

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Armagh canons

Image of the day



Installation of Armagh canons

Congratulations and best wishes to **Mrs Janet Maxwell** who was installed as a Lay Canon and to **Revd Colin Darling** who was installed as Prebendary of Tynan, in the Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Armagh on Sunday 5th October 2025



News



Clogher Mothers' Union Getaway

Members of Clogher Diocese attending the Mothers' Union Getaway in the Four Seasons Hotel Monaghan

Harvest lunch at Leckpatrick supports Christian Aid

It's only with the support of church leaders like the Rev Andrea Cotter that CAI able to raise the funds that allow



Eglantine Parish Flower Festival 2025

us to reach people living in some of the world's most desperate situations.

On Sunday, Rev Andrea, Rector of the Parishes of Leckpatrick and Dunnalong near Strabane in County Tyrone, welcomed our Church and Community Manager Kaye Steele to speak in both her churches. After the services, the parishioners prepared a magnificent lunch which raised £430 to support our Harvest appeal.

At this time of year, we give thanks to God for the food we have and for the farmers and growers who produce it, as well as remembering all those without enough to eat. This



Eglantine Parish Flower Festival 2025

**year, our
Harvest
appeal is
raising
funds to
respond to
the famine
in Gaza
where,
despite the
Israeli
blockade,
we are still
making
cash
transfers to
our trusted**

**local partners based inside the territory. You can find
out more and make a donation at caid.ie/famine-gaza**

Lowry Singers choral evensong on St Mark's Lisburn 50th

**“It was lovely to have The Lowry Singers back with us
for a beautiful choral evensong, to mark fifty years of
worship in the current St Mark's church building.**



Eglantine Parish Flower Festival marked their 150th anniversary

“Thank you to all who catered, read, made music and helped in any way with a lovely evening in the parish”

Pope Leo challenges meaning of ‘pro-life’ in US abortion debate

Pope Leo XIV has spoken out for the first time on a growing dispute in the US catholic church over the meaning of being 'pro-life'.



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His remarks followed criticism of Cardinal Blase Cupich's plan to honour pro-choice senator Dick Durbin.

The Pope questioned whether supporting the death penalty or mistreating immigrants is compatible with being pro-life.

"Someone who says, 'I'm against abortion but... in favour of the death penalty'," he told EWTN news, "is not really pro-life".

The pontiff's comments came after Conservative US Bishops opposed Cardinal Cupich's decision to give Senator Durbin a lifetime achievement award.

Durbin, a Democrat, has long supported abortion rights and was barred from communion in his home diocese in 2004.

Pope Leo said he wasn't aware of the full details of the dispute but emphasised the need for mutual respect and broader reflection on Catholic ethics.

"I would ask first and foremost that there be greater respect for one another," he said, "and that we search together... to find the way forward."

Cupich later announced Durbin had declined the award but defended the decision and highlighted Durbin's record on immigration and public service. He argued the award could have fostered dialogue on the full spectrum of Catholic teaching.

Bishop Thomas Paprocki, who upheld the communion ban, thanked Durbin for declining the honour and urged Catholics to pray for respect for all life, including the unborn and immigrants.

Badenoch's climate backsliding a betrayal - Christian Aid

Badenoch's climate backsliding a betrayal of Thatcher, May and UK climate leadership says Christian Aid

Responding to the announcement by Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch that she intends to repeal the Climate Change Act should she get into power, Christian Aid's Chief of UK Advocacy and Policy, Sophie Powell, said:

“The Climate Change Act is a pioneering piece of legislation that has been the bedrock of UK leadership on climate change by both Conservative and Labour governments. Conservative leaders from Margaret Thatcher to Theresa May, who passed the UK's 2050 net zero target, have warned of the existential dangers posed by climate change. It is supported by the British public as well as British businesses and it has helped spur action in other countries around the world.

“Far from back sliding, what we need is to build on the vision of the Climate Change Act and demonstrate UK leadership by getting life saving climate finance to lower income countries and support their green development.”

Christian leaders respond to Sarah Mullally becoming Archbishop of Canterbury

Christian leaders have offered a mix of praise and concern following Dame Sarah Mullally’s appointment as the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Many offered their congratulations, with the **Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell**, calling Bishop Sarah a person of "huge courage, wisdom, integrity and experience".

"In the many challenges the Church of England faces at the moment we need the kind, godly and stable leadership Bishop Sarah will bring," he added.



Eglantine Parish Flower Festival 2025

Archbishop Stephen said it would be his "great pleasure to serve alongside her and I hope that together we can continue the work of helping the Church of England be simpler, humbler and bolder in its proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ and in our service to the nation".

The **CEO of the Evangelical Alliance, Gavin Calver**, also added his warm wishes and asked for prayers.

"Leadership is always hard & there are lots of significant challenges ahead for her in the role locally, nationally & globally," he said in a post on X. "Please do join me in praying for her today & in the days ahead."

Social justice advocate and Christian broadcaster, Krish Kandiah, said Mullally's appointment was "really positive".

"It was a brave move from the Church of England to appoint a woman," he said. "It shouldn't be, but it has been an area of huge challenge for many years...we'll be praying for her in her new role."

Not everyone was so positive, however.

GAFCON, a global group of conservative Anglican churches, immediately criticised Bishop Sarah's appointment, saying it showed that the English arm of the Church had "relinquished its authority to lead".

Bishop Sarah has previously expressed more liberal views on controversial issues such as abortion and same-sex relationships, with GAFCON arguing that she has "repeatedly promoted unbiblical and revisionist teachings regarding marriage and sexual morality".

They also took issue with a woman being appointed to the role.

"Though there are some who will welcome the decision to appoint Bishop Mullally as the first female Archbishop of Canterbury, the majority of the Anglican Communion still believes that the Bible requires a male-only episcopacy," they said. "Therefore, her appointment will make it impossible for the Archbishop of Canterbury to serve as a focus of unity within the Communion."

Bishop Sarah, who is technically now titled Archbishop-Designate, will be formally confirmed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury in a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 28th January

Education

Restorative Practice at Ballymoney High

At Ballymoney High, we are proud to be a Restorative Practice school. This means we believe that when challenges or disagreements happen, the best way forward is to talk it through, listen to each other, and work towards a positive solution.

Did you know?

Our trained RP Peer Mentors are here to support pupils who may be experiencing difficulties with friends or classmates. If you'd like a safe space to share your side of the story and work things out together, you can request a Restorative Practice session.

→  How to request a session:

- Scan one of the RP QR codes you'll find around school
- Use the code in your homework diary
- Check outside the EHWP Room
- Or simply speak to Mrs Blair or your Head of Year

Restorative Practice is about building understanding, repairing relationships, and moving forward in a respectful way.



Eglantine Parish Flower Festival 2025

Let's continue working together to make Ballymoney High a safe, supportive, and respectful place for everyone!

Campbell College disappearing croissants

Year 8 enjoyed celebrating European Week of Languages at break time with songs, a quiz and lots of French treats.

They enjoyed learning some French phrases with our year 14 French student Matthew. Well done to all who came along, the croissants disappeared in record time!

Cathedral Calls



Dean of Canterbury guest preacher at St. Canice's

Just before the special Diocesan Service “A Celebration of the Shared Life and Witness of our Diocese” on Sunday afternoon in St. Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny.

(From left) the guest preacher the Very Rev'd Dr David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury; Bishop Adrian Wilkinson and the Rev'd Billy Burke, Bishop's Vicar.

On Sunday afternoon a large congregation gathered at Saint Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, for a Service of Celebration of the Shared Life and Witness of their Diocese.

The occasion was marked by a spirit of celebration and fellowship, with The Very Reverend Dr David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, as guest preacher.

The service drew people from across Cashel, Ferns, and Ossory, who came together in worship and thanksgiving.

Prayer for the Week at Wakefield Cathedral

This week, the Church recalls with thanksgiving a great cloud of witnesses who, in their different callings, bore faithful witness to the light of Christ:

translators and martyrs of the Reformation, holy bishops and missionaries of the early English Church, women of prayer and service, poets and spiritual writers, reformers and healers.

As we remember William Tyndale, Denys and his companions, Robert Grosseteste, Paulinus and James the Deacon, Thomas Traherne, Ethelburga, Wilfrid, Elizabeth Fry, and Edith Cavell, we give thanks for their lives of faith and pray that, in our generation, we may be strengthened to serve Christ with courage, creativity, and compassion.

We pray:

Almighty and everliving God,
who in every age has raised up faithful servants
to proclaim your truth, to teach wisdom,
to nurture holiness, and to bring healing and hope.

We give you thanks for the witness of your saints,
for translators who opened the Scriptures,
for bishops and missionaries who bore the Gospel to new
places,
for women of prayer and service,
for poets, thinkers, and reformers,
for those who tended the poor and the sick,
and for all who laid down their lives in the cause of love.

Grant that we, inspired by their example,
may walk in their footsteps with joy,
proclaiming the kingdom of your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Clergy and ministry

Incumbent of the parish of Drumglass

The Archbishop of Armagh has appointed the Rev'd Mark Gallagher as Incumbent of the parish of Drumglass (with Moygashel).

The new Incumbent was brought up in the parish of Killyman and served his deacon's year as an intern in the

Parish of Ballinamallard (Diocese of Clogher) and his curacy in Bangor Abbey (Diocese of Down). He is currently rector of the Grouped Parishes of Trory and Killadeas (Diocese of Clogher). The Rev'd Mark's Institution will take place early in the New Year. In the meantime we hold Mark in our prayers.



Connor Diocesan Liturgical Officer

The Rev Cameron Mack, dean's curate at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, has been appointed Connor Diocesan Liturgical Officer. The appointment was announced by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison.

Cameron said: “In recent years, a wealth of resources has been released for leading worship, personal devotion, and children’s faith formation.

“My role is to encourage and equip clergy and laity within our diocese to take full advantage of these resources, and so to enrich the worship of our Church.”

Cameron continued: “This work will complement my ministry at Belfast Cathedral, where we make constant use of the latest liturgical resources to draw the city to worship. I’m looking forward to bringing energy and enthusiasm to this role and hope to be of use to parishes across the diocese.”

Mullingar venue of 2025 Annual Pioneer Ministry Gathering

The 2025 Annual Pioneer Ministry Gathering will take place in Mullingar on November 22 with keynote speaker, the Rev Dr Michael Moynagh.

The Gathering is for everyone interested in pioneer ministry from across the Church of Ireland.

Michael is an Anglican minister based in Oxford and is known as a leading theologian and practitioner of the Pioneer movement. For over 25 years, he has been researching, advocating, advising, and coaching new forms of ministry and his numerous books include the classic textbook, Church for Every Context and Giving the Church.



PIONEER MINISTRY

Gathering

WITH *Michael*
MOYNAGH



FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED & INVOLVED
IN PIONEER MINISTRY FROM ACROSS
THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

10:30AM - 4PM
22 NOVEMBER
SATURDAY

BLOOMFIELD HOUSE HOTEL
MULLINGAR

It's very special to have a leader of this calibre to come and speak, where he will be contextualising what he knows, to our Irish context.

Attendees will connect with others interested in Pioneer Ministry from across the Church of Ireland during a time of training, sharing ideas, and exploring innovative ways to further develop pioneer ministry in your context. Tea, coffee and lunch provided. Please arrive from 10am for coffee and a prompt start at 10.30am.

Perspective

Patricia Routledge

One month before turning 95, Patricia Routledge wrote this, she died last week aged 96.

“I’ll be turning 95 this coming Monday. When I was younger, I often worried I wasn’t good enough—that I’d never be cast again, that I’d disappoint my mother. But these days begin in peace and end in gratitude.”

In my forties, my life finally began to make sense. Before that, I’d performed steadily—provincial stages, radio plays, West End productions—but felt somewhat lost. I was searching for something within myself, a home I hadn’t yet found.

At 50, I took a television role that many of you would later know me by—Hyacinth Bucket from *Keeping Up Appearances*. I thought it would just be a minor role, a brief moment. I never expected it to become beloved across the globe. That character taught me to embrace my quirks and quietly healed something deep within me.

At 60, I started learning Italian—not for my career, but simply so I could sing opera in its native tongue. I learned the gentle art of living alone without loneliness, reading poetry aloud each night—not to perfect diction, but to soothe my spirit.



At 70, I returned to Shakespearean theatre, a place I once thought I'd aged out of. This time, there was nothing to prove. I stepped onto those legendary boards with calmness. The audience felt that serenity. I had stopped performing; I was simply being.

At 80, I discovered watercolor painting. I painted flowers from my garden,

nostalgic hats from my youth, and faces glimpsed on the London Underground—each painting was a silent memory made tangible.

Now, at 95, I write letters by hand. I'm learning the simple joy of baking rye bread. I still breathe deeply each morning. Laughter remains precious, though I no longer feel the need to make others laugh. Quietness is sweeter than ever.

I'm writing this today to share something simple and true:

Growing older isn't a final act—it can be life's most exquisite chapter if you allow yourself to bloom once more.

Let the years ahead be your treasure years.
You don't have to be perfect, famous, or adored.
You only need to be present—fully—for the life that's yours.

With warmth and gentle love,
— Patricia Routledge

CNI - Patricia was an Honorary Canon of Chichester Cathedral. She made a quite outstanding speech on cathedral life and ministry at a dinner in the Cathedral's estate when it hosted the C of E Deans Conference at which the Deans of Belfast, Dublin and St Patrick's were present. Her late brother was a C of E cleric who was a Canon of St Paul's, London.

In the media

Undertaker hailed as a 'risk taker' in the pursuit of peace

Mourners gathered for the funeral of Ian Milne were told of his crusading and generous spirit by a former Archbishop of Armagh who led the tributes to a “much loved” peacemaker and undertaker at his funeral service, Gabrielle Swan writes in the Belfast Telegraph

The former Archbishop of Armagh led the tributes to a “much loved” peacemaker and undertaker at his funeral service last week.

Highly respected Portadown undertaker Ian Milne died suddenly on Sunday 28 at the age of 64.

The grandfather-of-one's contribution to peace-making in Northern Ireland — including being a negotiator during the Drumcree crisis — saw him featured in a portrait as part of Stormont's Quiet Peacemakers exhibition in 2014.

Mr Milne's life story has also been subject to a biography penned by Sunday Life columnist Ivan Little, “A Matter of Life and Death: Ian Milne: policeman, prison officer, peacemaker, funeral director”.

During the service at Holy Trinity church in Banbridge yesterday, his recognisable black hat and cane were laid on his coffin during the service.

Paying tribute was the Most Reverend, Alan Harper OBE, the former Archbishop of Armagh, who said that the late undertaker for Milne Funeral Services was a “risk taker” in the pursuit of cross-community relations.

“End of life issues, as we like to call them, confront our funeral directors every day. Some of their most challenging experiences, however, remain unwitnessed,” said the former Primate of All Ireland.

“Yet the service they provide is crucial to our very social and community life.

“I retain the highest regard for all that undertakers do, and the care, respect, sensitivity and expertise with which they do it.

“No-one embodied that care, respect, sensitivity and expertise more than Ian Milne. And I say this with conviction, because I can draw upon my own direct, personal experience.

“When my mother died, Ian helped us to take her home across to my hometown in the Midlands in England.

“And what of the life of Ian Milne the man? I am sure there must be others, but I cannot think of any other funeral director whose biography was published five years before his death. Nor can I think of a better title to describe Ian's life than 'A Matter of Life and Death'.

“By turn, soldier, policeman, prison officer and funeral director, Ian was —let's face it — a risk taker.

“He was prepared to do what few others were prepared to do. The quiet, confidential but risky work of also being a peacemaker.

“There was always a restless energy to Ian Milne, he was always willing to take up a cause, or indeed to take on a scrap.

“I might describe him as a bit of a crusader, or I would, just so long as you understand that in the world of football, he supported Glenavon and Portadown.”

Also paying tribute was Rev Willie Nixon, from Banbridge, who said he “often talked about the Lord” with Ian.

“Ian was not just a member of this congregation, but very much loved throughout this part of Co Down and over the border in Co Armagh,” he said.

“He came to your homes, stood alongside you as family, and brought comfort in so many difficult times and occasions.”

Rev Jim Rea also paid tribute before the reading at the service.

“I met Ian Milne in the summer of 1999, when I became the minister of Thomas Street Methodist Church,” said Rev Rea.

“He greeted me with great friendship, and I could truly say he was a great friend.

“He was in many senses a fixer, whatever your problem might be, should it be the plumbing in your house, to some other problem, Ian knew somebody or knew some way to get it fixed.

“That in a sense was an expression of his immense generosity.

“He was deeply troubled by the division in our communities.

Particularly, during Drumcree, and he and I, along with archbishop Alan at times entered uncharted waters.

“Ian took risks, risks that I believe in history will prove an affirmation for all that he has done.”

October 7 2025

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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early morning

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