

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – The Cathedral Bee Man**

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



## Image of the day



### The Cathedral Bee Man

Spot the Irish Cathedral which is buzzing with bees which are clinging to this stone and were resisting all the encouragement to move into handsome crates to enable them to be removed to a more bee-friendly environment.







## Clifton House volunteer team needs more members

**The team writes - Volunteers are vital for the delivery of our many tours and talks throughout the year.**

We can't thank our volunteer team enough for giving up their precious time and energy for us. Their passion, enthusiasm and knowledge shines through in all that they do, and there is no doubt they are the reason our tours get 5\\* reviews from our visitors every single time.

If you would like to join our lovely volunteer team at Clifton House, please visit [CliftonBelfast.com/volunteer](https://CliftonBelfast.com/volunteer) for more information and to contact us. We will then invite you to one of our information sessions, running on Wednesday 18th June and Friday 20th June. We can't wait to tell you more.



# Volunteer With Us

*and help us tell our story*

Visit :  
[CliftonBelfast.com/Volunteer](https://CliftonBelfast.com/Volunteer)



## Clooney area in Derry shortlisted in major planning awards

**Clooney Parish is delighted to have been shortlisted in the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence.**

The Clooney Cannon area connected to the church garden has been shortlisted for the category of 'Excellence in Planning for Heritage and Culture.'





This regenerated heritage space, created in conjunction with the local community and city council, opened last year. It houses the recently restored Cannon, is publicly accessible and has plants, seating, lighting and an information board on the fascinating history of the site.



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The awards ceremony will take place on Monday 9th June in Belfast. Wish them luck!



## **ECI Climate Justice Candle visited St Joseph's in Bonnybrook for Earth Day 2025**

Their events for Earth Day included continuing to work together as a parish community for God's creation, sharing Care for the Earth Action Cards which encourage parishioners to commit to small practical actions for the earth, and a Care for the Earth Art Project.

Read more and view their photos here  
<https://tinyurl.com/yw6tfs4z>

## **Clogher Ecumenical Service for Pentecost**

### **Clogher Ecumenical Service for Pentecost takes place at Errigal Truagh.**

This year's annual ecumenical service on Pentecost Sunday will take place on Sunday, 8 June at 3pm and will be led by both the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Bishops of Clogher at Errigal Truagh Old Graveyard in Co. Monaghan.

Errigal Truagh Old Graveyard near Glaslough and Emyvale, is one of the most ancient religious sites in the Province of Ulster and is believed to have been used for worship as far back as early Christian times. The medieval graveyard is renowned for its distinctly carved 18th Century headstones.

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher, the Most Revd Larry Duffy, will participate in the service which begins at 3pm. During the service, a number of young people will give their reflections on Pentecost and the Donagh Community Choir will lead the praise.

Afterwards, refreshments will be provided in The Blackwater Valley Centre at Ballyoisin.

Since 2000, the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland bishops of Clogher have come together, along with members of their respective Church communities to mark together the Day of Pentecost or Pentecost Sunday, as it also known. The Day of Pentecost marks the end of the fifty-





***Pope Leo greets a priest from Scotland who is studying in Rome and whose homeland is identifiable by the distinctive colour of his cassock.***

day season of Easter. Moreover, it marks the descent of the Holy Spirit in the upper room and the beginning of apostolic preaching, thus marking a defining moment in the origin of the Christian Church.

Each year, a site of historic significance in relation to the origins of the Christian church in different parts of the diocese is chosen to host this Ecumenical Service.

Errigal Truagh Old Graveyard and ruined church lie in the townland of Mullinacross which means ‘Summit of the cross. The ancient ecclesiastical site is one of great historical and archaeological significance’ and contains a remarkable

collection of carved gravestones which are an outstanding example of 18th century folk art influenced by Scottish settlers. There are headstones to the family names of McKennas and Treanors as well as a number of priests. Two local families, the Anketells and the Singletons are buried in separate areas within the ruins of the Old Church.

### **Directions - The Errigal Truagh old church and graveyard can be located from the following:**

Eircode: H18 A6K3. The old church and graveyard are located off the N2 road between Aughnacloy and Emyvale. There is a white sign for Killybrone and Clara and a brown sign for St Mary's RC Church, Clara, Errigal Truagh Church of Ireland, Truagh Heritage Centre and Derrygorry Forest. Errigal Truagh is about one and a half miles from that N2 turnoff. There will be stewards on the day to direct traffic and parking.

## **Irish Bishops call for prayer and fasting for Gaza**

### **“We call on all Catholics to make 6 June, a day of prayer and fasting for Gaza” – Irish Bishops**

Irish Bishops offered prayers for peace in the Holy Land, for Ukraine, Sudan and in other troubled parts of the world at their Standing Committee meeting in Maynooth on 26 May. In particular, bishops discussed the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, stating:

“From all over Ireland, parishioners are reporting their horror and helplessness on seeing images of death and communal



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destruction in Gaza. Exhausted mothers can no longer nourish their young, children are dying of malnutrition, while aid lorries full of supplies are being refused entry into the territory, or are not safely arriving at their destination.

“We in Ireland must pray for a change of heart. Throughout the month of June – the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – we call on everyone to pray for an outpouring of the compassion of God on a heartless world.



Thursday 8pm  
June 5th  
July 10th  
July 17th

## Summer Irish Harp Concerts

with harper Dr Janet Harbison and guests



**Saint Crone's  
Church of Ireland**  
(Templecrone),  
Church Road,  
Dungloe,  
Co. Donegal  
F94RW61

**TICKETS** at the door  
General €10  
Children €5

For more information visit  
[www.janetharbisonharp.com](http://www.janetharbisonharp.com)



“To see the relentless bombardment of civilian areas, the deliberate withholding of food from the starving, as well as the callous holding of hostages, it appears that humanity has lost its heart. In the face of these horrors, we invite everyone to turn to the heart of Jesus throughout the month of June by praying for the renewal of heart that our world so desperately needs. In particular, we call on all Catholics to make 6 June, a day of prayer and fasting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are suffering at this time in the Holy Land.

“We echo Pope Leo XIV’s recent appeal to allow into Gaza ‘the entry of dignified humanitarian aid and to put an end to the hostilities, whose heart-breaking price is paid by the children, elderly, and the sick.’”

## **Priests call for safeguarding inquiry into Bangor Cathedral**

**Two Anglican priests from Bangor Cathedral in north Wales are calling for an independent inquiry after two reports raised safeguarding concerns and highlighted allegations of misconduct at St Deiniol’s Cathedral.**

The Revd Dr John Prysor-Jones and the Very Revd Professor Gordon McPhate, both serving at Bangor Cathedral, described two recent reports into misconduct as “unsatisfactory” and argued that their conclusions were “based on impressions” rather than facts.

Both have served in a preaching capacity, and have been calling for a report into the Cathedral since 2011, saying any



inquiry should be "assisted by advisers in organisational management, canon law, civil law, and criminal law".

The first report, commissioned by the Bishop of Bangor and Archbishop of Wales Rt Revd Andrew John, described "a culture in which sexual boundaries seemed blurred", as well as instances of inappropriate language and excessive alcohol consumption. A second report considered allegations of financial misconduct under the cathedral's former Sub-Dean, who was placed on leave in March 2024.



The poster features a vertical title 'SUMMER' in large, bold, orange letters on the left. The background is a light beige color with a green scalloped border at the top. The concert details are listed in a central white box with a green border. Each entry is preceded by a colored banner indicating the date. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font. The Saint Nicholas' Collegiate Church logo is in the bottom left corner of the poster.

**4TH** **ARAGON HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA**  
1:00pm- Lunchtime Concert- Free Admission

**6TH** **IGNITE GOSPEL CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT**  
7:30-9:00pm, Uplifting gospel music, joy, and reflection; tickets from Eventbrite

**7TH** **GALWAY BAYTONES**  
8-9:30pm, With special guests The Lismorahaun Singers from North Clare and Galway's bluegrass maestro, Cesar Benzoni; tickets from Eventbrite

**11TH** **FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY VOCALS**  
1:30pm, Lunchtime Concert- Free Admission

**13TH** **BAKERSFIELD MASTER CHORALE & ACADEMY CHAMBER CHOIR**  
8:00pm- Free Admission

  
SAINT NICHOLAS'  
Collegiate Church

The two reports were completed by the end of 2024, but nothing from either was published until May 2025, when a redacted summary of each was made public. The summaries centred mostly around the recommendations, rather than details of what was found out.

A spokesperson for the Church in Wales said: “The matters raised in this correspondence will be carefully considered.”

**The Parish of Templeboy and Parish of Skreen-Dromard**  
**The Skreen Group of Parishes (Skreen, Dromard, Dromore West)**  
*with Fr Michael Gilroy & Rev Andy Pierce*  
invite you to join in  
**The blessing of**  
**Tractors and Farms**  
An ecumenical service of blessing  
**and tractor fun run.**



**Sunday, June 8th**  
**3:00 pm**

**Skreen & Dromard**  
**Community Centre**  
Bring your tractor, bring your jeep; bring your family and friends, as we ask  
God to bless our farms and homes with safety and success.  
***Refreshments following***

Contact: Skreen & Dromard  
Henry Moore 087 99 67914  
Hugh Kearins 087 96 30300

Templeboy / Dromore West  
Jason Kilgannon 085 15 73507  
Peter Johnston 087 22 42090



One congregation member has called for Rt Revd Andrew John's resignation as lead bishop for safeguarding due to the concerns, as reported by Newyddion S4C.

The calls come as the Church continues broader discussions about safeguarding standards and accountability.

When the initial report was released, the Cathedral told Premier that it wished to allow time for reflection on its findings before issuing further comment.

## Education

### Everway software support for over 4,000 staff and their families at Queen's University

**“What is essential for some is often useful for all.”**

We're proud to share that Everway has donated inclusive software worth £250,000 to support over 4,000 staff and their families at Queen's University Belfast.

The donation includes full access to Read&Write for Work — a powerful suite of tools that support different learning needs and working styles, making digital workspaces more accessible, inclusive, and productive.

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Originally built for neurodivergent users, tools like text-to-speech, dictation, and screen masking now help people of all abilities to read, write, and communicate more effectively, at work and at home.

Professor Sir Ian Greer, President and Vice Chancellor, said the generous gift will "further enhance our focus on diversity and inclusion"

“ A special thank you to Everway’s Executive Chair and Founder, Martin McKay, for this meaningful partnership — and for his belief that inclusive tools should be available to everyone, because every mind works differently.

Read more: <https://lnkd.in/eCH2DJBq>

## Crocus led Holocaust education

**Calling all teachers ! Registration is now open for the Crocus Project – a unique and meaningful way to introduce students to the history of the Holocaust and the importance of remembrance.**

By planting yellow crocus bulbs, students learn about all the children who perished during the Holocaust, and the value of tolerance, human rights, and standing up to discrimination.

Suitable for students of all ages, the Crocus Project is FREE to join and includes educational materials to guide classroom discussions.





✨ Be part of a growing community across Ireland and Europe committed to memory and education.

Sign up today and help your students become witnesses to history.

<https://forms.gle/Bod7Krub5HM7sMtE7>



## Our Ladies Grammar - Bare Faced Beauty

**Many congratulations to our very own U6 Zara Flanagan, who, alongside preparing for her A Levels reached this year's Miss Northern Ireland Final...**

... and was awarded the title of Bare Faced Beauty. Zara also organised a car wash and raised £700 for the NI hospice for her charity work.

Zara is a member of our school Senior Council and very gifted public speaker and represented OLS several times last year as part of our SistersIN programme too. Well done, Zara!





## **BRA's Big Day of Science**

**Over 100 pupils from Glengormley Integrated Primary School and Holy Family Primary School attended the Belfast Royal Academy Big Day of Science on Wednesday**



**28th May.**

**They investigated forces in Physics, viewed the microscopic world in Biology, and learned about chemical reactions in Chemistry. Lots of fun was had by all!**



# Cathedral Calls

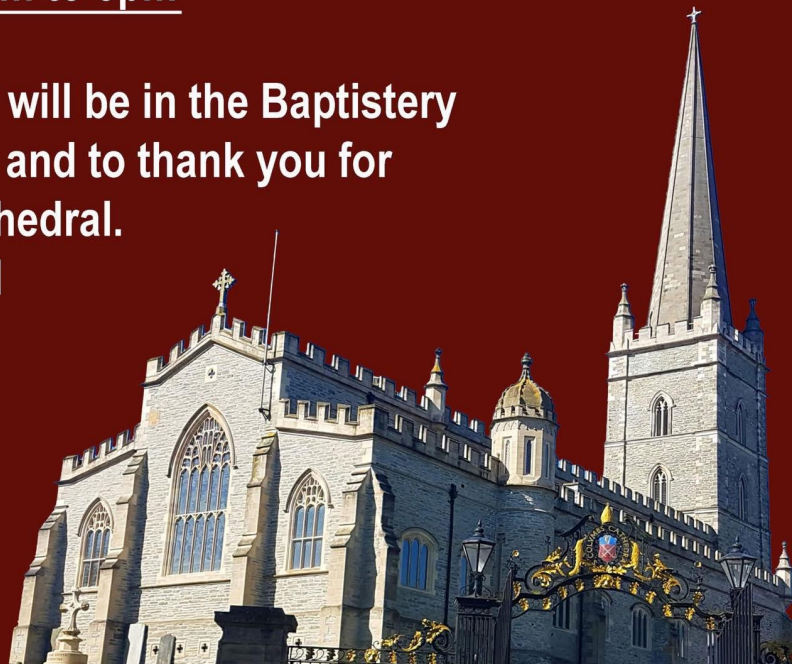
## Saint Columb's Cathedral Gift Day 2025

Saturday 7th June - 10am to 3pm

Dean Raymond Stewart will be in the Baptistry to receive all donations and to thank you for your support to the Cathedral.

This year donations will go towards the renewal of the Fire Alarm.

This project will cost approx £40,000.



## Newry Cathedral 200th anniversary

**This Sunday, 8th June, marks the 200th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Newry Cathedral — a remarkable milestone in our parish's history.**

After 12 noon Mass this Sunday, join us for a short 15–20 min walk-around tour of the cathedral.

Then pop over to the Parochial House (38 Hill Street) to see a special photo exhibit featuring our parish churches and memorable public events over the years.

All are welcome—come along and be part of our story!

## Clergy and ministry



### Down & Connor clergy celebrate jubilee anniversaries of priesthood

**Earlier this week Bishop Alan McGuckian hosted a lunch for clergy celebrating jubilee anniversaries of priesthood this year.**

Those pictured are:

Back row - left to right - Fr Adrian Eastwood CM 50th, Fr Feargal McGrady 40th, Fr Michael McGinnity 40th, Fr Gerry McCloskey 40th, Fr Paul Strain 40th, Fr Tony Devlin 40th, Fr Martin Henry 50th, Fr Darach Mac Giolla Catháin 25th

Front row - left to right - Fr Tony McHugh 60th, Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Fr Bobby Butler 60th.

Also celebrating ordination jubilees but not present are: Fr Liam Toland 25th, Fr Colum Curran 40th, Fr Piaras Jackson 40th, Fr Raymond Fulton 50th.


## Events

### Discover Belfast's Hidden Hero

**This weekend, walk in the footsteps of one of Belfast's most inspiring figures: Mary Ann McCracken — social reformer, abolitionist, and lifelong champion for justice.**

Explore historic sites, hear lively stories, and uncover the powerful legacy of a woman who helped shape our city.

Tours available this Friday (today) and Saturday (tomorrow)

 Perfect for history enthusiasts, curious explorers, and anyone eager to connect with Belfast's rich heritage.



Book your spot today!



<https://visitbelfast.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873633392>



## In the media

### A shameful anti Israeli step by Trinity College, Dublin - News Letter Editorial

News Letter editorial on Thursday June 5 2025

**Trinity College Dublin is to divest from new arrangements with Israeli universities, firms and institutions.**

In a capitulation to anti Israeli activists, university – long considered Ireland’s best – made the decision to divest from Israeli links yesterday.

For pro-Palestinian activists it is only the beginning – they have called on other Irish universities to follow suit.

Trinity had already capitulated to students who formed an encampment on the campus in protest against a 214,285 euro fine imposed on the students’ union over a series of demonstrations about fees and rent, and the university’s ties to Israel.

Following engagement with the protesters, the college dropped the fine and said it would complete a divestment from Israeli companies that have activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and appear on the UN blacklist.

This pledge from the university led to students dismantling the camp.

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The university has now provisionally accepted a report from a taskforce set up last October to examine academic and institutional links, including with Israel, recommending that Trinity enter into no Erasmus, collaborative research or supply agreements with Israeli universities, institutions or firms.

This is a shameful decision from the premier university in one of the most anti Israeli nations in western Europe.

Trinity is not high in the listings of global universities so this will not hit Israel in the way it would if the many great American universities followed suit. But what a symbolic victory for those sly supporters of Hamas, of which there are so many in the Republic – protestors who don't in fact openly endorse those Islamic extremist mass murdering barbarians, but who put all their ire on Israel, even after the October 7 massacre of civilians that began the war.

Israel is pro rata to its small population the most stunning academic and technological hyper civilisation on earth.

Trinity should be delighted to have links with Israeli universities.

## Poem for today

### Circle Of Life

by Carly Nasch

Life is a carousel, always going forward, never going back.  
Existence is a hard thing to keep when you stop trying.  
To live a life, you must want to live.

To want to live you must find a way.  
When all hope is lost, you must stand tall.  
When all others retreat, you must prevail.  
You are the conscience inside your head.  
You create your own destiny.  
Life is a very hard thing to keep  
When your life does not always go the way you plan.  
Fight for your life and the right to keep dreaming.  
If you feel you were gifted, share your gift.  
If you feel you were cursed, fix it.  
As you get older, your life becomes a challenge.  
Who are you?  
What do you want in life?  
What will you be?  
What is your purpose in life?  
If you worry, these things will turn into burdens.  
But if you hold on to them in the back of your mind,  
All of the answers will come in time.  
Life is a carousel, always going forward, never going back.  
Look to the future, not to the past.

Published: March 2009

## 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)

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# Church News Ireland

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

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

**Please recommend to your friends**