

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Winchester Cathedral

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Winchester Cathedral

This week, the railings outside Winchester Cathedral have once again been transformed into a sea of red, thanks to the beautiful display of knitted and crocheted poppies created by local volunteers.



This moving tribute is lovingly coordinated by Sue Butcher, Chair of the Winchester Women's

November 7, 2025

Branch of the Royal British Legion , who has led the project since 2018. With the help of ladies from across the district - including Sutton Scotney's Knit and Natter group - Sue has sewn, stitched, and brought together hundreds of handcrafted poppies to honour those who served and sacrificed.

A heartfelt thank you to Sue and everyone involved for their dedication and creativity in bringing this touching display to life once again.

Join us for the Remembrance Sunday Service at
Winchester Cathedral:

Sunday 9th November 2025

Service begins at 10.00am (doors open 9.00am)

Winchester Cathedral

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



News

**CHURCH AND SCHOOL WAR MEMORIALS:
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS COUNCIL AREA**



The image displays two war memorials. On the left is a large, ornate, framed 'Roll of Honour' with a decorative border and a central section titled 'THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY'S SCHOOLS COLERAINE'. On the right is a wooden memorial structure with a triangular pediment, containing two columns of names under the headings 'AGHADOWEY ROLL OF HONOUR' and 'PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROLL OF HONOUR'.

**ROE VALLEY ARTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE, LIMAVADY
THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2025, 7:30PM**

History Hub Ulster

Church and School War Memorials in Causeway Coast and Glens Council Area

An illustrated talk by Nigel Henderson, History Hub Ulster.

Memorials being presented will include ones in the following areas: Aghadowy, Ballymoney, Balteagh, Castleroe, Coleraine, Dungiven, Limavady, Myroe, Portrush and Rasharkin.

Diary date - 7.30pm on Thursday, 20th November 2025 at Roe Valley Arts & Community Centre, 24 Main St, Limavady BT49 0FJ

Cregagh Crafters input for Remembrance

In a new “Inspiring angles” video published ahead of Remembrance Sunday, Canon Jono Pierce and the Cregagh Crafters – at St Finnian’s. Parish Church in East Belfast – speak about the significance of their poppy display and bringing together over 40 people to share their creative skills.

Cregagh Crafters is one of many projects which has been funded from the Representative Church Body’s MindMattersCOI mental health awareness programme, and a place where people from around the community can meet for fellowship, encouragement and fun.



ECI Climate Justice Candle visits Steelstown, Derry

The ECI Climate Justice Candle visited Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry on the 4th Sunday of the Season of Creation. It was lit at the beginning of each Mass with a short introduction by the Celebrant.

The Parish Bulletin carried the following message: “This weekend we host a candle from Eco Congregation Ireland to shine a light on climate justice. Every action we take to live sustainably is an act of solidarity with those who suffer most from the devastating effects of global warming and climate change despite having caused it the least.” Read more here - <https://tinyurl.com/3pjf4h3p>.



Strictly St Columba's



These twelve amazing couples have been working hard and are taking to the dancefloor next Saturday evening in aid of St Columba's Church Omagh.

Show your support by sponsoring them or buying one of the very few remaining tickets.

Education

UCD and St John Henry Newman

Originally called the Catholic University of Ireland, UCD opened its doors 171 years ago on 3 Nov 1854.



According to President Orla Feely, pictured with Fr Gareth Byrne of Dublin Diocese, 'with Pope Leo XIV having conferred the title of Doctor of the Church on St John Henry Newman, we are particularly proud of his role in education & his many writings, including 'The Idea of a University', which resonates strongly today.'





Education Minister visits Antrim Grammar School

The Minister came to see the school's Flowerday Suite, a dedicated space used to support pupils' emotional health and wellbeing.

He also met on Nov 5 with members of the AGS Racing Team to hear more about their racing adventures.

Methodist College reflection on Autumn Concert in St. Anne's Cathedral

We held our annual Autumn Concert in the beautiful St. Anne's Cathedral.

The evening featured a wide range of performances from pupils across year groups, highlighting their musical talent and dedication.

We would like to extend our thanks to all who participated and to everyone who attended and supported the event.

Cathedral Calls

Ringing out four deans

On Sunday the 26th of October a presentation was made to Mr. Noel Peppard on behalf of St. Edan's Cathedral parishioners and Dean Paul Mooney.

Noel has been ringing the Cathedral bell since about 1966 when he first became a Church Warden. Having rang the bells during the time of four Deans (Dean McFall, Dean Earle, Dean Forrest and presently Dean Mooney).

He first started ringing the bell for New Year's Eve around about 1980 which has become a lovely New Years' tradition ever since and can be seen below. "Once again we would like to thank Noel for all his hard work over the years within the Parish".

St Canice's cider?

"We had a wonderful morning in the St Canice's Cathedral orchard pressing all variety of apples and even some beetroot, with the Kilkenny Fruit Tree Project!

“This generous volunteer group gave their time to pressing the fruit and educating us on growing fruit and vegetables and food waste. What a great way to spend an autumnal morning”.

World expert on Christian Meditation visits St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare



Philip McKinley - It was a wonderful honour to welcome the Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation, Br Laurence Freeman OSB (centre right) to St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare.

Br Laurence is visiting Ireland as part of the John Main seminar, which started Nov 6 and will explore the theme of 'The Vision of Celtic Christianity for the Crisis of the 21st Century'. Also in the picture is Sr Rita Minehan CSB (Solas Bhríde) and Dean Isobel Jackson (St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare).

Clergy and ministry

Remembering loved ones in Conwal and Gartan

One of the Church's richest and oldest traditions is to give thanks for the saints and for the faithful departed at the start of November.

Our service of Remembering Our Loved Ones is a quiet, reflective opportunity to give thanks to God for those who have gone before us and whose loss is still very real.

We pray for God's peace and consolation as we give thanks for those who have formed us in life and in faith.

During the service, we read the names of all those whose funerals have taken place in Conwal and Gartan over the past two years, along with any other names we are asked to read. There is also an opportunity for those present to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

Recent Queen's graduate meets Pope Leo



The QUB Catholic Chaplaincy writes - Great to see one of our recent graduates, Eamonn Russell, among the members of the Pontifical Irish College who met with Pope Leo.

Eamonn is currently studying in Rome. We're very proud of you Eamonn!

Armagh clergy conference

The Diocese of Armagh clergy conference took place over the 4th/5th/6th November and was a joint event with the Diocese of Connor clergy.

The key note speakers were:

Professor David Ford who was the Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge and has been sharing with us his thoughts on the Gospel of John and

Very Revd John Dunlop, a past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland whose theme was Bonding & Bridging.

C of I Vocations Retreat

The Church of Ireland's Commission on Ministry runs a retreat in the early part of each year to help individuals who sense the call of God to enter ordained ministry to discern this call and potential next steps along the way.

Bookings are now open for 2026 Vocations Retreat, to take place in the Manresa Centre, Clontarf, between Friday, 20th February, and Sunday, 22nd February. Please read on to find out more!

The purpose of the retreat

The word “vocation” means calling. It is a dialogue in which God calls and we listen. Each of us is unique and God calls each one of us in a unique way. In the Church of Ireland ordained ministry is a particular calling to ministry, one which as a church we value highly.

For some the calling to ordination is a moment of decision, for others it is a lengthy process, extending over months and

years. We may hear a gentle voice inside us asking questions or we may be prompted by others asking questions of us.

What is important is that we take time to listen to God's voice. One way in which we may allow God to speak to us about vocation is to attend a retreat where we can meet with others who have heard and responded to that call or to meet with those who are questioning their own sense of vocation.

As part of its commitment to develop ministry, and endorsed by the House of Bishops, the Commission on Ministry is organizing a series of events to encourage vocations to the ordained ministry within the Church of Ireland.

This retreat is for those who may just be beginning to ask whether God is calling them to the ordained ministry. It is also for those who may be further along the road. Wherever you are on the journey, coming to a retreat to hear others talk about their experiences, learning what that might mean for you personally and practically and, above all, allowing God to speak to you, may just clarify that decision for you. The retreat will be a mixture of informal talks, practical guidance, discussion and times of quiet, all held in the beautiful Manresa Retreat Centre in Clontarf, Dublin 3.

The guest speaker

The guest speaker this year is the Revd Nicola Moy. Throughout the retreat there will be times of worship and times for silence and personal reflection. There will also be opportunity for informal chats with members of the clergy and members of the Commission on Ministry.

Nicola is Vicar of Christ Church W4 in Chiswick, London, having served as associate vicar for seven years before her appointment in June 2023. She speaks at Lee Abbey and other Christian conferences and was previously part of the New Wine leadership team. She also partners with CPAS, an Anglican evangelical mission agency.

Previously a Religious Education teacher, Nicola brought pastoral warmth and theological depth to her ministry. She is married to Rev Dr Richard Moy, Director of Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA) UK, and together they've ministered across India, Africa, and Asia. They have three children and a dog.

Nicola's understanding of the Church is holistic: a place of healing, discipleship, and mission. Her preaching is marked by warmth and clarity, guiding listeners through Scripture with pastoral sensitivity and theological depth.

She weaves personal stories and global mission insights into her messages, making them both relatable and spiritually rich. With a reverent approach to Scripture, she invites congregants to embody Christ's compassion in everyday life, believing in the transformative power of God's Word.

Cost

Participants are asked for a contribution towards costs of €75/£65. The retreat is financed through the Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry.

Dates

The retreat will be held from Friday, 20nd February, to Sunday, 22nd February 2026.

Getting there

Manresa Centre is situated in Clontarf, Dublin 3 and the centre's website – www.manresa.ie – contains information on how to get there by using public transport.

For more information

If you are interested in attending and would like to know more, please contact Judy Peters via the Synod Office at synod@rcbcoi.org

To make a booking

The booking form is available in Microsoft Word format at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/coi-vocations-2026>

Please fill out the booking form and email to Linto John at linto.john@rcbcoi.org

Payment can be made electronically through the Representative Church Body. Banking details will be made available on receipt of booking form.

Perspective

Celebrating the feast of All the Saints of Ireland

Renowned as being the land of Saints and Scholars, Ireland has over 300 Saints, one for almost everyday of the year.

Yet, only 4 Saints - St Malachy, St. Lawrence O'Toole, St. Oliver Plunkett and St. Charles of Mount Argus - have been formally canonised.

All other Irish Saints, including St. Patrick and St. Brigid, are Saints by acclamation of the local Church.

Pope Benedict XV beatified Oliver Plunkett in 1920 and also during his papacy the Feast of All the Saints of Ireland was instituted. The same Pope also granted Ireland the honour of having a litany of its native Saints approved for public recitation.

Only four Saints, St Malachy (1094-1148), St Lawrence O'Toole (1128-80) and St Oliver Plunkett (1625-81) and St Charles of Mount Argus (1821-93), have been officially canonised. All the other Irish Saints, such as Saints Patrick and Brigid, are Saints as it were, by acclamation of the local Church.

The scope of this feast, while it includes canonised Saints, is wider. It also includes those who had a reputation for holiness and whose causes for canonisation have not yet been completed, such as Blessed Thaddeus MacCarthy, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice and the Servant of God Matt

Talbot and people like Legion of Mary envoys Edel Quinn and Alfie Lamb, whose causes have already been introduced. But it also includes those whose lives of sanctity were known only to their families, friends or members of their parish diocese or religious community.

We ask that through their intercession that we will continue to be faithful witnesses to the faith and that Ireland will have more Saints in every generation.

All you Holy men and women pray for us.

In the media

Orthodox Jewish congregation at risk of dying out, warns chair

Members of Northern Ireland's only Orthodox Jewish synagogue fear it could disappear without new followers, Gabriel Swan writes in the Belfast Telegraph

The community in Belfast, with a congregation of just over 50 people, is also appealing for a new rabbi.

The call follows the departure of Reverend David Kale, who left for England last summer.

With members of the north Belfast synagogue aged from 60 to 94, there has not been a Bar Mitzvah in eight years, or a Bat Mitzvah in 10.

Belfast Jewish Community chair Neville Finch said: “The greater the decrease in numbers, the more we require a leader.”

The doors of the temple are open every Saturday for the Jewish Sabbath, albeit without a rabbi to conduct a service.

This leaves the laity to form what is known as a minyan, which is made up of 10 Jewish men, and say prayers on the traditional day of rest.

However, with the shrinking and mostly elderly group, the minyan is often a few people short.

The synagogue was built in 1964 and had around 1,500 members at that point.

Judaism has a rich history in Northern Ireland, with many Jews arriving in the mid-1800s after fleeing persecution in eastern Europe.

Many were German merchants keen to become involved in the lucrative linen trade.

Others would also seek refuge from Nazi persecution in the 1930s and 40s.

The official name of the yellow fountain in the city's Victoria Square is the Jaffe Memorial Fountain.

It was erected by Sir Otto Jaffe, a Jewish entrepreneur and two-time mayor of Belfast, in 1874 in memory of his father.

Isaac Herzog, the current president of Israel, also has roots in the city, with his father, Chaim, having been born on Cliftonpark Avenue in north Belfast in 1918.

Mr Finch said the synagogue needed new members.

“There was a lady in her 93rd or 94th year, and the youngest congregation member... let's just say we are all retirees,” he added.

“We are an old community. There are no young people as such. We would like to see an influx of families. We live in hope.

“Our last rabbi was with us for a number of years. He had to return to England.

“At the moment, we are searching for somebody suitable to fill the post, There have been a number of expressions of interest.

“We need a rabbi. It is a contradiction of terms. The smaller the group, the greater the decrease in numbers and the more we require a leader.

“We hope that we get somebody suitable who is all-embracing and who understands our needs.

“At the moment, we have no one to lead our services.

“We ensure the synagogue is open on a Saturday morning. People meet, and if they want to go inside and say a few

words themselves, that's okay. If they want to have a tea or coffee, the doors will always be open.

“Hopefully, in the new year, we will get up and running again. Hopefully, we will have somebody in situ from January.

“There have been expressions of interest [in the position]. We are hosting a rabbinic couple towards the end of this month. We will see how it works out. It is a two-way process.

“In my day, we had a very vibrant community. Many of us went to [Belfast] Royal Academy, because much of the population would have lived on the Antrim Road.

“We have low numbers because many of the young people have gone away to university. They've gone abroad to settle, and they haven't come back.

“You had a community in Derry in the late 1880s until 1948 or 1949. You had a community in Lurgan from 1894 to about 1927.

“There were Jewish people living in Banbridge and in Newry, but this is now the remnants.

“There are various forms of Judaism, Orthodox, Reform and Progressive.

“No matter what version of Judaism one follows, everyone is welcome, as long as you understand that the sermon is carried out in accordance [with] the Orthodox tradition.

“We do fear decline, and I have to admit, we are well past our sell-by date. To address the elephant in the room, current world affairs and how that affects us — [these are the things that] concern us.”

Heritage

Remembering William Temple

William Temple was born in 1881 and baptized on 06/11/1881 in Exeter Cathedral.

His father was Bishop of Exeter and later Archbishop of Canterbury. William excelled in academic studies and developed into a philosopher and theologian of significance. After ordination, he quickly made a mark in the Church and at forty became a bishop. Within a decade he was Archbishop of York.

He is especially remembered for his ecumenical efforts and also for his concern with social issues, contributing notably to the debate which led to the creation of state welfare provision after the Second World War. He died on 26 October 1944, two years after his translation to the See of Canterbury.

Poem for today

The gift of love

by Tom Kettle

November 7, 2025

In wiser days, my darling rosebud, blown
To beauty proud as was your mother's prime -
In that desired, delayed incredible time
You'll ask why I abandoned you, my own,
And the dear breast that was your baby's throne
To dice with death, and, oh! They'll give you rhyme
And reason; one will call the thing sublime,
And one decry it in a knowing tone.
So here, while the mad guns curse overhead,
And tired men sigh, with mud for couch and floor,
Know that we fools, now with the foolish dead,
Died not for Flag, nor King, nor Emperor,
But for a dream, born in a herdsman's shed,
And for the Secret Scripture of the poor.

Irish poet Tom Kettle wrote this poem for his infant daughter Betty whom he had never seen. He was killed a few days later at the Somme and never saw his daughter.

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

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

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