

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

Presbyterian minister sets up Shinty versus Hurling match in West Belfast

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In the long tradition of Gaelic games in these islands, four teams will come together in August for two unique matches at Corrigan Park in West Belfast, when Shinty teams from Scotland will go head-to-head with Select Antrim Hurling and Camogie teams using composite rules, to celebrate 140th anniversary of Antrim GAA.

Launching 'Between the Sticks' when Select Antrim Hurling and Camogie teams will meet two Scottish Shinty teams on



2 August in a composite rules match at Antrim GAA's current ground, Corrigan Park in West Belfast.

Part of Antrim's 140th anniversary celebrations and Féile an Phobail, the Shinty teams, from Stirling and the Isle of Skye, are being brought to Belfast by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's minister in West Belfast, Rev David Moore.

Pictured at the launch, which took place at Corrigan Park are (LtoR) Antrim's County Chairman, Séamus McMullan and Rev David Moore.

Rev David Moore of PCI's special ministry in the west of the city known as An Tionólann / The Gathering, said that he was really looking forward to the match. Speaking at the launch, which took place at Corrigan Park, he said, "It'll be a great afternoon's craic, something different, and I am really looking forward to it. I'm also grateful to Collie Donnelly,



Antrim GAA and St John's GAC for getting behind this, running with it and making it happen.

With the men's Shinty team coming from Stirling, and the women's team from the Isle of Skye, both sets of players are being brought to Belfast by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) minister, Rev David Moore. The match, which is free to attend, will take place at Corrigan Park, the home of Antrim GAA, on Saturday, 2 August, as part of Féile an Phobail.

"We have called it, 'Between the Sticks' or 'Idir Camánaibh', as it paints a picture of the two Gaelic games coming together, and is also symbolic of much more. I know the players from Scotland are really looking forward to the match as well, and if I am honest, it will be really interesting

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to see. While it is free for everyone, we will have a voluntary collection for the 'Friends of the Cancer Centre'."

Playing Shinty-Hurling-Camogie composite rules, with 14 players aside, aspects of each sport are involved, which means that each side is equally disadvantaged. Each half of will last for 35 minutes, with teams using their own sticks, with one half played with a sliotar, the other with a shinty ball. Like the scoring, the goal to be used is the goal used for hurling.

Current Antrim Hurlers and Camogie players, as well as current County Chair, Séamus McMullan, attended the launch. Collie Donnelly, the former Antrim hurler and former County Chairperson, who is helping to organise the match, said he was also looking forward to the games on 2 August at Corrigan Park, the home of St John's GAA and Antrim's current home ground. "Corrigan Park itself has a great tradition of hosting Gaelic games since the 1920s and with its recent upgrade has a capacity close on 4000 spectators. Like all Antrim Gaels, we are hopeful of a positive decision soon on Casement Park.

"On the day we hope to create a carnival atmosphere with a 'Photo Booth' opportunity with some of our County Hurlers for the children, which is being provided by our County sponsor, Fibrus. Our half pace hurlers will also be showing their skills and pace during the half-time interval entertainment for all the family."

Mr Donnelly continued, "As part of our 140th year of celebration, we are delighted to be involved in this cross-community Shinty Challenge, as it gives us an opportunity to

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show what sport can do to share all our cultures in a positive way.”

The first Shinty-Hurling match between Irish and Scottish Gaelic teams took place in 1896 in London. Annual international fixtures have taken place in both countries over the years with 2024’s international between Ireland and Scotland resulting in a victory for Ireland.

Mr Moore concluded by saying. “There has been a friendship between Ireland and Scotland that has existed for centuries, sharing similar language, culture and sport. None is restricted to one tradition, nor does it need to exclude anyone, which is what we are trying to do through An Tionólann, as PCI seeks to reconnect and engage with the west of the city.

“We want to celebrate that, and Antrim GAA’s 140th birthday, with two friendly matches played between teams from different countries and cultures sharing a love of sport and the Gaelic language,” he said.

News

Archbishop John McDowell thanks principals of controlled schools

Archbishop John McDowell, as Chair of the Church of Ireland’s Board of Education (Northern Ireland), has issued the following message of thanks to principals of controlled schools as the school year concludes:

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Dear Principal,

The Church of Ireland Board of Education (NI) would like to wish you, your staff and governors a quiet and restful summer.



We appreciate all the work you undertake for children and young people in your care. In this ever-changing world, consistency and support for our young people is vital. The need for ensuring the well-being of both staff and young people is paramount.

I recently made a statement regarding the civil unrest and the impact on the learning for our children has been largely overlooked. We hope and pray that children will see our schools as safe places where they can flourish and learn.

The Church of Ireland Board of Education (NI) is delighted that so many parishes link in with their local school and provide support through a range of projects such as reading support and practical workshops. If you need any support that the local church could give, please reach out to the local parish and see if they can help.

We pray you will have a good break and come back refreshed for the autumn term.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh

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The Board of Education (Northern Ireland) represents the Church of Ireland in all educational matters affecting Northern Ireland and nominates representatives of the Church to any education body as required, including the Transferor Representatives' Council, the Education Authority, and the Controlled Schools' Support Council.



County Kildare CIA coffee organisers keen as beans

There are two coffee morning organisers in County Kildare – real keen beans – and they mean a latte to us say Christian Aid Ireland.

To raise funds for our work, Katherine Dowds (left) and Heather Godfrey (right) organised a coffee morning after a recent Sunday service at St Andrew's Church, Lucan.

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Earlier that morning, Katherine spoke about this year's Christian Aid Week focus story in both St. Andrew's Church Lucan and St. Mary's Church Leixlip. We're grateful to the Rector, Rev Scott Peoples for welcoming Katherine to address his congregations. With a name like that, it's no wonder he cares for all the 'peoples' of the world.

Huge thanks to him, and to Katherine and Heather for their steadfast support for communities living in poverty and crisis around the world.



Powerful message from Bishop Michael Curry at Canadian General Synod

On Monday night, the 44th Session of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada kicked off with Opening Worship, which included a powerful message from Bishop Michael Curry.

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We give thanks for his inspiring words, made available through a separate recording. Reflecting on Hebrews and the faithful witnesses who have gone before, Bishop Curry reminded us that God's call is always greater than our limitations and filled with hope. "You are not here by accident," he said. "Who knows—you may have come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Watch the full sermon at <https://gs2025.anglican.ca/videos/>.

Education



Another day on BRA Camino de Santiago

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San Martín del Camino to Astorga (24 kms). A day of incredible contrasts.

The Belfast Royal Academy peregrinos left the best hostel on the entire Camino de Santiago (Albergue La Huella) in bright sunshine only to walk straight into a full throttle storm of thunder, lightning, and hail stones the size of golf balls.

Limbs were battered, boots were drowned, and clothes were soaked, but spirits remained unbroken and the true peregrinos arrived safely in the beautiful town of Astorga, replete with its majestic cathedral and the incomparable Palacio de Gaudi. Brilliant day, a day to remember for the rest of your lives. Bravo BRA peregrinos! Proud of you.

The pupils are raising money for Northern Ireland Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support and AWARE NI and would appreciate any donations through the following link:
<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q3S6WVOR>



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Ballyclare High School at Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Celebration

Dr Rainey, Mrs Craig and Mrs Colville attended a special Duke of Edinburgh's Gold



Award Celebration at Hillsborough Castle.

It was a proud moment to see a number of Ballyclare High School past pupils recognised, including Ben Lyttle and Ross Moore, who were pictured sharing their DofE memories with HRH

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The Duke of Edinburgh and Chief Executive Ruth Marvel.

Also in attendance were past pupil Craig Porter and current pupil Finn Graham, who were pictured alongside Dr Rainey and Mrs Craig.

A wonderful celebration of commitment, resilience and adventure!

Cathedral Calls

Canterbury Cathedral hosts memorial to migrant deaths

Canterbury Cathedral has hosted a poignant memorial to the more than 500 people known to have lost their lives attempting to cross from Calais and Northern France to the UK.

The official figure of 500 deaths reflects records since 1999, with the true number believed to be much higher due to missing persons and unrecorded cases.

The Cathedral described it as a “tragic milestone” in the refugee crisis.

The project is titled Victims of the Border: a memorial for those who journeyed in hope, and marks International Refugee Week (16th - 22nd June). It listed the names of all identified individuals who died on the journey, with additional

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plaques honouring unidentified victims, or those whose families requested privacy.

The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury, said: “The theme for Refugee Week this year is focused on community. As a woman of faith, I am reminded that God loved the world that he created. I believe in the goodness of all God created and in the humanity which I am part of.”

As part of a collaboration between the Diocese in Europe, the Diocese of Canterbury, and the United Society Partners in the Gospel, Anglican Refugee Support Lead Bradon Muilenburg is based in Calais and will be speaking throughout the week in the Cathedral’s Crypt.

Sharing some of the stories behind the names, he said: “This is an opportunity for us as Christians to come alongside those who mourn. We ask visitors to choose a name from the memorial, think about that person and their hopes and dreams for sanctuary. Pray for them, and their families. Help support safe routes to avoid these tragedies.”

Liverpool’s Metropolitan Cathedral granted Grade I listed status

Liverpool’s Metropolitan Cathedral, renowned for its distinctive ‘wigwam’ shape, has been granted Grade I listed status. Affectionately known as “the Mersey funnel”, the cathedral was completed in 1962.



it is celebrated as a leading example of British mid-century design.

The circular interior was created to encourage togetherness during Mass, while stained glass in the roof casts vibrant purples and blues onto the altar.

The Archbishop of Liverpool, Most Rev John Sherrington, welcomed the upgrade in listing from Grade II to Grade I. “The building has been described as the ‘soul of the city,’” he said. “It is very significant that the cathedral has been recognised during the Jubilee Year, which has the theme ‘pilgrims of hope’.

“I hope the upgraded listed status allows us to welcome even more pilgrims to our striking Mother Church.” He also thanked members of the congregation, past and present,

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who have “contributed to the upkeep and repair of the building for over 60 years”.

Catherine Croft, Director of the Twentieth Century Society, said: “Liverpool now rightly has two magnificent Grade I listed cathedrals which together demonstrate just how varied, exciting, and emotionally uplifting twentieth-century architecture can be. A great vessel of post-war glass, sculpture and design, the listing upgrade will help ensure the modernist cathedral’s careful long-term conservation and appreciation by all who visit – to worship or just to marvel.”

Clergy and ministry

Deacon for Meath and Kildare

Rev Sean Murphy was ordained deacon by Bishop Pat Storey in a service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Trim, on Wednesday, 25 June at 7:30 pm.





from Archdeacon Katharine Poulton, Canon John Clarke who has pastoral oversight for the Trim and Athboy Group of parishes during their vacancy, and the Diocesan Registrar, Ms. Karen Seaman.

The preacher at the service was Rev. Trevor Holmes, who also led Rev Sean's pre-ordination retreat. Trevor is a full-time Healthcare Chaplain, overseeing Beaumont, Connolly, and The Mater Hospitals.

Diocesan Director of Music, Ms Doreen Kimberley, along with the diocesan choir, led the music.

Hearts on Fire conference alight in Belfast

The Hearts on Fire conference got underway in Belfast the morning of June 25.



Organised by Pathways to The Future Down and Connor, this event brings together Catholics from around the diocese and across Ireland to discuss evangelisation and mission in the Church today. They heard speakers from Ireland, the UK and Canada.

The event began with Morning Prayer of the Church. It was great to hear the opening hymn being sung with full hearts and voices!

Diocese of Clogher will celebrate the ordination of a new deacon this Sunday

On June 29, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Stephen Sherry from the Parish of Tullycorbet will be ordained as a deacon.

He is a seminarian at St Patrick's College Maynooth who has completed his studies for the priesthood.

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The ordination mass will take place at St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan, at 3pm. The Bishop of Clogher, Bishop Larry Duffy, will be the ordaining prelate, joined by priests and deacons from across the diocese and beyond.

After graduating from the University of Limerick in 2018 with a degree in English and History, he embarked on the formation process, spending a preparatory year at the Royal English College in Spain.

In September 2019, he joined the seminary at St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Mr Sherry said: "As I prepare for my diaconate ordination, I look back fondly on my time of discernment and formation and look forward to my time as a deacon and please God as a priest in the near future in service of the Church in the Diocese of Clogher." The mass on Sunday is open to all.



Husband and wife ordination anniversaries

Congratulations to Rev Dr Ron Elsdon, who celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his ordination as priest

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on 25th June, 2000 at St Peter's Parish Church, Antrim Road. Belfast, then serving in the curacy of Ballymena.

Congratulations also to Rev Janice Elsdon who this year celebrates the 30th anniversary of her ordination as deacon for the parish of Cloughfern in 1995.

Events

Festival of Flutes free lunchtime recital by Gary Hastings

Join Rev Gary Hastings for a special lunchtime recital as part of the Festival of Flutes 2025, in All Saints' Church of Ireland, Clooney, Londonderry on Thursday 3rd July 2025. 1pm - 2pm

A respected traditional musician originally from Belfast and a retired Church of Ireland rector, Gary brings a unique perspective that blends culture, heritage, and harmony.

Through music, he explores the deep connections between the island's two main traditions. Don't miss this moving and insightful performance.

Dun Laoghaire Summer Concert Series

Next up in the Dun Laoghaire Summer Concert Series, we welcome George Herbert winner of the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition



George Herbert

Sunday 29th June, 8pm

St Michael's Church,
Dún Laoghaire

Tickets €15 (€10 Concessions)



Come along this Sunday 29th June to hear an array of organ works from baroque to contemporary. Full programme and tickets are available here:

<https://www.dunlaoghaireorganconcerts.ie/concerts/2025-06-29/george-herbert-uk>

Keith and Krystin Getty Global Hymn Sing

We're just a few days away from the Global Hymn Sing, and we hope your church or family is planning to participate.

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This Sunday, June 29th, join believers around the world in singing "Christus Victor (Amen)" on the Day of the Christian Martyr, standing together with our persecuted brothers and sisters while declaring that Christ has won the victory!

To help you prepare, we've created a new playlist featuring "Christus Victor (Amen)" to get you

warmed up for this Sunday, alongside missions-centered hymns to sing throughout the year.

Access the playlist: getty.pub/ghspl

Register your participation in the Global Hymn Sing: getty.pub/ghs

French Recital St Ann's Dublin

Lunchtime recital on Thursday, July 3 Rêverie Française.

Margot Maurel (clarinet) and Aurélie (piano) perform a beautifully curated French programme featuring Poulenc's

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and Saint-Saëns' beloved clarinet sonatas, alongside Liszt and Grovlez. Full programme and details
<https://www.stannsrecitals.com/events/reverie-francaise>

Poem for today

Out in the Fields with God

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds at play;
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what may happen,
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay;
Among the husking of the corn
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born,
Out in the fields with God.

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**

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