

Church News Ireland



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Speaking to the soul -Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day

Foyle on the Somme

Intrepid Year 10 adventurers left Foyle College at 00:30 touching down in Brussels via Dublin airport.

The first stop saw them visit the awe-inspiring Tyne Cot Cemetery: almost 12 000 headstones, plus 34000 names of the missing. The chatter on the coach quickly faded when they were faced with the magnitude of what lay before them.

Following a lunchtime pit stop of some baguettes and an abundance of Belgian sunshine, they had





a very different kind of experience as they stopped at the Langemark-Poelkapelle German Cemetery. The stark black-

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stone graves of 44000 German soldiers - many of whom student volunteers not much older than our own pupils - brought a hard-hitting lesson about the cost of war. A highlight of the field trip was a visit to the Ulster Memorial Tower.

News



Irish MU delegates at Leadership Conference in Liverpool



Many delegates from All-Ireland Mothers Union attended the Britain and Ireland Leadership Conference in Liverpool over the weekend. The conference which concluded on Sunday was a wonderful weekend of learning, sharing, fun and fellowship.

The Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow from Canada was present for the weekend. She is an inspirational speaker.

All-Ireland were responsible for the entertainment on the Saturday evening. Members are very grateful to Ada and Debbie for all of the work they put into the evening. The All-Ireland group was ably led by Moira Thom who brought greetings on behalf of the All-Ireland President, Kay Clarke.



Archbishop of Wales retires amid cathedral behaviour failings

The Archbishop of Wales has announced his retirement from the role with immediate effect.

The BBC reports that in a statement issued on Friday evening, Andrew John confirmed he would also be retiring as Bishop of Bangor on 31 August.

His sudden retirement follows a turbulent period for his Bangor diocese, after the publication of the summaries of two reports into failures last month.

The summaries mentioned "a culture in which sexual boundaries seemed blurred" and excessive alcohol consumption as well as governance and safeguarding weaknesses at Bangor Cathedral.

There is no suggestion the archbishop has behaved inappropriately.

Full BBC report at -

[<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvg4nw7xvyvo>]

Enniscorthy and Monart Christian Aid Week support

Christian Aid says - Our thanks go to the Rector and parishioners of Enniscorthy and Monart Union of



Parishes in County Wexford for their generous donation to our Christian Aid Week appeal.

The Rector, Rev Canon Nicola Halford presented her cheque to our Church and Community Officer Andrew Coleman following a Sunday service at St Mary's Church in Enniscorthy at which Andrew spoke about our Christian Aid Week focus story.

Also pictured is parish secretary Rosemary Walshe who wrote and organised an armchair quiz which raised approximately €600 towards the total.

Around €1,200 was raised when the confirmation candidates (young people preparing for confirmation) and



their families prepared a cooked breakfast, which parishioners enjoyed in exchange for a donation to support the work of Christian Aid.

A €200 gift made by parishioner Bobby Barbour brought Enniscorthy's total donation to almost €2,100. Please join us in saying a huge thank you to Canon Nicola, Rosemary and Bobby as well as the confirmation candidates and their parents. We are also enormously grateful to everyone who supported the breakfast fundraiser and armchair quiz so generously.

Good Relations grants for ecumenical work by churches

Through the kind support of Benefact Trust, the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) awards Good Relations grants up to the sum of £450 (or equivalent in euro) to churches and organisations who support ecumenical work within their local area.

These grants should enable churches to further the work of peace and reconciliation either through single events or an ongoing project.

Church of Ireland parishes and cathedrals are eligible for this grant as the Church is an ICC member church. The person making the application must be currently living in either jurisdiction on the island of Ireland.

To apply for the grant, you need to:

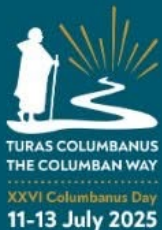
- demonstrate the need for your proposal within your local area (using evidence);
- demonstrate an outcome that enhances good community relations or improves knowledge and understanding of how to deepen good relations across religious barriers; and
- submit a secure financial proposal with clear costs

Please note the following exclusions. The ICC will not normally fund:

- applications that only operate within a single denomination
- retrospective expenditure



XXVI Columbanus Day Mass



Sunday 13th July, 10.30 a.m.

*Cathedral of the Assumption,
Carlow Town*



- for-profit enterprises
- costs that are already covered by other sources
- costs not clearly linked to the project
- projects that provide no significant benefit

Applications will stay open for 2025 or until expenditure for the grant is complete.

Please contact the General Secretary, the Revd Dr Karen Campbell, at karen@irishchurches.org in order to make an application.

With thanks to Churches in Ireland and Benefact Trust

Joint Pilgrimage Marks 800th Anniversary of Canonisation of St Laurence O'Toole

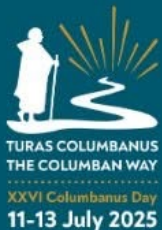
From May 8th-10th, 2025, in celebration of the 800th anniversary of St Laurence O'Toole's canonisation, congregation members from Christ Church Cathedral joined pilgrims from the Church of Ireland Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin for a memorable weekend of travel to Eu in Normandy, France.

The group was accompanied by Dean Dermot Dunne, Archbishops Michael Jackson and Dermot Farrell, and parish priests Ivan Tonge and John Flaherty.

Born in Castledermot, Co Kildare in 1128, Laurence O'Toole was the son of the King of Hy Murray. At ten years old, he was given as hostage to Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster. Two years later, he was given into the care of the monastery in Glendalough, an experience that laid the foundation for his dedication to a life of spiritual service and growth. Laurence later became Abbot of Glendalough and then Archbishop of Dublin, a role in which he endeavoured to save Irish lives by working to negotiate peace between the Irish kings and Ireland's Norman invaders. It was on one such diplomatic mission in 1180 that Laurence fell ill and died at a monastery in the town of Eu in Normandy. His tomb can be visited in the crypt of the Collegiate Church of St Laurence. Remnants of his skull are housed within a silver reliquary at the church.



Pilgrim's Lunch



Sunday 13th July, 12:30 p.m.

**Woodford Dolmen Hotel,
Kilkenny rd. Carlow**



Carlow
County
Museum



COLÁISTE CHEATHARLACH
NAOMH PADRAIG
CARLOW COLLEGE
ST. PATRICK'S



carlow
tourism

St Laurence O'Toole's death in France, far from the country of his birth, has produced a historic bond between our respective Irish and French communities and particularly among the residents of Castledermot, Glendalough, Dublin, Rouen, and Eu.

The cathedral plans further celebration of the anniversary of St Laurence O'Toole's canonisation on his 14 November Feast Day.

June 30, 2025

Education

Over 100 BRA pupils in Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme

As we come to the end of another school year, we want to congratulate all the pupils who have taken part in BRA Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme.



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

Thank you

to

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants

from

Belfast Royal Academy

who spent

1573 Hours

**volunteering between
1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.**

We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of young people making an impact in their community.

The social value of these hours is

£10066

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Marvel'.

Ruth Marvel OBE, Chief Executive

June 2025

With over 100 participants involved, this is a fantastic achievement. Pupils have had the opportunity to develop valuable life skills and take part in meaningful experiences throughout the year.

A particular highlight is the 1,573 hours of volunteering completed by our pupils, contributing an incredible £10,066 in social value to the community. This is a testament to their dedication and community spirit.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible volunteers who have given up their own time throughout the year to run the DofE programme in school. Your support makes all of this possible.

Finally, we wish all the best to those pupils who will be completing their Gold and Silver expeditions over the summer. We look forward to hearing all about your adventures.

Campbell College tribute to Bugles, Pipes and Drums

Speech Day at Campbell College is always the highlight of the year and the Campbell College Bugles, Pipes and Drums again took centre stage to perform for the guests.

We had the largest number of Band members for many years and huge thanks must go to the boys and Band Master Grahame Harris and his tutor team for a wonderful performance.



This year
we say
farewell to
George,
Arun,
Finn, Elia,
Robin and
Thomas.



Gentlemen, we wish you well for the future and thank you
for the huge contribution you have made to the Pipe Band.
Ne Obliviscaris



Teaching staff of the Boys Model School Belfast 1975

Wild haircuts, Flares, and Kipper Ties

Ernie Davis. Andrew McMoran. David Thompson and Jim Keith - all headmasters of large Belfast schools over the next few decades

If anyone recognises anyone the Facebook post challenged and it got responses -

More than a few great teachers here and you were right to be afraid 😅

My neighbour front left Don McBride - Jim Bannon.



St Dominic's Volunteers lead Clonard's Solemn Novena Procession

We're so proud of our incredible students who generously gave their time to support the annual nine-day Clonard Solemn Novena, particularly in the first few days when distributing booklets and envelopes.

On Thursday evening, our volunteers had the honour of carrying banners in the very first Procession of Hope—a moving moment of faith and community in action.

A heartfelt thank you to each of our students for volunteering with compassion and commitment. You've made a real difference.



Now it's time to relax and enjoy a well-earned summer break!

Religious Studies teachers Professional Learning Award for RE

During the 2024-25 academic year a group of post-primary Religious Studies teachers from Northern Ireland participated in a Professional Learning Award for RE funded by the Farmington Institute in Oxford.

Over five evening sessions the eight teachers explored a variety of themes led by members of the group. These included diversity in religious education; technology and

social media in the classroom; developing challenging learning in RE; and re-imagining the KS3 curriculum.

They also had several short specialist inputs from external contributors which acted as conversation starters for our professional dialogue during an evening meal after each of the sessions. Participants had a range of experience from Heads of Department and those with several decades of teaching Religious Studies to a couple of recent RS graduates of Stranmillis and Queen's. The group all contributed to all of the conversations and everyone benefitted from learning from one another and sharing professional practice.

The professional learning sessions were hosted by Dr James Nelson (Queen's University Belfast) and Dr Anita Gracie (Stranmillis University College).

Cathedral Calls

Music for Petertide by Choir of Westminster Abbey

Listen to the Choir of Westminster Abbey sing Radcliffe, Stanford, Byrd, and more on their album 'The Feast of St Peter the Apostle at Westminster Abbey'.

You can stream the album for free on YouTube by clicking below. Album may be to the RHS of the screen...

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzLICkSnvXs&list=OLAK5uy_kXnaT3RZAQ1sF2gzfw07bH1G6XabpOlko)

Columbanus weekend at Carlow

Concluding the XXVI Columbanus Weekend on Sunday 13th July is the celebration of Mass in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow at 10.30am by Bishop Denis Nulty followed by a Pilgrim's Lunch in the Woodford Dolmen, Hotel at 12.30 pm.

There is no need to book a space to attend Mass as the Cathedral will be stewarded but if you would like to join with fellow Pilgrims from across Europe and Ireland for lunch afterwards then please do book your place for that at the following link

<https://www.kandle.ie/countdown-to-xxvi-columbanus-day-2025/>

This Pilgrims Lunch brings our weekend celebrating St Columbanus to a close reminding us of our shared faith and friendship.. See also pages 12 and 13.

Clergy and ministry

60th anniversaries of ordination

Archdeacon McCamley

Many congratulations to Ven Gregor McCamley on the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

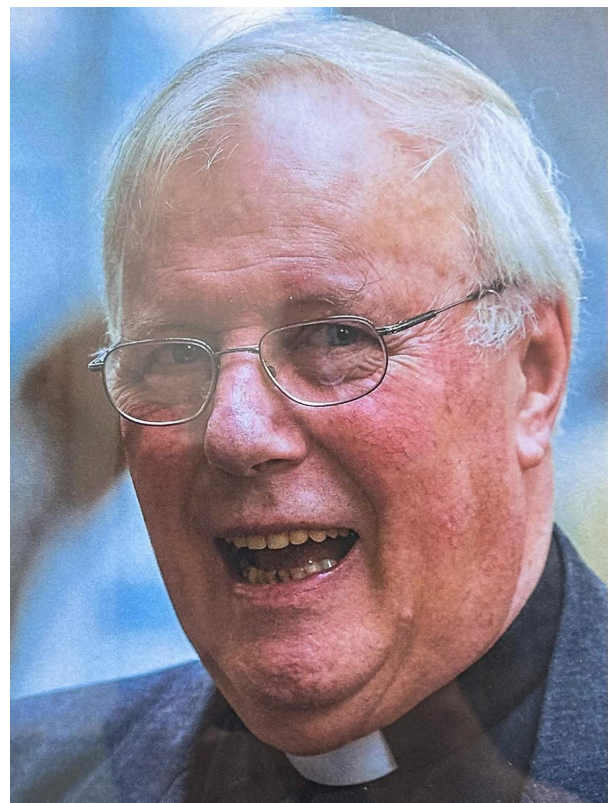
Gregor preached in Down Cathedral this Sunday at 11.30am as he and his wife Rosemary as well as family and friends celebrated this significant occasion.

The LAMP group says “Gregor is still faithfully serving in LAMP as part of the children's ministry. Whether he is serving food at Toddlers, dressing up in reindeer antlers or being the postman at Holiday Bible Club, he is a blessing to us all”.

The Archdeacon served in several parishes including Ballyholme and St Columba's Knock. He was also a member of the Chapter of Belfast Cathedral.

Dean Maurice Sirr

Sunday, Saint Peter's Day, marked the 60th anniversary of the ordination of the Very Rev'd Maurice Sirr, sometime Dean of Limerick and Rector of Limerick City Parish. The Cathedral Parish extended to Dean Sirr its heartiest congratulations and profound thanks for his ministry amongst them.



Strabane appreciation of ministry during vacancy

Christ Church Strabane posted on Facebook -

The Select Vestry and Parishioners would like to express sincere appreciation to **Mrs Kaye Nesbit** for the excellent care and devotion she had shown to us in the past 6 months.

Kaye, your kind words and gestures have been invaluable to us, thank you so much for all you have done.

May you know God's blessings as you walk with Him.

We must also acknowledge and thank **Cannon Clarke** for his care of the parish during the vacancy. For the many meetings chaired with encouragement and support to us and his exceptional demonstration of Godly leadership.

Thank you Cannon Clarke.

May God continue to bless you with grace, humility and integrity that you have demonstrated to us.

Greenlough Parish - former Parish Priest Fr. Oliver Crilly

It is with deep regret we inform you of the death of our former Parish Priest Fr. Oliver Crilly.

Fr. Oliver was a faithful and dedicated Parish Priest to us from 2007 - 2015. During that time he touched many people's lives and will be greatly missed by everyone in our Parish.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Fr. Oliver's family and friends during this time.

We will always remember Fr. Crilly fondly and have wonderful memories.

Eternal rest grant unto your servant Father Oliver, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen

Events and outings

Giant's Causeway and Bushmills railway

This adventure took us along the rugged north coast of Northern Ireland, where legends walk the land and steam trains still puff proudly along the tracks.

Our destination? The magical Giant's Causeway, but with a twist! We got there the old-fashioned way... by train!

Our First Stop the Bushmills Railway:

Nestled just outside the historic town of Bushmills, you will find the tiny station. Here the train begins its gentle 2-mile journey to the Causeway coast. Taking 20 minutes the track

winds through green fields and over bridges, with sweeping views of the sea and don't forget to wave to the Golfers.

Next up: The Giant's Causeway!

Stepping off the train, we followed the path towards the Causeway. We decided to use the shuttle bus at the top, as we only had an hour for the train back. This is only £1 each way (per person over 5). They run every 5 minutes so not much of a que and much easier on little legs.

Off the bus and you will find over 40,000 hexagonal stones spilling out into the sea like a giant's staircase. According to legend, they were built by the mighty Finn McCool to cross to Scotland and honestly, it does feel like the work of giants.

Top Wee Tips:


Trains run seasonally, so check ahead before you go.

You can walk one way and ride the train the other, great for mixing things up!

Whether you're chasing myths or just fancy a family-friendly rail adventure with epic views, the Bushmills Railway and Giant's Causeway make the perfect wee day out.


INFORMATION

Terminus at 24 Ballaghmore Rd, Bushmills BT57 8RH

 Adult-£8, Child £6 Family (4) £27 Children 2 and under are free

 Parking free at Bushmills Station

 Toilet, baby change (Giants causeway station)

 Saturdays & Sundays Only from Giants Causeway 11,1 & 3. From Bushmills 11:30, 1:30 & 3:30

Courtesy - www.weeadventurers.com

Book a Sharing Pony near Fivemiletown

Perhaps you're not sure if your kids will take to horse riding or even being close to a pony but you'd like them to have a go? Here is the perfect solution for you.



You can book a **Sharing Pony** for them to enjoy a wonderful

experience. The pony comes with a dedicated handler and can be used for petting, leading and PONY RIDES.

Children need to be at least 4 to ride and at least 2 to take part in the petting. Up to 6 people can take part/per pony, taking turns. An adult will need to stay and may need to assist if there are a number of children. It costs £25/half hour and £50/hour.

Near Fivemiletown at BT750NQ

Please have a good read through the full information from the top of our page before using the inbox to contact Donna. 07832012342

Heritage

Showcasing Cockle Row Cottages in Groomsport

This past Saturday, the Ulster Scots Agency showcased Ulster-Scots musical talent in the form of Piper Grahame Harris and Drummer Lee Lawson at Cockle Row Cottages in Groomsport.

Part of the summer festivities in the beautiful seaside village, the duo played between 2-4pm, when the Ulster Scots Agency also had a stand with various literature, resources and 'pruck.'

This was the first of three sessions the Ulster-Scots agency has arranged with Ards and North Down Borough Council at Cockle Row this summer, with two more planned for Saturday 26th July and Saturday 30th August (keep an eye on the US social media pages for further information).

As you may know, Groomsport is a village steeped in Ulster-Scots history. On 9th September 1636, 'Eagle Wing' set sail from the village, carrying more than 100 Ulster-Scots Presbyterians who were fleeing religious persecution. It was the first emigrant ship to leave Ulster for America, and while torrential weather forced it to abandon its voyage in the mid-Atlantic, it started the trend that ultimately resulted in the tremendous Ulster-Scots impact on the New World. Many would go on to become patriots, pioneers and even presidents in their new home.

Groomsport is also where the Duke of Schomberg landed at the head of King William III Prince of Orange's advance party, moving on to capture Carrickfergus Castle before uniting with the main body of the Williamite forces. Huge numbers of Ulster-Scots rallied to William's cause across Ulster, seeking to secure civil and religious liberty for all as part of The Glorious Revolution.

Poem for today

Be The Best Of Whatever You Are

by Douglas Malloch

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass —
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here,
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.
If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail —
Be the best of whatever you are!

June 30, 2025

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning

Please recommend to your friends