

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – at the Menin Gate

Image of the day



The Menin Gate

This figure has been sited at the Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium. The daily evening ceremony of remembrance most visitors find to be moving and unforgettable. The official web site of the volunteers who staff each evening ceremony may be found at <https://lastpost.be/> See Irvinestown's Threads of Remembrance in Events on page 14.

News

Salvation Army personnel were out ahead of Hurricane Melissa

Salvation Army personnel in the Jamaica East Division were out ahead of the Melissa urging residents to take action to protect their families:

“The Salvation Army Divisional Disaster Team convened for their second meeting today, then visited multiple communities to ensure residents are prepared and safe ahead of Hurricane Melissa...

Their focus was on engaging with residents, checking community shelters, and encouraging vulnerable households to relocate to safe shelter facilities. During their visits, the team emphasised the importance of preparedness and provided guidance on staying safe during the hurricane.

Residents living in homes deemed unsafe were strongly advised to use the community shelters, highlighting the critical role these facilities play in protecting lives. This outreach reinforces The Salvation Army commitment to safeguarding communities and ensuring residents understand how to respond effectively in the face of #HurricaneMelissa.”

Galway Council enables St. Nicholas' Church music education

The parish states - We are grateful for the many ways the @galwaycitycouncil continues to support St. Nicholas' Church and our outreach to the wider Galway community.

The Arts Grant 2025 is no exception, and has allowed us to continue our excellence in music education for free to students across the city.

Ecocide in Palestine

Fran Brady, Quaker Rep on the EcoChurchIreland Committee, writes: As well as the killing, expulsion and the devastating suffering of the Palestinian people, Palestine land is being rendered uninhabitable, barren.

Water has been polluted through the destruction and collapse of water and sewage treatment systems. Biodiversity is destroyed. Two great crimes are being committed: genocide and ecocide. Read Fran's article in full here -

<https://tinyurl.com/msdshsuh>

Primate of Brazil in London ahead of next month's COP30



The Primate of Brazil and Bishop of the Amazon, the Most Revd Marinez Bassotto, was in the United Kingdom recently (20-24 October), advocating for environmental justice and the importance of indigenous voices being central to this November's COP30 (Conference of the Parties).

The meetings are all part of Archbishop Marinez's preparations for COP30, which will take place in Belém in the Brazilian Amazon from 10-21 November. Archbishop Marinez is due to attend parts of the COP30 discussions to advocate for climate justice. She will also play a major role in the COP30 People's Summit, hosting a 'Tapiri' at the Catedral Anglicana de Santa Maria, with other ecumenical and inter faith leaders.

Speaking about the importance of hearing indigenous voices at COP30, Archbishop Marinez said:

‘I hope that their participation will be central and impactful. Their voices need to be at the centre of discussions, because they are the ones who hold the ancestral and practical knowledge necessary for preservation. Climate justice will only be achieved when the territorial and cultural rights of these communities are fully recognised and respected. We want their voices to influence the negotiations, because their influence is the key to ensuring that the commitments made at the Summit are translated into concrete, effective and fair action.’

Read more on Anglican News: <https://bit.ly/43uGIP8>

Autumn General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference

Members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference gathered in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, for their Autumn 2025 General Meeting.

The President of the Conference is Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, and the Vice-President is Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin.

On the first day, Archbishop Martin celebrated Mass as Gaeilge in Saint Mary's Oratory, concelebrated by clergy, and with seminarians, staff of the National Seminary and of the Bishops' Conference, in attendance. Mass was



offered for peace to become embedded in the Holy Land following the recent ceasefire in the Israel – Hamas war; for a cessation of the Russian war in Ukraine, and for people suffering in conflict zones throughout the world.

Bishops also prayed for members of An Garda Síochána injured the previous during the serious public disorder incident in Saggart, Co Dublin, and reiterated the call of the Gospel to all Christians to serve the common good by welcoming the stranger amongst us and living in harmony with all people.

Issues discussed by bishops during their Autumn General Meeting included:

- Bishops express hope and pray for **Peace in Gaza**

- Welcome of **Pope Leo's Dilexi te** and impact on families of inflation

Mission Month theme: 'Missionaries of Hope among the Peoples'

Irish Synodal Pathway

Vocations to the Priesthood

Safeguarding

Accord commissioned survey on marriage

Jubilee Year of Hope: (i) pilgrimages to Rome for young adults, and teachers (ii) Saint John Henry Newman

1700th anniversary of the publication of Nicene Creed and Inter-Church meeting

Nostra Aetate: 60th anniversary of Vatican II document on inter-religious dialogue

In November we remember our dead in a special way through prayer

Catholic School Week 2026 theme: 'Catholic Schools: Normal lives, Called to Holiness'

Trócaire: appointment of new chief executive Seán Farrell

10th anniversary of Laudato Si'

In Memoriam

See text of statement of the Autumn 2025 General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2025/10/22/statement-of-the-autumn-2025-general-meeting-of-the-irish-bishops-conference/>

Education

Archbishop of Armagh guest of honour at the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's

The Catholic Chaplaincy at



Queen's University writes - We were deeply privileged to welcome as our guest of honour Dr Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.



Archbishop Eamon joined us for Mass and then, together with his Synod Core Group, spent time with our students over food and conversation. He invited them to share their hopes, questions, and insights as part of the wider dialogue preparing for the forthcoming Archdiocesan Congress — a milestone gathering where voices from across



the diocese will reflect on the Church's mission in the years ahead. We are truly honoured to have been part of this important moment for our local Church and deeply grateful for the Archbishop's generosity of time and spirit.

Cathedral Calls

Christ Church lectures mark 800 years of Laurence O'Toole as Patron Saint of Dublin



ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE & THE MEDIEVAL GAELIC WORLD: THE EARLY YEARS

A series of Tuesday lectures in
November 2025 @ 13.10
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER*

INTRODUCTION: St Laurence
O'Toole – 800 years a saint

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

BEGINNINGS: A Gaelic Prince
Birth, Baptism, and Family

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

REARING: Hostage to Vocation
Childhood and Education

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

GLENDALOUGH: Abbot & Judge
St Laurence and the law

delivered by
Dr Jesse Harrington
of the
**Dublin Institute for
Advanced Studies**

**ADMISSION FREE.
ALL WELCOME.**

*The chapter house lecture room unfortunately
is only accessible by stairs.*

Supported by the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin,
the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
& Research Ireland (Taighde Éireann)

E: archives@christchurch.ie |
W: www.christchurchcathedral.ie

*This replaces the Friends' 'First Tuesday' guided tour of the cathedral originally
intended to be given by the dean on the subject of St Laurence's canonization

Photograph of stained-glass window courtesy of Andreas F. Borchert

To mark the 800th anniversary of the canonization of St Laurence O'Toole (Lorcán Ua Tuathail) in 1225, Dublin's Christ Church cathedral will host a series of free lunchtime lectures on the Tuesdays in November 2025 at 1.10pm entitled 'St Laurence O'Toole and the medieval Gaelic world' which will examine the early years of St Laurence's life.

All four lectures will be delivered by Dr Jesse Harrington of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, an expert on the saint who is working towards two new publications on St Laurence, the patron saint of Dublin who, until relatively recently, despite being one of the most fully documented Irishmen of his century, has been rather overlooked in the scholarly world.

The first lecture (Tuesday 4 November) will introduce the world of St Laurence in the twelfth-century, setting him in the context of Ireland and Europe in the medieval period.

The second (Tuesday 11 November) will examine the Christening of Laurence, the importance of baptism as a Christian sacrament, godparents and Gaelic and Latin naming customs.

The third (Tuesday 18 November) raises biblical themes of captivity through the story of Laurence being held hostage by his future brother-in-law, the famous king of Leinster, Dermot MacMurrough (Diarmait MacMurchada).

The final lecture (Tuesday 25 November) views Laurence as abbot of Glendalough and his leadership role in the important twelfth-century reform of the Irish church.

The series is the beginning of a longer arc of lectures which Dr Harrington will give entitled ‘St Laurence O’Toole and the medieval Christian world’, which leads to 2028 in which year will also be marked, not only the 900th anniversary of the birth of St Laurence, but the 1000th anniversary of the establishment of the diocese of Dublin and its first cathedral of Christ Church.

Future lectures series planned by Dr Harrington in this overarching series will be based on St Laurence and the Anglo–Norman conquest, his relationship to medieval Europe, and the saint’s long afterlife.

Dr Jesse Patrick Harrington is currently a Research Ireland Pathway Fellow at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies’ School of Celtic Studies (2025–9), where he is preparing a new critical biography and edition of the medieval and early modern manuscript sources concerning St Laurence O’Toole. He holds his Ph.D. in History from the University of Cambridge and has worked as a postdoctoral and visiting researcher in Cork, Dublin, Paris, Poitiers, and Rome. He is advisor to the international St Laurence anniversary commemorations for 2025–30.

The lectures take place in the chapter house building upstairs in the music or Henry Roe room, and is at present only accessible by stairs. Thanks are particularly due to the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin for their generous support of the lecture series; to the dean, CEO and director of music for allowing the use of the space, and to the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and Research Ireland (Taighde Éireann).

October, 30, 2025

The lectures follow in a long line of lunchtime series running since 1997, as well as a memorial series to former dean's verger, Joe Coady (1987–2003), and a much older annual St Stephen's day lectures begun by cathedral architect, Sir Thomas Drew, which ran from 1891 until at least the 1960s. For further information on this series, email the cathedral research advisor, Dr Stuart Kinsella at archives@christchurch.ie.

You can download a PDF of the lecture poster here.
https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2025/10/28/christ-church-lectures-mark-800?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

Events

Irvinestown parish's "Threads of Remembrance" exhibition

Did you know...that Eric Bogle's 1976 ballad, The Green Fields of France, was about 21 year old Private William McBride of the 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers,



Did you know...

... that Eric Bogle's 1976 ballad,
"The Green Fields of France" was
about 21 year old Private William McBride
of the 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers,
who worked at Armstrong's hardware store
here in Irvinestown?

The song, which imagines a conversation with the dead soldier,
captures the tragedy of a lost generation and has made
this local man's name familiar to millions.

**Come along to the "Threads of Remembrance" Exhibition
to discover more of this and other stories, told through
carefully crafted displays and with historical memorabilia.**

**who worked at Armstrong's hardware store in
Irvinestown?**

The song, which imagines a conversation with the dead
soldier, captures the tragedy of a lost generation and has
made this local man's name familiar to millions.

You will see a photo of William, along with a copy of his
headstone, expertly made by Derick.



Come along to the "Threads of Remembrance" Exhibition to discover more of this and other stories, told through carefully crafted displays and historical memorabilia.

The Exhibition opens to the public this Saturday 1st November 10.00am

Threads of Remembrance : an exhibition honouring the Fallen of the Great War 1914-1918, is open to the public:

Sat 1st Nov. 10.00am to 6.00pm

Sun 2nd Nov 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Sat 8th Nov. 10.00am to 6.00pm

Sun 9th Nov 2.00pm to 6.00pm

All donations received in the church will be divided equally between Air Ambulance NI and the RBL Poppy Appeal.

Charity jobs NI

Looking to give back, learn new skills, or make a difference in your community?

Join us at Northern Ireland's Charity Careers & Volunteer Job Fair on Wednesday 5th November, 10am–2pm at the Assembly Buildings Conference Centre, Belfast.

Meet dozens of incredible charities — all ready to welcome new volunteers into their teams. Whether you can give an hour a week or a few days a month, there's a role waiting for you.



Free entry — just bring your enthusiasm!



Meet 25+ charities



Chat directly with volunteer coordinators



Discover roles that fit around your life

Don't miss this chance to find a cause that inspires you.



Book your free ticket today: <http://bit.ly/3L5fSBH>

Resources

Video of Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's 2025

A video is now available of the Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's 2025 on Autonomy, Suffering and Human Dignity

October, 30, 2025

A full video recording of this year's Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's, by Professor John Wyatt, on the value of human life and its care is now available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA0sCPz08k0>



Please note that the video includes references to death and suicide, in the context of current proposals for changes in law, which may be uncomfortable for viewers.

The 67th Lecture at Queen's was delivered by Professor Wyatt on Monday (13th October). The event is sponsored by the Church of Ireland Board of Education (Northern Ireland) and organised by The Hub – the Church of Ireland and Methodist chaplaincy serving Belfast's universities and colleges.

Professor Wyatt worked as a paediatrician specialising in the care of newborn children in neonatal intensive care for more than 25 years, and as an academic researcher. He is Emeritus Professor of Neonatal Paediatrics, Ethics and Perinatology at University College London, and a senior researcher at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge.

A summary of the lecture is also available in an article at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/church-of-ireland-lecture-2025>

Perspective

Parish statement on recent Anglican Communion developments

The Reverend Jason Kernohan, Rector of the Parish of Eglantine near Lisburn in Connor Diocese wrote the following

Dear friends and parishioners,

On Friday 3rd October the appointment of the first female Archbishop of Canterbury was made public—a moment both historic and, for many, long overdue. This development has been met with a range of responses, reflecting the diversity that defines our Communion. For some, it is a cause for celebration, an affirmation of the gifts of women in leadership and a sign of the Spirit's movement in our midst. For others, however, it has prompted discomfort, concern, or even outspoken opposition.

We cannot ignore the reality that some of the most vocal criticism has come from within our own tradition, particularly among certain voices in the Church of Ireland. Social media platforms and public statements have amplified these concerns, expressing fears about tradition, scriptural authority, and the perceived direction of our Church. It is understandable that, in times of change, anxiety and uncertainty surface. Yet, I believe we should respond not with fear or suspicion, but with grace and openness of heart.

Last Sunday's Gospel spoke of the Pharisee and the tax collector, standing together in the temple (Luke 18:9-14). The Pharisee, confident of his righteousness, looked down on others - the tax collector, aware of his need for mercy, stood at a distance and prayed humbly. Jesus's teaching challenges us to examine our own hearts and to be wary of spiritual pride. In our present moment, it is tempting to draw lines, to judge who is in and who is out, or to claim certainty about God's will. Yet Christ calls us to humility, reminding us that all are in need of grace and that the kingdom of God is often revealed in unexpected ways.

As a parish, we remain steadfast in our Communion with Canterbury and with the wider Anglican family. The bonds that unite us are not undone by disagreement or debate, nor are they contingent upon uniformity of thought. We are part of a living tradition that values discussion, discernment, and, above all, the love of Christ that binds us together. Our continued relationship with Canterbury is not simply a matter of institutional loyalty, but an expression of our shared faith and our hope for a church that is truly catholic and inclusive.

We also reaffirm our commitment to welcoming all who have felt marginalised or excluded by the church—whether because of gender, sexuality, background, or life experience. The appointment of a female Archbishop is a visible sign that the doors of leadership and service are open to all whom God calls. In our parish, we seek to embody that same spirit of welcome, ensuring that every person, regardless of their story, finds a place of belonging, dignity, and purpose among us.

Let us therefore continue to pray for wisdom, forbearance, and unity. May we listen deeply to one another, speak kindly, and bear witness to the reconciling love of Christ in all we do. Change is never easy, but it is often in such moments that the Spirit moves most powerfully. Together, let us continue to be a community marked by compassion, humility, and hope.

In the media

Invitation to an Oxford professor withdrawn by the High School Dublin

Daily Telegraph - Conservative peer's talk on the importance of free speech has been cancelled by a leading Irish school, The Telegraph has learnt.

Lord Biggar, an Oxford professor and author, was scheduled to speak at a prize-giving ceremony at the High School Dublin, where former pupils include William Butler Yeats, but the invitation was withdrawn just hours before the event.

Lord Biggar – an outspoken defender of aspects of the Empire and a critic of post-colonial attacks on British history – said his speech at the €7,100-per-year (£6,200) school was to be on the value of free speech in a liberal society.

However, in emails seen by The Telegraph, Dr Duncan Cole, the chairman of the school's board of management, instructed the headmaster to cancel Lord Biggar's appearance. The author said he suspects that someone with influence expressed "outrage" over his initial invitation for the Oct 29 event and lobbied for the cancellation.

The author of "Colonialism: A Moral Reckoning", a 2022 bestseller, has now written to the board of governors asking them to investigate the circumstances.

In the letter, he writes: "Past experience suggests to me that the truth of what happened is something like this.

"When the programme for the prize-giving was published... someone with influence – and maybe money – had seen my name and took indignant exception.

"They objected fiercely to my being given a platform, because of my 'outrageous' views, probably about the British Empire and slavery reparations. The outraged then applied pressure to Dr Cole... who quickly folded." He added: "What's at stake here, in addition to your reputation, is the genuinely liberal culture of the High School and the integrity of its governance."

Lord Young, the founder of the Free Speech Union, told The Telegraph the case was another example of free expression being curbed. More at the Daily Telegraph

Edwin Poots calls pro-Palestine protest at Belfast City Hall on Remembrance Sunday 'disrespectful'

Belfast Telegraph - Edwin Poots has labelled a pro-Palestine event due to take place at Belfast City Hall on Remembrance Sunday as “disrespectful”, calling for it to be cancelled or rescheduled.

[<https://www.e-pages.dk/belfasttelegraph/1875/article/2384562/6/2/render>]

Delay in redevelopment of crematorium branded a 'disgrace'

BBC News

[<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c70jxz6xl94o>]

Belfast couple's 'waste-free' wedding

Belfast Telegraph - Belfast couple's 'waste-free' wedding had the old, not much of the new, the borrowed... and tartan boots of blue.

A Belfast couple passionate about sustainability have celebrated their big day in style — but without the added waste. It is estimated weddings contribute to an approximate 400lbs of waste

Home Office arrests more than 200 people for 'working illegally' in NI

BBC News - More than 200 arrests of people suspected of working illegally have been made in Northern Ireland over the past year, the Home Office has said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czxnppz3yplo>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

Please recommend to your friends