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## Mothers' Union gives 200 books to NI women's prison



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## **Mothers Union Down & Dromore present 200 children's books to women's prison**

Mothers' Union members from the Diocese of Down and Dromore have presented over 200 books to the library at Hydebank Wood College, a women's prison in Northern Ireland.

The books were duplicate sets of children's books, one copy of which will be lent to a child to take home and then the same book will be read simultaneously by their relation in Hydebank Wood - be it the child's mother, grandmother, sister, aunt etc. The project is called "Read Together" as, by reading the same book at the same time, the adult and child will have something in common to talk about on the next family visit or even during home telephone calls.

The project aims to help nurture and support family relationships despite difficult situations as well as specifically helping children through what can be a difficult experience when visiting a family member in prison.

The idea for the project and the subsequent approach to the staff of Hydebank Wood came to then Diocesan President, June Butler, and the Action and Outreach Coordinator, Clare Stewart, when they were attending a MULOA event last year. Subsequently they liaised with the governor and library staff at the prison and the diocese obtained funding from the Ireland project fund "Mums in May". It was launched on World Book Day when children visiting the prison were dressed as their favourite characters from stories.

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The books were presented in the Family Centre at Hydebank Wood with the Governor thanking MU members for their generosity he said "the books will make such a difference to the communication between adults and children, thank you". June Butler commented; "the project clearly meets the aim of Mothers' Union to further strong family relationships. It is a joy to be at Hydebank today to see the children dressed as characters from stories they already know. These new books will introduce them to different stories and also help them develop stronger bonds with the adults they love."

## **New Celtic Camino from Bray to Dublin gathers momentum**

The Celtic Camino from Bray to the Church of St James took a new twist last weekend when more than 50 intrepid walkers made their way along the pilgrim route from Booterstown to the Dublin church which has close ties to the Camino de Santiago.

The Bray Celtic Camino Coastal Route is being developed by the Camino Society of Ireland and stamps will be available for the Celtic Camino Passport along the route. Last Saturday's walk, led by Turlough O'Donnell of the Camino Society and Myles Duffy of Trekkers Walking Club, was the second leg of the journey, walkers having made their way from Bray to Booterstown previously. During their walk they considered the ideas of movement and neighbouring.

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## **John Hegarty addresses participants on the Bray Celtic Camino in Trinity College Dublin**

Archbishop Michael Jackson joined the walkers at Christ Church Cathedral which is on the route which follows the shoreline to Sandymount village before heading to Ringsend and then Trinity College Dublin. The group stopped at Trinity, which was a stop on the Medieval Camino (as All Hallows), to hear a short talk by Prof John Hegarty, a former Provost. They then followed the Dublin line to Christ Church Cathedral where they had the Credentials stamped and were greeted by staff and given a tour of the cathedral and its crypt. They then proceeded to St James's for the stamp there and the certificate of completion of the Pilgrimage in Dublin for those who completed both legs.

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## **Archbishop Michael Jackson with walkers who undertook the Celtic Camino from Booterstown to St James's Church**

Speaking at Christ Church, Archbishop Jackson drew together the experiences of Christchurch, New Zealand and Christ Church, Dublin, through the medium of the labyrinth that now adorns the entrance to the cathedral.

“The centre piece of the labyrinth is an imperfect stone that points us to the stone that the builders rejected that became the cornerstone in the First Letter of Peter – Jesus Christ,” he observed. “The need for an understanding and an acceptance of humanity as the basis of our belonging to the earth and its gifts to us is fundamental to a faithful and to a secular state in 2019. The recognition of individual insufficiency is the grace of divine belonging. The labyrinth in front of the cathedral connects directly with the labyrinth carved on a tenth century stone in Hollywood which is the starting point of the Camino of Glendalough which the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough have promoted in recent years.”

The archbishop spoke of three aspects the camino: movement, neighbouring and dialogue. He suggested that in the context of an Ireland that is in danger of fracturing emotionally and culturally 20 years after the outbreak of

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peace these three activities are more vital and energising than ever.

The Bray Celtic Camino starts at Bray Seafront (where a stamp will be available at Finnbee's Coffee House) and continues to St James's Church Crinken, Station Road in Killiney, Convent Road in Dalkey, to Joyce Tower in Sandycove, to Seapoint Tower, to Merrion Gates, to Hannover Quay, to Christ Church Cathedral (stamp), finishing at St James's Church (stamp). There will be further stamps along the route. The total route covers 30.2 kilometers. Passports can be purchased at [www.caminosociety.ie](http://www.caminosociety.ie) which also has further information on the Celtic Camino and where stamps are available.

## **Biggest Indoor Easter Egg Hunt is back**

The Biggest Indoor Easter Egg Hunt is back on Easter Tuesday, April 23, when Belfast Cathedral throws open its doors from 11am – 3pm for this popular children's event.

Jill Hamilton, Connor Children's Project Development Officer, and a team of volunteers will assist the Cathedral's Tourism and Events Managers Helen Graham and Holly Wilson to host this not-to-be missed fun event.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, said: "We can expect the Cathedral to be packed with children of all ages, hunting out Easter eggs from the hidden corners and creating Easter crafts at the activity tables.

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“Do come along to explore the meaning of Easter with and beyond the world of chocolate!”

Admission is £2 per child.



## Eric Says resource for children's ministry

Are you doing your children's ministry back to front?

Do you find your teaching material is starting at the wrong point for some of your children?

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Do you have an increasing number of children coming from unchurched backgrounds into your organisations?

Do you need material that starts more in the world of the child and moves them to the Bible?

The PCI Congregational Life, Youth and Children, states this resource is based on a series of books called “Eric says”, written by Dai Hankey and published by the Good Book Company [www.thegoodbook.co.uk/ericays](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/ericays).\*

The aim of the resource is to teach children something about God and to help them encounter Him, possibly for the first time.

They start in the world of the child, in this case through an everyday commonplace situation that Eric finds himself in, and then slowly moves them towards God and how He can impact the situation.

The sessions are around the themes of saying thanks, sorry and please. They could be used as part of a Holiday Bible Club or a midweek group with children to help them encounter God and understand something of the part He wants to play in their lives.

Download the Introduction leaflet [here](#).

*\* The Good Book Company are offering a 50% discount to those who purchase any combination of 10 or more copies in the series. Use the discount code ERIC50.*

<http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/Congregational-Life/Youth-and-Children/Eric-Series.aspx>



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# The power of the risen Christ, Moderator's Easter Message

In his Easter Message, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, writes how Jesus continues to come alongside his followers, just as he did in the immediate aftermath of that first Easter, not only to comfort but empower – and how today, with all the negative headlines that surround us, there is a better story.

## **The text of the Moderator's 2019 Message**

Jesus Christ makes available his incomparably great power to all who believe. As we recount the individual stories of Easter, we experience that same resurrection life being imparted to despairing disciples as they discover that the tomb in which Christ was buried is now empty.

The risen Christ draws alongside followers locked behind closed doors for fear and as they see his wounds they experience great joy and deep peace. Thomas has his doubts answered as Jesus addresses him personally. Each of Peter's denials is cancelled out as Jesus asks him three times, "Do you love me?" Disconsolate in her grief, Mary Magdalene is transformed by Jesus as he speaks her name reassuringly.

Christ reaches into the coldest, darkest tombs of human existence and brings the warmth of his loving

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kindness and the light of his beautiful presence. Where there was once only brokenness and pain, now there is healing and renewal. Where there was grief and sorrow, there is comfort and hope. Death has been defeated, and good triumphs over evil, as the weeping of the night gives way to the joy of a new dawn.

This Easter Sunday morning Christians throughout the world will gather to proclaim in large cathedrals, or small country churches, the joy of the risen Lord. Some will do so in the idyllic setting of the seashore, or on the mountain top as they celebrate in dawn services – as many in our denomination will do here. Others will exercise their Christian faith in countries where there is no freedom to do so and many will suffer opposition and persecution for their beliefs. Regardless of circumstances, the triumphal songs of Easter Day will be sung, in secret and in public: “Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory Thou o’er death hast won.”

There is so much of our society that needs this same resurrection life and power, a vision for a better future. Politics in Northern Ireland show signs of increasing polarisation and the impasse at Stormont has meant that our schools and hospitals are not receiving the vital attention they deserve.

There are many unresolved peace and reconciliation issues from The Troubles and Brexit negotiations are

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**Members of SPRED Buncrana with Bishop McKeown after the Mass for people with Special Needs. Maureen seated beside the Bishop has given many years to SPRED - she will be 100 in September.**

continually stalling, while homelessness and economic deprivation seen in the proliferation of foodbanks are among some of the urgent issues needing to be addressed on our island home.

Two millennia ago the stone was rolled away from the borrowed grave where the crucified Jesus had been buried. Sadly, for whatever reason, many live in the gloom of the tomb rather than in the glorious hope of Easter Sunday and its better story. The good

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news is that Jesus still moves those stones of stress and anxiety, hatred and resentment, heartache, suspicion and distrust.

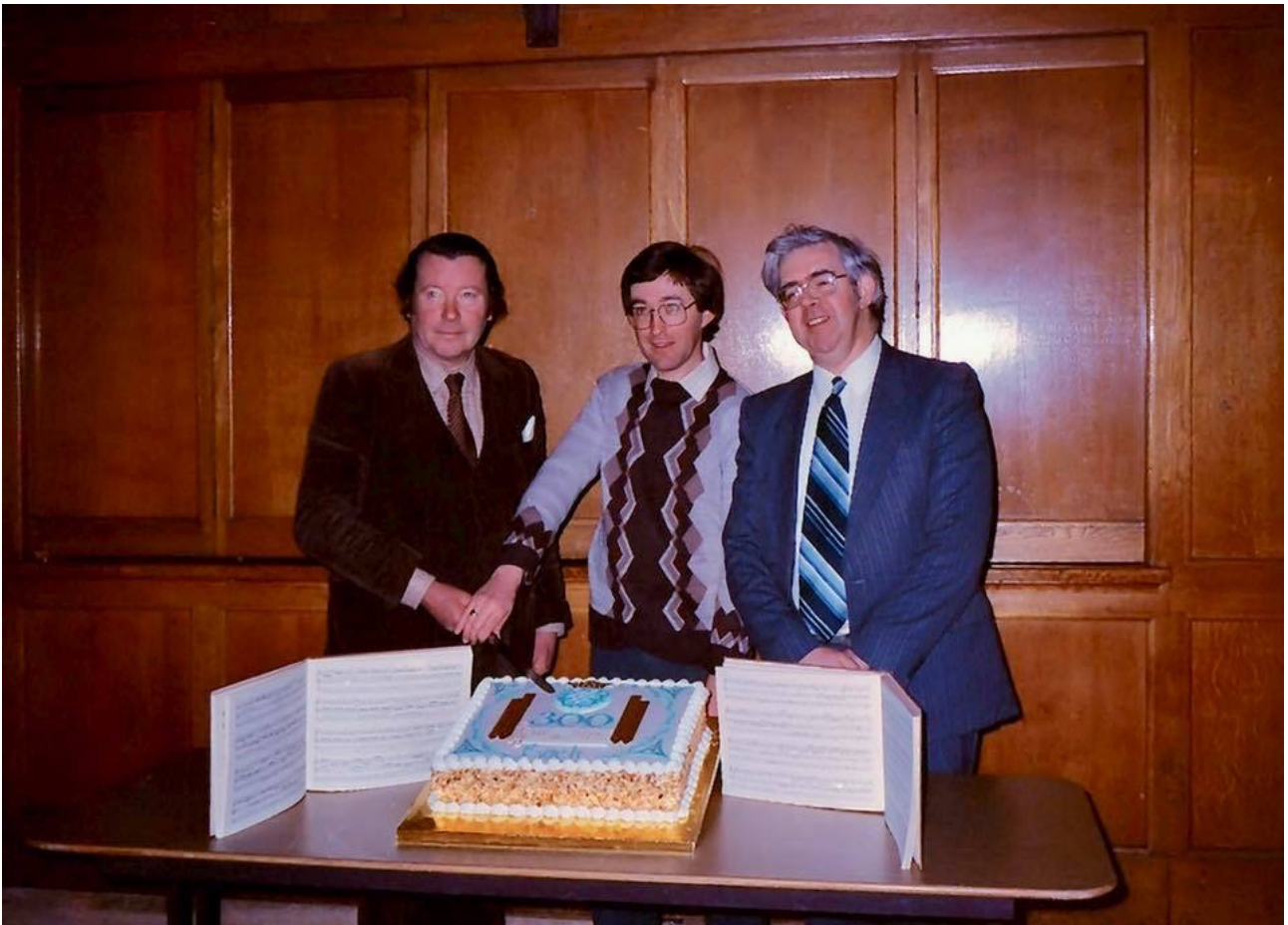
To all who are seeking to remove the stones that divide and build relationships for the common good, I want to offer my heartfelt support and encouragement. There are so many in the service of the caring professions, in business, politics, police and emergency services, voluntary sectors, education and in church ministry, who do not make the headlines, but make such a difference – they are unsung heroes and wonderful influences for good.

I believe in the distinctive contribution of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only one who has conquered suffering and death. As he revealed himself to those first disciples in his risen power, his message has its most enduring impact when it takes hold of us personally. In John's Gospel we see Jesus proclaim, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.' That we too would all see and believe!

## **Heritage - The Mulholland Organ**

If you've ever attended an event in the Ulster Hall on Bedford Street, be it a recital by the Ulster Orchestra, a political rally, or even a rock concert back in the day, you can't have helped but notice this magnificent instrument which occupies one wall of the building behind the stage ...

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but where did it come from? The money required for its installation (a colossal amount in those days) was donated by Andrew Mulholland of Ballywalter Park, after which the Mulholland Grand Organ takes its name. The Mulhollands founded the York Street Flax Spinning Co which would become the largest of its type in the world. The organ was installed in 1862, and is still played on a regular basis today. The Mulhollands went on to become the Lords Dunleath, and the 6th Baron presides over Ballywalter Park today

The late Henry, 4th Baron Dunleath on the left in the foyer of the Ulster Hall on a Saturday in March 1985, cutting a birthday cake for the tercentenary of the composer Johann Sebastian Bach (born 21st March 1685). There was also a recital of Bach organ music that day on the Mulholland

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Grand Organ of the Ulster Hall, by the then City Organist Dr Donald Davison, on the right of the photo.

The cake decoration includes JS Bach's personal monogram consisting of his initials in mirror image. Below the monogram is his musical signature of B flat, A, C, B natural. In German nomenclature, these notes actually spell B.A.C.H.

## **Today in Christian history**

**April 15, 1415:** Jerome of Prague, a friend of Bohemian reformer Jan Hus, is seized by church authorities meeting at the Council of Constance. Under duress, Jerome recanted his Wycliffe-influenced beliefs and accepted the authority of the pope. However, when a crowd was assembled to hear him repeat the recantation, he changed his speech and eloquently defended both Wycliffe's teachings and the recently executed Hus. Jerome was subsequently burned at the stake.

**April 15, 1452:** Italian painter and scholar Leonardo da Vinci is born in Florence, Italy. Among his most famous religious works are the Virgin of the Rocks, The Last Supper, and St. John the Baptist.

**April 15, 1638:** The castle of Hara, located on the Shimabara Peninsula, Japan, falls to Tokugawa Shogunate forces. Catholic leader Amakusa Shiro Tokisada defended the fortress with 27,000 Christians, over 14,000 of them combatants. They fought valiantly to the end—even the women and children. After the battle, all of the survivors

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were subsequently beheaded, save one Judas (Yamada) who had plotted to open the castle gate to the enemy.

**April 15, 1729:** Johann Bach conducts the first and only performance of St. Matthew Passion during his lifetime at a Good Friday Vespers service in Leipzig, Germany. The choral work has been called "the supreme cultural achievement of all Western civilization," and even the radical skeptic Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) admitted upon hearing it, "One who has completely forgotten Christianity truly hears it here as gospel."

**April 15, 1889:** Belgian Roman Catholic priest Joseph Damien, a missionary to lepers on Molokai, Hawaii, dies from the disease.

**April 15, 1892:** Dutch devotional writer Corrie ten Boom, known for hiding Jewish refugees in her home during World War II (an act dramatized in the 1971 film *The Hiding Place*) is born. She also died on this date in 1983.

**April 14, 1759:** George Frideric Handel, composer of the oratorio *Messiah*, dies at age 74 in London.

**April 14, 1775:** America's first society to abolish slavery organizes in Philadelphia.

## **News briefs**

**+++Glenstal Abbey school attends TCD choral evensong -**

Glenstal Abbey school 3rd Years attended Choral Evensong for the last occasion of the term at TCD. Evensong was

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sung by the TCD chapel choir. The group received a warm welcome from the Dean of Residence (Rev. Steve Brunn) and from the Methodist Chaplain (Rev. Julian Hamilton).



**ST PATRICK'S CHURCH  
DONEGALL STREET, BELFAST**

**WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2019  
7:30PM**

**ADMISSION FREE**

WED, 17 APR AT 19:30

**Crucifixus**

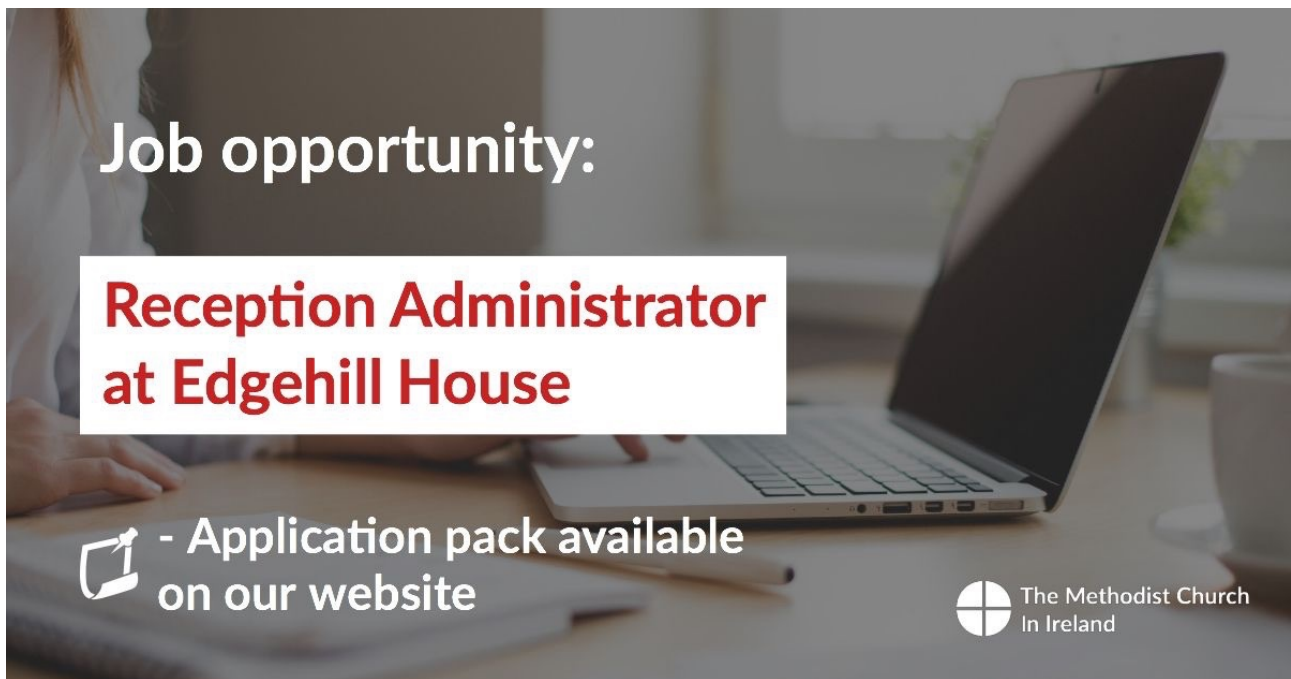
INTERESTED

**+++Combined choirs** - Lux and Renaissance chamber choirs combine on Wednesday, St Patrick's, Donegall St.

**+++Last week of Christ Church, Dublin Lent films** - the last event in the I Wonder As I Wander Series is tomorrow night, Tuesday. Get to know some of the artists who brought the evening together. Stace Gill is a singer, writer and musician with The Sei (formerly OCHO). She has been releasing music with various record labels for over 10 years



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**Job opportunity:**

**Reception Administrator  
at Edgehill House**

 - Application pack available  
on our website

 The Methodist Church  
In Ireland

**+++Post at Edgehill House** - Be apart of the excellent team at Edgehill House playing a key role within MCI's Connexional Offices. Are you; Responsible & reliable? Self motivated? Friendly & out-going? They would love to hear from you!

**+++Food for thought** - We tend to stay away from mourning and dancing. Too afraid to cry, too shy to dance...we become narrow-minded complainers, avoiding pain and also true human joy...While we live in a world subject to the evil one, we belong to God. Let us mourn, and let us dance - Henri Nouwen

## News Links

[Has the feast of Easter lost its spiritual meaning?](#)

Belfast Newsletter

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As Holy Week approaches, we ask two Northern **Ireland church** .... This is Good **News**, and our work places, families and friendship circles need it. Includes interview with Bishop Harold Miller

### [Sacked professor considers leaving Presbyterian church](#)

BBC News

The Presbyterian **Church** has been asked for a comment. ... Last month, when Prof Kirkpatrick was dismissed, the Presbyterian **Church** told BBC **News** NI it ... adverse nature, about your employer, the Presbyterian **Church** in Ireland".

### [MLA: QUB grows colder for Protestants after severing links with all four theological colleges](#)

Belfast Newsletter

This week's report from QUB made no mention of **church** policy on same ... [Presbyterian **Church** in Ireland] into religious fundamentalism," he said.

### [Queen's split with Union Theological College could cost £700k](#)

Belfast telegraph (press release) (blog)

The Rev Trevor Gribben, clerk of the General Assembly and general secretary of the Presbyterian **Church** in Ireland, said options for the future were ...

### [New form of dialogue needed on Brexit, Fr Aidan Troy says](#)

Irish Times

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... to Northern **Ireland** this week to lead a retreat in the Long Tower **church** in ... Built on the site of Derry's great medieval **church**, the Teampall Mór, the ...

### [Irish Scientologists reveal founder L Ron Hubbard's works to be translated into Irish in bizarre new ...](#)

The Irish Sun

THE works of Scientology founder L Ron Hubbard will soon be translated into **Irish**, the **church** has revealed. The sci-fi author created the religion in ...

### [Protestant and Irish: The Minority's Search for Place in Independent Ireland](#)

Irish Times

Yet despite the strong unionist views of many Protestants – baptised, the **Church of Ireland** Gazette said in 1920, “not only into a religious faith but into ...

### [News Briefing: from Britain and Ireland](#)

The Tablet

Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry has welcomed the establishment of Catholic Youth Ministry **Ireland** (CYMI) as a national forum for the support of ...

### [DCU planning 1240-bed student housing scheme Independent.ie](#)

... three other institutions in the capital: St Patrick's College, Mater Dei Institute of Education, and the **Church of Ireland** College of Education.

### [Remains of medieval child found with other skeletons just yards from St Patrick's grave in Northern ...](#)

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Irish Post

According to BBC **News**, excavators first thought they had found the lost ... Down Cathedral is a **Church of Ireland** building that stands on the site of a ...

### [Compensation verdict devastates historic abuse victims](#)

ITV News

Historic abuse victims in Northern **Ireland** have accused the Government of ignoring its moral duty after a legal bid to secure stalled compensation ...

### [Northern Ireland abuse survivors lose compensation case](#)

Irish Times

Northern **Ireland** Secretary Karen Bradley's ongoing failure to compensate victims of historical abuse in the absence of a Stormont executive is not ...

### [St Michael's, Newtownhamilton: Window smashed during church theft](#)

BBC News

A **church** has been ransacked in Newtownhamilton, County Armagh. A number of vacuum cleaners were taken and a stained glass window was ...

### [Vacuum cleaners stolen and stained window smashed during church ransacking](#)

Belfast telegraph (press release) (blog)

“The **church** was ransacked and a number of vacuum cleaners were taken,” he said. “A stained glass window was also smashed during the incident.

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## **[Retired pope Benedict wades into clergy sex abuse debate](#)**

The Irish News

Retired pope Benedict XVI has published an analysis on the Catholic **Church's** clergy sex abuse scandal, blaming it on the sexual revolution of the ...

## **[Retired Pope Benedict XVI Places Blame for Sexual-abuse Scandal](#)**

The New American

... in the German monthly Klerusblatt and in the Catholic **News** Agency. ... including a swing away in devotion to the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**, which ...

## **[Man who stole €500 of mass donations given suspended sentence](#)**

Irish Times

Justin Murray (40) of Moatview Court, Coolock, ran away from the **church** ... had a sticker with “Justin Murray” on it discarded on the **church** grounds.

## **[Unsolved murder of bus driver puts spotlight on suspected paedophile ring in the North](#)**

Irish Times

He played snooker with his friends at the Wellington Snooker Club on Rossorry **Church** Road and allowed children to use his flat in Enniskillen. One of ...

## **[Church of England pressed to end ban on same-sex marriage](#)**

PinkNews

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The Campaign for Equal Marriage in the **Church of England** launched on Friday (April 12), seeking an end to rules that ban same-sex weddings in ...

**[Church shops can help pack pews](#)**

The Times

The draw of community-hub churches will be welcome **news** for the **Church of England**. In 2017, 722,000 people attended its Sunday services, a drop ...

**[Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, appoints gay, married priest](#)**

The Times

An Oxford University college has appointed a gay, married **Church of Eng**

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