

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Remembrance at St Patrick's

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Remembrance at St Patrick's

On Sunday 9th November students from Wesley College attended the Remembrance Service in St Patrick's Cathedral.

Also in attendance were dignitaries, members of the forces, other students, members of the public and Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D Higgins, as he finishes his two terms in office.

The Wesley students said, "It was a beautiful service and we were honoured to represent Wesley College. Pictured: Anna Sandall (Head of Epworth House), Hannah Ritchie (Head Girl), Isaac Reid (Head Boy), Rhys Dixon (Head of Embury House) and Rev Ruth Mathews (Chaplain). Photo by Patrick Hugh Lynch,

News

Treat peace like a precious family heirloom - Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, has told the congregation at a 'Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving' in St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry, on Sunday, that they should treat peace like a precious family heirloom, so that it isn't damaged or broken. "Peace,"

he said, "is never, ever handed to us as a finished product. It has to be crafted; cared for tenderly, courageously."





Shortly before the service, the Bishop joined leaders of the other main local churches at an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the city's Diamond, where wreaths were laid by civic, political and military representatives, including The Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Londonderry, Ian Crowe MBE DL, and the Deputy Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Alderman Niree McMorris.

Connaught Rangers Association keeps faith in solemn remembrance

On Sunday 9th November, the Connaught Rangers Association said they were honoured to stand with the congregation of St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway, in solemn remembrance.



“We gathered to mark the 107th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War, reflecting on the peace that dawned on November 11th, 1918.

In a moving tribute, wreaths were laid by Mr. Tony King, Mr. Marcus de la Poer Beresford, and Mr. Shane Dooley on behalf of the Association.

“The service was filled with reverence, concluding with the poignant sounds of the Last Post and Reveille, as we paid our respects to the fallen.

“We will remember them”.

St Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway said - Thank you to the Connaught Rangers for the part they play in our Remembrance Day Service each year helping mark the solemnity of the occasion as we collectively mark the end of

the First World War. Parishioners and members of the Connaught Rangers laid wreaths to honour those who died in conflict.



In happier times - Archbishop of York (left) and Archbishop of Armagh (right).

Archbishop of York's visit to West Bank cut short by Israeli police

The Archbishop of York had to cut short his pastoral visit to the West Bank after Israeli police ordered his delegation to leave Susya on Saturday.

The visit followed meetings with Palestinian families whose homes in Umm al-Khair are under threat of demolition.

Earlier, heavily armed Israeli settlers had blocked the road, preventing the delegation from leaving, while police and local militias monitored the group. Rev Canon Richard Sewell, dean of St George's College, described the settlers as "quasi-military vigilantes tolerated by the police."

During the visit, Archbishop Stephen met a family affected by settler attacks. The mother had baked bread with one hand after being injured in a previous assault, while her husband had sustained a head injury. Despite the police intervention, the archbishop heard the family's story and walked with them back to the main road.

The demolitions in Umm al-Khair followed the killing of resident Awdah Hathaleen in July, shot during a settler raid while holding his infant son, according to a report in the Palestine Chronicle. His body was withheld by Israeli authorities for a week, sparking protests from local women and drawing international attention.

A man arrested for the killing was later released after a judge ruled he acted in self-defence.

Community leader Eid Hathaleen thanked the archbishop for visiting and called for international intervention to prevent displacement, while the family pleaded for justice, highlighting disparities in police responses between settlers and Palestinian residents.

The Church of England said the visit was intended to witness for peace and justice in the region.



Archbishop of Wales enthroned

The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Cherry Vann, was enthroned in a national service at St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, on Saturday, 8th November.

Archbishop Cherry is the first woman to serve as Archbishop of Wales. The enthronement followed the Archbishop's election by the Electoral College of the Church in Wales in July.

Read more on Anglican News:

<https://bit.ly/4974dw4>

Find out more about The Church in Wales:

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/>

Archbishop of breakaway Anglican church takes leave amid 'sexual misconduct' claims

The leader of a conservative Anglican denomination that split from the Episcopal Church has stepped aside while facing allegations of sexual and other types of misconduct.

On Monday, Archbishop Stephen Wood said in a statement that he was taking a paid leave of absence as the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) launched a disciplinary investigation into claims he strongly denied.

"I believe the charges against me lack merit," he said, adding that he "categorically and emphatically" denied an accusation of attempted physical contact made by a former staff member.

The Washington Post reported that a formal complaint, known as a presentment, alleged Wood tried to kiss a former children's ministry director at his South Carolina parish in 2024, and that he made her uncomfortable with comments and payments from church funds dating back to 2021.

Archbishop Stephen who is 62, and a married father of four, also stepped down as bishop of the Diocese of the Carolinas and retired as rector of St Andrew's Church in Mount Pleasant.

Under church rules, an inquiry board will decide whether the case should proceed to a full ecclesiastical trial, a process that typically takes up to three months.

The ACNA, formed in 2009 after a split over sexuality and doctrine, represents around 130,000 members in 1000 congregations.

The denomination has faced several recent leadership scandals, including the trial of another bishop accused of abusing ecclesiastical power.

Bishop Ray Sutton has assumed Wood's duties as acting archbishop during the investigation.

Choral dispute at Royal Family's Christmas Church

The Royal Family's traditional Christmas service at Sandringham could face disruption as the church choir went on strike following a bitter row over modernising its music.

Rev Paul Williams, the new vicar, reportedly acknowledged that there were "mixed emotions" over the departure of the long-serving director of music.

The dispute began after Rev Williams, who is also domestic chaplain to King Charles, commissioned an outside review into the 25-strong volunteer choir. The investigation, led by Tansy Castledine, concluded that choir members had "no knowledge of music or singing technique" and suggested

the choir aimed to achieve higher standards given the opportunity to perform for royalty.

The row caused Dr Claire Stewart, 62, the church's director of music, to take sick leave earlier this year before confirming her resignation.

Dr Stewart told The Times: "I can confirm that I recently resigned... it was a pleasure and an honour to be a part of the Sunday worship of the Royal Family".

Several choir members had already boycotted rehearsals in support of Dr Stewart, while some parents reportedly withdrew their children from the choir, putting Christmas preparations in jeopardy.

A Diocese of Norwich spokeswoman said that "several members of the choir have continued to sing together throughout this time" and that there would be "a full schedule of services planned at Sandringham to celebrate the joy of Christmas".

Local sources told LBC Radio that emotions ran high, with one describing the situation as "distressed, angry and disappointed, especially as this should be such a special time of year with Advent and Christmas just around the corner".

Church responses to COP 30

Bishop Hayes: at COP30 it is vital that Ireland demonstrates moral leadership

To read Bishop Hayes's statement please click 
<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2025/11/07/bishop-hayes-at-cop30-it-is-vital-that-ireland-demonstrates-moral-leadership/>



Anglicans will attend COP30 in Brazil this week. As COP30 approaches, the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, has shared a reflection and called for prayer and advocacy to restore and protect the lungs of the earth.

Quoting Psalm 24 - 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it' - Archbishop Stephen says:

'This planet is not just a lump of matter, floating in the vastness space. It was made by God. It belongs to him. And we are the stewards who have been charged with caring for it.

... 'We need to reimagine our relationship with creation, to act as good stewards, honouring the Creator by caring for his creation. Though the decisions and promises made at COP30 will be invaluable, the work of protecting the lungs of the earth begins in every community, in every parish – through prayer, and through action.'

Read Archbishop Stephen's reflection and prayer:

<https://bit.ly/3Xj30dK>

New Youth Initiative launched for all parishes of Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

The Cork Diocesan Youth Council has launched a Youth Initiative with the aim to assist parishes in developing events for teenagers.

Each parish, or group of parishes, is encouraged to apply to Cork Diocesan Youth Council, for a grant of up to €1,000 to enable the parish to run three youth events during the year 2026. These events must be focused on the age group 12-18 (i.e. secondary school age) and include, if possible, young leaders.

The aim is that these events will encourage on-going parish youth work and help the parishes in running their own

events, hence the Youth Council will not be running the events and the parishes are encouraged to enable and provide young leaders to do so. CDYC will run training events to support parishes in enabling young leaders and will provide suggestions as to the type of event to run.

Application forms for project funding are available now and must be submitted by the 15th of November 2025.

Please contact Hilda Connolly at dyo@corkchurchofireland.com to receive your application form and information pack.

Archbishop's welcome for President Connolly

Archbishop Michael Jackson has shared the following message of welcome for President Catherine Connolly, ahead of her inauguration today (Tuesday, 11th November 2025):

‘The beginning of a new presidential term is always an exciting point of transition for a nation.

Each President brings experience and insight to the position of First Citizen. It is in a spirit of warm-hearted goodwill that we welcome Catherine Connolly to the position of President of Ireland. As the months and the years progress, we look forward to seeing how her convictions connect with the aspirations of the State and we assure her of our good wishes in the task

Education

RBAI launch ambitious fundraising campaign

RBAI have started to raise £2.5 million in support of a new South Wing building and Transformative Bursaries.

Entitled 'Enduring Excellence', the campaign is being undertaken by the School's development and alumni relations office, The RBAI Foundation.

The launch event saw Convenor of the RBAI Foundation, Jim Rutherford, moderate a fascinating fire side chat with Michael Howard, Chairman of the Board of Governors,





Principal Janet Williamson and Conservation Architect & RBAI Governor Dawson Stelfox MBE.

The conversation addressed the School's vision for the future, the significance of the South Wing, and the impact transformative bursaries have on the future trajectory of pupils from less advantaged backgrounds.

A strong start has seen pledges totalling more than £500,000 received ahead of the launch.

To make a donation or find out more:
<https://rbaifoundation.org>

Wallace High Blood Brothers



GCSE Drama students of Wallace High School in Lisburn along with Sixth Year Drama mentors recently enjoyed a superb production of Blood Brothers in the Grand Opera House.

This was an invaluable opportunity for students to see their examination text on stage, fuelling vital discussion on dramatic techniques including lighting, costuming and set design.

Ed Sheeran boost for Belfast Boys Model

We are beyond delighted to have received 5 Ed Sheeran Lowden guitars, very kindly donated by The Ed Sheeran Foundation.



Our pupils count it a privilege for the opportunity to use these instruments and we are looking forward to hearing them in live performances at school events.

Thank you so much Ed Sheeran Oh Yeah Music Centre

Cathedral Calls

St Malachi's Parish Coleraine link to Pope's Cathedral

Sunday (9th) was the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. The Lateran is considered to be the Mother church of the whole world and it is the Pope's cathedral. It also has a particular connection to Coleraine parish - Fr Damian was ordained a deacon there in 2010 (the year before he was ordained a priest here at home). He found a few photos of his diaconate ordination and you can see Coleraine's much loved late parish priest Fr Gregory Cormican in them too.

The Lateran basilica in Rome, just round the corner from the Pontifical Irish College.

Fr Damian was ordained a deacon in the Lateran in 2010.

Fr Cormican came out from Coleraine for the occasion and he had the role of vesting Fr Damian in his deacon's vestments for the first time.

The altar of the chair in the Lateran and behind it the Pope's cathedra (his official chair or throne as bishop of Rome).

Cathedral Calls

Belfast's Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem

The roof was lifted with music of thankfulness, remembrance, and praise, as Belfast Cathedral welcomed guest singers, alongside their own Cathedral Choir (totalling 64 in total!) in a performance of Gabriel

Fauré's Requiem, directed by their Organist and Master of Music Jack Wilson.

Sincerest thanks have been expressed to the choir who worked hard, to the wonderful organist for the evening, Dr Derek Collins, alongside fantastic soloists Joanna Higgins, Daire Downey, and Nick Pierpoint.

This was the Cathedral choir's second such event, and they sincerely hope that you will join them for their next Come and Sing in the near future.

Clergy and ministry



Fond farewells in Ramoan and Culfeightrim

The Parish of Ramoan and Culfeightrin has said farewell to the Rev Canon David Ferguson and his wife Margaret following David's retirement after almost 15 years of ministry in the parish.

Perspective

Remembrance Dublin 1924

101 years ago.....a crowd assembled at the temporary cenotaph, College Green, Dublin, Armistice Day, 1924.

On the morning of Armistice Day 1924 the General Post Office on O'Connell Street, provided the starting point for the main contingent of the parade.

The parade wound its way through the city to College Green. The Green rapidly became thronged with 'thousands of men who wore medals won in campaigns across the seas' alongside 'thousands of women who wore crimson poppies' and 'thousands more in weeds of widowhood and garb of mourning', many of whom bore flowers and wreaths.

Following the two minutes silence, dignitaries approached the cross to pay their respects.

Hickie approached the cross first, placing a poppy wreath which bore the inscription 'We will not break faith with ye', and declared 'I place this wreath on the temporary cenotaph in memory of the Irishmen who gave their lives in the Great War'.

He was followed by Lieutenant General Sir Bryan Mahon and Major-General Sir Oliver Nugent, the commanding officers of the 10th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions respectively, Captain C. E Heath representing the British Legion, and members of the Irish Branch of the Italian Fascisti in their distinctive black shirts. The wreath presented by Moore on behalf of the government bore an inscription in Irish, 'Ó Rialtas Shaorstáit Éireann, I gcuimhe na nÉireannach uile a fuair bás sa Chogá Mhór'; From the government of Saorstait Éireann in memory of all Irishmen who fell in the Great War.

1924.....101 years ago

Speaking to the soul

God's teaching

Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Psalm 86:11

I wonder what your school teachers were like. I suspect that we all had a wide range of experiences. Some of my teachers were strict, others were encouraging, a few were inspiring. Some seemed to be in the wrong job, others were funny - and some just thought they were funny! Teachers vary enormously, but when it comes to learning about life itself, we need the very best teacher. Here, David recognises that God is that person.

God is often spoken of as Israel's teacher. In Isaiah 2:3, the prophet identified Jerusalem as the centre of education for the world when he wrote: "People from many nations will

come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.' For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem."

Sadly, God's teaching was often rejected. In Jeremiah's prophecy we hear God saying: "My people have turned their backs on me and have refused to return. Even though I diligently taught them, they would not receive instruction or obey" (Jeremiah 32:33). Aren't they painful words? No one likes it when someone turns their back on them, but when God's own people reject his teaching, it must be excruciatingly painful.

If we are to grow in our walk with God, we need to listen hard to his instruction. Many people will help us on that journey, but God is the source of all faithful teaching. He sends us preachers, teachers, Bibles and study books, and surrounds us with Christian friends who can help us to understand what he is saying to us. To use the powerful language of Jeremiah's prophecy, we need to make sure that we turn our faces to his teaching and not our backs.

QUESTION

What is God teaching you at the moment?

PRAYER

Loving Father, thank you that your teaching always encourages and strengthens us. Amen

Church News Ireland

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

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