksgiving in Trinity Presbyterian Church and celebrated their 70th anniversary.**





Judy Nelson, member of RNLI council (Ireland ) and Lifeboat Press Officer along with Volunteer crew member Tim Nelson attended to help celebrate.

Judy read the RNLI poem 'Float to Live' written by Eleanor Hooker and gave an update about the work of the RNLI.



Coastal Vocals sang beautifully and an amazing total of £1500 was raised by Pat Crossley and her small but mighty team and the people of Ballymoney who joined them.





## **New 'Rejoice & Give Thanks' programme in Dublin**

**A fantastic catechist conference was held on Saturday at St. Paul's, Dublin Archdiocese reports.**

“We launched our new parent accompaniment programme for parishes 'Rejoice & Give Thanks.'

“Please Get in touch if you want to know more”.

## **342,000+ teenagers started Duke of Edinburgh's Award last month**

**More than 342,000 teenagers have started a Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) in the past 12 months, the highest number in the charity's 68-year history.**

The charity said the rising number of teenagers doing their bronze, silver or gold award is a sign of the enthusiasm among many school leaders and parents for children to spend less time on their screens and more time outdoors.

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Founded by Prince Philip in 1956, the award is considered one of his greatest legacies, inspired by his belief that “if you can get a young person to succeed in any one activity, then that feeling of success will spread over into many others”.



After Philip’s death in 2021, his youngest son, Prince Edward, took over as patron.

🔗 Read the full story: [https://www.thetimes.com/uk/education/article/duke-of-edinburgh-award-2025-jrrvrmpc5?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook#Echobox=1750597375](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/education/article/duke-of-edinburgh-award-2025-jrrvrmpc5?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=1750597375)





## Diocesan Certificates in Youth Ministry presented in Pro Cathedral

**On Sunday evening in the Pro Cathedral, 31 people from across the Archdiocese received for the first time the Diocesan Certificate in Youth Ministry Leader from Archbishop Dermot Farrell.**

It was a fantastic celebration bringing together those from across the diocese who have a desire to minister with young people. It was the culmination of 6 months of hard work from all the participants, and a great way to finish off before summer. This is just the beginning of the journey and it's great to see participants beginning to get initiatives going in

their parish partnerships already. As Archbishop Dermot said, “what can you do for your brothers and sisters?... you will help others to see the mystery by your words and actions”. Congratulations were expressed to all and thanks to those who made the celebration possible.

Keep an eye out in September when the launch of the registrations for the second round of Youth Minister Leaders will occur.

## **Shaping the future of palliative care in Northern Ireland**

**During Children’s Hospice Week, the team from Northern Ireland Hospice had the opportunity to give evidence to the Stormont Health Committee as part of their inquiry into access to palliative care services across Northern Ireland.**

Led by our Chief Executive, Trevor McCartney, and joined by colleagues Brian Henderson, Chief Finance Officer, Gemma Aspinall, Director of Care, and Consultant Dr Emma Lundy, we spoke about the challenges and opportunities in delivering compassionate, high-quality care to adults, babies, and children across our region.

As the only provider of Children’s Hospice services in Northern Ireland, our perspective is unique. We care for people across all ages and life stages, and we see first-hand how essential it is to ensure every person and family receives the support they need, when they need it most.



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That this vital discussion took place during Children's Hospice Week felt especially meaningful. It's a reminder of why we continue to advocate, care, and strive to fill every day with colour and care for every family, every child, and every patient who needs us.

## **WCC Central Committee meets in South Africa**

***On Sunday past - One day before the conclusion of the WCC Central Committee meeting in Johannesburg.***

**Participants joined in a vibrant day of worship and fellowship with South African churches, followed by Pilgrimage Encounters that offered deep engagement with South Africa's social and spiritual landscapes.**

The agenda continues to reflect the WCC's commitment to justice and unity, with:

- Pilgrimage Encounters focused on Gender Justice
- Plenary sessions for Decision-Making and Committee Reports
- Moments of spiritual grounding through Morning Prayer and Vespers
- Community time during shared meals and coffee breaks

Follow the work of the Central Committee in Johannesburg — in real time!

[www.oikoumene.org/live](http://www.oikoumene.org/live)

Learn more: [www.oikoumene.org/central-committee-2025](http://www.oikoumene.org/central-committee-2025)

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# Education

## Belfast High School Germany Trip

On Saturday morning the pupils attended a 90 minute German language lesson at Inlingua Sprachschule followed by lunch and a guided tour of the Sport and Olympic Museum.

The day ended with a trip on the Cologne Cable Car, a 935m trip





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across the Rhine. Sunday was spent at Phantasialand theme park.



## Kilrea Parishioners in Rainey's Abaana team arrive safely

**Natalie, Ellie, and the Abaana Team have arrived safely in Uganda.**

Their parish writes - We give thanks to God for their safe travel and ask His continued protection and guidance as they begin this incredible mission. Let us hold them—and the entire Rainey School Team—in prayer, trusting that the Lord will work through them in powerful ways.

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This journey is more than a trip; it's a calling. As our young people witness the challenges faced by children in Uganda, may their hearts be moved with compassion, and may their faith deepen as they see how God's love is shared through service, generosity, and friendship.

May this experience shape lives, both there and here at home, as seeds of hope are planted and God's Kingdom breaks through in small but mighty ways

## Cathedral Calls

### New Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee



**A special service took place on 31 May to mark the installation of the Very Rev Roxanne Campbell as the new Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.**





The service was attended by members of the cathedral congregation and the diocese, as well as invited guests from across the Scottish Episcopal Church and civic Scotland, including the Lord and Lady Provost of Dundee and other local representatives.



The Rt Rev Andrew Swift, Bishop of Brechin described the day as "a wonderful occasion."

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Writing after the service, Provost Roxanne said: "Thank you to everyone who was involved in the Service of Institution and Installation, and to all who came to share in the celebration. It was a truly joyful and moving occasion."

You can read more at their website here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/provost-roxanne-campbell-installed-in-dundee/>

## Events

### St. Oliver 400 celebration in Drogheda

**As part of the St. Oliver 400 celebrations a series of events will take place on Saturday 5th July at St. Peter's Church, West St Drogheda.**



A family Fun Day will take place on 5th July at St. St Peter's Church Plaza. Part of the day will include a play, "The Trial of Oliver Plunkett" which will be performed.



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The day will conclude with a Gala Concert in St Peter's Church, West Street.

Conductor: Edward Holly,

Compère: Gerry Kelly.

Featuring guest international soprano, Celine Byrne, St Peter's Male Voice Choir, Drogheda, violinist, Jennifer Murphy, and tenor, Seán Tester, as well as some of Ireland's top musicians.

Tickets €25, no booking fee.

Available on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie).

Also from:

St Peter's Church / Shop, West St, Drogheda (041) 984 5355.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sacristy, Hardman's Gardens (041) 983 1973.

Paddy Davis (087) 201 9166 / Tommy Burns (087) 769 3477,

Credit Card Purchase: (087) 220 7383 or [saintoliverplunkett@gmail.com](mailto:saintoliverplunkett@gmail.com)

## **Award-winning film star James Martin wants you to Connect**

**Award-winning film star James Martin is calling on everyone to get involved in Good Relations Week 2025 and embrace this year's powerful theme – 'Connect'.**

From people and communities to planet and prosperity – real peace starts with meaningful connections.

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Listen in to James' message and be inspired to take part, take action, and help build a more inclusive future for all.

**Good Relations Week 2025**, taking place from **13th to 19th October**, embraces 'Connect' as its theme – recognising that the foundation of a better community is built on People, Planet, and Prosperity, all connected by the goal of Peace.

Get involved in Good Relations Week 2025 and help create a future where peace is not just an aspiration, but a reality.

Are you ready to join us, and showcase your good relations efforts this year?

13–19 October 2025  
[www.goodrelationsweek.com](http://www.goodrelationsweek.com)

## Poem for today

### Vitaī Lampada

by Sir Henry Newbolt

There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night—  
Ten to make and the match to win—  
A bumping pitch and a blinding light,  
An hour to play and the last man in.  
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,  
Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,  
But his captain's hand on his shoulder smote  
'Play up! play up! and play the game! '





The sand of the desert is sodden red, —  
Red with the wreck of a square that broke; —  
The Gatling's jammed and the Colonel dead,  
And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.  
The river of death has brimmed his banks,  
And England's far, and Honour a name,  
But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks:  
'Play up! play up! and play the game! '

This is the word that year by year,  
While in her place the school is set,  
Every one of her sons must hear,  
And none that hears it dare forget.  
This they all with a joyful mind  
Bear through life like a torch in flame,  
And falling fling to the host behind —  
'Play up! play up! and play the game!

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# 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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early morning

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