

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver



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Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver

The oldest building in downtown Vancouver, Christ Church Cathedral is the cathedral church of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster.

Conceived in 1888, it

[Church News Ireland](#)





was built in 1894/95. In the last 25 years the building has undergone a major restoration and reordering to make it more suitable for current needs. The use of old growth Douglas Fir beams and cedar

planking has produced a beautiful interior.

In 2004 a Kenneth Jones tracker organ was installed using many of the pipes from its Casavant predecessor. The bell tower was added in 2015/16.





There is acknowledgement of the ancient (First People of Canada) and more recent heritage of the region within its features, especially in the stained glass, installation of which variously dates from 1909 to 2013. Three disciples are pictured in Edward Burne-Jones/William Morris windows (crafted in 1905, installed in 1985) in the lower level

vestibule. — at Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver.

News

Women's Aid focus at Armagh Mothers Union Deanery service in Donaghmore

The first Mothers Union Deanery Service in the diocese was held this week in St Patrick's Church, Donaghmore.



The Service was led by Archdeacon Peter Thompson and a meaningful Address delivered by Rev Rhonda Dempsey. Readings and prayers



were read by members of Donaghmore branch. The church choir sang a beautiful piece "I have a Shepherd". The MU members were joined by Canon Matthew Hagan, Rural

Dean, Rev John Ewart and Rev Andrew Moore. A delicious supper was served by Branch members. Many bags of items were donated to support the work of Women's Aid.

Good MU news from Clogher Diocese

It was a delight to have Bishop Ian Ellis, his wife Heather, who is the President of the Mothers' Union in Clogher Diocese, and other representatives from Mothers' Union with us in St Finbarr's Carrickmacross on Sunday 31 st August for a Mothers' Union Service of Enrolment.

There had been a Mothers' Union in the Carrickmacross Group previously set up in 2007/8 by Rosemary Kingston, wife of Revd Robert Kingston, but while remaining a group which met regularly after Rosemary and her husband left the Diocese, the group did not continue with their Mothers' Union affiliation.

It isn't a common thing for a Mothers' Union branch to reform so in a sense we are breaking new ground. The service was an amazing occasion for eight former members to be joined by an additional group of ladies to help revitalise the Carrickmacross Parish Group of the Mothers' Union.

Memorial sponsored walk for former organist benefits Irish Heart Foundation

The Irish Heart Foundation is benefitting from a sponsored walk in memory of the organist of Fahan

Upper Parish Church, Mrs Anne Moore, who died last year.



A sponsored walk was organised on June 8th last, during which members of the grouped parishes of Christ Church Buncrana and St. Mura's (Fahan Upper) climbed to the cross on Gollan Hill in Fahan. The walk raised the impressive sum of €1,385, which has been donated to the foundation.

The late Mrs Moore served for decades as the organist in St Mura's and was a stalwart member of the Parish of Fahan Upper. Mrs Moore's daughter, Linda Moore, is among those pictured below with Rev Canon David Ferry.



Service of Thanksgiving held at Clabby

A special Service of Thanksgiving has been held in St. Margaret's Church, Clabby to mark the 155th anniversary of its consecration.

The service was conducted by the Rector, Canon Maurice Armstrong and the preacher was the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis.

The lessons were read by Mr Jim Monteith, People's Churchwarden and Miss Annie McDowell.

The hymns were; "Angel voices, ever singing," "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!" "Great is Thy faithfulness,"

“My heart is filled with thankfulness,” “I will sing the wondrous story” and “Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided.” The organist was Mrs Ann Bloomfield.

There were some special musical contributions from The Silvertones Choir.

A number of parishioners and people associated with the church led the prayers; Miss Rose Adams, Mr. William Morrow, Mr Mark Byers and Mr Ryan Crawford finishing with a prayer from the Rector.

A short history of Clabby Church was outlined by Mr Sam Morrow, who grew up in the parish. A deed for the site for church dedicated to St Margaret was dated 1864 and the first clergyman to conduct worship in Clabby School built in 1864 and paid for by Revd J.G.Porter was Revd Nathaniel Hone, Curate of Tempo from 1838 to 1842.

Revd Frances James Hurst became the first rector in 1873 and under his direction, a magnificent stained glass East Window was installed and dedicated in memory of Revd J G Porter. The church had been constructed in the 1860's, the gift of the landlord, Revd J.G.Porter.

The church was consecrated by the Most Revd Marcus Gervais Betesford, Archbishop of Armagh as Clogher Diocese was part of Armagh Diocese at the time.

At a tea reception in the parish hall afterwards, an anniversary cake was cut by Mr. Sam Morrow.

Sale of Christ Church Leeson Park

Christ Church Leeson Park has now been sold and the purchasers are the Romanian Orthodox Church.

St Batholomews commented - The Romanian Orthodox community have been with us under a licence agreement in Christ Church for nearly twenty years now and we are extremely happy that they are the buyers of the property.

The church will continue to be a church – an outcome that so many of us had both hoped and prayed for.

We wish them every blessing as they take on ownership and care of the building and are now finally able to have a church which they can consecrate for themselves.

For us there have been mixed feelings as we drew our connection with the building, its history and community to a close, but it is good to know that the work of the Gospel and the proclamation of God's kingdom will continue on this site into the future.

Irish Methodists meet with the Taoiseach

On the 1st of September 2025, the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, met with Faith and Non-Confessional Groups in the Sycamore Room, Leinster House to 'discuss matters of mutual concern.' It was part of the Taoiseach's Structured Dialogue process with faith and ethical groups.

The Methodist Church in Ireland was represented by the Rev Andrew Dougherty, Southern District Superintendent, and the Rev Steven Foster, Southern Chairperson, Council on Social Responsibility.

During the meeting, the Taoiseach said that he valued the presence of the church leaders and other representatives. Mr Martin said that he was particularly concerned about ‘a shocking coarseness’ in public discussion, where there’s no space for nuance or respecting other points of view.

In the Methodist contribution to the discussion, Rev Foster spoke of the Church’s desire and action in social and political engagement, referencing local church initiatives and CSR’s pre-election documents. He spoke of the very serious and urgent concerns of Gaza, the natural environment, disability & mental health services, racism, homelessness and social unease. In doing so, he pointed out that children and young people were the first to suffer.

Rev Foster also said that there were signs of a spiritual vacuum and hunger in today’s young adults, contrasting with a lot of his own generation’s cynicism. The Taoiseach specifically picked up on that, saying that it was something that he recognised and believed there was ‘a sense of a greater engagement in regard to spirituality.’

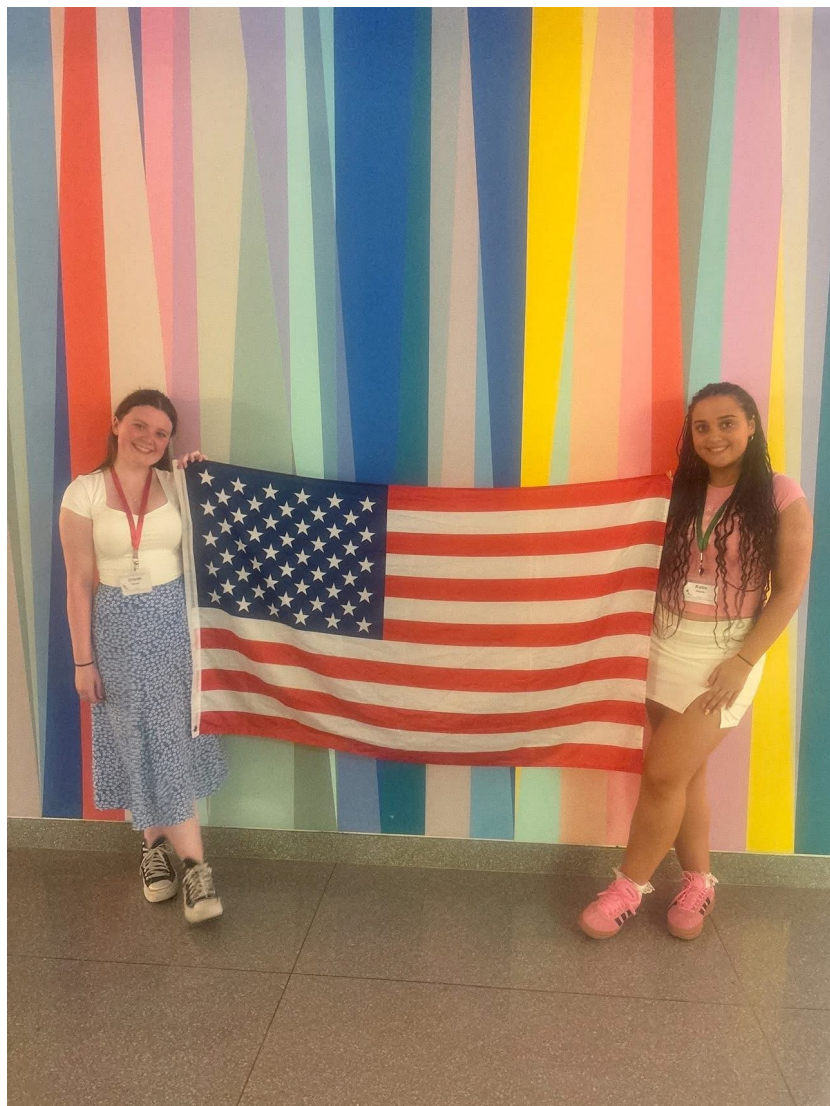
Rev Dougherty said of the meeting, ‘This was far more than a simple box-ticking or rubber-stamping exercise. The Taoiseach appeared genuinely committed to engaging with the various groups, actively listening, and showing a real willingness to learn from the diverse perspectives being shared. Moreover, we all have a responsibility to contribute

meaningfully to the shaping of our society. By promoting a deeper sense of justice, inclusion, and collective well-being, we can help influence decisions and actions that serve the common good and ensure that no voice goes unheard.'

Education

St Dominic's Grammar School students foretaste of US universities

Over the summer break, three of our Y14 students, Orlaith, Gráinne and Katie, had the opportunity to attend Universities in America, as part of the Sutton Trust Programme.



The girls visited a range of colleges, including Harvard, Brown, Yale, Princeton, and Boston College. The girls got a taste for student life, exploring new cities, building friendships, and attending Baseball and Basketball Games.

While there, Katie and Orlaith had the opportunity to meet with past pupil, Nadia, who is studying in America having completed the same programme two years ago!

This fantastic opportunity is part of the Sutton Trust US programme, which the girls have been working hard at since last

Autumn. Now that they have returned to school, they will begin the process of applying to Colleges in America. Well done, girls.



Foyle College Drama students at The Lyric Theatre

GCSE Drama students are at The Lyric Theatre, Belfast to see the award-winning musical Come From Away!



This powerful production tells the true story of kindness and community in the wake of 9/11 - a masterclass in ensemble performance, storytelling, and emotional impact.

A brilliant

September 11, 2025

opportunity for our students to experience live theatre at its finest and deepen their understanding of drama in action.



Meet the Boys Model School Head Boys for 2025/26

We're excited to introduce Carter and Lyle, two inspiring pupils who are ready to lead with energy and ambition.

Carter, from Glenwood Primary School, is studying History, Politics and Media Studies. Carter is passionate about leadership and is considering future career pathways in Law or Teaching, both of which reflect his commitment to making a positive impact in society.

Lyle, from Springhill Primary School Belfast, is studying History, Sport Studies and Environmental Technology. With a strong interest in innovation and teamwork, Lyle is exploring careers in both the sports industry and environmental technologies.

Let's give them a warm welcome and wish them every success in their leadership journey!

Cathedral Calls

New organ recital series at Armagh

The Cathedral will be the venue for a new organ recital series. Dr Stephen Timpany will give the first recital in the 2025/2026 series on Sunday 21 September 2025 at 4.15pm.

Stephen is the Director of Music and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral. He will play a programme of music, including works by JS Bach, Albinoni and Franck. Speaking ahead of the organ recital, Stephen said, "I am delighted to give the first recital in this year's recital series, featuring the wonderful cathedral organ. I hope that my programme will have something for all tastes, from the energetic Bach transcription of a Vivaldi concerto, to the toe-



tapping Tuba
Tune by C S
Lang.”

The Dean of
Armagh, the
Very Revd
Shane
Forster, said,
“After an
absence of
some years,
it is a great
joy to once
again
welcome
back and
host the
series of

organ recitals in the Cathedral. Music has always been an important part of the liturgical worship on the Hill of Armagh and the Cathedral organ is generally recognised as one of the finest and most versatile in Ireland. Our first recitalist of the season is our very own Organist and Director of Music, Dr Stephen Timpany, who I know will show the Cathedral organist at its very best. Everyone welcome.”

The recital will last forty minutes and all are welcome to attend. Admission is free, with donations to the Choir Fund greatly appreciated. The next recital will be given by the Ven Dr Peter Thompson on Sunday 19 October 2025.



Architecture students recreate study at Saint Mary's Limerick

During the medieval period, cathedral schools played a vital role in education.

Set up by bishops, these schools trained students in Latin, theology, music, and more. Some of Europe's first universities actually evolved from these very schools.

That tradition of learning continues today...

On Monday afternoon, Saint Mary's Cathedral welcomed third-year architecture students from the University of Limerick! They were joined by their lecturers — Clare

September 11, 2025

O’Callaghan, Aisling McCoy, and Peter Carroll — who tasked them with sketching the cathedral’s stunning interior.

“We were absolutely delighted they stopped by and look forward to seeing how the cathedral inspires their creative work.”

Clergy and ministry

Robin Glendinning

“We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Robin Glendinning. Our hearts go out to his wife Lorna, his children, Sarah, Graham and Robert, the grandchildren, and family circle.



“A Service of Thanksgiving will take place in St Mary’s, Kilmoed on Friday 12th September at 1.30pm”.

The Rector comments, “Robin was a wonderful man, highly intelligent with a creative mind and a thirst for knowledge. He pursued a career in education before using his literary talents to become an acclaimed and respected playwright. He was a founding member of the Alliance Party and played an active role in local politics. His interests included history, poetry, the Irish language and sport. In the parish, he was an active parishioner, writing contributions for the parish magazine and representing the parish at the annual meeting of the Diocesan Synod. He loved being a part of the choir and singing hymns each Sunday. He had a great sense of humour and a smile which lit up the room. He thought deeply about his faith and sought to live it out in words and actions. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends, and everyone in the parish.”

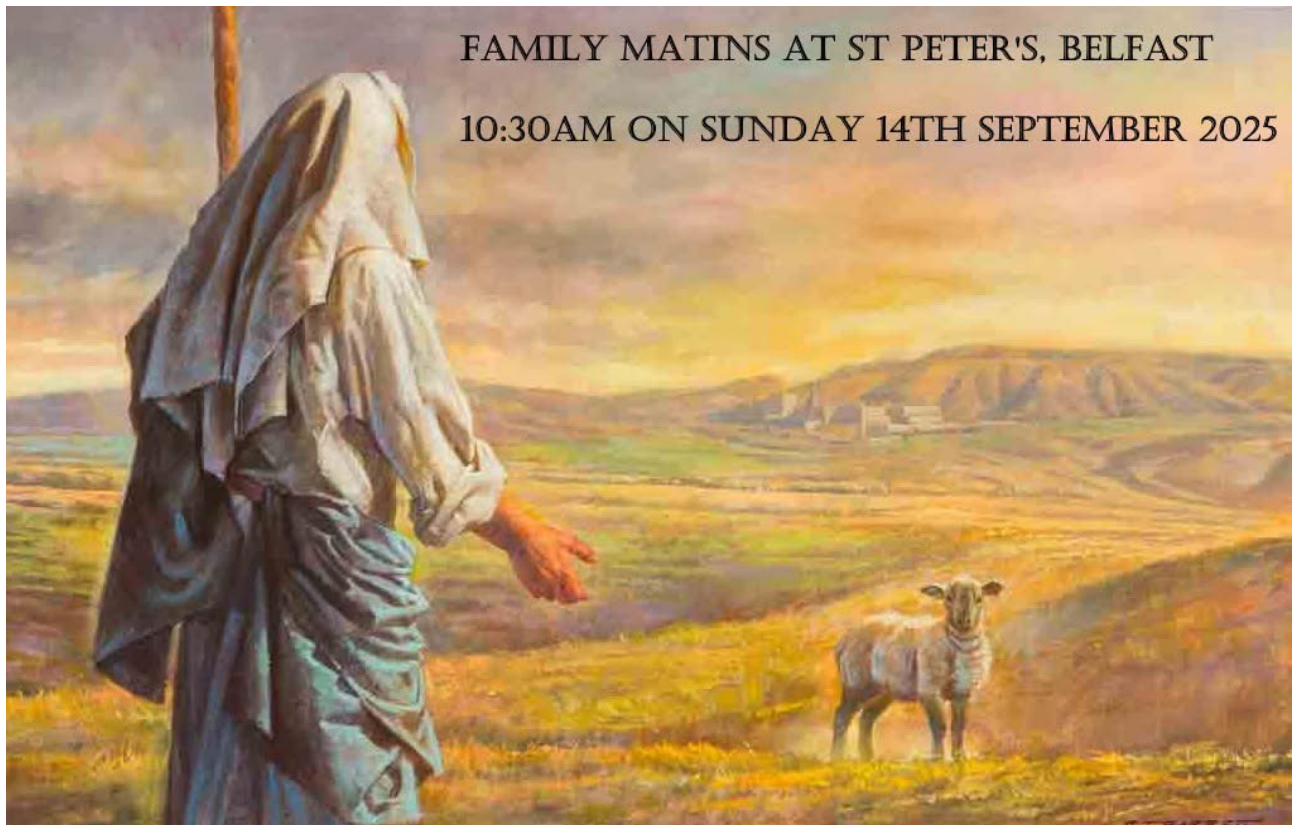
Robin Glendinning is survived by his wife Lorna, his children, Sarah, Graham and Robert, the grandchildren, and family circle.

Please keep the Glendinning family in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to give thanks for his life.

Events

Family service resumes at St Peter's

Our monthly FAMILY SERVICE resumes again this weekend, on Sunday 14th September at 10:30am.



We will be reflecting upon Luke 15: 1 -10. This is an all-age service, with a simplified liturgy in the first half, and then concluding with the end of Choral Matins. Everyone is very welcome!

Have a look at St Brigid's Parish Church Glengormley

Looking for a church with

- ✓ Clear gospel-centred sermons
- ✓ Biblical teaching on topical issues
- ✓ Contemporary services rooted in ancient tradition
- ✓ Sunday School for children
- ✓ Compassionate pastoral care
- ✓ Mid-week small groups

- ✓ Weekly youth ministry
- ✓ A heart for bringing the gospel to the community
- ✓ Opportunities to serve and get stuck in

Try St Brigid's.

🕒 10.30am & 5pm on Sundays.

www.stbrigidsglenglormley.org

Poem for today

Reason in Rhyme

by Thomas Michael Kettle

Bond from the toil of bate we may not cease:
Free we are to be your friend.
And when you make your banquet, and we come,
soldier with equal soldier must we sit
Closing a battle, not forgetting it.
With not a name to hide
This mate and mother of valiant "rebels" dead
Must come with all her history on her head.
We keep the past for pride:
No deepest peace shall strike our poets dumb
No rawest squad of all Death's volunteers
No rudest man who died
To tear your flag down in the bitter years
But shall have praise and three times thrice again
When at that table men shall drink with men



This week in 1916 while serving in the Dublin Fusiliers during World War I, Irish poet Tom Kettle died in an attack on Ginchy.

Thomas Michael "Tom" Kettle born on 9 February 1880, was an Irish journalist, barrister, writer, poet, soldier, economist and Home Rule politician. As a member of the Irish Parliamentary Party, he was Member of Parliament for East Tyrone from 1906 to 1910 at Westminster. He joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913, then on the outbreak of World War I in 1914 enlisted for service in an Irish regiment where in 1916 he met his death on the Western Front.

He was one of the leading figures of the generation who at the turn of the twentieth century gave new intellectual life to Irish party politics, and to the constitutional movement towards All-Ireland Home Rule. The Great War brought both of these and his life to an end. A gifted speaker with an incisive mind and devastating wit, his death was regarded as a great loss to Ireland's political and intellectual life.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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September 11, 2025

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

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