

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Teddy Bear Festival attracts

Image for today - Teddy Bear Festival attracts

News -

Armagh group visit to Ark Community Gardens, Newcastle
Dublin Lutheran Church host supper for Christian Aid Ireland
Mossley Church Service highlighting dementia
Waterford and Lismore travel to Lourdes
Opening sold out - Galway Early Music Festival
Church of Scotland's historic magazine to close after 146 years
Bangor Cathedral spending frozen after debts revealed

Education -

St. Mary's school, Waterside, Galway visits Tuam cathedral
Wallace High exhibitions
Teacher Workload

Cathedral Calls -

Derry & Raphoe to celebrate 50th Anniversary of Lord
Eames being consecrated Bishop
Labyrinth training day

Clergy and ministry -

Ordination in Armagh
Catching up with friends: training for Ordained Local Ministry

Events -

Spiritual Tourism & Pilgrimage event in Dingle
New exhibition - Words on the Wave: Ireland and St Gallen
in Early Medieval Europe
Shakespeare & Strawberries: A Midsummer Night's Dream
Ballyclare youth mission fundraiser Coffee morning

Perspective

'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good' - How Nicaea
defined the shape of Christianity

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

May 10, 2025

Image of the day

Teddy Bear Festival attracts

Eglantine Mothers' Union writes - On Saturday some members of Eglantine Mothers' Union (near Lisburn in Connor diocese) travelled to



Magheracross Parish Church in Ballinamallard (Clogher diocese) for the Teddy Bear Festival.

Bible Events and Remarkable Stories were told using 28 wonderful displays of teddy bears. It was a fantastic day out

May 10, 2025

and well worth seeing. Many thanks to Rev Lorraine for her wonderful welcome to the parish.

News

Armagh group visit to Ark Community Gardens, Newcastle

Members of the Flourish Initiative in Armagh diocese met with Mrs. Joanna McCall from the Ark Community Gardens (Newcastle).

The Armagh team visited the Ark project last week looking at its environmental work supporting societies most vulnerable through a range of practical creation care/environmental developments.

The Flourish working group is very grateful to Mrs. McCall and Mr. Joel Prescott (Site Manager and Pastoral care director) for a very engaging visit seeding new ideas for parishes attending. To learn more about the work of the Ark



May 10, 2025



and their vision to "Help people grow" please visit
www.arkcommunitygardens.org

Dublin Lutheran Church host supper for Christian Aid Ireland

Christian Aid Ireland is very grateful to Pastor Florian von Issendorff, his wife Anna and the members of The Lutheran Church in Ireland, St. Finian's Church in Dublin who raised around €800 with their annual supper to mark Christian Aid Week.

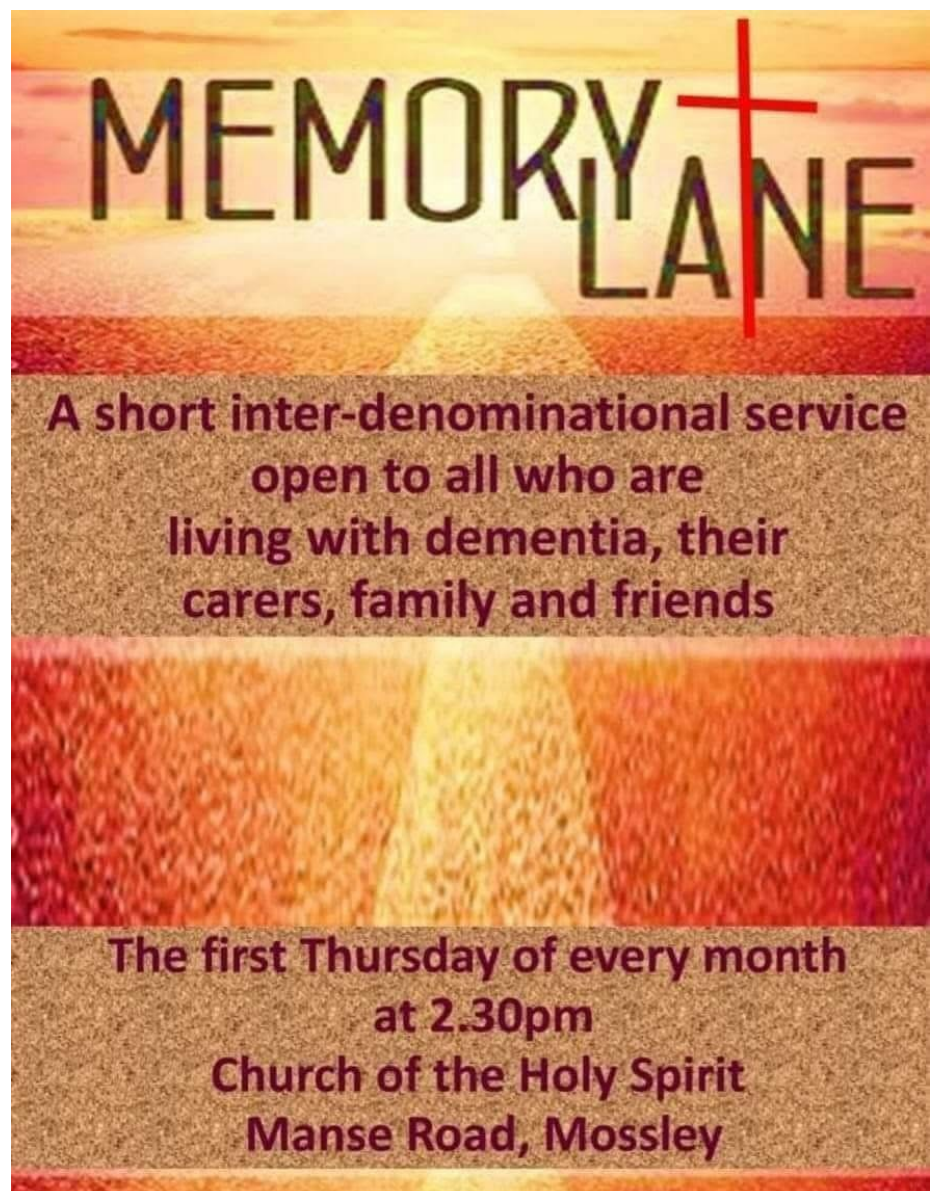
The supper was attended by 40 people from the Lutheran church and members of other local churches including Saint Bartholomew's

Church in Ballsbridge and Adelaide Road Presbyterian Church.

Afterwards, our Church and Community Officer Dee Huddleston gave a talk about our work in Guatemala, which is the focus of this year's Christian Aid Week

Appeal. 🇬🇧

Pictured left to



May 10, 2025

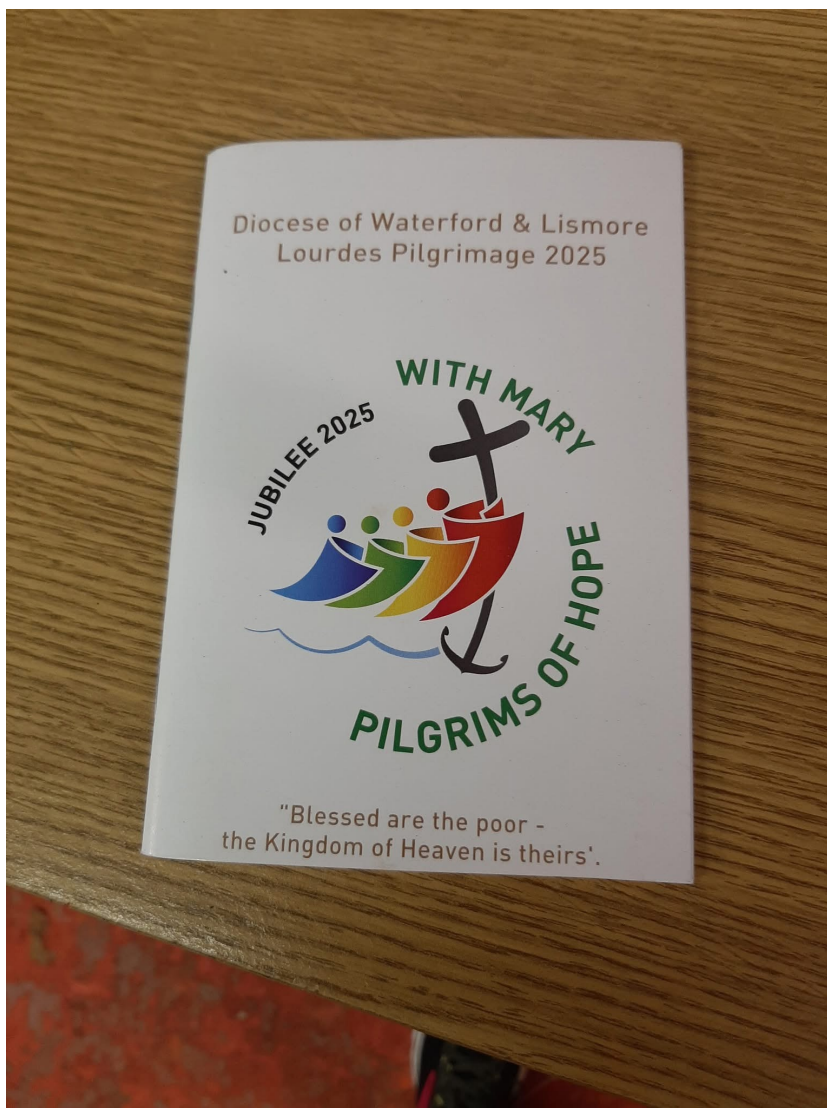
right are: Pastor Florian von Issendorff; Traudi Ferguson, Christian Aid rep at St Bartholomew's; Hope Graham who recently completed an internship at Christian Aid's Dublin office and Anna von Issendorff.

Mossley Church Service highlighting dementia

The Church of the Holy Spirit is looking forward to its Memory Lane service on Thursday 5th June at 2.30pm.

"So please do come along and join us for a short time of praise, prayer and fellowship. The fellowship continues over

a cuppa after the service. Everyone welcome...look forward to seeing you."



Waterford and Lismore travel to Lourdes

Great teamwork on Saturday morning at our pre Pilgrimage packing. Many hands make light work!



350 people from our Diocese will travel to Lourdes on Wednesday 4th June. We will remember you all.

Opening concert sold out - great start to Galway Early Music Festival

It was a great start to Galway Early Music Festival 2025 being hosted by Saint Nicholas' Collegiate Church.

If you missed out on the coffee concert don't fret - there's another one (with different repertoire!) on Bank Holiday Monday at 11am, so do come along. Thank you to all those who joined us for our first concert of GEMF. Make sure you book ahead for the rest of the festival to avoid missing out!
<https://www.resurgam.ie/event-list>

Church of Scotland's historic magazine to close after 146 years

The Church of Scotland has announced that its long-running magazine Life and Work will cease publication later this year due to financial strain and falling readership.

Speaking at the General Assembly in Edinburgh, leaders said the magazine, first published in 1879, can no longer be sustained.

Editor Lynne McNeil, who has led the publication for 23 years, noted that print media is facing “diminishing returns”, especially with declining church attendance.

She explained in an interview with the BBC that “life and work lost sales every time a church closed”.

Rev Jim Stewart, convener of the magazine's advisory committee, praised its legacy, saying: “It has enhanced and strengthened the Church of Scotland's national identity.”

Although Life and Work is editorially independent, its discontinuation reflects wider pressures within the Kirk, which has warned that hundreds of churches may face closure amid financial difficulties.

Proposals for a new publication may be brought to the Assembly next year.

Bangor Cathedral spending frozen after debts revealed

Bangor Cathedral has had its spending suspended after the discovery of hundreds of thousands of pounds in debt.

According to sources speaking to Newyddion S4C, £418,000 was spent on furniture, part-funded by the diocese, and around £20,000 went towards three overseas trips, mainly involving cathedral staff, including two to Rome and one to Dublin.

The freeze follows the release of two critical reports earlier this month, which raised concerns about safeguarding, inappropriate behaviour, and financial management at the cathedral.

The debts are owed to the Bangor Diocese, which operates as a separate charitable organisation.

The overseas trips were reportedly funded by the diocese, with the second visit to Rome described as particularly extravagant. It included “an overnight stay in the Radisson at Manchester Airport before an early flight, followed by accommodation in four-star hotels in Rome, plus dinner and taxis throughout”.

The cathedral admitted that there had been poor consultation and communication regarding the furniture

May 10, 2025

spending and confirmed that the Dean and Chapter had agreed to repay the costs of the overseas travel.

A spokesperson said an earlier independent review had found no financial inconsistencies.

The Church in Wales is now supporting improvements to financial record-keeping, and the debt is expected to be repaid by next year.

Education



St. Mary's school, Waterside, Galway visits Tuam cathedral



The senior classes visited St. Mary's Cathedral, Tuam last week for the annual Diocesan Schools' Service. A great day out was had by all!

Wallace High exhibitions

WHS annual Art and Design and MIA exhibitions take place on Thursday 5th June, 3.30–5.00pm.

This event showcases the amazing talent and hard work of our students, and we would like to invite everyone in the wider Wallace community to attend. See also page 20

Teacher Workload



Education Minister, Paul Givan MLA attended a meeting with the Independent Review of Teacher Workload panel members.

The panel provided an update on their plans for the review and how engagement with stakeholders is progressing.

To find out more about the Independent Review of Teacher Workload, visit www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/independent-review-teacher-workload



Cathedral Calls

**Derry &
Raphoe to
celebrate 50th
Anniversary
of Lord
Eames being
consecrated
Bishop**

**Bishop Andrew is
inviting the
parishes to Lord Robin Eames 50th Anniversary
Celebration Service at St Columb's Cathedral on
Monday 9th June at 11am.**

This Celebrates The Most Rev Robin Eames 50th
anniversary as a bishop.

Labyrinth training day

**Christ Church Cathedral Dublin will host a Labyrinth
training day on Wednesday July 30 2025 from 11.30am
to 5pm, followed by evening prayer.**



This day will introduce the labyrinth and include a presentation, a labyrinth prayer walk and training to support you in how to facilitate labyrinth prayer walks.

The day is being offered to the wider diocese as a gift to any who are interested in pursuing this ministry, but places are extremely limited, so booking will only be accepted via an incumbent or licensed chaplain. To book, contact the Dean's Vicar deansvicar@christchurch.ie

Clergy and ministry



Ordination in Armagh

May 10, 2025

Congratulations to Fr Giacomo Taffi who was ordained to the priesthood in St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on Saturday afternoon.

Armagh parish said - We pray that he will have many years of ministry and service here in the Archdiocese of Armagh may the Holy Spirit guide Fr Giacomo in his ministry. Ad Multos Annos!

Catching up with friends and training for Ordained Local Ministry

Bishop Adrian Wilkinson - It was wonderful to catch up with two friends I have known since we were in secondary school, the Rev Ruth Jackson Noble and soon to be the Rev Edward Lindsay.

I was involved in a reflective learning day for those training for Ordained Local Ministry at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. It was a joy to meet the deacons to share some insights and hear of their experiences of ministry.

Events

Spiritual Tourism & Pilgrimage event in Dingle




**The next
Spiritual
Tourism &
Pilgrimage
event will be a
Walk at Slea
Head on the
Dingle
Peninsula on
June 21st.**

Find out more &
book your place
at [https://tlk.ie/
a-pilgrims-walk-
on-slea-head-
dingle-
peninsula-co-
kerry/](https://tlk.ie/a-pilgrims-walk-on-slea-head-dingle-peninsula-co-kerry/)

Images are
included here
from the recent

Spiritual Tourism event Reconnecting with Traditions of
Pilgrimage in East Galway, courtesy of the Ven John
Godfrey - with prayer postcards for each of the sites visited
(Aughrim, Kilconnell, Clontuskert & Clonfert).

Guided Tour provided by Dr Christy Cunniffe. The day was
co-ordinated by Ms Valerie Raitt.




*A Pilgrim's Walk on Slea Head,
Dingle Peninsula, Co. Kerry*
with Linda Woods (walk leader)

Saturday 21st of June 2025

Book now at tlk.ie/spiritualtourism/

Contact Valerie: 087 2276868 or
Email spiritualtourism@tlk.ie



New exhibition - Words on the Wave: Ireland and St Gallen in Early Medieval Europe

It was a beautiful evening at the official launch of the National Museum of Ireland's spectacular new exhibition; "Words on the Wave: Ireland and St Gallen in Early Medieval Europe".

The exhibition is a celebration of the ancient monastic connections between Ireland and Switzerland. It was uplifting to have both the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins and the President of the Swiss Confederation, Karin Keller-Sutter in attendance. A must see exhibition for anybody passing through Dublin city centre.

Shakespeare & Strawberries: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Tickets are on sale now for this RBAI event.


The drama department is using a cashless system. Please purchase your digital ticket by scanning the QR code.

Limited tickets are available for both the matinee and evening performances.

Tickets cost 10 for adult £7 concession.



END OF YEAR ART AND DESIGN AND MIA SHOW 2025




The Wallace High School
Art and Design
and
Moving Image Arts departments
have pleasure in inviting you to view the
GCSE, AS and A2 work 2025

Thursday 5th June@3.30-5pm

Refreshments served

Ballyclare youth mission fundraiser Coffee morning

St John's Parish
Ballyclare are hosting a
fundraiser Coffee
morning next Saturday to
support the youth
mission going to
Hungary in partnership
with Exodus. Call in from
10-1. 3 Doagh Road,
Ballyclare



FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING

EYES UP

#EXPECTMORE
EXODUS TEAMS 2025

Join us Saturday 7th June
10 - 1pm
St John's Ballyclare



Why are we raising money?

This Summer we are taking a youth mission team to Gardony, Hungary with Exodus. We need to raise just over £4000 to support the annual ministries in Hungary, and the local church we will be staying. Call in to our halls for a cuppa and hear more about our mission.

Perspective

‘Prove all things; hold fast that which is good’ - How Nicaea defined the shape of Christianity

Christopher Howse

I was wondering whether to pay a visit to Nicaea (now Iznik, in Turkey) for the 1700th anniversary of a momentous event there, but I was a bit put off by its not having a railway station.

Luckily the good fathers who gathered there in 325 were not so easily deterred. I suppose they travelled by horse, mule or foot from Constantinople, though a ship would have helped across the Sea of Marmara, or the Propontis as it was then known.

Worth celebrating now is that the bishops at the Council of Nicaea decided that Jesus Christ the Son of God is as much God as is God the Father. He wasn't just of a similar substance or being; he was of the same substance or being – “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made”.

That looks like the belief of the author of St John's Gospel, though the doctrine may not be easy to apply to a person who was also born and died, and, as Christians believed, rose again. The doctrine was important since, if Jesus was not fully human and fully divine, he would have been incapable of achieving atonement between God and

humanity. We should have been left crushed by sin and death, unable to enter the gates of heaven. Since mankind has an unquenchable appetite for the infinite, we'd be in the most tragic of positions.

The religious party that wanted the bishops at Nicaea to regard the Son of God only as a creature like us were followers of Arius, an influential priest born in the 250s.

An anniversary issue on Nicaea has been printed by *Communio* (a learned theological journal founded in 1972 by Hans Urs von Balthasar, Henri de Lubac and Joseph Ratzinger, who became Pope Benedict XVI). In it, David M Gwynn considers how much Arius taught the errors attributed to him and how much his opponent St Athanasius should be regarded as the champion of orthodoxy. Dr Gwynn is reader in Ancient and Late Antique History at Royal Holloway in the University of London.

Athanasius, he points out, was only a young priest of about 30 when he attended the council as assistant to Alexander, the patriarch of Alexandria. But he suggests that Athanasius might have drafted Alexander's circular letter denouncing Arius.

Dr Gwynn writes that the teaching of Arius could not be called heresy then, as "there were no established orthodox answers to resolve the questions under discussion". Perhaps not, but if it contradicted points of doctrine held by Christians, it could have been seen as false.

Dr Gwynn quotes a summary by Athanasius of the doctrines of the Arians. "Not always was the Son, for he was not until

he was begotten... He is not proper to the essence of the Father, for he is a creature and a thing made... The Son does not know the Father exactly... He is not unchangeable, like the Father, but is changeable by nature, like the creatures.” Dr Gwynn finds all these assertions in Arius’s writings except for the last, for Athanasius’s opponents repeatedly insisted that the Son was “unchangeable and set apart from all other creatures”.

I don’t know that this got the associates of Arius out of trouble. To be sure, being created is not being changed, since there was nothing to be changed from. But creation adds a new thing to the world of creatures, all susceptible to change. And to class the Son as a creature, even if set apart, distinguishes him from God in a way fatal to human salvation.

Anyway Dr Gwynn argues that over-simplifying Athanasius’s story “understates the scale of his contribution in defining and securing the orthodox faith”. I wouldn’t want that either.

Poem for today

June

by Francis Ledwidge

Broom out the floor now, lay the fender by,
And plant this bee-sucked bough of woodbine there,
And let the window down. The butterfly
Floats in upon the sunbeam, and the fair
Tanned face of June, the nomad gipsy, laughs

Above her widespread wares, the while she tells
The farmers' fortunes in the fields, and quaffs
The water from the spider-peopled wells.
The hedges are all drowned in green grass seas,
And bobbing poppies flare like Elmo's light,
While siren-like the pollen-stained bees
Drone in the clover depths. And up the height
The cuckoo's voice is hoarse and broke with joy.
And on the lowland crops the crows make raid,
Nor fear the clappers of the farmer's boy,
Who sleeps, like drunken Noah, in the shade
And loop this red rose in that hazel ring
That snares your little ear, for June is short
And we must joy in it and dance and sing,
And from her bounty draw her rosy worth.
Ay! soon the swallows will be flying south,
The wind wheel north to gather in the snow,
Even the roses spilt on youth's red mouth
Will soon blow down the road all roses go.

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

May 10, 2025

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends