

# Church News Ireland

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



## Image of the day



### RAF Central Band at Westminster Abbey

**The Central Band of the Royal Air Force had the honour of performing at the 300th anniversary service of the Order of the Bath at Westminster Abbey, attended by His Majesty The King and His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.**

Under the baton of Principal Director of Music, Wing Commander Murray, the Band performed a moving selection of music from the rousing finale of Elgar's Enigma Variations to the serene beauty of Vaughan Williams' Rhosymedre.



May 10, 2025

## News

### Wesley and Epworth visit Donard Methodist

**Rev John Wesley arrived at Donard Methodist to celebrate Aldersgate Sunday. 'Epworth' his horse needed lots of water on such a hot day!**





## Ballywalter support appreciated by Christian Aid Ireland



**Huge thanks to our 'egg-cellent' supporters at Holy Trinity Church, Ballywalter Parish, County Down who cooked and served more than 100 breakfasts on Saturday to raise funds for Christian Aid Week.**

Special thanks go to Rev Adrian Green (1st left), our representative Marilyn Armstrong (2nd left) and to all the hard-working parishioners who set up the hall, cooked the breakfasts and poured the tea.

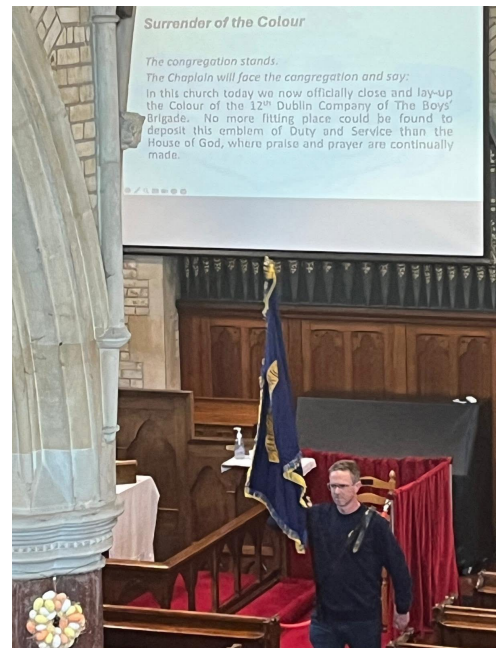
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We're also grateful to everyone who came along to support the event with their donations, including members of Ballywalter Presbyterian Church - PCI.

## Thanksgiving for 12th Dublin Boys Brigade Company

**It was a historic afternoon in the parish.**

A Service of Thanksgiving was held recently for the 12th Dublin Boys



Brigade Company, attached to Clontarf Parish since 1892.

It was followed by the Surrender of the Colour and official closing of the company. "A bittersweet occasion but a wonderful legacy left behind" commented a member.





## 40th anniversary of Convoy, Monellan and Donaghmore MU

**Members of Mothers' Union branches in Raphoe, Clondehorkey, Inver and Drumholm gathered with local members in St Ninian's Church in Convoy to celebrate**







**the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Convoy, Monellan and Donaghmore Branch of M.U.**

The congregation included one founder member of the branch, Mary Slevin, who was presented with a certificate to mark her 40 years' service with the Union.

## **Archbishop of Dublin attends 1916 Commemoration**

**Archbishop Michael Jackson took part in the annual 1916 Commemoration Ceremony at Arbour Hill on Wednesday May 7.**

This is the longest-running State ceremony to commemorate the 1916 Rising and 2025 marked the 101st State Commemoration at Arbour Hill.



The commemoration at Arbour Hill began in 1923, shortly after the end of the Civil War, and the first State commemoration event took place in 1924. It takes place at the Church of the Sacred Heart, the church for the Defence Forces, at the site of burial of the executed leaders of 1916 on the first Wednesday on or after May 3 each year.

The commemoration was hosted by the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, and consisted of a Requiem Mass and a ceremony at the Grave for the 1916 Leaders. The President laid a wreath to commemorate those who died in 1916.

In addition to the President, the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste, attendance at the ceremony included members of the government; members of the Oireachtas; the Council of State; the Judiciary; relatives of the leaders and relatives of others who fought in 1916 as well as interfaith leaders.

Speaking after the event, Archbishop Jackson said it was always a pleasure to be invited to attend.

“It is an occasion to which I look forward because it draws together descendants of those most intimately associated with Independence and those who today carry responsibility for government and security,” he commented. “The provision of music by a school annually and the inclusion of representatives of a wide range of Faiths together with a representative of The Humanist Association of Ireland is a delightful aspect of the inclusivity of this event.”



## Once an Augustinian...

**On May 13, the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima, Pope Leo XIV made a private visit to the General Curia of the Order of Saint Augustine, where he lived for twelve years as Prior General.**

In the chapel of the Curia, the Pontiff celebrated Mass with his Augustinian brothers and then shared lunch with them, as he did almost daily when he was a cardinal.

A familiar and simple gesture, a sign of the spirit of communion desired by Saint Augustine: "Have one soul and one heart stretched out toward God."

Hundreds of people awaited the Pope in the rain along Via Paolo VI, crowding the area next to Bernini's colonnade.



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The Pope's greeting came around 3 p.m., at the end of his visit to the Augustinians.

Monsignor Lizardo Estrada Herrera OSA, Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco, Peru, with Pope Leo XIV.

## Education

### Calling all Early Childhood Practitioners in Northern Ireland

**Early Years - the organisation for young children and Stranmillis University College are continuing the journey toward forming a Professional Association for Early Childhood Practitioners. To shape the future of our sector, we need your voice!**

Take a moment to complete this short survey and help us better understand qualifications and career pathways in early childhood education and care.

<https://www.menti.com/alecgb21n1xm>

Your input matters. Let's shape the future together!

### Film programmers Summer Scheme for 8 - 17 year olds

**We have launched our annual call for young film enthusiasts, aged from 8-17, to take on the role of 'film consultants' this July in Belfast (Ulster Museum,**

## **Belfast) to help programme a series of films for the annual Cinemagic Festival.**

In different age categories, participants will work along side the Festival team to help steer the choice of films selected for the Festival, as they watch and critique films from across the globe.

If you know a budding film critic who would enjoy the opportunity to spend time with Cinemagic, this is a fantastic opportunity to meet likeminded young people who love watching and discussing films.

More information, dates & ticket details via link - <https://tinyurl.com/ahad82u8>

## **Cathedral Calls**

### **New choristers in Derry**

#### **Huge Congratulations to Tom, Eoghan and Pascal**

All three boys were admitted as full Choristers to the St Columb's Cathedral Boys' Choir by the Reverend Canon John Merrick at morning service, after serving a period of six months as Probationers.

### **5 million stitches tell Bible stories at Ely Cathedral**

**A stunning exhibition ten years in the making is now captivating visitors at Ely Cathedral.**



Threads through the Bible, a towering textile installation by artist Jacqui Parkinson, weaves together 44 large panels telling stories from Scripture using more than 25 million stitches.

At three metres high and stretching over 100 metres if laid out, the display is believed to be the largest of its kind made by a single artist, as reported by the Ely Standard.

Parkinson, who once taught drama and ran an arts centre, has spent the last decade sewing in her Devon studio using antique bedsheets, silk, gold leaf and hand-dyed fabrics.

She explained: "I start simply with antique bedsheets, which hold their own tales of life and death.

"Then I gradually build up my stories by quilting the sheets and painting them."

Parkinson added: "I hope the panels will add a sparkle to everyone's visit here."

A cathedral spokesperson praised the work as 'breath-taking, uplifting and absorbing... definitely not to be missed'.

The exhibition runs until 29th June.

## **An invitstion to Durham for Ascension Day**

May 10, 2025

**Join us for Ascension Day, one of the great celebrations of the church, as we remember that forty days after the Resurrection, Christ ascended into heaven, taking his place at the right hand of the Father.**

Thursday 29 May, 5.30pm

See more at <https://ow.ly/SzIZ50VTRMJ>

## Clergy and ministry



## Connor Parish Reader commissioned and candidates confirmed



May 10, 2025

**Sandra McKendry, was commissioned as a Parish Reader in Craigs, Dunaghy and Killagan during a special tri-parish service of commissioning and confirmation in Killagan Parish Church on Sunday May 11.**

## **+Hazel Mary Beacom**

**28th February 1923 – 7th May 2025**

**The death has taken place in Alberta, Canada, of Mrs Hazel Beacom whose late husband Canon Tom Beacom was a long-serving rector of St Katharine's Parish in Belfast, and an Hon Secretary of Connor Synod.**

Born in Belfast on 28th February 1923, Hazel Beacom passed away peacefully at the age of 102 on 7th May 2025, at the Drayton Valley Hospital in Alberta. She had lived in Drayton Valley with her daughter Ros and son in law Mike and family for 32 years.

At the age of 22, Hazel served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service and was in London for the VE Day celebrations in May 1945—80 years to the day before her passing. She was a proud and resilient member of the generation that endured and achieved so much through times of great hardship and change.

Hazel was predeceased by her beloved husband, Canon Thomas Beacom. She was a shining light in the life of the parish, remembered for her dedication and service. From running the Mothers' Union, Ladies' Guild, and pram

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services, to organizing flower shows and fashion parades, Mrs. Beacom was a tireless supporter of her husband's ministry and a beloved presence in the church community.

She was a devoted mother to David, (Sandra), Ros, (Mike), Nigel, (Isobel); cherished grandmother to Kiera, (Dylan), Barry, (Jessica), Jack, (Elizabeth) and Marc; and great grandchildren Liam David, Olivia Mary, and Victoria Hazel. Hazel will be fondly remembered for her warmth, humour, vibrant style, captivating storytelling, and her legendary shortbread.

A Celebration of Life will be held at All Saints Anglican Church in Drayton Valley.

## Events

### Invitation to the launch of the Interfaith and Belief Project.

**Corrymeela writes - This event will be held in person at Belfast City Hall, Banqueting Hall. We thank Belfast City Council for their kind generosity for the use of City Hall.**

Corrymeela in partnership with the Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum, Redeeming Our Communities NI (ROC NI) and the Belfast Islamic Centre were awarded £304,564.00 by Belfast City Council's Local Community Action Plan supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to deliver the Interfaith and Belief Programme, city wide. The aim of which



Invitation to the  
launch of the  
Interfaith and Belief  
Project

*Celebrating*  
Cultures and Diversity

Monday, 16 June 2025

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Banqueting Hall, Belfast City Hall, BT1 5GS



is to build, improve and sustain relationships between and within communities of different faiths and beliefs by addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance and building mutual respect and a shared commitment to the common good.

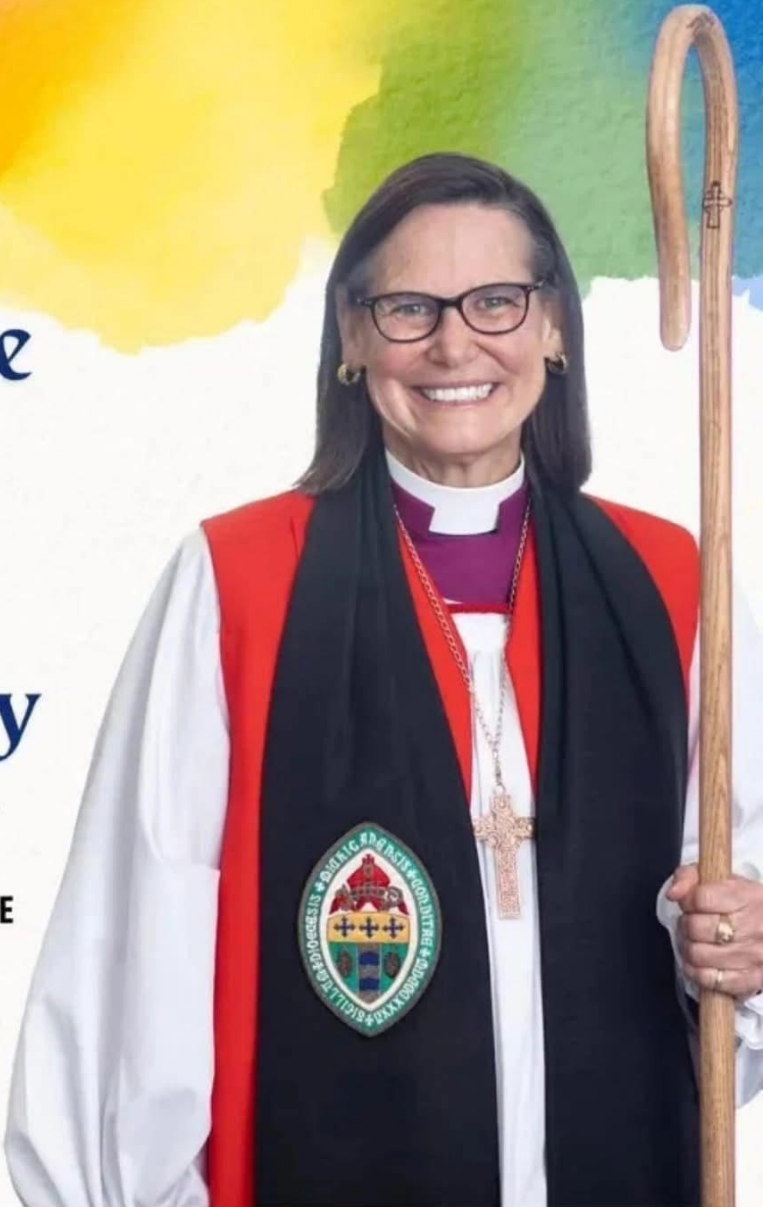
This is a ticketed event. Please register and come along to find out how you can be part of this project and make a difference in our shared City. Eventbrite -<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1343866734579?aff=oddttdtcreator>

## Corrymeela in the City

**On the fourth Sunday of each month we gather for Corrymeela in the City. All are welcome.**

May 10, 2025

The next gathering is 25th May. Rev. Cheryl Meban will be leading. This is a time of prayer, song, scripture and sharing. Doors open at **Fitzroy Church** (University Street, Belfast) at 5 pm. We are Corrymeela and you are always welcome.

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a white clerical shirt, a red stole, and a black sash, holds a wooden crozier. She is smiling and standing in front of a large, vibrant rainbow graphic. A circular episcopal seal is pinned to her sash.

ANNUAL  
**pride service**

FRIDAY, 13 JUNE 2025  
6:30 P.M.

WELCOMING  
**Bishop  
Bonnie Perry**

BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

**BIT.LY/CHRISTCHURCHPRIDE**



Christ  
Church  
Cathedral  
Dublin





Down and Connor Laudato Si' Group warmly invite you to a conference  
to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Laudato Si'

## **“Raising Hope – Living Laudato Si’”**

Sunday 25 May 2025

2.30pm – 4.30pm

Clonard Monastery Belfast

**Keynote: Professor John Barry, QUB**

Professor of Green Political Economy &

Co-Director of the [Centre for Sustainability, Equality and  
Climate Action](#)

With contributions from:

Eco Congregation Ireland: Anna Byrne DC

Trócaire: Nick Hanrahan

Laudato Si' Animators: Finbarr Keaveney

A Rocha: Bertie Stirling

On display 'Care for our Common Home' photographic exhibition  
by Westcourt Camera Club

*"Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet  
never take away the joy of our hope." (L S244)*



**Diocese of Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union**

The President and Trustees,

with the Dean of Raphoe

The Very Revd Liz Fitzgerald,

invite you to attend

**THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL SERVICE**

**INCORPORATING ALL-IRELAND MOTHERS' UNION  
HOLY COMMUNION**

With the Commissioning of Diocesan President

Kaye Nesbitt

and members of the Trustees Board

by

The Rt Revd Andrew Forster

Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

in

St Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe

on

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 at 7.30pm.

Refreshments will be served after the service.



# Poem for today

## In Retrospect by

by **Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate**

The world asks a great deal of the poppies, insists they carry the wounds of war and shoulder the weight of remembrance.

Such flimsy, wavering plants;  
we painted their flowers the colour of blood and punched dark holes in their heads as if bullets had passed through, then trimmed them with green sprigs of hope.

And from deep in the seeds we concocted the essence of sleep and dreams and resting-in-peace.  
Almost weightless even in full bloom we made them souls, the poppies, souls of those who we lost, and - let it be said -those who we killed.

Poppies - nursed in darkness, nourished by dirt.  
But for all their spindly roots, frail stalks and papery petals - as easily smudged as a butterfly wing - they joggle into existence again and again, unearthing themselves in fallow fields and railway sidings, on roundabouts, verges and no man's land, from the brickwork of old chimneys and bridges and cracks in the pavement.

They nod and they nag,  
reminding us not to forget, flagging a red alert as their crumpled petals unfold.  
So, rightly, the poppies ask a great deal of the world.

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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

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