

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Beautiful Buckfast



Ireland's Derry to celebrate Christ the King Centenary on November 23

Centenary of Derry's first worldwide Eucharistic procession

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Solemnity of Christ the King by Pope Pius XI and the first worldwide Eucharistic procession hosted by the Irish city of Derry in 1925,

Ireland will celebrate the centenary of the milestone event on November 23 with a magnificent Eucharistic procession.

The programme will start at 12 pm with a solemn Mass at St Columba's Chapel in The Long Tower, Derry, followed by benediction and Eucharistic procession through the city to the Foyle River, from where it will head to Ebrington Square for afternoon celebrations.

Bishop Donal McKeown will lead the celebration, which focuses on the theme, Reparation, Liberation, Celebration. The first global Eucharistic procession, participated by 5000 faithful individuals gathering from six continents, occurred on the feast of St. Bridget in 1925.

Spanish-speaking Anglicans hold major Safe Church conference

The Anglican Church of Mexico (La Iglesia Anglicana de México) and the Anglican Church of the Central American region have hosted the first-ever Spanish-speaking regional conference of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission (ACSCC).

The gathering marks a significant step in ensuring that safeguarding training and collaboration are accessible in local languages and rooted in regional contexts.

Rev. P. Efrén Velázquez Gutiérrez, from the Anglican Church of Mexico said: 'The Safe Church Conference has been a very important event for the Mexico and Central



America region, as it has provided us with key resources to implement safety measures in our communities.

‘We thank the Safe Church Commission of the Anglican Communion for this important work in our region, and we hope to continue contributing to actions that will allow us to prevent any kind of abuse in our churches.’

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/4hqKM3x>

Vatican honours for King and Queen

HM King Charles III and his consort, HM Queen Camilla, were awarded the Order of Pius IX by Pope Leo XIV during their state visit to the Vatican last week.



HM King Charles III was granted Knight Grand Cross with Collar of the Vatican Order of Pope Pius IX while HM Queen Camilla was granted a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX.

The Vatican Order of Pope Pius IX, also referred to as the Pian Order, is a papal order of knighthood originally founded by Pope Pius IV in 1560 which fell out of use and was re-instituted in 1847 by Pope Pius IX. It is the highest honor

currently conferred by the Holy See and is awarded to individuals in recognition of meritorious service to the Catholic Church and to humanity.

This exchange of papal honors is seen as a modern gesture of goodwill between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England, signaling growing ecumenical ties.

Shared from History & Lives of the British Royals

Pray for us, Archbishop in Jerusalem tells New York congregation

Resilience, or samud in Arabic, is ‘a quiet, active and strong will to stay to the last’, he says

The Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum, has praised the resilience of Palestinians and has entreated Christians to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem”, in a discussion following a service at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, in New York City, on Sunday.

Resilience, or samud in Arabic, was “a quiet, active and strong will to stay to the last”, he said. “It teaches us how to hold on and to hope. Justice and life and love have the last word, and not oppression and death and darkness.”

It was not “a naïve concept of trying to romanticise the situation. At the end of the day, we have to face these challenges and confront them face to face. It’s being able to stand up again and to recover and to rebuild, reshape and



reimagine. You need all of these tools and skills to deal with a very complex situation.”

He suggested that there were many narratives about the situation in the Holy Land and the world was divided between them. “So people would like to be pro-Israelis or pro-Palestinians . . . there are people who are not sure and don’t know what to do . . . It’s complex, it’s a hot pie that they don’t want to deal with.

“But the one safe way in which we can always engage ourselves is by promoting peace through promoting reconciliation and bringing people together. No one can challenge you for that.”

He reflected: “How do you do mission in a place where you have lived for thousands of years, hundreds of centuries, with your Muslim and Jewish neighbours? The answer is faith in action, presenting our faith through healthcare and

education and reaching out to the poor and needy. And people will say, ‘That is the Church. That is Jesus among us.’ That is God’s presence in the midst of God’s people, whether they are Christians, Muslims, Jews, or people of no affiliation.”

Help was urgently needed for institutions such as St Luke’s Hospital, Nablus, in the West Bank, he said, as it was “serving the very dire situation in a very, very challenging place surrounded by checkpoints, surrounded by gates that people cannot cross over from neighbouring villages.

“That’s weighing really heavily on my heart. We will do whatever we can in order to enhance and rebuild and heal the wounds of the innocent people there.”

He said that Jerusalem had an important role to play not only in global politics but also in the global Anglican Communion. “Jerusalem presents a sign of unity. Despite all the things that are happening within our Communion, Jerusalem is there to be that sign that unites everybody because of its hospitality. It welcomes everyone. It is God’s city.”

Election of next Bishop of Bangor postponed

Challenges facing diocese meant that Electoral College did not feel able to shortlist candidates, Archbishop of Wales writes

The election process for the Bishop of Bangor, which had been scheduled to start this week, will not proceed for the time being, the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Cherry Vann, has announced in revised proposals circulated on Thursday.

The Electoral College had been scheduled to meet in Llandudno from 25 to 27 November to appoint the successor to the Bishop of Bangor, the Rt Revd Andrew John. He retired as Bishop of Bangor at the end of August, having retired with immediate effect as Archbishop of Wales in late June, after reports of shortcomings at Bangor Cathedral which included “weak financial control” and “inappropriate behaviours”.

An advertisement for the vacancy had given a closing date for expressions of interest as noon on Friday 3 October, and a meeting of the college had been announced, to start on or before 29 October. Recent colleges had asked that several preliminary steps be taken before such a meeting, including a public advertisement in the Church Times, additional screening, and preliminary safeguarding screening of potential nominees.

The Archbishop reported in her letter to the Church in Wales that members of the electoral college had met twice in online meetings, and that diocesan and provincial profile documents had been produced. Several names had been put forward, and each had been contacted to invite them to allow their names to be considered. Some had confirmed that, and the electors had considered the information that they had provided.

She expressed her gratitude for that, but wrote: “However, carefully considering the challenges facing the diocese at this time (none of which were clearly identified in the diocesan profile) the college did not feel able to progress with the shortlisting of candidates.

“The college also decided there was insufficient time to repeat the advertising process and to allow time for references to be taken up and safeguarding checks undertaken before the end of November, when the Electoral College was due to meet for the election. The college therefore reported this to the standing committee of the Governing Body (GB) for guidance on next steps.

“My own view is that whilst we could explore other ways forward, the immediate need is for an experienced Bishop to be invited, on an interim basis, to come to Bangor for a period of one to two years, providing leadership and stability and working with you to strengthen leadership, finance, governance and management.

“Those who were at the diocesan conference will have heard that there are some tough financial and organisational challenges to face.”

The Governing Body would need to carry a motion that formally authorised that course of action: a meeting at which there would be further discussion with the electors, and a look at potential candidates. That meeting is scheduled for 25 November.

In a letter to members of the Governing Body outlining the changes, Archbishop Vann wrote: “The diocese of Bangor

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needs the whole family of the Church in Wales to support it as it navigates a time of change.”

Education



A day of pride, prize-winners and poignant farewells

Inst’s Prize Distribution was a memorable celebration of achievement and success. Under the theme “INST is Global,” we honoured the accomplishments of our remarkable pupils, past and present.

We were privileged to welcome respected alumnus and playwright Mr. David Ireland as our guest of honour. In an inspiring address, he encouraged students to recognise their potential and shared how his passion for drama was



first sparked on the very Common Hall stage from which he presented yesterday's array of prizes. The creator of ITV's Cold Water, Mr. Ireland utterly captivated the audience with his humility and wit.

The occasion was also poignant as it marked the final Prize Distribution for our dedicated Principal, Ms. Williamson, who will retire in June. Her remarkable vision, dedicated service and the lasting legacy she has built will be deeply missed by the entire school community

Celebrating the Feast of St Malachy

We celebrated the Feast of St Malachy, Patron Saint of the College.



This cherished tradition saw our entire College community—1220 pupils and staff—walk together to St Patrick’s Church, Donegall Street, Belfast, for Mass celebrated by Fr Spence and Deacon Dowd.

Fr Spence delivered a powerful and inspiring homily, centred around the theme of the 2025 Jubilee Year - ‘Pilgrims of Hope’, encouraging our students to live out their faith with purpose, compassion, and resilience.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year’s celebration in any way.

Wishing all our Malachians a safe and restful mid-term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 3 November.

Ulster-Scots flagship school award for Killylea Primary

On Thursday 16th October, Killylea Primary School in County Armagh received the coveted Ulster-Scots Flagship School Award.

The presentation was made to the Principal, Pam Lowry, in recognition of the great work the school has undertaken with the Ulster-Scots Agency over the past number of years, particularly in the disciplines of music and dance.

Speaking after the presentation, William Olphert, the Ulster-Scots Agency's Director of Education and Language, said: "We are delighted to celebrate with Killylea Primary School as they receive our Flagship Award.

This award requires pupils to undertake a range of activities that encourage and promote Ulster-Scots culture and heritage, building up their knowledge, increasing their confidence and giving them new skills.

A massive 'Well done!' to all the pupils, and to the school who provided tremendous support. We trust they will enjoy this special recognition and take great pride in their success."

Inst face The Methody Monetary Challenge

The inaugural event took place at MCB. Teams of four Economics students from 10 schools across Northern

Ireland presented their recommendations on what the Bank of England should do with the base rate of interest.



The expert judging panel included representatives from Queen’s University Belfast, The Times, the Bank of England, and BDO (the event sponsor). All 10 teams presented their ideas to two judges in the morning, with the top three going on to present again to the full panel in the afternoon.

The Inst team, mentored by Mr Evans, performed extremely well and delivered an impressive, thoughtful presentation — “although we didn’t make the final three this time, we’re very proud of their effort and professionalism throughout the day”.

Cathedral Calls

Cross-community church service to mark 50 years of the Ulster Project

Next weekend, a cross-community church service will take place to mark 50 years of the Ulster Project.

The service will take place on Saturday, November 1 at 2pm beginning at St. Macartin's Cathedral crossing to St. Michael's Church.

Over the years, hundreds of young people from Fermanagh visited America as part of the project. Did you go? Where did you go?

Email your memories to
victoria.johnston@impartialreporter.com
share your photos and memories.

Beautiful Buckfast Abbey

Part of the interior of beautiful Buckfast Abbey, described as Devon's hidden gem. Founded as a Benedictine monastery in 1018, it changed hands in 1147, and was run by Cistercian monks until the dissolution of monasteries in 1539. (Front page photo).

Subsequently, it fell into disrepair until in 1882, when it was reoccupied by French Benedictine monks who rebuilt the abbey church. This was completed in 1932, and now

remains a working Benedictine monastery, and popular tourist attraction.

Clergy and ministry

Pioneer Ministers' Residential at CITI

Recently, Archbishop Michael Jackson preached at CITI as part of the commissioning service for the new Ordinand Student Readers.

During his visit, he met with the second year Church of Ireland Pioneer Ministers, who were also in attendance as part of one of their training residentials.

In the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough currently there are two Pioneer Ministers in training: Shane Maguire, who is in his second year, and Aaron Halliwell, who is in his first year.

For more information about them and all the new Church of Ireland Pioneer Ministers, please see

<https://www.pioneerministry.org/2024-pioneers>.

Also present was David Ritchie, Chief Officer of the Representative Church Body (RCB), who had the opportunity to meet the new Pioneer Ministers.



Walking Together: From Rome to Armagh

Last weekend, 24th - 26th October, Bishop Michael Router and members of the Diocesan Synodal Core Group were in Rome for the Jubilee of Synodal Teams, which is part of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025.

Representatives from dioceses around the world gathered with Pope Leo to celebrate those who serve on parish and diocesan synodal teams, pastoral councils, and other bodies that help the Church “walk together” in mission and faith.



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As they gathered near St Peter's, the parishes here at home continue the same journey, preparing for the Diocesan Congress on Youth, Family and Faith in March 2026.

Synodality means journeying together. The road to Rome and the road to the Congress in March next year form part of the same pilgrimage of renewal and hope.

Learn more, take part in your parish and if you can't share layout thoughts here:

<https://forms.gle/ejKACLBCTxNwouc8>

Congress Prayer & resources can be accessed at:
www.armaghprays.com

Events

Create a more inclusive workplace

Supporting Autistic Employees training on 10th November 2025. Gain practical tools to build understanding, inclusion, and confidence at work.

Enquire today and receive an exclusive discount code:
<https://autismni.org/courses/supporting-autistic-employees-10-11-2025>

Wallace and Gromit: Live with Brass Band!

Join us for a cracking good time as we bring Wallace & Gromit to life — accompanied by a full live brass band!

Wallace High School, Lisburn - Saturday 6th December 3pm

Come along for a fun-filled afternoon of laughter, music, and everyone's favourite cheese-loving inventor and his loyal dog! Grab your tickets early — it's going to be "A grand day out!"

<https://wallaceandgromit-1ob.eventbrite.co.uk>

Tickets: Adults: £12: Kids: £8 : Under 3s: Free (if sat on a lap)

Poem for today

In A Field by Seamus Heaney

Last poem of Seamus Heaney, published twelve years ago in The Guardian

And there I was in the middle of a field,
The furrows once called "scores" still with their gloss,
The tractor with its hoisted plough just gone
Snarling at an unexpected speed
Out on the road. Last of the jobs,
The windings had been ploughed, furrows turned
Three ply or four round each of the four sides
Of the breathing land, to mark it off
And out. Within that boundary now
Step the fleshy earth and follow
The long healed footprints of one who arrived
From nowhere, unfamiliar and de-mobbed,
In buttoned khaki and buffed army boots,



Bruising the turned-up acres of our back field
To stumble from the windings' magic ring
And take me by a hand to lead me back
Through the same old gate into the yard
Where everyone has suddenly appeared
All standing waiting.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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

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