

Church News Ireland



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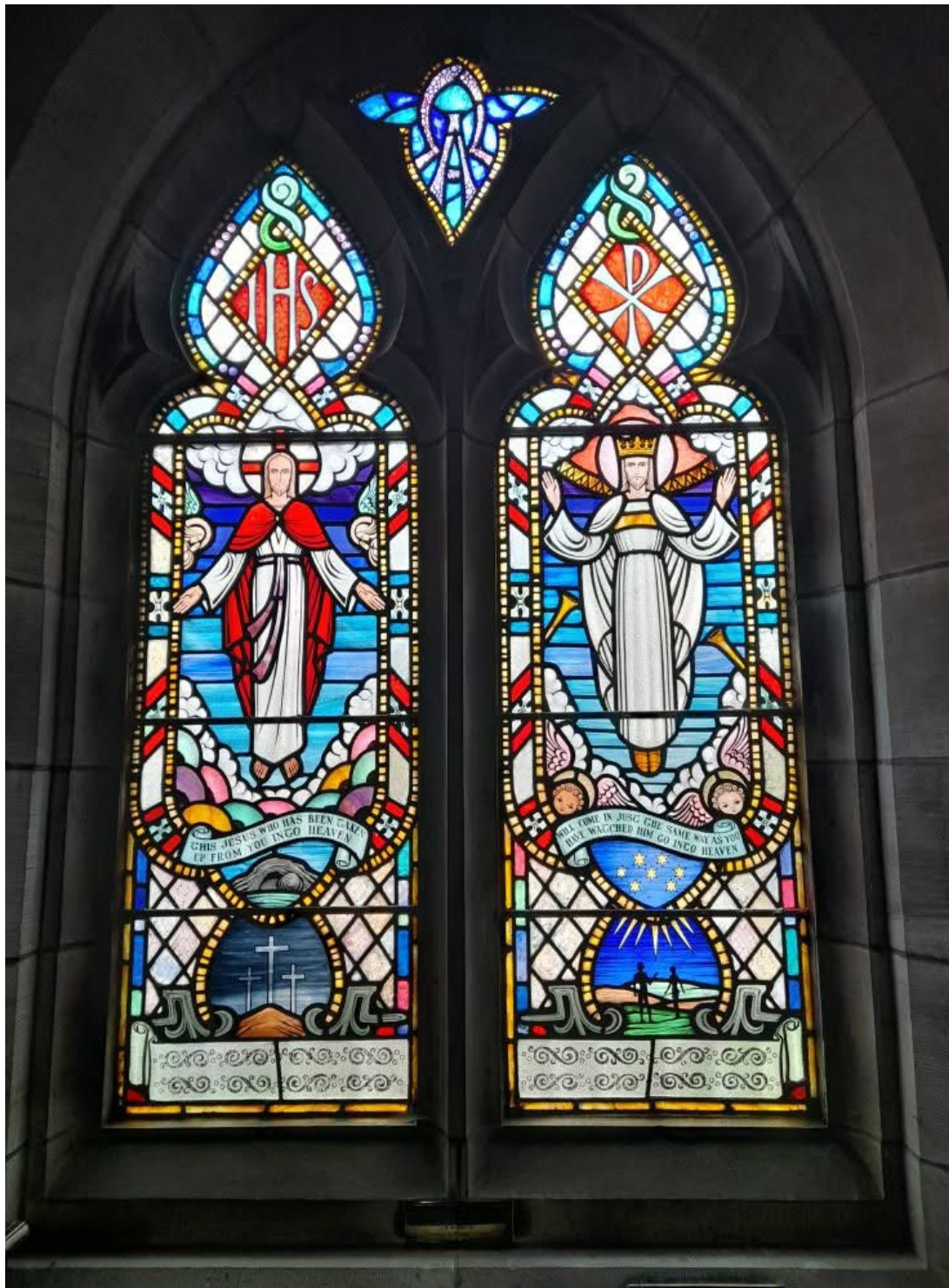
Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

Image of the day

Ascension

Yesterday was Ascension Day. The front page photograph is from **HM Chapel Royal at Hampton Court**. The photograph below is from **St Bartholomew's Church in the Parish of Stranmillis, Belfast**.



May 30, 2025

On Ascension Day, we give thanks for the **Church of the Ascension at Cloughfern** in the Diocese of Connor over the years.

From a converted barn in January 1951, a dual-purpose



church was dedicated on Ascension Day in May 1952. A parochial hall was built by parishioners between 1953-1955. The formal consecration of the church was in May 1955.

Right through the decades to the present day, clergy and parishioners have rightly celebrated Ascension

News



Combined Family Service
St Comgall's Rathcoole
& St John's, Whitehouse
Sunday **25th** May **11:45am**
in **St John's, Whitehouse**

Service led by
Rev'd Colin Welsh

All welcome

First Combined Family Service of Rathcoole and Whitehouse churches

The First Combined Family Service for St Comgall's, Rathcoole and St John's, Whitehouse will be held on Sunday at 11:45am in St John's, Whitehouse.

The Service will be led by Rev'd Colin Welsh. You will be very welcome.

Down & Dromore in Berlin

Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore, Archdeacon Jim Cheshire and Matthew Gault are attending the

May 30, 2025

European Congress on Evangelism in Berlin from 27-30 May.

Bishop David was invited to pray to open yesterday morning's meeting.

Scots Irish accentuated in Annalong



Another delivery of items from the Hairtlan Men's Shed in Mourne Country has been completed....

This time, the men visited friends in **Annalong Primary School** to deliver a Planter, Flower-Box, Bug Hotel and Bird Feeder which the men produced in the workshop, all of which include a wee bit of Ulster-Scots on them!

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We can look forward to seeing the Planter and Window-Box filled with the flowers also provided. Thanks is rightly expressed to the Hairtlan Men's Shed for their help to make this project possible.



New honorary chaplain to King Charles III selected

Rev Kalantha Brewis, the rector of Hallow and Grimley with Holt and Lower Broadheathas, has been appointed alongside her new role as area dean for Worcester.

Her appointment as royal chaplain was formally recognised during a Buckingham Palace garden party, where she was presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

As part of her new responsibilities, h will preach annually at the Chapel Royal and is entitled to wear a scarlet cassock, signifying her service to the monarch.

She said: “It was a complete surprise to have been nominated for this honour by the former Bishop of Worcester.

“I took our benefice administrator Lorna with me to the garden party as it was important to me to take someone from the community which I seek to serve and who support me in my ministry.”

The role of area dean includes supporting clergy, lay leaders and parishes in collaboration with diocesan leadership.

Kalantha praised the team she’ll be working with: “This is a fantastic deanery with lovely people... the leadership team are really dynamic and already have a strong sense of purpose, particularly in developing work with children and young people.”

Reflecting on her unexpected calling, she added: “God is always leading us into unexpected situations, and I feel God is calling me into this new chapter of my ministry”.

Mass of Installation of Archbishop of Liverpool

The Most Rev John Sherrington has officially taken up his role as the tenth Archbishop of Liverpool, following



a special Mass of Installation at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

He succeeds Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, who stepped down after 11 years of service.

The ceremony drew thousands from across the archdiocese, including Cardinal Vincent Nichols, bishops from across England and Wales, and representatives of other faiths and civic life.

Reflecting on the occasion, Archbishop John said: “The Mass of Installation was a joyous occasion. It was wonderful to see so many people from across the diocese and beyond gather together in prayer as we continue to preach Christ to the people of our time.”

He added: “I give thanks to Archbishop Malcolm who has served the archdiocese with love and generosity, and I am honoured to succeed him.”

Education

Digital demands in RE teaching focus for Stranmillis final year student

This week, final year student teachers from Stranmillis University College became the first cohort to take part in a newly launched Digital Skills Academy course,



delivered through the Centre for Digital Innovation and Technology (CDIT).

This initiative marks a significant step in a collaborative effort between further and higher education providers and industry partners across Northern Ireland to enhance digital skills training.

Developed in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College as part of the Belfast Digital Skills and Employability Programme—funded by Bank of America—the academy focuses on equipping future educators with the digital competencies necessary for modern classrooms.

The programme also aligns with the NI Executive's educational reform strategy, 'A Fair Start', which emphasises the importance of training teachers in digital skills to combat educational underachievement.

Leading the programme for Stranmillis, Head of STEM, Dr Irene Bell said "Stranmillis University College is delighted to be delivering the first course for ITE students of the CDIT Digital Skills Academy. Through this advanced, accredited course, the newly qualified teachers will be ideally positioned to develop the digital skills of the next generation."

Among the inaugural participants were Amy Elliott, a final year student in Post-Primary Religious Studies, and Rachel Dunbar, studying Primary Education. In explaining why they signed up to the programme, both highlighted the importance of developing digital proficiency to meet the demands of contemporary teaching.

Diane Atchison, CDIT Project Manager at Belfast Met, added: "I'm proud to collaborate with Stranmillis University College on launching this new CDIT Digital Skills Academy. It's an important step in empowering future teachers to lead with confidence in the digital age."

All-Ireland 'Psychology, Health and Medicine' annual conference at Queen's

Psychologists, patients and health and social care professionals joined us at Queen's recently for the All-Ireland 'Psychology, Health and Medicine Annual



**COFFEE
CONCERT**

31st of May at 11am

»»————««
featuring

**Resurgam and
Collegium**

-Sacred Histories to celebrate the 500th
anniversary of the birth of Giovanni
Pierluigi da Palestrina-

»»————««

Come enjoy a beautiful concert inside
St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church-
Galway's Medieval Church

€10 at the door- includes tea & coffee, baked
goodies, and concert;
in aid of St. Nicholas' Schola Cantorum

 SAINT
NICHOLAS'
Collegiate Church
1212-1830

 700
YEARS 2020

Conference', where they explored the critical role of psychology in improving health and wellbeing

“Health psychology is a rapidly evolving profession and focuses on how psychological, social, and behavioural factors influence health, illness, and healthcare.

"It plays a crucial role in understanding and promoting both physical and mental health. It supports behaviour change to improve health outcomes, helps people to manage chronic health conditions, and encourages healthier lifestyles.” (Dr Lisa Graham-Wisener, Reader in Health Psychology at Queen's.)

Find out more: ow.ly/Nw9u50VZn8C

Cathedral Calls

David Briggs' St Davids Mass premiered at St Davids Cathedral Music Festival

A truly magical third day of the St Davids Cathedral Music Festival. The Cathedral Choir premiered David Briggs' St Davids Mass in the presence of the composer at this morning's Eucharist.

The chance for the choristers to meet David and have their copies signed was wonderful.

Thank you David for your beautiful mass and the completion of the 'St Davids' Mattins, Evensong and Eucharist trilogy,



the culmination of 15 years of partnership.

Thank you David for your beautiful mass and the completion of the 'St Davids' Mattins, Evensong and Eucharist trilogy, the culmination of 15 years of partnership.

Big shout out to Laurence John for his incredible accompaniments today.

The Cathedral Choir completed the day with a fantastic Evensong including Howells 'Gloucester' Service and Wood's stunning 'Hail, gladdening light'.

The main evening concert was given by the **Alkyona String Quartet** along with Jocelyn Freeman on the piano and Alex Jones on Double Bass. The programme included Ravel's

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magnificent String Quartet and Schubert's iconic 'Trout' Quintet.

The Cathedral choir has been incredibly busy over the last few days, but there will be another opportunity to hear them this Wednesday on Radio 3 at 3.00pm singing their pre-recorded Choral Evensong for the Eve of Ascension, with music by Leighton, Dyson and Finzi.



US Anamchara Fellowship visits St Brigid's

St Brigid's Kildare was delighted to welcome members of the Anamchara Fellowship from the United States to the cathedral.

They are a new expression of monasticism, founded in the tradition of the Episcopal Church (United States), with a Celtic spirit.

Tenor-Baritone position at Selby Abbey

We invite applications for a Tenor-Baritone Choral Scholar-Section Leader position at Selby Abbey to begin in September 2025.

This is a paid opportunity (with a modest time-commitment) for a skilled and dedicated musician to play a key role in the musical life of the Abbey and its choir, whilst gaining experience and training in an inspirational setting. We welcome applicants of any age and background. Closing date for applications: 16th June 2025. Further details and application forms are available from our website: www.selbyabbey.org.uk

Resources

Faith Formation in Children Aged six to Eleven

The launch took place recently of Rev Andrew Neil's book "Considering Faith Formation in Children Aged six to Eleven"



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Dr Peter Hammil gave introductory words of encouragement and emphasised just how important Andrew's work is in helping the broader church question the ways in which they are engaging with children in their communities.

This book is full of practical guidance and founded in research within our own Church of Ireland context.

Copies to buy are available from Neartù, or via this link:
[https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store/all?
for=&categories=&genres=2&submit=](https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store/all?for=&categories=&genres=2&submit=)

Heritage



Story of Carrickfergus and Limerick

When General Schomberg came to Ireland on 13th August 1689 he was accompanied by an army chaplain called George Story.

George was an apologist for the General. Whenever Schomberg came under criticism for his handling of the war in Ireland it was Story who defended the General.

During the week long siege of Carrickfergus Castle and town in 1689 one of the siege cannon balls fell in the grounds of Saint Nicholas church, and was only discovered centuries later when grave diggers where digging a grave; it is now on display in the entrance porch of the church.

George served with the Williamites throughout the war, including the battle of the Boyne, fought on 1st July 1690.

George would write his eye witness account of the war in his; "an impartial history of the wars of Ireland".

After the Treaty of Limerick was signed on 3 October 1691, bringing the war to an end, Story's regiment marched back to Ulster, and In December 1694 Story was appointed **Dean of Connor**; but he was also appointed the **Rector of Saint Nicholas Church in Carrickfergus**.

So the Rev George Story has a big connection with Saint Nicholas church in Carric. On the 7 April 1705 he was appointed **Dean of Limerick**. George died on 19 November 1721. Courtesy of Mark Porter

Poem for today

The Owl & The Pussycat

By Edward Lear

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
'O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are!
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!'

Pussy said to the Owl, 'You elegant fowl!'
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! too long have we tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?'
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-tree grows,
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring in the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.

'Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?' Said the Piggy, 'I will.'
So they took it away, and were married next day

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By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

Please recommend to your friends