

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Limerick's hidden vault

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Limerick's hidden vault

The Hidden Vault Beneath Our Feet - beneath the sanctuary floor of Saint Mary's Cathedral lies an ancient burial vault.

Known as the Episcopal Vault, this hidden chamber once served as the final resting place for some of Limerick's most important church leaders and patrons.

During restoration works in the 19th century, part of the vault was rediscovered - revealing mysterious burials, including the remains of three decapitated skeletons. Their identities remain unknown to this day.

Standing above this sacred space, visitors are quite literally walking over centuries of history, devotion, and mystery.

Come explore the cathedral and uncover the stories carved into its stones. Every corner has a secret waiting to be told.

 Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick — 850 years of faith, history, and heritage.

News

New booklet launched at celebration of bountiful harvest in Tipperary church

Holy Trinity Church in Fethard attracted a very large congregation to their recent Harvest Thanksgiving service, which included the launch of the new booklet "The Medieval Church of Holy Trinity Fethard".

The church was tastefully decorated with floral displays of warm autumnal colours of dark red, golden yellow and shades of orange, with locally produced fruit and vegetables and sheaves of corn adorning the pulpit and pews.

The service was led by Heidi Good from Kilkenny and opened with a beautiful arrangement of Panis Angelicus, played by young organist James Clooney.

Ann Barry directed the Fethard Choral Group, who performed three songs including a haunting rendition of The Cloud's Veil by Liam Lawton.

The booklet was then launched, together with a 2026 calendar and notelets with photographs taken by Fethard photographer Colin Kenny.

The evening ended with home-baked cakes with teas and coffees. It was a wonderful autumn occasion, with a celebration of a bountiful harvest.

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Christian Aid WOVEN at Muckamore Presbyterian Church

Christian Aid writes - We've been inspired by the wonderful women of WOVEN - Muckamore Presbyterian Women at Muckamore Church in Dunadry, County Antrim.

Our Church and Community Manager Kaye Steele spoke there last week and came back buzzing - thanks to the energy and commitment of the Woven women.

Kaye spoke about her visit to our projects in Zimbabwe where she saw for herself the impact of our supporters' donations on the lives of farmers struggling with drought in the south of the country. There, farmers are managing to make a living growing sesame, which is naturally drought tolerant, with the support of a Christian Aid funded farming cooperative and processing plant. Kaye is pictured with the group leader, Hilary Rowe holding a bottle of the sesame oil produced in the plant. These 'added value' products boost the farmers' incomes even more than the production of raw sesame.

Kaye also described her visit to eastern Zimbabwe where supporter donations provided a new drinking water supply for one village and funded the repair and rebuilding of 150 homes destroyed by a violent cyclone.

We are grateful to the Woven women for their warm welcome and for their interest in our work.

Education

N I politicians visit Jerusalem schools



MLA's and MP's from N Ireland have been visiting Israel. Mr Sammy Wilson MP says his colleagues are pictured here outside a school for gifted children in Jerusalem. It catered for Jews, Christians, Muslims and Arabs.

Mr Wilson continued - Despite the claims by the pro Hamas supporters, the evidence in all walks of life is that Israel is

neither a segregated state nor is it carrying out genocide against Muslims.

Schools for all sections of the population are state funded, everyone is allowed to vote, the Knesset has members from all groups and any party that can achieve 3.5% of the vote gains four seats. Places of worship for all faiths are evident everywhere, and because of their distinctive clothes, it can be easily seen that the population is totally free to mix. The left wing pro-Palestinian terrorist supporters in the U.K. have a brass neck to make claims of segregation and genocide and rely on ignorance, prejudice or pure laziness by the useful idiots they drag onto the streets every week waving banners making claims that are totally untrue.

Student lunches at St Stephen's, Millfield, Belfast



October 29, 2025

At St Stephen's Millfield BT1 last Tuesday around 120 students enjoyed a free lunch courtesy of a partnership between St Stephen's and The Hub Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast.



The student lunches at St Stephen's were established in 2016 and just keep growing. The church hosts the lunch, parishioners underpin all the activities in prayer, and staff work with the team from the Hub in serving the food and chatting with students and staff from Belfast Met.

Feedback from the students was really positive, with one commenting: “Students are struggling financially and this really helps. It’s also a nice cosy space,” and another saying: “I like the way the volunteers take time to speak to us. They are very welcoming.”

October 29, 2025

Look out for a full report on this ministry operated by St Stephen's Parish Church and The Hub Chaplaincy in the next issue of the diocesan magazine, 'Connor Connections.'



St Stephen's Millfield, Belfast messaged - Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Harvest Appeal for the food and baby banks.

Pope Leo XIV first bishop's ordination

Pope Leo XIV celebrated on Sunday afternoon in the Vatican Basilica, his very first bishop's ordination.

Mons. Mirosław Stanisław Wachowski became the new Apostolic Nuncio in Iraq.



Iraq is a country that still bears the wounds of the past. The Holy Father therefore wished him in his homily to bring hope, encourage peaceful coexistence and to cooperate constructively with other religions.

World Council of Churches Conference on Faith and Order meets in Egypt

The Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches (WCC) was held this month in Wadi El Natrun in Egypt. Running from 24 to 28 October 2025, the theme was: 'Where now for visible unity?'

Organised by the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order, the conference met at the Logos Papal Center of the Coptic Orthodox Church at Wadi El Natrun, southwest of Alexandria.



The conference is significant, taking place in the year that marks the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, a defining moment for the Christian church and the first ecumenical assembly of the global church.

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II of the Coptic Orthodox Church opened the conference with an appeal to churches to engage in dialogue that will unite them on the path to true unity, saying 'It is not an attempt to eliminate or dissolve differences, but rather to discover the profound faith uniting the church.'

About 400 participants gathered for the conference, including Dr Christopher Wells (the Director for Unity, Faith and Order) from the Anglican Communion.

Read more here: <http://bit.ly/3L7aDBh>

Cathedral Calls

A Joyful Celebration in Sligo cathedral

A Joyful Celebration: Dean Ruth West Installed in Sligo:



St John's Cathedral, Sligo, was filled to capacity on Friday evening, 24th October, as the Church of Ireland community gathered for a wonderful service of institution and installation.

Canon Ruth West was instituted as Rector of the Sligo Cathedral Group of parishes and installed as Dean of Elphin and Ardagh, marking an exciting new chapter



**The Royal British Legion
Waterside Branch
& Canon D McBeth BEM
ANNUAL**

**FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE
& VARIETY CONCERT**

Friday 7th November 2025

7.30pm in All Saints Centre, Waterside

Tickets £10

Available from the Royal British Legion Club Daily

10am to 12 noon, or 6:30pm to 10:30pm Thu - Sun.

All Saints' Centre from 9:30am to 3 pm Mon-Fri

& Reloved Charity Shop, Glendermott Rd



Acts Include:

Susan Wilson Janice Channing

Bready Ulster Scots Pipe Band

Richard Laird Stewart Smith



Mothers' UNION

Lighting the way for generations to come

What's on

Gospel Concert

Saturday 15 November 2025

at 8.00 pm

St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen

Featuring:

Rev Jason Kernohan

Beeson Family

Silver Tones Male Voice Choir

Admission £10

Proceeds to: Mothers' Union Funds

We're a Christian movement helping the world's
hardest to reach communities to transform



Clergy and ministry

New rep for Bishops' Appeal in Armagh

Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Mary Caldwell who is the new Armagh Diocesan Bishops' Appeal Representative.

Resources

Methodist Churches enjoying this year's World Development materials

Methodist World Development commented - It is fantastic to hear of churches across The Methodist Church in Ireland holding their annual WDR service and enjoying this year's material.



We were thrilled that Michael Briggs, one of our brilliant committee members, was able to lead Dundrum Methodist Church in their WDR services last week.

Remember, all the materials you need are ready to download on our website.

If you have any questions or want to share how your church is using them, we'd love to hear from you!

<https://irishmethodist.org/world-development-resources>

In the media

Walking together on the Irish Synodal Pathway – Bishop Paul Dempsey

Bishop Paul Dempsey reflects on the progress to date of the Irish Synodal Pathway and the need now to work together on the key agreed themes.

[<https://theway.ie/synodal-pathway-bishop-dempsey/>]

Moderator congratulates President-Elect Connolly

With the result of the Presidential election in, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Reverend Dr Trevor Gribben, has offered his congratulations to President-Elect Catherine Connolly, who will become the

October 29, 2025

10th President of Ireland and only the third woman to hold the office.

[\[https://presbyterianireland.org/news/moderator-congratulates-president-elect-connolly\]](https://presbyterianireland.org/news/moderator-congratulates-president-elect-connolly)

Scientologists' rehab centre in Meath remains 'committed' to opening

Questions have been raised about whether a €9m residential drug rehabilitation centre linked to the Church of Scientology will ever open its doors. Irish Independent subscription

Bishop Paul Dempsey in Rite and Reason in Irish Times

As someone who is serving as a bishop in today's Ireland, I am painfully aware that many people no longer look to the Church as being significant in their lives in the way they once did. From my experience of pastoral ministry for over 28 years, I am also mindful of the existential questions deep within many hearts at this time of volatility in the world and our society.

Catholics must show the courage to move forward, leaving the comfort of now behind them

[\[https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/2025/10/26/catholics-must-show-the-courage-to-move-forward-leaving-the-comfort-of-now-behind-them/\]\(](https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/2025/10/26/catholics-must-show-the-courage-to-move-forward-leaving-the-comfort-of-now-behind-them/)

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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