

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Knit and Natter Poppies

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Knit and Natter Poppies

A hive of activity at Mullavilly Knit and Natter the other morning. “Our Poppy project all starting to come together.”

News

10,000 bicycles repaired for East Belfast Mission's Restore shops



Recycling Manager, Michael Lowry, has officially repaired 10,000 bicycles for East Belfast Mission's



Restore shops, an incredible achievement made possible with the help of his dedicated volunteer team, local authorities, and generous public donations.

Every restored bike goes through a full 30-point check, bringing health, environmental, and social benefits to our communities.

Here's to the next 10,000!

Forthspring Group getting to know your neighbour community project

This week (Week 5) at Forthspring Community Group, participants from St John's Parish Falls Road and St Matthews Church came together for Week 5 of their exploration of faith, community, and connection in the modern world.



What's remarkable about this project is the spirit in the room — Catholics and Protestants sharing stories, laughter, and questions about what faith looks like today, and how it can bring us closer rather than divide us. ❤️🤝

Each week builds more trust and understanding, reminding us that peace isn't an abstract idea — it's made through cups of tea, shared conversation, and the courage to listen.

We were delighted this week to connect the group with Doris from GhanaNI who works with us each week. Thank you to everyone who continues to show up with open hearts and minds. You're building something powerful.



EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

In response to demand, The Scarlet Thread at St Columba's Church, Omagh will be open:

FRIDAY 17th October 10am – 8pm
SATURDAY 18th October 10am -8pm
SUNDAY 19th October 12pm -7pm

Closing service Sunday 19th October 7pm

Absolutely everyone welcome



Final opportunity for The Scarlet Thread presentation

Everyone at St Columba's Church Omagh is deeply humbled and thankful for the incredible support from every corner of our community, and beyond.

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To ensure that everyone has an opportunity to visit The Scarlet Thread, we have extended our weekend opening hours, and hope that you can join us.





Galway welcome for Master of the Dominican Order

On Thursday Bishop Michael presided at Mass with the Dominican Family at St Mary's the Claddagh welcoming a visit from the Master of the Dominican Order Gerard Francisco Timoner III.



“It is an honour to have in a sense the successor of St Dominic among us and to



take advantage of the **occasion** to thank God for the centuries long presence and ministry of the Order of Preachers among the people of Galway.” - Bishop Michael

Archbishop of Wales 'hopeful' for Bangor diocese despite 'deep-seated challenges'

The Archbishop of Wales has spoken of a "faithful, hopeful and fruitful future" for the Diocese of Bangor despite its "complex, deep-seated and long-standing" challenges.

Addressing the Bangor Diocesan Conference, Most Rev Cherry Vann acknowledged that problems in the diocese will "take a long time to unravel and deal with appropriately," and will "require everybody pulling together".

Earlier this year, two reports highlighted safeguarding concerns and misbehaviour at Bangor Cathedral and a "culture in which sexual boundaries seemed blurred". There were also allegations about inappropriate language being used and alcohol consumed excessively.

Archbishop Cherry said people in the diocese were suffering "trauma" over events that "go back far beyond the last 18 months or so". But she struck an optimistic tone about the path ahead, saying it will require "all of us, first and foremost, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus who is the founder and perfecter of our faith. Whilst, of course, being mindful of the challenges that need to be addressed".

Using the biblical metaphor of pruning vines to encourage growth, the archbishop spoke about the need for renewal even when it feels uncomfortable. She encouraged the diocese to focus on its spiritual roots during this season of

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change, comparing the church's journey to the natural cycles of growth, dormancy and renewal seen in the seasons.

Education



Congratulations to Zoe BBC Young Chorister of the Year Finalist

Congratulations to Zoe for her performance. MCB says rightly - We are incredibly proud of Zoe, who represented our school with distinction. Zoe's performance showcased her talent and dedication throughout the entire competition!

David Darling wrote on Facebook - As a former pupil of Methody and teacher of a former BBC Young Chorister of

the Year, I must congratulate Zoe on both her performances in this year's competition. For me anyway, Zoe's performance of Britten's 'The Birds' in the semi-final was the most moving of all the (very good) performances in both Junior and Senior categories of the whole competition. She has also inspired one of my current young choristers, who has, since hearing Zoe sing the Britten, now started to sing that piece! Congratulations, and many thanks.

If you missed the final, you can watch Zoe's performance here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002kw2m/songs-of-praise-young-chorister-of-the-year-final>

Wesley College Music Scholar leader of National Youth Orchestra

Kian Lee (Form 6) was chosen for this role out of many other

fine violinists from all over Ireland and his job is to help lead the other musicians, ensuring they stay together and to help interpret the conductor's movements.



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Kian will lead the Orchestra at their next two concerts in January and August of next year. Kian has also made it to the finals of the Frank Maher Classical Music Awards for secondary schools, where if he wins, he will be awarded a substantial cash prize. This is being held next Friday, October 24th.



BRA A-Level RE visit to Rome

Seventeen Belfast Royal Academy A-level students recently returned from an unforgettable trip to Rome, the Eternal City.



Over the course of the visit, they explored iconic landmarks such as the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Pantheon, and the Vatican City, soaking up the rich history and culture at every turn. From authentic Italian pizza to breathtaking art and architecture, the experience was filled with learning, laughter, and plenty



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of style. A huge thank you to Mr Stretton, Mrs Chambers, and Mr Martin for leading the trip and ensuring everything ran smoothly — a truly fantastic adventure that will be remembered for years to come.



Redmond Friel archive presented to Ulster University

The archive of renowned Derry-born composer, arranger and educator Redmond Friel has been officially handed over to Ulster University, marking a significant moment for music education and cultural preservation.



Friel's manuscripts, compositions and arrangements will inspire students, researchers and musicians for generations to come.

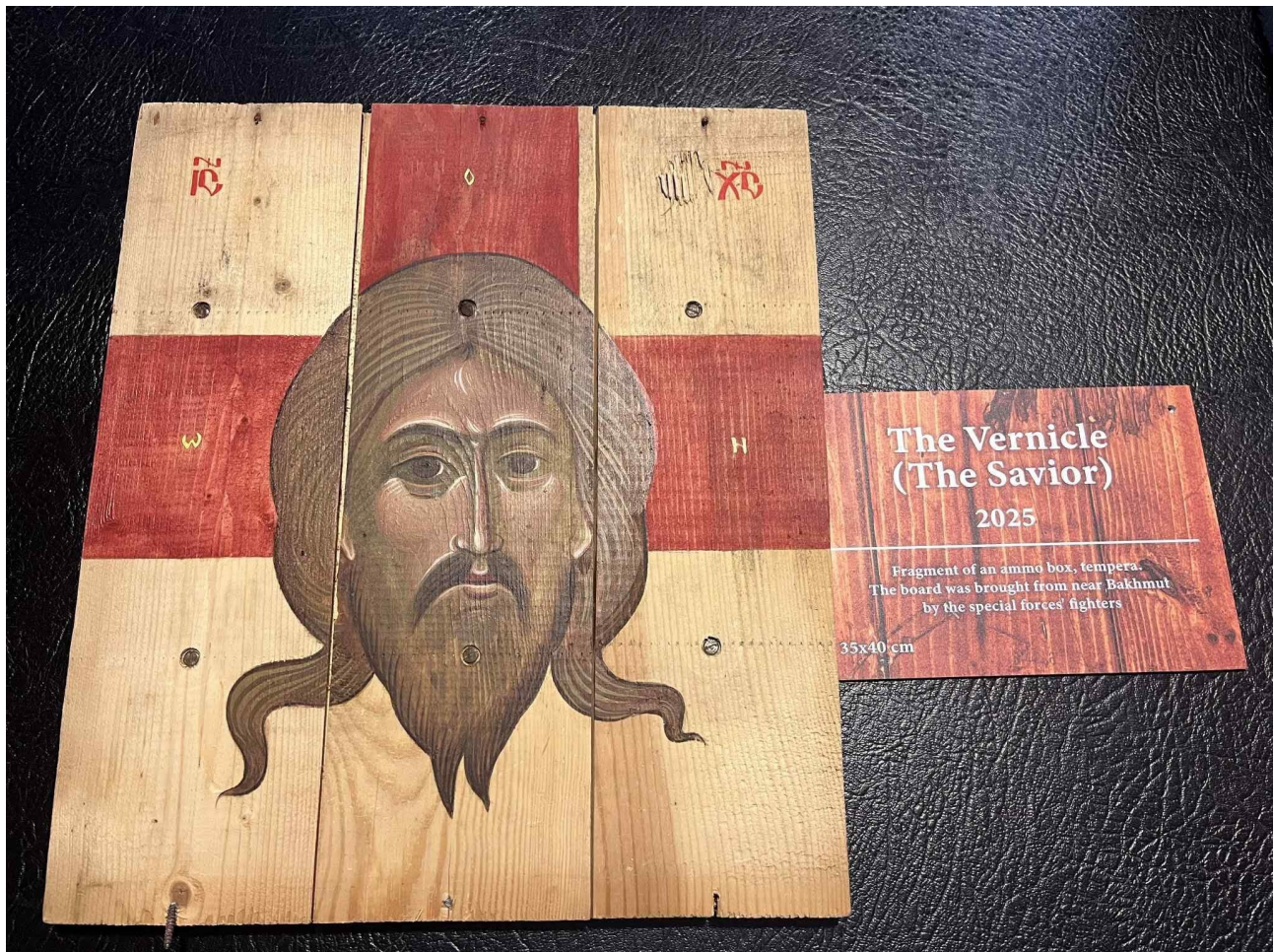
The Redmond Friel archive will be located in the Library in the Derry~Londonderry campus.

Read more: <https://ow.ly/4csm50Xcoms>

Cathedral Calls

'Icons on Ammo Boxes - Transforming Death into Life'

While Armagh Robinson Library is hosting the exhibition of 'Icons on Ammo Boxes', the icons will be moved to St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral on



Sunday 19 October to be viewed before and after services and then returned to the Library.

The exhibition has been created by Kyiv artists Sonya Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko.

Icons have been painted on fragments of ammunition boxes from the war zones in Ukraine. They serve as silent war witnesses and symbols of victory of life over death. The project is also to help raise funds to supply the frontline medical care in Ukraine, and so the icons are on sale.

One of the icons, showing The Vernicle (The Saviour), has been suggested as a possible gift to the Cathedral so that a part of this significant exhibition would find its long term home in the City of Armagh. Since the beginning of the war

in Ukraine, the Cathedral has displayed a Ukrainian flag and kept a candle burning when the Cathedral is open, along with copies of the New Testament, Bible readings and prayers in Ukrainian. The lit candle represents the light of hope - the hope that peace, healing and reconciliation will soon be a reality in that war torn land. The proposal is to display the icon permanently next to the flag and candle if funds can be found.

The amount to raise to purchase the icon is £1,500. If people wish to donate towards that amount, then please donate by placing cash inside the specific envelopes into the donation box. The box will be moved from the Cathedral to the Library and will remain there until the end of the exhibition. The amount raised will hopefully be enough to buy the icon, and all the money donated will ultimately be used for humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Clergy and ministry

Chair of Meath and Kildare Clerical

Rev Sean Murphy, curate in Geashill, has kindly agreed to take over as Chair of the Meath and Kildare Clerical, which meets



monthly.

Rev William Seale performed this role for the last ten years and the diocese is really grateful for his attentiveness to this role. It is an important time for clergy to get together. Rev Sean will begin in January 2026.

Events

Tours of the Archbishop's Palace Armagh

Take this special opportunity to see behind the doors of The Primate's Palace, built by Archbishop Robinson and used as the home of the Church of Ireland Archbishops from 1770 until the 1970s.

Saturday 29th | Noon/ 3:00/ 5:00 Sunday 30th November | 1:30 | £10

Your costumed guide will welcome visitors to this magnificent building with the Primate's Chapel and Ice House providing you with a fascinating tour lasting approximately 75 minutes.

The Palace was designed by famous architect Thomas Cooley in the classical style, originally it had two stories and a basement. In 1825 another floor and raised portico were added under the primateship of Lord John George Beresford. Your guide will share their knowledge of the former Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Robinson 1765 to

1794, a colourful personality, often known as the Builder of Armagh.

Should you have any access requirements, please mention during the booking process and these will be accommodated as far as possible.

Please email georgianarmagh@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk for further assistance.

To view General Information and Cancellation Policy for Armagh Georgian Festival 2025 - please click:
<https://visitarmagh.com/festivals/georgianfestival/general-information-and-cancellation-policy-2025/>

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council are facilitating the ticket sales service for this event, your data will be shared with the tour operator.

Pipeworks in Partnership with Whitefriar Street Church

Join us for a special series of organ recitals celebrating the music of J S Bach, featuring the Complete Chorale Preludes from the Leipzig Autograph.



Performers:

- David Leigh — 1 November
- Andrew Johnstone — 8 November
- David Adams — 15 November
- Malcolm Proud — 22 November

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- David O'Shea — 29 November
- Simon Harden — 6 December

Time: 4:00 p.m. each Saturday

Venue: Whitefriar Street Church, 56 Aungier St, Dublin 2, D02 YF57

Admission Free — retiring collection appreciated.

All are welcome to share in these beautiful performances of sacred music in one of Dublin's most historic churches

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

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

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