

Church News Ireland



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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day

Climate Justice Candle visits Carrigaline

The ECI Climate Justice Candle visited the Church of our Lady and St John in Carrigaline, Cork as their way of marking the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si'!

Fr James McSweeney invited Sofia Petry dos Santos, aged 8, to the altar to light the candle with her mum, Aline.

Fr James brought freshly-grown produce to Mass to show how simple it is to grow your own vegetables at home.

With the small grant that the parish received from ECI, they distributed brochures at all Masses on 'Growing your own food is yummy'. Not a brochure remained by lunch time on Sunday, a great success! Read more and view their photos here \>\> <https://tinyurl.com/y3a4upsu>. Fr James often writes beautiful reflections on creation and nature. They are easy to access for everyone here \>\> <https://www.2u.ie/>

News

Music on beautiful Rathlin Island

Matthew Owens reports that he “had a lovely time performing an all Bach concert with Elisabeth Vogel (baroque flute) and Norah O Leary (baroque cello) earlier this week, as part of the Rathlin Sound Festival on beautiful Rathlin Island.

There was standing room only in St Thomas's Church - admittedly it's not huge (!) but the organisers were really pleased with the turnout."

He commented, "in had some time to explore the island, and saw plenty of puffins (among the quarter of a million birds) and at least 17 seals; what a treat! "

100th birthday for Derry St Peter's parishioner



The great and the good beat a path to the home of Waterside woman, Isobel Gilmour, last week as the St Peter's parishioner celebrated her 100th birthday. Among the many well-wishers were the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster and the King's Lord

[June 2, 2025](#)

Lieutenant for the County Borough of Londonderry, Ian Crowe M.B.E.

Other callers included the Archdeacon of Derry – and Miss Gilmour's rector – Ven. Robert Miller and the CCCMSP Group of Parishes' Pastoral Director, Rev Canon Katie McAteer.

Isobel has had an almost lifelong association with the CCCMSP parishes. As a child she became a member of the Christ Church, Derry congregation when her family moved from Carrigans to Londonderry in the early 1930s, and she has been a part of the St Peter's congregation since the church opened on Culmore Road in 1966.

A birthday card from the King and Queen was among the many cards on display on the mantelpiece of the bungalow in Woodburn Park which Isobel shares with her brother, Kenneth. The celebratory trappings also included floral bouquets and large birthday balloons.

Isobel's sister, Josie Dennison, and niece Lesley Hamilton joined Kenneth and the new centenarian to welcome Bishop Andrew and Canon McAteer with tea and cake when they visited to bring good wishes from the Diocese.

Isobel reminisced with the Bishop about her childhood, growing up as one of ten children; the family's move to Messines Park in Derry, where 13 people lost their lives when a Luftwaffe bomb fell in 1941; her years working in one of the city's many shirt factories; and, of course, about her years of worship in Christ Church (where she had been a member of the choir) and St Peter's.

Friday's visit concluded as Bishop Andrew knelt beside Isobel to offer prayers for her continued wellbeing, and for her family and the carers who continue to look after her.



General Assembly

of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

2025

Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 June
Assembly Buildings, Belfast

For full details visit
www.presbyterianireland.org/ga2025



General Assembly 2025 schedule ✨



Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 June



Assembly Buildings, Belfast

You are most cordially invited

Opening Meeting

Tuesday 10 June, 10am

[June 2, 2025](#)

Opening address and constitution of General Assembly
2025 with Rt Rev Dr Richard Murray

Installation of New Moderator

Wednesday 10 June, 4.30pm

Installation of Moderator, Rev Trevor Gribben

Reflective Worship

Tuesday 10 June, 5.30pm

Wednesday 11 June, 12.30pm

Communion

Thursday 12 June, 12.30pm

All are welcome – no tickets required

Full details and live streaming

www.presbyterianireland.org/ga2025

Women ‘Encountering each other and God’

250 women from around the diocese of Down and Dromore came to Belvoir Parish on Friday evening for “an encounter with God and each other.”

Ruth Thompson told her story of becoming a young widow when her husband, Andrew, died from brain cancer. Ruth was honest about her struggles and her journey back to a much deeper relationship with God.



Hilary McClay also spoke on encountering God and our expectation that he will transform us. Thanks expressed to Belvoir Parish Church for hosting and Lydia Harvey and band for leading worship.

Service in Belfast Cathedral to celebrate Christian Aid Ireland 80th anniversary of work and witness

This year marks a significant milestone in the history of Christian Aid Ireland, as it turns 80.

Christian Aid was founded by the Churches in Britain and Ireland in 1945, in the aftermath of World War Two, to respond to the refugee crisis in Europe. Thanks to the generous and prayerful support of thousands of individuals and local churches, its work continues 80 years on to tackle

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO
**CHRISTIAN AID IRELAND'S
ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**

MARKING 80 YEARS OF GLOBAL IMPACT



BELFAST
CATHEDRAL
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

THE UNSTOPPABLE POWER OF HOPE

both the symptoms and root causes of poverty in over 40 countries.

On World Refugee Day – Friday, 20th June 2025 – Christian Aid will be holding a special service of thanksgiving for the global impact made possible by the individuals, churches, staff and partners which make up Christian Aid. As we give thanks, those present will also focus on the challenges ahead and recommit ourselves to striving for a world free from the scandal of poverty.

Please plan to join in the service:

Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2HB
Friday 20th June 2025, 7pm

There will be reflections from Christian Aid's history, and music from Renaissance Choir and Intercultural Worship Ireland. The preacher will be the former Chair of Christian Aid Ireland, the **Rt Revd Trevor Williams**.

The service will close with tea and coffee and an opportunity to chat. To assist with catering and organisation, those who plan to attend are asked to get in touch with David Thomas at dthomas@christian-aid.org or register online at the following link: www.christianaid.ie/get-involved/events/80th-anniversary-service

US Evangelist meets Ukrainian President

American evangelist Franklin Graham has met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Berlin.

The two prayed for peace to be restored between Ukraine and Russia, and for wisdom for Zelensky, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and US President Donald Trump.

Graham is in Berlin this week for the European Congress on Evangelism, which is bringing together 1,000 Christian pastors and leaders from 55 countries.

"Today I had the privilege to meet with President Zelensky and have prayer with him," Graham told the congress.

"I prayed for President Putin, I prayed for him [Zelensky], and I prayed for President Trump—that God would give them wisdom and that God would give them a path forward for peace.

"The complications in Ukraine and Russia, these are very difficult, and I believe only God can solve this."

He then led congress delegates in praying together for peace between Russia and Ukraine.

The congress opened on Tuesday with a call to European Christians to be bold in evangelism and unashamed of the Gospel.

Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*for the renewal of the Church
in the Archdiocese of Dublin*

Come, Holy Spirit, revive and renew us
Come, Holy Spirit, inspire and enthuse us
Come, Holy Spirit, unbind and release us

Open our eyes to see God's grace around us
Open our ears to hear God's voice within us
Open our hearts to welcome God among us

Send us out with joy to live the Gospel
Send us out with peace to act as one
Send us out with love to build up hope

Archdiocese of Dublin

***Building Hope through
Prayer, Reflection and Planning***

Archdiocese of Dublin Novena to the Holy Spirit

You are warmly invited to join once again with every parish in the diocese in a Novena to the Holy Spirit – our dedicated period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The Novena will take place in the nine days from 1st – 9th June beginning on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, through Pentecost and continuing to the Feast of Saint Columba (St Colmcille), one of the three patron saints of Ireland.

Novena resources:

<https://dublindiocese.ie/novena-to-the-holy-spirit-2025/>

Education

Galway school visits Tuam Cathedral

The senior classes of St Nicholas parochial school Galway, Visited St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam for the annual Diocesan Schools' Service. A great day out was had by all!

Seven schools in Ferns go visiting

It was the turn of St Edan's Cathedral and the Ferns Union of Parishes to host two school events and services last week.

There were interesting questions for Bishop Wilkinson to try and answer, lots of contributions to the prayer boards and each group enjoyed a tour of this ancient Christian site with Dean Mooney. Each session ended with a short service and a picnic in St Mogue's Cottage beside the Cathedral.

Schools involved on the day were from Wexford, Ferns, Enniscorthy, Gorey, Carnew, Tinahely and Bunclody.

Queens in Times Square

“I’m just back from a brilliant week in New York, where Queen's University Belfast spent some time building and strengthening our presence in North America”, writes Richard Miles, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor QUB.

He continues - There were plenty of opportunities connect with our alumni, partners, supporters and friends of the University and discuss the power of philanthropy to transform lives, opportunities to support our graduates as they take their next steps globally, and new and exciting ways that we can continue to strengthen our engagement across the region.

The standout moment for me was seeing the Queen's logo light up in Times Square.

Thanks to all who made the visit so memorable. We look forward to deepening our partnerships across North America in the months and years ahead.



The Marine Machine comes to Strabane



The Lough's Agency brought their Marine Machine along to Strabane Academy giving year 8 pupils an opportunity to learn about the wonders of our local waterways.

This event offered lots of exciting and interactive experiences from exploring the River Foyle through virtual reality to meeting various species of crab and other marine life.

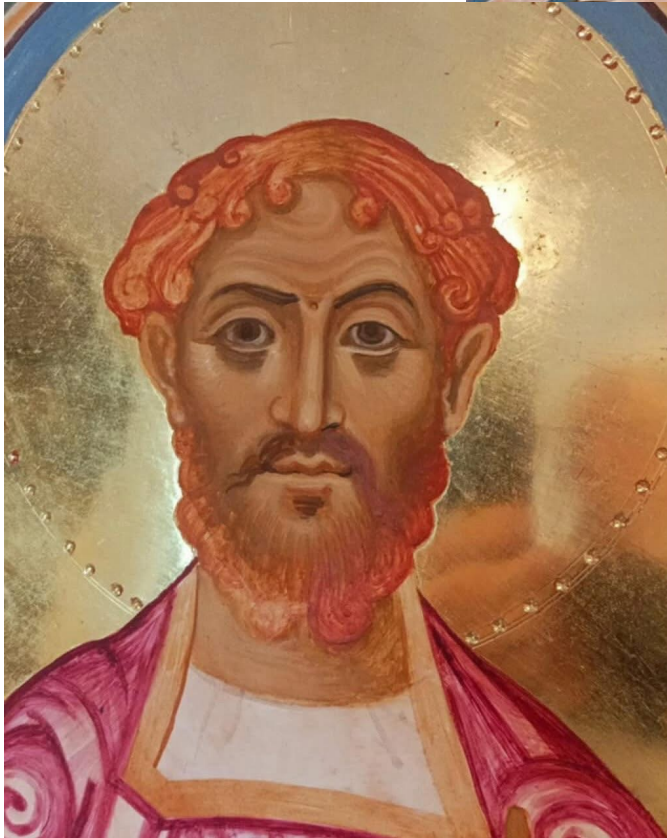
A swimmingly good time had by all!

Cathedral Calls

The icon of St Flannan is unfolding ...

June 2, 2025

**The icon of St
Flannan is
unfolding before
our eyes. We are**



**still gratefully receiving
donations towards the
cost of this beautiful piece by Ian Knowles.**

It will hang in St Paul's chapel at St Flannan's Cathedral
(Killaloe's Cathedral).

if you would like to contribute here is the link
<https://www.idonate.ie/crowdfunder/stflannansicon>

Clergy and ministry



Pioneer Ministry Hubs in Dublin and Glendalough meet Alpha Ireland

Chaired by the new Dublin and Glendalough Pioneer Ministry advocate, a fruitful gathering of the Pioneer Ministry Hubs in Dublin and Glendalough took place on Tuesday in Kill O The Grange with input from John and Emily from Alpha Ireland.

They discussed established and potential projects and pioneers, new approaches to local training for volunteers, and how we continue to equip people and parishes in the diocese to reach those with little or no connection to church.

Commissioning of new Diocesan Reader

On Ascension Day, the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory the Rt Revd Adrian Wilkinson presided at an evening service of Holy Communion held at St Mogue's Church in Ballycanew, and commissioned John Free as a new Diocesan Reader.

John has served as a parish reader in the Gorey Group of Parishes for many years. He discerned a call to increased involvement at a diocesan level and was interviewed and recommended for further training. This involved doing the year long Certificate in Christian Theology and Practice at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute followed by an additional term of training in liturgy and preaching.

On Thursday evening, the church was filled with family members, neighbours and parishioners who were there to support John as he took this next step in ministry. The Warden of Readers, Canon Helen Oxley formally presented John for admission as a Reader. Archdeacon Mark Hayden, who as John's rector did so much to encourage his vocation over the years, was also involved in the service. As part of the commissioning, Archdeacon Hayden pledged to continue to encourage John to use his gifts and develop his ministry.



In his sermon, Bishop Wilkinson drew attention to the account of the Ascension in the Acts of the Apostles.

As Jesus withdrew, the disciples were asked, 'Why do you stand looking up towards heaven?'

The Bishop reminded everyone that the followers of Jesus

were to be witnesses in Jerusalem (their locality), Judea and Samaria, (the wider region) and to the ends of the earth.

While the call to be a witness begins in the locality it should never end there.

Speaking after the service John Free said that he was encouraged by the large attendance and enthusiastic participation at the service.

'It is wonderful to be part of a community celebrating and moving forward together with hope and love'.

New Bishop of Doncaster

His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders as the new Suffragan Bishop of Doncaster.



You can read more about the appointment here 📌

<https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/the-revd-leah-vasey-saunders-announced-as-the-next-bishop-of-doncaster/>

Events

Belfast High School Spring Concert 2026

Calling all former musicians, singers and instrumentalists (pupils, parents and staff)!

We are holding our 2026 Spring Concert on Tuesday 24 March in the Ulster Hall and the second half of the concert will be a performance of excerpts from Rutter's 'Requiem' with orchestral accompaniment. If you are interested in joining us, either in the choir or orchestra, please contact Mrs Emily Burch (eburch367@c2ken.net) so that music can be issued to you.

June 2, 2025

The UK Careers Fair is returning to Belfast

 **Assembly Buildings**

 **Friday 5th September 2025**

 **10AM - 2PM**

Looking for a new job? A career change? Your next big opportunity?

 Meet top employers

 Hundreds of jobs available across multiple sectors

 Network, apply, and get hired — all in one day!

 **FREE** to attend – just turn up!

 Interested in exhibiting?

Showcase your vacancies to thousands of motivated jobseekers.

Book your stand here: <https://store.ukcareersfair.com/Belfast-Careers-Fair-p473607169>

Resources

Summer 2025 edition of Dea Scéala is out now!

You'll find it in parishes in Tuam, Killala and Achonry or click on the link below to read the flip book:-

<https://tlk.ie/3d-flip-book/dea-sceala/>

Poem for today

Sun and Shadow

by Oliver Wendell Holmes

As I look from the isle, o'er its billows of green,
To the billows of foam-crested blue,
Yon bark, that afar in the distance is seen,
Half dreaming, my eyes will pursue:
Now dark in the shadow, she scatters the spray
As the chaff in the stroke of the flail;
Now white as the sea-gull, she flies on her way,
The sun gleaming bright on her sail.

Yet her pilot is thinking of dangers to shun,--
Of breakers that whiten and roar;
How little he cares, if in shadow or sun
They see him who gaze from the shore!
He looks to the beacon that looms from the reef,
To the rock that is under his lee,
As he drifts on the blast, like a wind-wafted leaf,
O'er the gulfs of the desolate sea.

Thus drifting afar to the dim-vaulted caves
Where life and its ventures are laid,
The dreamers who gaze while we battle the waves
May see us in sunshine or shade;

June 2, 2025

Yet true to our course, though the shadows grow dark,
We'll trim our broad sail as before,
And stand by the rudder that governs the bark,
Nor ask how we look from the shore!

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

