

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Sunset Crossing**

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

## Image of the day

### Sunset Crossing

**Nothing comes close to this view at sunset of the Peace Bridge in Derry - another superb image by Patryk Sadowski photography.**

Facebook users - do please give yourself the pleasure of joining his page.

## News

### Church of Ireland archbishops call for decisive action on Gaza

**The following statement on the current situation in Gaza has been issued by Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Michael Jackson:**

It is with outrage that we watch the desperation, dislocation, and defenceless resident population of Gaza who feel they have been abandoned by the world.

The international community must grasp reality and respond as never before. They can no longer stand by and watch the cruel starvation of innocent people, particularly the most vulnerable – children, older people and the ill – as well as the ongoing physical destruction of their lives and surroundings.

Amid the daily horror, the beacons of hope are the hospitals and the continuation of medical care, however rudimentary. This continues to point to the spirit of service at the heart of humanity.

In recent days we have seen another glimmer of hope from the resilient staff of Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City which is owned and run by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. The hospital was bombed on Palm Sunday and has reopened, as its courageous staff pledged in the days after the attack. They are operating in a tent which was erected in place of their destroyed building and are treating the injured and sick as best they can, in what is by anyone's reckoning a living wasteland, with whatever resources they have.

We pledge our continuing support for the work of Al Ahli and support the Diocese of Jerusalem as it seeks to find a way forward for the hospital.

We repeat our call for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and the influx of every kind of appropriate aid to alleviate starvation, injury and lack of shelter.

We acknowledge that many feel hopeless and powerless to change what is happening in Gaza. We pray that all those in positions of power globally will stand up and demand an end to this cruelty and seek the reinstitution of international law.

When Jesus speaks of parents offering their children bread and fish, he concludes as follows: "Always treat others as you would like them to treat you ..." (St Matthew 7.12). In that spirit, now is the moment for decisive action.

**CNI - See also -**

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## **May 2025 Gaza offensive - Wickipaedia**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May\ 2025\ Gaza\ offensive>

## **American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**

<https://afedj.org/institution/ahli-arab-hospital-gaza-city/>



## **Christian Aid Week support from Presbyterian Churches in the Ballybay area**

**CAI writes - Enormous thanks to the four Presbyterian Churches in the Ballybay area of County Monaghan whose coffee morning, bake sale and plant sale was held on the Saturday of Christian Aid Week.**

This was a huge team effort involving cake bakers, jam makers, coffee pourers and dish washers. The Presbyterian community of Ballybay are one of the most generous church communities on the island of Ireland, and we could not be more grateful to you all.

Pictured here are (L-R) Nan Bradford and May McAdoo but we are grateful to all those who helped make the event such a success and to everyone who came along to support it with their donations.

## **World Day for Social Communications: Bishops to host seminar on Communicating Christian Hope**

**On June 6 next the Communications Office of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference will host a seminar to celebrate year's theme for World Day for Social Communications: Communicating Christian Hope.**

This was the last annual communications message written by the late Pope Francis, and it will formally be marked on Ascension Sunday, 1 June.

EWTN reporters – wife and husband Paola Arriaza and Colm Flynn – will be the main contributors on the day, along

with Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin who will address those in attendance in his capacity as chair of



the Bishops' Council for Communications. Individual speakers will also reflect on communicating hope in their respective fields: addiction, business, humanitarian work, priestly ministry, and from the young adult perspective.

The seminar will take place in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, and is the Communications Office's contribution to the universal Church's Jubilee Year of Hope, which is being celebrated by the faithful in Rome and throughout the world during 2025.

2025 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the CCO, which was originally set up by the late Bishop Edward Daly of Derry in his role as chair of the Bishops' Council for Communications.

The communications office was an initiative of the Bishops' Conference following groundbreaking 1963 publication by

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Pope Paul VI of the decree *Inter Mirifica* (Among the wonderful) during the Second Vatican Council. The decree acknowledges the power of the media in impacting on people's minds, while encouraging its use to serve the common good, particularly in promoting the Gospel.

## Pope Leo XIV's first US bishop appointment is a former refugee



*Bishop Michael Pham was named the next Bishop of San Diego by Pope Leo XIV on May 22, 2025. (Photo courtesy Diocese of San Diego)*

**In his first United States episcopal appointment, Pope Leo XIV named Michael Pham bishop of San Diego on Thursday (May 22).**

Pham fled Vietnam as a refugee in 1980 and has spent over 25 years as a priest in San Diego. He is the first Vietnamese American bishop to lead a U.S. diocese.

Pham left Vietnam at age 13, after his family previously made several attempts to flee violence in the country. When he was about 8 years old, a barge they were trying to depart on crowded them alongside several dead bodies, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported. His family eventually made it to a refugee camp in Malaysia before being sponsored by a U.S. family in 1981, first settling in Blue Earth, Minnesota. In 1985, his family moved to San Diego.

He studied aeronautical engineering at San Diego State University and then studied to become a priest at the University of San Diego and St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California.

He called San Diego "heaven on earth," according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

"It's such great news for me as a bishop to be able to stay at (my) home diocese and to serve the diocese of San Diego," Pham said at a news conference after his appointment.

## Education

## Castlerock Fun Day major boost for local school



**Nutt Travel are delighted to hand over a cheque for £21,000 to Hezlett Primary School from funds raised at the Castlerock Fun Day on Saturday 17th May 2025**

Pictured are Billy Nutt with Hezlett headmaster, Damien O'Kane and Margaret Milligan - along with several teachers who helped out on the big day!

Huge thank you to everyone who came out on the day and donated to such a good cause, and a huge thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make the day a success



## New school extension blessed

**Bishop Michael of Galway has celebrated Mass at Craughwell NS and blessed the new school extension.**

“It a real joy to be with you today and to experience the enthusiasm, the energy and hope of all the pupils here at Craughwell NS. I thank Mr Pat Kelly and the Board of Management for their kind invitation to be here this morning. Thank you to Ms Claire Urquhart (Principal), Ms Lucy Marrinan (Deputy Principal), the school staff, pupils, parents, for your generous welcome. I am also delighted to be joined by Fr Barry your local parish priest whom you know very well. Today, I am going to bless you and your

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school. I am going to ask God to help your school to be a place

- Where everybody is nice
- Where everybody gets on with each other
- Where there is good learning
- Where there is fun and friendship
- Where God is thought about
- Where nobody feels sad or is left out “ – Bishop Michael

## Celebrating achievements of church run schools in Donegal



The evening was hosted by Bishop Andrew Forster and addressed by two distinguished speakers, the secretary of the General Synod Board of Education, Dr Ken Fennelly, (Centre) and Mrs Susan Ellis (Centre right), Education and Governance Advisor.

**It's a promising sign when extra chairs have to be brought in to accommodate the interested parties at any**

**meeting and that was certainly true of a gathering of educationalists in Letterkenny's Mount Errigal Hotel for an evening celebrating the achievements of schools in Donegal run under Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Church patronage.**

Appropriately, given its purpose, the meeting began with prayers led by the Moderator of the Derry and Donegal Presbytery, Rev Susan Moore (Two left photo above).

Principals, teachers and members of boards of management from throughout the Diocese of Raphoe were in attendance.

Dr Fennelly looked at the many challenges facing schools, classrooms and boards in the future including the "ICT revolution", the growth of AI (artificial intelligence), the role of teachers as educators, the developing role of boards of management, and the possible need for a new curriculum.



Mrs Ellis talked about the importance of school ethos in “shaping how we teach, govern and care in our schools” and of the need for good communication in tackling issues such as bullying and harassment.

## Cathedral Calls

### Two new Canons appointed to Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

**Archbishop Michael Jackson has announced two appointments to the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. The Revd Garth Bunting and the Revd Alan Breen have been appointed to the Chapter. Their installations will take place in due course.**

The Revd Garth Bunting is Rector of Drumcondra and North Strand while the Revd Alan Breen is Rector of Kill O' the Grange, both Diocese of Dublin.

Making the announcement Archbishop Jackson said: “The Revd Garth Bunting came to Dublin as Dean's Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral and moved to be the Rector of Drumcondra and North Strand where he is much loved.

His previous and current experiences equip him to contribute to the cathedral's life and witness.

“The Revd Alan Breen has served the dioceses in a wide range of capacities since ordination. I have great pleasure in his becoming a member of the Cathedral Chapter and

sharing his experience for the good of the dioceses and its mother church”.



*The Revd Garth Bunting and the Revd Alan Breen*

sharing his experience for the good of the dioceses and its mother church”.

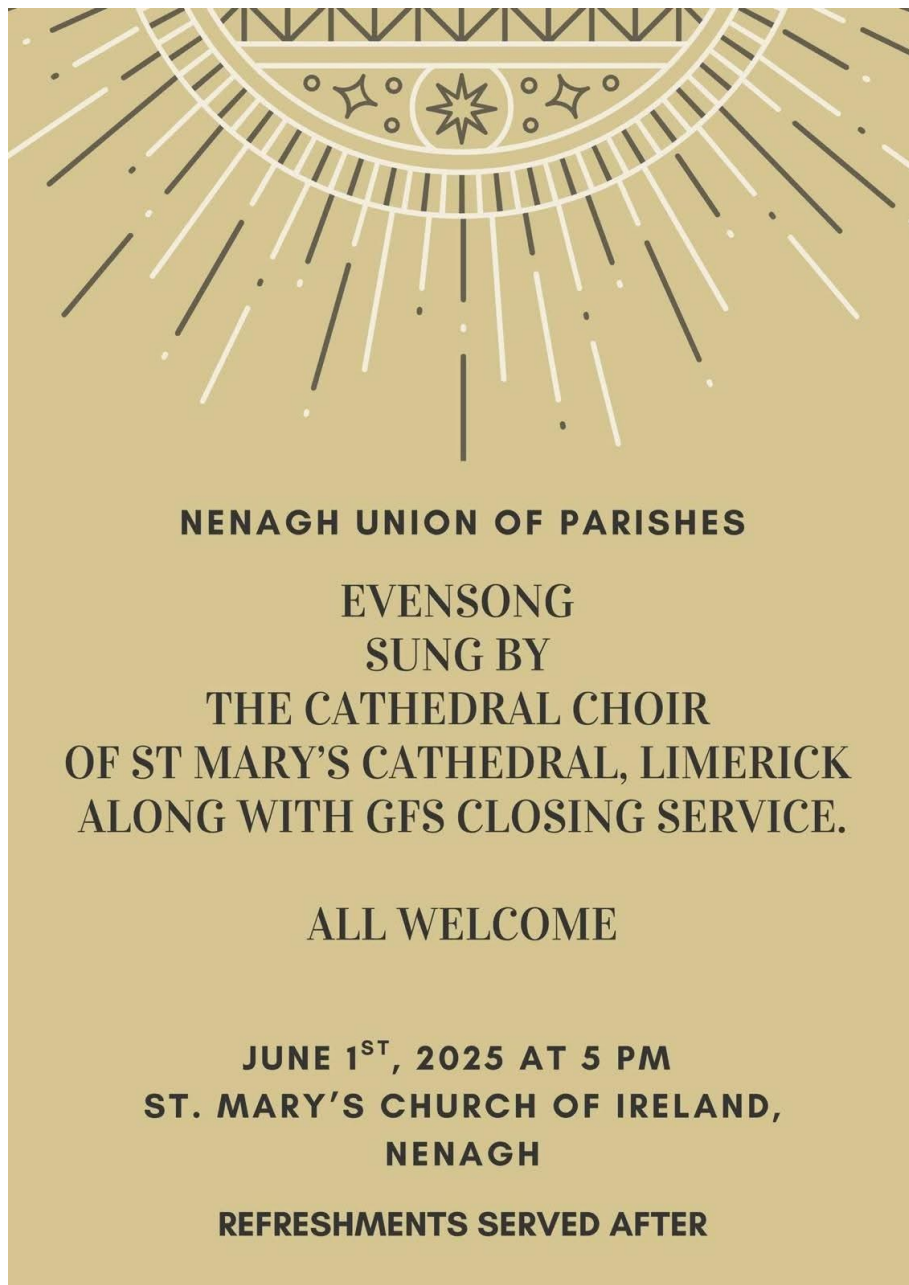
Welcoming the new appointments, Dean Dermot Dunne looked forward to working with both men. “On behalf of the Cathedral Chapter I am very happy to welcome its new members namely, Garth Bunting and Alan Breen. Both men bring differing and exciting charisms to the ministry of the cathedral. I look forward to working with them in the life and mission of the cathedral. May they be blessed in their vocation and may their ministry continue to be fruitful in the vineyard of the Lord.”

Commenting on his appointment, Garth said: “Recently the Archbishop invited me to become a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and I had great delight in accepting. For almost 30 years, the cathedral has been a significant place for me. Whilst I was training for ordination, I worked there during holiday times, welcoming visitors and helping in the cathedral shop. I moved to work again at the cathedral between 2009–2016 as Residential Priest Vicar, so to be continuing my association now as a canon is a special moment. I look forward to many more years serving the cathedral community”.

Alan stated: “I am humbled and honoured with this appointment as a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral. For nearly a thousand years the Cathedral has been a space where people can connect with the living God and experience the outpouring of His Spirit in many different ways. I am grateful to the Archbishop and Dean for this invitation. The Anglican tradition is a wondrous springboard for discipleship, learning and equipping people to know that they are loved by the Triune God. I look forward to working with the Dean and cathedral staff, a community that has a heart to continue to Glorify God in meeting the needs of the people it connects with”.

## **Limerick Cathedral Choir to sing Evensong in Nenagh**

**Sunday, 1st June, 2025 at 5pm** - the Cathedral Choir of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick will sing at Evensong in Saint Mary's Church, Nenagh, The Nenagh Union of Parishes. All welcome.



## Events

### **Come Praise The Lord in SONG! At Glendermott Presbyterian Church**

**This is going to be BIG... Spread the news- we dont  
want you or your friends to miss out!**

# Hymn 3 SING 3

JOIN US AS OUR LOCAL CHURCH CHOIRS GET TOGETHER  
TO PROMOTE CONGREGATION HYMN SINGING

**SOLOISTS**  
REV DAVID MCBETH  
REV PHILIP POOTS  
MISS AMY SMITH  
MISS MEGAN BROWN

**MUSIC LED BY**  
TERRY, MARK  
&  
STEWART SMITH

**8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025** 6 P.M.  
.....  
**GLENDERMOTT**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH ROAD

**SUPPORTING**  
SAM ALLENS MISSION TRIP  
LA PALMA CHRISTIAN  
CENTRE USA



FACEBOOK



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“We had a packed Church this evening, another choir practice next Tuesday, then we'll see you all on Sunday 8th June at 6pm.”

Get it announced in your Church on Sunday - Come Praise The Lord in SONG!



**MIDLANDS STRING QUARTET**

**PRESENTS**  
**THE MUSIC OF**  
**ABBA**

**BY CANDLELIGHT**

**Featuring**  
**GAELSCOIL AONACH URMHUMHAN**  
**Waltons Music Group**



**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**  
**ST. MARYS CHURCH OF IRELAND, NENAGH**  
**7.30PM**  
**TICKETS AT THE DOOR**  
**GENERAL ADMISSION €20**  
**CONCESSION/OAP€15**  
**CHILD €10**

## **Lucian Freud's Etchings: A Creative Collaboration at Titanic Belfast**

**The new summer exhibition, created in partnership with the V&A Museum, showcases the remarkable work of one of the 20th century's most acclaimed British artists.**

This is your only chance to see the exhibition on the island of Ireland - don't miss its global tour premiere at Titanic Belfast.

Enjoy this free exhibition all summer!

## **Dare to Hope – A young adult faith gathering**

**On 14 June, the Irish Bishops' Conference, in collaboration with Knock Shrine, will host Dare to Hope – a dynamic and prayerful gathering for young adults aged 18 to 30.**

The event will take place in the Youth Village at the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine in Knock.

A twenty-euro attendance charge will enable participants to hear guest speakers, to attend workshops and related events.

Dare to Hope will conclude with the con-celebration of Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady, with Bishop Fintan Gavin of Cork and Ross as the chief celebrant.



## Farmers' Choir Northern Ireland is busy

**The Farmers' Choir Northern Ireland is busy rehearsing for several upcoming events. One of their next appearances will be at Ballymoney Show on Friday 6th June at 8pm.**

On Sunday 8th June, the choir will sing at the Rural Support Service held in St John's Parish Church, Moneymore. This

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is a poignant service supporting the Life Beyond Charity, reflecting on those we have lost from the farming community. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the choir at both these events.

## In the media

### Priest on trial for 'pattern of sexualised behaviour' against pupils

**Canon Patrick McEntee (70) from Esker Road, Dromore requested a leave of absence in 2022 while a serious safeguarding investigation was carried out.**

He denies sexual offences against five males who were pupils at St. Michael's College, Enniskillen where he taught.

More at -

<https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/25195154.priest-trial-pattern-sexualised-behaviour-pupils/>

## Poem for today

### Blessing for a birthday

**By John O'Donohue**

Blessed be the mind that dreamed the day  
The blueprint of your life

Would begin to glow on earth,  
Illuminating all the faces and voices  
That would arrive to invite  
Your soul to growth.

Praise be your father and mother,  
Who loved you before you were,  
And trusted to call you here  
With no idea who you would be.

Blessed be those who have loved you  
Into becoming who you were meant to be,  
Blessed be those who have crossed your life  
With dark gifts of hurt and loss  
That have helped to school your mind  
In the art of disappointment.

When desolation surrounded you,  
Blessed be those who looked for you  
And found you, their kind hands  
Urgent to open a blue window  
In the gray wall formed around you.

Blessed be the gifts you never notice,  
Your health, eyes to behold the world,  
Thoughts to countenance the unknown,  
Memory to harvest vanished days,  
Your heart to feel the world's waves.  
Your breath to breathe the nourishment  
Of distance made intimate by earth.

On this echoing-day of your birth,  
May you open the gift of solitude

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In order to receive your soul;  
Enter the generosity of silence  
To hear you hidden heart;  
Know the serenity of stillness  
To be enfolded anew  
By the miracle of your being.

## Speaking to the sou

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. Please recommend to your  
friends**

