

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

Celebrating with Uachtaráin na hÉireann

5th and 6th years at St. Nicholas' Parochial School, Waterside, Galway City were lucky to work with Galway-based artist Helen Caird in creating artwork to be featured at the commemoration ceremony celebrating 25 years of Terryland Forest Park.

On the day they were privileged to meet with Uachtaráin na hÉireann Micheal D. Higgins, at this special event.

News



Join in Songs of Praise with Fisherwick

The BBC will be recording a 'Songs of Praise of Fisherwick' on Saturday 21st June -

We will be singing 10 well-known hymns for TV, with music/ words provided. The recording will take place from 2-5pm

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with doors open from 12:30pm. We need to fill the Church so please come along and invite others, all are welcome! For more information and to sign up please use this link: <https://lostintv.com/tv-show?id=1379>

If you cannot access the link there will be a sign up sheet at the back of the Church, alternatively you can contact Neale, the Office or sign up on Churchsuite <https://fisherwick.churchsuite.com/events/j9nwxjmg>



Class of 2024-2025 Choristers in tune at St Polycarps

What an evening we had... Congratulations to our trebles on another fantastic Choristers Got Talent concert!

From piano, trumpet, violin, and clarinet solos, to vocal solos, duets, and trios, there was plenty to enjoy! Very proud of our Class of 2024-2025 Choristers! Here is to a fantastic end-of-term evensong next week in Finaghy parish church and an exciting year ahead.

Volunteer at the NI Hospice

Today we're highlighting the incredible support we receive at NIH from our corporate volunteers, many of whom generously give their time through employer volunteering schemes -

Whether they're planting flowers in our gardens, helping out at fundraising events, or rolling up their sleeves in our shops — these teams bring enthusiasm, skills and community spirit to everything they do.

Corporate volunteering days provide practical support and help strengthen our relationships with local businesses, all while making a real difference to our services.

Thank you to all our corporate partners and volunteers for your continued support and hands-on help.

If you're inspired to get involved, find out more here:
<https://brnw.ch/21wTdgN>



Mothers' Union commissioning service for Derry & Raphoe

Mothers' Union Derry & Raphoe's new President, Kaye Nesbitt (above), was commissioned by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, on Friday evening, at a service in St Eunan's Cathedral in Raphoe.

The service was led by the Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev Liz Fitzgerald, and during it, two other Diocesan M.U. officers were commissioned – Heather Houston as Diocesan Vice-President and Richard Cotter as Diocesan Treasurer.

A large congregation, comprising members of branches throughout the diocese, converged on Raphoe for the service, which incorporated All-Ireland Mothers' Union Holy



Heather Houston, Diocesan Vice-President and Richard Cotter, Diocesan Treasurer.



The Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev Liz Fitzgerald

Communion. The procession of banners at the beginning and end of the service always makes for a colourful spectacle.

The sermon was preached by the Very Rev Bob Key, retired Dean of Jersey, who paid tribute to global Mothers' Union, describing it as "one of the greatest evangelistic bodies on the face of the earth". Vocalist Andrew White joined the Cathedral Choir in leading the worship, accompanied by organist Renee Goudie. The MU's annual prize-giving also took place after the Service. The Livingston Trophy for Best Programme was awarded to Edenderry and Clanabogan Church of Ireland's M.U. branch and was accepted by Coral Pollock.

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice urgently needs volunteers

“Almost two-thirds of the care we provide at Northern Ireland Children's Hospice is made possible by public support”.

This 19th June, we're calling on individuals, teams and local businesses to donate just a few hours of their time to help us collect vital funds during Children's Hospice Week.

We need volunteers in Belfast City Centre. Every hour volunteered brings colour and care to seriously ill children and their families.

Sign up to volunteer: <https://brn>

Larne Methodist Circuit Christian Aid supporters walk homewards from Slemish mountain raising £3,800

We want to give a big shout-out to Bob Loade and the other members of Larne Methodist Circuit in County Antrim whose walk to mark Christian Aid Week raised an incredible £3,800 for our work.

Last month, Bob Loade led a 9-strong team from Craigyhill and Larne Methodist Churches on a 13.5 mile walk from Slemish mountain near Broughshane to Ballyboley forest near Larne.



Pictured left to right: Bob Loade, Adam Smyth, Jacob Smyth, Ethan Smyth, Steve Smyth, Alison Wolfe and Nicola Wolfe. Also walking but not pictured were Rev Roger McKee and Allan McCullough.

Joining the team for the walk up Slemish mountain was Bob's little grandson, Jacob. Bob told us: "Jacob is five years old, full of adventure, and also happens to have Down syndrome. Jacob was very excited about our mountain trek! He doesn't have many words yet, but he made it clear he was busting to get started."

Bob continued: "We walked in solidarity with millions around the world who face long, difficult journeys every day, to fetch clean water, to sell their produce, or to survive in the face of climate change. In Guatemala, farmers like Aurelia - a grandmother and community leader - are battling extreme weather. With Christian Aid's support, they're gaining skills to protect their farms and futures."

Christian Aid is hugely grateful to Bob and Jacob all the walkers, as well as to everyone who sponsored them so generously!

Education



New £1m Hockey pitch handover to Coleraine Grammar School

On Thursday Coleraine Grammar School (CGS) were officially handed over their new £1m Hockey Pitch from the building contractor.

Representatives from Haffey (Contractor's), Quantec (Quantity Surveyors), CGS board members and staff, together with representatives from CGS Hockey Society as well and hockey players from CGS were gathered to enjoy and celebrate this significant milestone.

The official 'Grand Opening Event' is scheduled to take place on the 20th June 2025. For more information about the Grand Opening, or about today's handover or about

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supporting the Hockey Sports Development Fundraising Appeal, please follow us on Facebook or visit www.colerainegrammar.com/news/fundraising-update/ .
(Pictures courtesy of Ken Cox.)

Craigavon Area Teach meet 2025

Craigavon Area Learning Community (CALC) Teach meet 2025, kindly hosted by Lurgan Junior High School, provided a platform to share experiences and collaborate on principles for effective practice to support equitable learning.

The focus was on supporting teachers to overcome social, emotional, pastoral and SEN challenges in the classroom.

Thanks to the Learning Leaders from Clounagh Junior High School, Lismore College Craigavon, St. John the Baptist's College and St Ronan's College Lurgan.

New sixth form centre at St Killian's College outside Carnlough

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Planning permission has been granted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for construction of a sixth form centre at St Killian's College outside Carnlough as part of the proposed new-build.

St Killian's is proposing to build the facility as part of its broader redevelopment already approved under a separate application for the school at Tower Road.

A council officer's report says the location is the site of the existing technology block. The main school building (Garron Tower) and chapel are listed. See also -

<https://www.northernirelandworld.com/education/new-sixth-form-centre-approved-for-st-killians-college-outside-carnlough-5161688>

Foyle College local history tour

9B, D and E were the first groups to go out on our annual History Department Siege Trails on Thursday.

Pupils had a great time finding out more about their local area as they toured the





Siege Museum, the Tower Museum, St. Columb's cathedral and the city Walls.



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Cathedral Calls



Durham Cathedral Volunteer Pins

As part of Volunteer Week 2025, we have rolled out three new pin badges for volunteers to proudly show their years of service.

Read more about the new initiative and hear from volunteers, as we celebrate National Volunteer Week 2025 -

www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/articles/celebrating-volunteers-with-new-pin-badges-to-mark-years-of-service

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Service of Thanksgiving at Bayeux Cathedral on 81st anniversary of D-Day



**The Commonwealth War Graves Commission stated -
As we mark the 81st anniversary of D-Day, we reflect on
the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of all those who
fought for our freedom.**

We were deeply honoured to host our Service of Thanksgiving at Bayeux Cathedral on Thursday evening, a truly special and momentous occasion.

On the anniversary of D Day alongside the Royal British Legion, we welcomed veterans and special guests to

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Bayeux War Cemetery for a special Service of Commemoration, offering a moment of collective remembrance.

Central to all our events is of course our Torch for Peace. This symbolises the enduring legacy of commemoration, ensuring we pass that on to future generations."

Clergy and ministry

Former Primate to celebrate 50 years since becoming Bishop of Derry & Raphoe - Alf McCreary writes

'I had very difficult times trying to bring comfort to victims of violence and their families ... These people were the real heroes'

Lord Eames, the former Church of Ireland Primate, has paid a warm tribute to the people of Derry who taught him about the realities of bridge-building which stood him in good stead during his long career as one of the best-known senior clerics in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Speaking exclusively to the Belfast Telegraph ahead of a service in St Columb's Cathedral on Monday to mark the 50th anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of Derry and Raphoe in 1975, he said: "This is one of the most touching invitations of my career and it has brought back so many

memories of the vast changes in church life and politics during the last half-century.”

Robin Eames, now in his 89th year, came to Derry as bishop when he was only 37. At his Consecration in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh he invited the Catholic Bishop of Derry Edward Daly to walk with him down the aisle.

“I believe that this was the first time it happened. I wanted to show that he and I were friends, and that I was holding out the hand of friendship to the whole Catholic community in Derry.”

Lord Eames also made a point of visiting the homes of people in the Bogside.

“This was to let them know that I was not their enemy and that I wanted to understand their feelings. During one of the first meetings a man opened the door, shook my hand and said 'Welcome to Derry, my name is John Hume'. We met frequently afterwards and he always impressed me greatly.”

After five years in Derry, Eames became Bishop of Down and Dromore.

“The divisions in Belfast were deeper than in Derry, and the attitudes had hardened. These were some of the worst years of the Troubles,” he said.

“My experience in Derry had taught me much about bridge-building and I received great warmth and support from all sides in that city. In Belfast I got on well with the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor Cahal Daly, and the



relationships between all the main Churches improved greatly.”

In 1986 Eames became Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, a post which he held until his retirement in 2006. He worked closely with Catholic Primates Tomas O’Fiach, Cahal Daly, and Sean Brady.

“I always related to them as human beings and not only as senior Church figures. I asked them to take me as I am, and they did the same for me. Our friendships helped us through some very testing situations. It was a privilege to work with them.”

One of the most difficult challenges he faced as Archbishop was the prolonged stand-off at Drumcree between residents and members of the Orange Order which led to widespread violence.

“I received many demands, particularly from the Irish Republic, to close the Drumcree parish church, but I could

not shut a building where people from all backgrounds came to worship. I was severely criticized, which was personally hurtful, but closing the church was something I could not do in all conscience. I deeply regret that the Drumcree dispute lasted so long and showed the world the deep divisions in our community. However, I believe it was the right decision to keep the church open.”

In 2009 Lord Eames and the former Catholic priest Denis Bradley produced their report for the Consultative Group on the Past which was shelved amid controversy over its recommendations.

“Obviously I was disappointed but if people look at the small print it still has the seeds of a solution to our divisions. A former Northern Ireland Secretary told me if he had accepted the report it would have prevented what took place later on.”

Robin Eames also travelled the world as a clerical troubleshooter dealing with major issues facing the Anglican Communion. “I was sent by Archbishop Robert Runcie, and my experience in Derry helped me build bridges that would last. I became friends with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who once stayed in our home in Armagh. We shared many of the same problems in Northern Ireland and South Africa as prisoners of our past.”

Lord Eames also played a key role behind the scenes in the creation of the 1993 Downing Street Declaration which, he believes, formed the path towards the Good Friday Agreement. “I had the highest regard for Sir John Major and Albert Reynolds who played such a major part in producing the Declaration.”

He has also been a cross-bencher in the Lords since his retirement as Archbishop, something he says has taught him that basic understanding of 'Englishness' and 'Irishness' has been “one of the root causes of a great many problems between the two parts of the UK”.

Lord Eames has served as chairman of some of the Anglican Communion's most important Commissions.

He has received numerous awards, and is a member of the Order of Merit — a very special honour bestowed on him personally by the late Queen Elizabeth .

It is confined to a maximum of 24 people, and the current members include Sir David Attenborough and the artist David Hockney.

Badly injured in a fall last year, Lord Eames is making a steady recovery, and reflected on the past and present.

“There have been so many changes in all the churches but for me the basic message and challenge of Christianity remain the same.”

“I had very difficult times in my ministry trying to comfort victims of violence and their families, and sometimes I am still overwhelmed when I recall how bad it all was. Yet I also remember those who impressed us with their courage and faith from the depths of adversity.

“I was with Gordon and Joan Wilson on the day their daughter Marie was killed in the Enniskillen bomb. Their

Christianity and example in dealing with that immense personal tragedy was an inspiration to all of us, and they were not the only ones.

“I look back on my life and praise God for giving me strength to minister to all sorts of people. I also pay tribute to my wife Christine who has been a tower of strength to me throughout my ministry. I have so much for which to be thankful.”

Article courtesy of the Belfast Telegraph.

Alf McCreary is the author of “Nobody’s Fool - The Life of Archbishop Eames, published by Hoddder & Stoughton, 2004, The scope of this book includes “the Irish peace process, the Church’s crisis over homosexuality” and “the story of one man’s service through years of violent and controversial change.” It was highly commended by Dr Rowan Williams.

Poem for today

Warning

by Jenny Joseph

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer
gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells

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And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in
boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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

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