

# Church News Ireland



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Belfast March for Jesus cancelled

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I believe that Gerry Adams is one of the world's great liars -

Andy Pollak writes

in 2 Irelands together





## Image of the day

### Welcome aboard in Belfast

**Thank you to Captain Simon Love for welcoming us aboard the P&O Cruises Aurora on Thursday morning for the traditional plaque exchange to mark the vessel's inaugural visit to Belfast, write Belfast Harbour commission.**

While the weather may not have been summery, the welcome was certainly warm from Captain Love and his crew, who took time to provide us with a tour of the vessel following the ceremony.

This is P&O Cruises' 26th call to Belfast Harbour since the company's first visit to Belfast in 2010, with the Oriana. In that time, we have welcomed almost 50,000 passengers to the city on P&O vessels.

We look forward to welcoming the Aurora back later this summer, as well as the inaugural call of its sister ship the Britannia next week. Visit Belfast

## News

### **President of the Methodist Church in Ireland installed**

**Congratulations to the Rev Alan Wardlow who has been installed as President of the Methodist Church in Ireland for 2025/26.**

You can watch the service in full from Thomas Street Methodist Church in Portadown now on YouTube: [bit.ly/MCI-Y](https://bit.ly/MCI-Y)

### **Belfast March for Jesus cancelled**

A major Christian gathering planned for Belfast city centre has been cancelled just days before it was set to take place.



May 10, 2025

The March for Jesus, scheduled for Saturday, 7th June, was expected to attract more than 10,000 participants. March for Jesus is a global movement; in October 2024, March for Jesus Dublin saw Christians walk from the city's Garden of Remembrance to Dáil Éireann, the Irish parliament.

The Belfast march route for June 2025 was to lead from Custom House Square to Belfast City Hall, with outdoor worship and Bible scriptures displayed on placards.



## Maghera Parish Caring Association

# Vintage Rally



All Usual Vintage & Classic Vehicles Welcome!

12pm-4pm

**Saturday 14th June**  
in St Lurach's Rectory Grounds  
(beside Maghera Walled Garden)

Free inflatables, face  
painting and games for  
kids, Ark Farm, Stalls,  
Dog Show, Crafts,  
Ice Cream, BBQ, Teas,  
Tray Bakes & more!  
(Stall spaces still available!)

**Entertainment**  
Kenny Paul,  
Grace Montgomery,  
Sollus Dancers,  
Desertmartin Accordion  
Band, Pipers and more!  
07779599132 or 07307859336

May 10, 2025

Organisers announced on Instagram that the event had to be cancelled due to safety concerns around the large number of participants.

Pastor John Ahern, who leads All Nations Church, said: “Unfortunately due to significant logistical challenges and health and safety concerns due to large crowds expected, we have to cancel the March for Jesus that was scheduled to take place this Saturday the 7th June in Belfast City Centre.”

News of the cancellation has been met with disappointment, with some insisting they will gather regardless of an official event. “Makes you want to do it all the more now,” replied one commenter.

Pastor John and Joanna Ahern urged those who were disappointed not to let it dampen their enthusiasm. “Please join us in continuing to pray for unity, peace, and revival in Northern Ireland,” the couple wrote.

At present, the march has not been rescheduled.

## **'We are brothers', Israeli and Palestinian peace activists meet Pope at Vatican**

**The Pope has met two peace campaigners, one Israeli, the other Palestinian at the Vatican.**

Maoz Inon's parents were killed in the October 7th attacks in 2023, while Aziz Abu Sarah's brother was killed in an Israeli prison during the First Intifada between 1987 and 1993.

May 10, 2025

The two men, who are friends, are co-Presidents of InterAct, an organization working towards peace.

During the meeting, Pope Leo said “Peace takes shape from the ground up, beginning with places, communities and local institutions, and by listening to what they have to tell us.”



# BROUGHSHANE MUSEUM



## WE ARE OPEN

**ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (EXCEPT JANUARY)**  
**FROM 11.00am to 2.00pm**

Or call Broughshane House on **02825862777** to arrange a visit.  
Education: School visits can also be arranged

Housed on the top floor of Broughshane House we have thousands of items in the museum's collection, from medical to military, agriculture to education and lots more in between, all with that local connection to the people of Broughshane and beyond.



**Admission Free**

**Donations Welcome**



May 10, 2025

In a post on X Aziz Abu Sarah responded “Wise words from Pope Leo! Very grateful for having the opportunity to meet him yesterday.”

In a post on X Aziz Abu Sarah responded “Wise words from Pope Leo! Very grateful for having the opportunity to meet him yesterday.”

In an interview with Vatican Media, Aziz Abu Sarah, who grew up in Jerusalem, recalled the moment his brother was



A poster for a motorcycle run. The top half features a photograph of several motorcyclists riding down a residential street. The lead rider is wearing a bright blue and yellow high-visibility suit and a black helmet with a red mohawk. Other riders are in similar gear. A circular inset in the top right shows a white safety car with green and red accents. Below the photo, the text '5TH' is written in large, stylized red letters. The main title 'MOTORCYCLE RUN' is in large white letters on a red background. Below it, 'IN AID OF AIR AMBULANCE NI' is written in smaller white letters. The date 'SUNDAY 15TH JUNE' and the fee '£10 PER BIKE' are listed in large white letters. The bottom section contains event details: '9AM SIGN IN @ TESCO CASTLEBAWN, NEWTOWNARDS, BT23 8NN DEPARTURE 10AM SHARP.' and '11 AM PICK UP TESCO, 25A CASTLEWELLAN ROAD, BANBRIDGE, BT32 4AX. DEPARTURE 11.30AM'. It also mentions a 'SPECIAL RUN AT TRUCKS AT THE TRACK KIRKISTOWN 4PM'. Logos for 'Air Ambulance Northern Ireland Charity', 'Trucks at the Track', and 'Co Down Marshall's Ride Out' are at the bottom right. A 'Balloon Hire' logo is also visible.

**5TH**

**MOTORCYCLE RUN**

**IN AID OF AIR AMBULANCE NI**

**SUNDAY 15TH JUNE** | **£10 PER BIKE**

**9AM SIGN IN @ TESCO**  
CASTLEBAWN, NEWTOWNARDS,  
BT23 8NN **DEPARTURE 10AM**  
**SHARP.**

**11 AM PICK UP TESCO, 25A**  
CASTLEWELLAN ROAD, BANBRIDGE,  
BT32 4AX. **DEPARTURE 11.30AM**

**SPECIAL RUN AT**  
**TRUCKS AT THE TRACK**  
**KIRKISTOWN 4PM**

For more info contact Mary 07843156830,  
Stephen 07596587347 or Chris 07843822117

**AIR AMBULANCE**  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
CHARITY

**TRUCKS**  
AT THE TRACK

CO DOWN MARSHALL'S  
RIDE OUT

Balloon Hire

May 10, 2025

arrested at 18 years old, when Aziz was ten. He later died in prison. He said he felt bitter over his brother's death, but eventually understood that "every time you choose revenge, you choose hate, you are being a slave to the person who killed my brother.

"I made the choice to choose forgiveness, not because that person deserved it, but because it's my choice, and I want to be free."

Maoz Inon was born in a kibbutz in a Jewish Israeli community just a mile away from the Gaza border. His parents and several of his friends were killed in the October 7th attacks. He described having a vision where "Our tears healed the wounds, healed our burnt skin and cured us. And we kept crying and crying, and our tears went down to the ground. And our tears started washing the blood from the century long conflict between Palestinians and Israel. And



## Armagh Rail Disaster Remembered

Sunday 15 June 2025  
9.45am

Rail Disaster Memorial, The Mall, Armagh

A short act of remembrance for those who lost  
their lives following the rail disaster of 12 June 1889

<https://www.armaghmethodist.org/railway-disaster-1889>

our tears purifying the land, and then I could see the path to peace and reconciliation."

He became friends with Aziz, adding, "We are not just partners, but we are brothers. We are brothers, pursuing justice and peace."

## **A busy year for PCI's 'itinerant' Moderator**

**Just 30 years ago, Rev Dr David McGaughey was coming to the end of his year in office as the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Moderator.**

Three decades on, his son-in-law, Right Reverend Dr Richard Murray, finds himself in the same position – but with a very different take on his own year in office – one where he became, in his own words, 'an itinerant preacher' for 12 months.

"When my late father-in-law became Moderator in 1994, he was minister of Mourne Presbyterian in Kilkeel, and it was a huge church, and has grown since then. In his day he pastored over 700 families and I remember him telling me that it was relentless," Dr Murray said.

"For him, his year as Moderator was a break from the norm, time out if you like. While you could say my year has also been 'a break from norm', it has also been the busiest year of my life!"

Dr Murray was selected as Moderator-Designate by the all-Ireland denomination's 19 regional presbyteries in February





2024, but only became PCI's senior most office bearer when he was installed as Moderator at that June's General Assembly. Having chaired the latter half of the meeting, afterwards there was a time of waiting.

"There's a kind of 'phoney war' period from July to August, when there's not very many engagements, which gives you preparation time. But once September comes, it's just lift off, and you just get into a round of engagements that are just endless," he said.

The next nine months saw him preach most Sundays, sometimes morning and evening services in different congregations and in different places. He visited Poland to encourage a new Polish Presbyterian denomination and undertook four week-long presbytery tours that involved

around 100 separate engagements. He took part in State events, like the annual National Day of Commemoration in Dublin and the 80th anniversary of VE Day in Westminster Abbey.

He also represented Irish Presbyterians at a St Patrick's Day reception in 10 Downing Street. "I never thought I would be through that famous shiny black door, but while it was an honour to represent PCI and take part in these events, the highlights of my year were really preaching. Just leading worship Sunday-by-Sunday and preaching the word of God," he said.

"'Mighty to Save' was my theme for the year, and it was really was a desire to focus on the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. I wanted to put that front and centre. Sometimes in church life we can lose that focus and I wanted evangelism to be a major theme of my year. I hope where I have gone throughout the year, I have preached Christ and I hope I have emboldened people to do the same."

This Sunday, his last as Moderator, Dr Murray will be in County Offaly preaching in Tullamore Presbyterian Church. It will be one of over 50 congregations where he has preached, including Christ the Saviour Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Kraków.

"You have to find your voice in a new building every week, in different parts of the country, where the people are different. Some are younger, some are older congregations, and you may not know anyone, except the minister. So, you have to



adjust as you preach different sermons, while trying to fit into the culture of the place.

““You're a kind of itinerant preacher - you'll be there for a while; you'll preach for one Sunday, and probably will never be back again. It was a challenge to do that week-by-week, but it was also a great privilege to get to know different congregations, finding out where they are at, and I have been enriched by many of the churches I have preached in,” Dr Murray said.

While a privilege to serve in this way, his year as Moderator also gave him an insight that few see - the Church itself. “There is a spectrum to church life in our congregations. There was one rural congregation where I preached which had upwards of 40 children at the children’s address, the most I’ve seen, while others had none.”



The minister of Drumreagh Presbyterian Church in County Antrim continued, “Some had few young families and teenagers, in a church where most seemed to be over 70. Now they were passionate about the gospel, but that isn’t sustainable in the longer term. It is difficult to take the ‘temperature’ of the Church, and I was privileged to see more than most people, but like most denominations there’s a spectrum where some congregations seem really alive and thriving, while others, for whatever reason, not so much. The country congregations are still the backbone of PCI, and I think that on the whole the Church is in good heart, but there is a nervousness out there.”

It has been a year that has seen Dr Murray unveil plaques (including a Blue Plaque) and dedicated new church halls, plant trees and cut ribbons, including the official opening of Maynooth’s first purpose-built church building in the County Kildare town. At the other end of church life, he also preached at the Service of Thanksgiving for Woodvale Presbyterian in north Belfast, before it closed.

It has also been a trip down memory lane for the Moderator, as he preached in all of his former congregations: Terrace Row in Coleraine, where he served as an assistant, Hilltown and Clonduff near Rathfriland, where he was ordained and served as minister, along with Connor Presbyterian near Ballymena, before he was called to his current congregation. On a visit to support PCI’s new work in west Belfast, he also spoke at a cultural centre in what was once Broadway Presbyterian Church on the Falls Road, the church where he was baptised.

As Dr Murray comes to the end of his time in office, there is an obvious yearning for his own congregation, Drumreagh Presbyterian Church in the village of Bendooragh, one and a half miles from Ballymoney. “It has been the busiest year of my life, far busier than I expected, and in one sense, it’s been a kind of sabbatical from normal ministry, but I am looking forward to getting back.

“But it has been a rewarding and uplifting time, and a real privilege to have been able to serve the wider Church in this way. One former Moderator said to me that after his year, returning to his congregation had given him a fresh appreciation for it. I know what he means, as I have missed Drumreagh and its people,” Dr Murray said.

He will be succeeded by Rev Dr Trevor Gribben on Wednesday afternoon, when Dr Murray leads his installation service at this year’s General Assembly, which runs from Tuesday, 10 June to Thursday, 12 June. For more details see [www.presbyterianireland.org/ga25](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/ga25)

## Education

### Official opening of new school building for St Peter’s National School, Dunboyne

**The official opening of a new school building for St Peter’s National School, Dunboyne took place on Thursday 5th June 2025.**



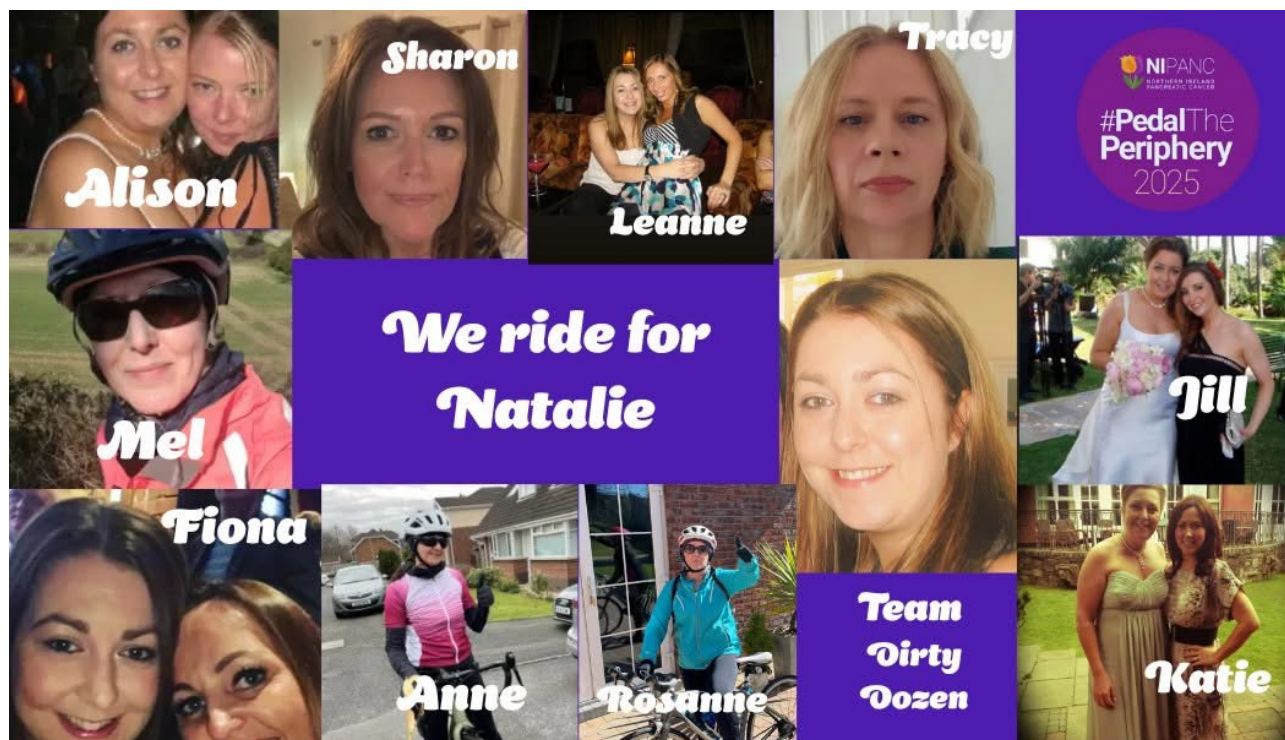
The ceremony was performed by the Minister for Education, Ms Helen McEntee TD. Bishop Pat Storey, Minister Thomas Byrne TD, Darren O'Rourke TD, a range of local political





representatives and dignitaries, parents and those who have worked on this project over the years were also in attendance. St Peter's first opened its doors 20 years ago, on 1st September 2004. All other new Church of Ireland primary school buildings have had foundations which pre-date Irish independence. St Peter's is the parish school for Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Group of Parishes, in the Church of Ireland dioceses of Meath and Kildare.





## Peddalling the Periphery for Natalie

**Some of Wallace High School's Class of '95 will be taking part in this year's Pedal the Periphery as the first all-female crew: Team Dirty Dozen – you might recognise a few familiar faces!**

They met back in 1988 at Wallace and have done a lot of life together, remaining as close today as when they left school. Sadly, eight years ago they lost one of the gang – a fellow Wallace alumna, Natalie Snoddon – to pancreatic cancer.

Despite the fact that most of them haven't ridden a bike since primary school, they are absolutely honoured to be facing this challenge in memory of Natalie.

We are very proud of their efforts to raise much-needed funds and awareness for this special cause, which is very close to the hearts of all of us here at Wallace.



May 10, 2025

If anyone would like to support the team, they would be beyond grateful to receive your donations  
<https://zurl.co/ra2lR>

## Inst Commerce Week 2025

**RBAI's Commerce Week 2025 kicked off on a high note on Wednesday as our Year 13 students embarked on an enriching journey, visiting esteemed firms including Grant Thornton, Carson McDowell, Danske**





May 10, 2025

## **Bank, and Osborne King.**

These visits provided invaluable insights into the professional world and offered our students a glimpse into potential future careers.



For Reuben Edmondson's and James Smith's reflections on Day 1, please follow the link below.

<https://rbai.org.uk/rbai-commerce-week-2025/>

## **Official opening of redeveloped forest school at Kilmaine Primary**

**Education Minister Paul Givan MLA has officially opened a redeveloped forest school at Kilmaine Primary School and Nursery Unit.**

The facility was supported through funding from the



May 10, 2025

Department's Outdoor Learning Project and will enhance pupils' educational experiences.

## **Ni Education Authority Governor Seminar**

**The EA are delighted to be marking Volunteers Week with our Governor Seminar at Antrim Board Centre.**

We have brought together school governors for a day of training, networking and connection with EA colleagues.

Governors are vital to the success of our schools. We are proud to celebrate and support their work.

## **Cathedral Calls**

### **Dumbarton visits Derry**

**Canon Mc Bride and a wonderful group of visitors from the Renton & Dumbarton areas of Scotland, called into visit St Eugene's Cathedral on Thursday morning.**

## **Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford**

**Sacred Hearts of Jesus, we trust in you.**

Please see pastoral letter from Bishop Phonsie on the link below:

May 10, 2025

<https://waterfordlismore.ie/he-loved-us-first-pastoral-letter-from-bishop-phonsie-cullinan-for-the-month-of-the-sacred-heart/>

## Durham Cathedral is GCSE case study

It's exam season, and did you know Durham Cathedral is the historic environment GCSE case study for the AQA History exam board this year?

Since September, over 2,400 GCSE History students have visited the cathedral and spent time with our Learning and Engagement team to deepen their knowledge.

## Clergy and ministry



### Join in celebrating Father Brian D'Arcy's 80th birthday

**In a special edition of  
Sunday Sequence,  
Audrey Carville took him  
on a journey through  
some cherished  
memories...**

Available now on BBC Sounds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002czgy>





## Parish Reader commissioned in Eglantine, Connor

**Matthew Allen was commissioned as a Parish Reader at All Saints', Eglantine, on Sunday June 1. Rev Canon Amanda Adams, Connor Diocesan Warden of Readers, conducted the commissioning and preached.**

Thank you to everyone who came along tonight to support Matthew - it was such an encouragement to see him surrounded by family and friends. We wish Matthew every blessing as he exercises his reader ministry in All Saints'.

## Cork Canon's 25th anniversary of his ordination

Many congratulations to Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum on the occasion of the silver jubilee - 25th anniversary



- of his ordination to the priesthood.

## Events

### A Pilgrim's Path for Waterford and Lismore's Jubilee Year of Hope



Diocese of  
Waterford & Lismore



## PILGRIM'S PATH PASSPORT

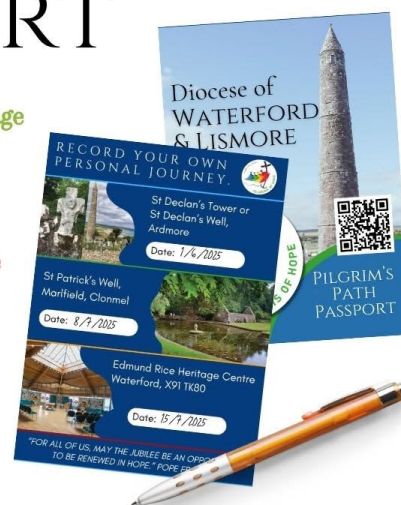


Explore the rich heritage  
of our Diocese

Sites chosen by the  
people of the Diocese

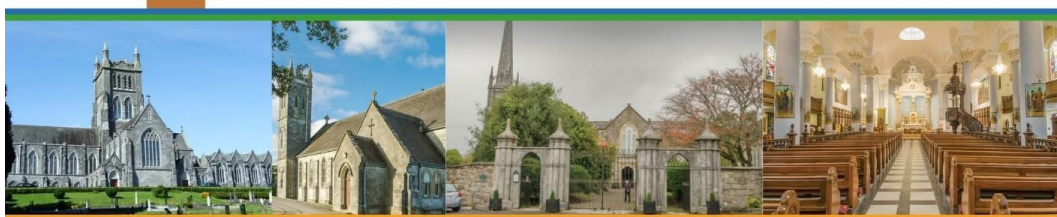
Visit in any order  
and at any stage  
throughout the year,  
on your own or with  
friends and family

Keep as a memento of the  
Jubilee Year of Hope



Pray the Jubilee Year Prayer

Passports are available in Churches throughout the  
diocese or can be downloaded and printed at home:  
[www.waterfordlismore.ie/jubilee2025](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/jubilee2025)



May 10, 2025

**In this Jubilee Year of Hope you are invited to walk the Pilgrim's Path around the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.**

Visit the seven sites and start your own personal journey of renewal in hope. Pilgrim passports available in all parishes in the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore from June 1st.

More information available at [www.waterfordlismore.ie/jubilee2025](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/jubilee2025) and you can download and print a copy of the Pilgrim Passport there too!

## **Young Adult Jubilee Year Pilgrimage from Waterford and Lismore**

- **book soon to secure your place. More info on next page and at**
- <https://waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry/frassati-camino/>

## **World War I medals on display at Siege Museum**

**We're delighted to have received on loan, a part collection of World War I medals received by soldiers from across the province.**

The collection belongs to Robert and Christine Mitchell, Donemana. Robert has acquired the pieces over the last 20 years and has very kindly loaned them to the Siege Museum, Londonderry





For young adults from the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore  
and the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly

INTERDIOCESAN JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE

JUBILEE 2025  
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

**YOUNG ADULT**

# Frassati Camino

   
ST DECLAN'S WAY

**July 31st - August 4th**

**Price includes:**

- Half-Board Accommodation at Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary
- Insurance
- Packed lunch daily
- Bus transfers to and from St Declan's Way each day
- Full Spiritual Programme including Daily Mass
- Evening Programme at Holy Family Mission
- Pilgrim Passport
- Pilgrim Pack


**Spiritual Directors:**

- Fr Shane O'Neill
- Fr Vincent Stapleton




**€275 pps**

- Non-refundable deposit of €100 due by 12th June 2025
- Remainder of the cost (€175) due by 4th July 2025.


**Ages 18 - 35**  
(pilgrims must be aged 18 or over by 31/7/25)

 *Verso l'alto*

80kms over 4 days from the Rock of Cashel to Ardmore Round Tower  
Celebrate the Canonisation of Pier Giorgio Frassati in the Great Outdoors!

Complete the expression of interest form here: [www.waterfordlismore.ie/frassati-camino](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/frassati-camino)



They are now on display as part of our World War exhibition and will be a very valuable asset to our ever growing inventory of objects.

## The King's Birthday Parade

If you're lucky enough to be coming to see The King's Birthday Parade at Horse Guards on 14th June, be sure to come prepared with sunscreen, a shady hat and

May 10, 2025

**plenty of water because it looks like it might be a very warm one.**

Until then, there are a handful of tickets for the Colonel's Review of Trooping The Colour still available this Saturday 7th June. Check the website and book quickly!

<https://kbp.army.mod.uk/> Buy Tickets for The King's Birthday Parade 2025 | Trooping The Colour

## In the media

### **I believe that Gerry Adams is one of the world's great liars - Andy Pollak writes in 2 Irelands together**

I believe that Gerry Adams is one of the world's great liars

The cynic would say that politicians always lie. But, led by the example of the current President of the United States, we are in an era of political leaders speaking astonishing untruths to a degree that I have never witnessed in six decades of watching politicians as a journalistic observer.

Gerry Adams is up there with the best (or worst) of them. A former IRA man and lifelong Sinn Fein member told journalist Aoife Moore for her 2023 book *The Long Game: Inside Sinn Fein*: "When he is confronted with any uncomfortable truth, his first instinct is to lie to everybody.

That's part and parcel of politics, but this guy has no qualms at all. And this guy has no conscience about stuff, he's not troubled by anything." One Sinn Fein staffer told Moore: "The thing about Gerry is he could look his dearest friend in the eye and lie."

Adams' whole life has been based on the lie that he was never in the IRA. Gerry Moriarty of the Irish Times, reporting on his victorious defamation trial against the BBC last week, recounted his renewed denials on the witness stand "that he was in the IRA or that for many years he served on its ruling Army Council. Whatever about south of the Border, there is hardly a person in Belfast, or indeed in Northern Ireland – or indeed any republican living on or off the Falls Road – who lends credence to that claim.

"For Sinn Fein and IRA supporters generally, they just shrug their shoulders and say that if Adams feels that his denial of IRA membership is something he must persist with, then so be it. 'Gerry knows best' tends to be the response of the faithful."<sup>1</sup>

The most highly regarded chroniclers of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles', journalists and political scientists alike, all agree that Adams was both in the IRA and on its Army Council. Ed Moloney wrote in *A Secret History of the IRA* that he was one of the Army Council's longest serving members in the mid-1990s and still on that body in the early 2000s. Patrick Radden Keefe in his brilliant book *Say Nothing* (later turned into a film) detailed his involvement in the IRA's 1972 abduction and murder of the Belfast mother of ten, Jean McConville. Professor Richard English, in his book *Armed Struggle: A History of the IRA*, stated categorically that he



was in that organisation, listing his ranks and the dates he held each position. Former IRA comrades Dolours Price and Brendan Hughes have recounted their experience of being led by Adams as their Belfast commander.

Yet last week a Dublin High Court jury found in his favour and against the BBC Spotlight programme for a 2016 allegation that he had authorised the killing of former Sinn Féin administrator and MI5 informer Denis Donaldson ten years earlier (the Real IRA had claimed responsibility for his killing). Adams is super-smart. He sensed that Spotlight was on weak ground with its single, anonymous source (a Special Branch informer) for that allegation and pounced, led by a high powered legal team that included Paul Tweed, defender of numerous celebrities in defamation cases. Spotlight journalist Jennifer O’Leary – an excellent investigative reporter – said she had five confirming sources, three of them security sources, but was not completely convincing.

Adams was helped by Dublin jury consisting mainly of people in their twenties, thirties and forties who had little or no memory of the horror of the ‘Troubles’. Journalists reported that members of the jury appeared “captivated” by Adams charisma, charm and sense of humour. He provoked laughter in the court and smiles from the jury when he said a photo showing him shouldering the coffin of an old republican while wearing the black beret associated with IRA membership made him look like the ineffectual Frank Spencer in the TV comedy ‘Some Mothers do ‘Ave’ ‘Em.

The judge, Mr Justice Alexander Owens, also helped his case by telling the jury that “all this guff is not evidence” as

to whether or not Adams was a member of the IRA. He was dismissive of the BBC's attempt to portray Adams as an IRA leader, emphasising that "a person's reputation can change" and they should evaluate Adams' reputation as of "2016 and now". A strong part of his legal team's strategy had been to present him as a peacemaker, as he undoubtedly was in the run-up to the Good Friday Agreement (although a peacemaker who continuously lied to his IRA grassroots to keep them on board the peace process, according to Ed Moloney).

More generally, this was another example of the increasing legitimisation and normalisation of 30 years of republican violence in Northern Ireland, and it was a bad day for investigative journalism where the IRA and Sinn Fein are concerned. Adams said he took the case "to put manners on the British Broadcasting Corporation" which he said "upholds the ethos of the British state in Ireland" (a ridiculous statement when put alongside investigations by programmes like Spotlight and Panorama of British security forces' abuses in Northern Ireland). The former editor of the Belfast nationalist newspaper, the Irish News, Noel Doran, said: "There will be a chilling factor in newsrooms. People will be thinking very carefully about anything to do with Adams. There is a danger that a much more benign view of the Troubles becomes commonplace."

That is happening anyway, much to Sinn Fein's delight. Whether it is the 'Oh, Ah, Up the Ra' chant at rock concerts or the success of the republican rappers of the balaclava-clad Kneecap group (not helped by the British police's absurd charge of terrorism against one of them for waving a Hezbollah flag at a concert), young people are ingesting a

sanitised and romanticised view of the IRA and its killings of nearly 1800 people during the 'Troubles' (nearly five times more than the British Army, RUC and UDR combined).

It was left to SDLP MLA Matthew O'Toole to remember "the thousands of victims of the IRA, loyalists and the state who will never get a single day in court, let alone justice."

As that fine Belfast journalist Sam McBride wrote in the Irish Independent: "To those who idolise Adams, such issues don't register. They see only his sense of humour, his magnetism and his political achievements. Adams has never given any reason to believe that he saw the terror and the killings as immoral. Murder was a price worth playing for Irish freedom."<sup>2</sup>

McBride wrote that Adams had told an English church magazine in 1996 that "he couldn't get through life without being prayerful" and "I like the sense of there being a God." Asked why he wouldn't condemn violence, he gave a typically woolly answer: "I think these questions of morality are very difficult and vexed ones for all of us." Before feeling understandably appalled by the sheer, bloody neck of the man, it's worth contemplating that the IRA's 1,800 killings pale into insignificance when compared to the hundreds of thousands of people slaughtered by so-called 'Christian' armies over the centuries.

1 'What does the libel victory mean for the former Sinn Fein president's legacy?', Irish Times, 31 May



May 10, 2025

2 'Adams is a man of huge ambition who had no moral qualms about securing his goals through murder', Irish Independent, 31 May

Posted on Monday, 2 June, 2025 by Andy Pollak  
[www.2irelands2gether.com](http://www.2irelands2gether.com)

## Poem for today

### Happy the man, and happy he alone

Happy the man, and happy he alone,  
He who can call today his own:  
He who, secure within, can say,  
Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.  
Be fair or foul or rain or shine  
The joys I have possessed, in spite of fate, are mine.  
Not Heaven itself upon the past has power,  
But what has been, has been, and I have had my hour.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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early morning**

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