

# Church News Ireland

---



**Image of the day – Remembering the Somme and Guillemont**

## **Image for today - Remembering the Somme and Guillemont**

### **News -**

Journey towards an Eco-Congregation Ireland Award  
Church of Ireland Gazette June issue  
High churchmen in Down and Dromore  
Bunclody annual fundraising walk on Saturday of Christian Aid Week  
Archbishop Martin encourages media to report hope J  
St ohn Passion by Bob Chilcott

### **Education -**

Armagh Royal explores Disneyland Paris  
Coleraine First Holy Communion  
Great support for Rainey Endowed school project in Uganda

### **Cathedral Calls -**

Changes in Derry cathedral

### **Clergy and ministry -**

Silver Jubilee of Father Hugh Clifford PP  
Archdeacon of Kilmore appointed  
New Rural Dean for the Dungiven and Limavady

### **Events -**

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025 to Knock Shrine  
Cancer Focus NI Sing for Life Choir concert  
Summer Swim Academy at Belfast Royal Academy  
Joyful celebration of music returns to Derry with RIR band

### **Poem for today**

Lovers On Aran by Seamus Heaney

### **Speaking to the soul -**

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



## Image of the day



## Remembering the Somme and Guillemont

**A ‘Service of Remembrance’ to commemorate the 109th anniversary of The Battle of the Somme, shall be held at the Ulster Memorial Tower, Thiepval on the 1st July 2025 at 1430hrs.**

Following that a “Act of Remembrance” shall be held at the Celtic Cross in Guillemont at 1630hrs.

All Welcome. If you have any questions please email Carol at:

[sommeassociation@btconnect.com](mailto:sommeassociation@btconnect.com)

**We Will Remember Them**

## News



### Journey towards an Eco-Congregation Ireland Award

**Has your church or faith community ever thought of starting a journey towards an Eco-Congregation Ireland Award? Would you like to learn more?**

All you have to do is drop a line to - [info@ecocongregationireland.com](mailto:info@ecocongregationireland.com) and they will get in touch with you to help you get started. Check out the 'Getting Started' page on their website to learn about the steps to an award

<https://www.ecocongregationireland.com/getting-started/>



## Church of Ireland Gazette June issue

**Hot off the press: the June issue of the Church of Ireland Gazette is now available!**

This month:

- ✓ Meet the new Editor, Clark Brydon.
- ✓ Full General Synod 2025 coverage.
- ✓ VE Day commemorations in Belfast.
- ✓ Youth ministry, racial justice, and diocesan updates.
- ✓ Inspiring opinion, devotionals & more.



June 5, 2025

Subscribe today — in print or online — and stay connected to the issues that matter across the Church of Ireland.

Visit <https://coigazette.ie> to subscribe and download your ePaper today.



## High churchmen in Down and Dromore

**A group of 24 from across Down and Dromore (and one dog) successfully completed the Mourne Traverse Challenge last Saturday 31 May.**

The route took in 5 peaks and 11 miles of terrain. We hiked from south to north across the Mourne Mountains from Carrick Little, just outside Annalong, to Newcastle, and climbed the peaks of Binnian, Lamagan, Cove, Beg and



June 5, 2025

Donard on the way. Here we are on Binnian's north tor. Still feeling it in the legs!



## **Bunclody annual fundraising walk on Saturday of Christian Aid Week**

**The Rector and parishioners of Bunclody Union in County Wexford were blessed with perfect weather for their annual fundraising walk, held on the Saturday of Christian Aid Week.**

Almost 30 people set off from St Fiac's Church in the picturesque, one-street village of Clonegal, walking for 7km through the grounds of Huntington Castle & Gardens

June 5, 2025

(pictured) and along quiet roads before returning to the church for refreshments.

Special shout-out to the walk organiser, Gillian Porter (left) and the Rector, Rev Trevor Sargent. We are very grateful for your support.

## **Girls' Brigade Annual General Meeting**

**Join us for our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27th August 2025 at 6.30 pm at GBNI Headquarters; for a relaxed evening as we reflect on the highlights of Girls' Brigade over the past year.**

Light refreshments will be served from 6 pm with the meeting starting promptly at 6.30 pm, followed by a delicious BBQ supper.

Book your place by 3pm on 22nd August, simply visit <https://gbni.co.uk/agm>.

## **Archbishop Martin encourages media to report hope and positivity**

**This Friday, 6 June, the Catholic Communications Office of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference will host a seminar in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, on the theme of 'Communicating Christian Hope.'**

The event, to be held in the context of World Communications Day 2025, is a contribution by the Bishops' Conference to this universal Jubilee Year of Hope that is





currently being celebrated in Rome and throughout the Catholic Church this year. 2025 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the CCO by the late Bishop Edward Daly.

The communications seminar will be addressed by international journalists, husband and wife, Colm Flynn and Paola Arriaza of EWTN, Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin, and speakers representing the voice of mothers, young people, clergy, business professionals, CCO colleagues from Bishops' agencies working in overseas aid and climate justice, drugs and alcohol, and education. The audience will include diocesan communications officers and Catholic media.

Ahead of the seminar and speaking as chair of the Communications Council of the Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Martin welcomed the annual papal message for World Day for Social Communications, which this year carried an added poignancy as it was the final such

statement by the late Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday. The message, themed **Share with gentleness the hope that is in your heart**, was released on 24 January to mark feast of Saint Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists.

Archbishop Martin described this message as “a short but insightful reflection” tailored, not only for those in traditional media, but also for all communicators in the digital space. The Primate highlighted the importance that Pope Francis placed on spreading hope through communications, especially during this Jubilee Year of Hope.

“In the context of Pope Francis’ message, I encourage all those working in media and journalism in Ireland – North and South – to consider reporting and publishing opinion articles that offer hope and positivity,” Archbishop Martin said. “There are so many uplifting stories across this island – acts of kindness and perseverance that showcase the very best of humanity. Yet, news feeds often dwell on despair and negativity.”

Archbishop Martin praised the late Pope’s direct challenge to the media’s role in fostering division and fear, referencing his critique of modern communication as being “characterised by disinformation and polarisation.” He echoed Pope Francis’ appeal to “take risks for hope,” describing it as a hidden yet tenacious virtue that can unite society in service of the common good.

He added, “It is not easy to be a Christian communicator, but Pope Francis reminded us that the Lord is with us. Our communication should reflect gentleness and closeness,



June 5, 2025

modelled on Jesus of Nazareth, the greatest communicator of all time.”

Archbishop Martin concluded with a call to action, quoting the Pope’s final pastoral guidance: to nurture one’s inner life, to be mindful of others’ faces, and to communicate with a spirit that heals, builds bridges, and writes ‘the history of our future.’



## **Altnagelvin Hospital Choir sings St John Passion by Bob Chilcott**

Two photos from the Altnagelvin Hospital Choir concert of St John Passion by Bob Chilcott on 31st May 2025 at Christ Church, Derry.

What a great evening ! Thanks to Alan Neely for the photos.



## Education

### Armagh Royal explores Disneyland Paris

**Today was  
'pure magic' as  
we spent the  
whole day at Disneyland Paris!**



From the moment we arrived, the excitement was sky-high. Pupils made the most of every minute, from meeting characters and exploring the themed lands to braving the rides and watching the spectacle that was the Disneyland Stars on Parade.





The weather was perfect, and while the park was busy (as always), it never felt too crowded. Some pupils even managed repeat rides on their favourites, including the Avengers rollercoaster.

The meal vouchers were brilliant because the food was fantastic, and the characters were out and about in the park, adding to the magic of the day.

Back to Paris tomorrow for our final adventures.

Bonne nuit.



## Coleraine First Holy Communion

**Congratulations to the St Malachy's Primary 4 boys and girls who made the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday.**

“We were so very proud of your beautiful singing, readings, participation in the mass and exemplary behaviour to make it a wonderful ceremony and celebration. Special thanks to Father Needish.”



June 5, 2025

## Great support for Rainey Endowed school project in Uganda

**A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Uganda 2025 Team appeal by providing clothes, books, toothbrushes/paste and suitcases.**



We have reached our target with the donations and are in the process of packing them for Uganda! Please know that your donations will be gratefully received at Rainey Summit View Primary School! Thank you!

## Cathedral Calls

## Changes in Derry cathedral

**Bishop Andrew has announced the appointment of three new canons to St Columb's Cathedral**



The new faces on the Cathedral Chapter of St Columb's, Londonderry are **Rev Canon Donard Collins**, **Rev Canon Peter Ferguson** and **Rev Canon Carmen Hayes** (who becomes only the second female member of the Chapter in its 400-year history). They replace Rev Colin Welsh (who has moved to a new parish in the Diocese of Connor), and





[June 5, 2025](#)

Canon Paul Hoey and Canon Harold Given, both of whom have retired.

A date has yet to be decided for the new canons' Service of Installation but their appointments take effect immediately.

Bishop Andrew said, "Donard, Carmen and Peter have wonderful gifts and talents, and their ministries are deeply appreciated by their parishioners. I hope they see their appointments as recognition of the outstanding leadership and faithful service they have given. I pray that – individually and collectively – they will strengthen and enrich the work of the Cathedral Chapter.

Bishop Andrew continued, "I wish to acknowledge, too, the outstanding contributions made by the three men whom they have replaced: Canon Paul Hoey, Canon Harold Given and Rev Colin Welsh. Once again we saw in them very distinctive approaches to ministry and worship, but the evident esteem in which they were held by parishioners is the most eloquent testament possible to their work for God's church. I thank all three for their tremendous contributions, too, to the life of St Colum's Cathedral.



“Last, but not least, I thank Harold for his leadership in the Dungiven and Limavady Rural Deanery and wish him well in retirement. I am delighted that Rev Rhys Jones (Photo page above) has agreed to pick up the torch and become the new Rural Dean. It’s a role that goes largely unseen by parishioners but is appreciated so much by bishops, like me, who rely on our rural deans to help us do God’s work in our dioceses. The people of Aghanloo, Balteagh, Carrick and Tamlaghtard are very familiar with Rhys’s gift for leadership; I am so thankful that he has agreed to accept this addition to his workload and to share that gift more widely. “

## Clergy and ministry



### Silver Jubilee of Father Hugh Clifford PP

**The people of the Parishes of Kinvarra and Ballinderreen tuned out in large numbers to mark the Silver Jubilee of Father Hugh Clifford PP with a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist at St Colman’s Church, Ballinderreen.**

“It is truly heartwarming for me to see the people of the Parishes of Kinvarra and Ballinderreen turn out in such numbers this evening to surround Father Hugh with your love on the occasions of his silver jubilee of priestly ordination and to express your gratitude for his ministry of



June 5, 2025

service among you. I thank Father Hugh for his faithful service over the last twenty-five years. He has journeyed with people in the very best of times and in their deepest of troubles. I pray God's blessing upon on him into the future. Ad Multos Annos Fr Hugh!" – Bishop Michael

## **Archdeacon of Kilmore appointed**

Revd. Ian Berry of the Lurgan (Virginia) Group of Parishes has been appointed by Bishop Ferran Glenfield as the new Archdeacon of Kilmore in succession to the Ven. Ian Horner who will be instituted as Rector of the Mullingar Union of Parishes in the coming weeks.



## **New Rural Dean for the Dungiven and Limavady**

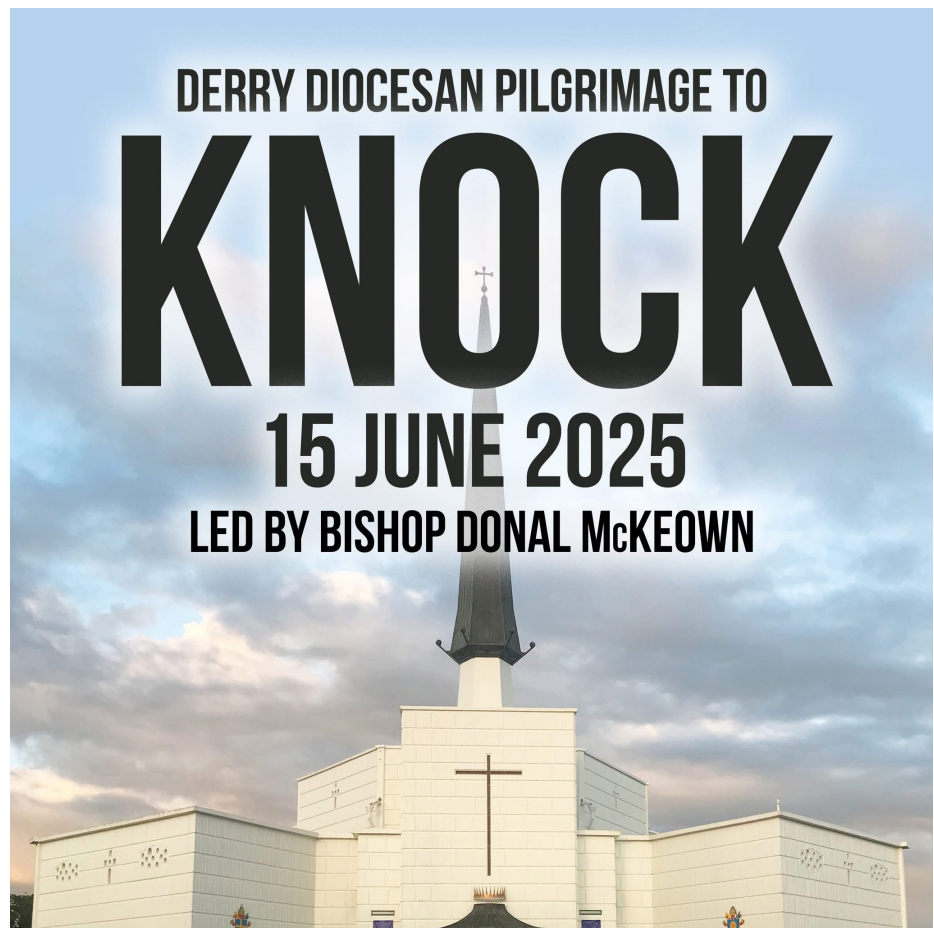
Rector of the Balteagh Group of Parishes, Rev Rhys Jones, is to succeed Canon Given as the new Rural Dean for the Dungiven and Limavady Rural Deanery.

June 5, 2025

## Events

### Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025 to Knock Shrine

**The annual Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, led by Bishop McKeown, will take place on Sunday, 15 June, commencing with Rosary at 2.00pm, followed by Anointing of the Sick at 2.30 and concluding with Mass and Eucharistic Procession at 3.00pm.**



Confessions available throughout the day.

Bus transport available from St Eugene's Cathedral. For further information on this, please contact Karen on 028 71262 894 or by email on [cathedral@derrydiocese.org](mailto:cathedral@derrydiocese.org)

In conjunction with the pilgrimage, St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, is running a two-night pilgrimage to Knock from 15 - 17 June. Cost £280 per person sharing.



June 5, 2025

For more information and full itinerary, contact Anne Marie on [amhickey@derrydiocese.org](mailto:amhickey@derrydiocese.org), telephone 028 71262894 or call into the Cathedral Parish Office.

## **Cancer Focus NI Sing for Life Choir concert**

**The Sing for Life Choir returns for their annual Summer concert ✨**

 Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast

 Tuesday 17 June 2025

 Doors open at 7.15pm

Includes special guest performance by Michelle Baird.

Tickets available:

<https://cancerfocusni.org/event/summer-concert-25/>

## **Summer Swim Academy at Belfast Royal Academy**

**If you are interested in helping your children learn how to swim or develop their technique, a Summer Swim Academy will be held at BRA swimming pool during the summer break.**

For full details, scan the QR code or visit:  
[belfastroyalacademy.sumupstore.com](http://belfastroyalacademy.sumupstore.com)

# THE BAND, BUGLES, PIPES AND DRUMS OF THE ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT



**FREE ADMISSION**

**DONATIONS IN AID OF**  
**THE ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT**  
**BENEVOLENT FUND**

**FRIDAY 4TH JULY 7.30PM**  
**ALL SAINTS' CLOONEY CHURCH**

**Joyful celebration of music returns to  
Derry with RIR band**

**The Band of the Royal Irish Regiment**

**Friday 4th July 2025 at 7:30pm**

**All Saints Church, Clooney**

**Admission Free (Donations Welcomed in support of the Royal  
Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund)**

**All Saints Clooney are thrilled to announce the return of  
The Band of the Royal Irish Regiment.**



[June 5, 2025](#)

The wait will be more than worth it and the atmosphere in church will be electric. The Royal Irish Band, Bugles, Pipes and Drums will lift spirits and stir hearts and this rescheduled performance promises to resonate across all generations.

Please spread the word and invite your family, friends and neighbours for what is sure to be an unforgettable and joyful evening.

## Poem for today

### Lovers On Aran

by Seamus Heaney

The timeless waves, bright, sifting, broken glass,  
Came dazzling around, into the rocks,  
Came glinting, sifting from the Americas

To possess Aran. Or did Aran rush



June 5, 2025

to throw wide arms of rock around a tide  
That yielded with an ebb, with a soft crash?

Did sea define the land or land the sea?  
Each drew new meaning from the waves' collision.  
Sea broke on land to full identity.

## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

---

## Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

**Link in Monday through Saturday from  
early morning  
Please recommend to your friends**



