

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Carnmoney Mothers Union celebrate
120 years**

Image of the day



Carnmoney Parish Mothers Union celebrate 120 years

At Sunday's service members were joined by Mrs Alison Skillen the Mothers Union Diocesan president and also other Diocesan officials as they celebrated 120 years of the Mothers Union in Carnmoney Parish.

September. 16, 2025

Readings were
:given by
Helen Eccles
and Eileen
Roulston
Intercessions
by Carol
Harvey and
Victoria
Mcfarland:
Rededication
by Shirley
Earley: Act of
Worship: Anne
Campbell.
Solo: Barbara
Macklin
The service
was led by Rev
Andy Heber
and Alison
Skillen was the
Preacher. Organist: David Rutherford



News

Commissioned for Burundi mission visit

Mullavilly Parish was the setting for the commissioning of the Armagh Diocesan team heading out to Gitega Diocese on 18th September for 12 days.

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Pray for God's protection over them as they build relationships and seek to be an encouragement to God's family in Burundi.

Gitega Commissioning at Mullavilly



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cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

Methodist Church at the National Ploughing Championship 2025

The annual National Ploughing Championships are nearly upon us and the Methodist Church in Ireland will be back again in their well established corner of the Dome.

The Championships will be held at Screggan on the outskirts of Tullamore, County Offaly from Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th September.

MCI have a full team of volunteers lined up to create both an active and also a relaxing space. “We will be serving free tea and coffee. There will be space to sit down, have a chat and interact with elements of our stand.

“Our active presence at the NPA has consistently proven to be a very positive, engaging, fun and meaningful time, and we expect the same this year. Please pray for our time there, the 40+ volunteers over the three days and the setting up.



Mothers Union feed and change facility at championship

Please drop by at the Dome. On a site map, the Dome is near the bottom right. The MCI stand is at the entrance closest to the site perimeter, a bit down from pedestrian gate 9.

Martina Navratilova mourns Katharine, Duchess of Kent who reunited her with mother

Martina Navratilova shared a heartfelt tribute after the death of Katharine, Duchess of Kent, who passed away at 92 on September 4, 2025, at Kensington Palace.

Navratilova, an 18-time Grand Slam champion, expressed deep gratitude for the Duchess's kindness, particularly for



arranging a visa in 1979 that allowed Navratilova's mother to travel from Czechoslovakia to watch her compete at Wimbledon. This gesture, during a time of political turmoil, reunited Navratilova with her mother after her 1975 defection to the US. Posting on X, Navratilova wrote, "I am so sad for the passing of her Royal Highness... What she did for me personally was an amazing thing." The Duchess, a beloved Wimbledon figure known for presenting trophies, also left a lasting impact through her compassion and charity work.

Navratilova's tribute underscored their deep personal bond beyond the court.

Bishop tells Lords she has 'grave' concerns about Assisted Dying

The Bishop of London will tell the House of Lords she has 'grave concerns' over legalising Assisted Dying, for adults with a prognosis of six months or less to live.

Bishop Sarah Mullaly is a former nurse and government Chief Nursing Officer, and the Church's lead bishop on health and social care.

Dame Sarah said she anticipates that the Bill will "disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in our society."

The Lords debate is the bill's second reading, after it passed in the House of Commons by a majority of 23 votes; 314 ayes to 291 nos.

As the Upper Chamber in the legislative process, the Lords have the power to strike down the bill. However, parliamentary convention suggests that the unelected chamber should not typically hinder a bill approved by the democratically elected Commons.

Dame Sarah's speech a copy of which was obtained by Premier Christian News emphasises the need for people to "die with dignity and compassion".

"As a nurse, a priest, a daughter, and a granddaughter, I have had the privilege to be with many people as they die," says Bishop Sarah.

"I have known people to experience some of the most valuable days of their life as it comes to an end, including those with terminal illnesses."

She urges her fellow peers that "to change the law is to change society," and argues for improvements to palliative care.

"This bill fails in its central claim that it delivers choice. A meaningful choice would see the measures in this bill set alongside equally available, fully funded palliative and social care services. Without that choice offered, this choice is an illusion."

Bishop Sarah's emphasis on the value of life and knock-on impacts for the vulnerable are shared by Christian Concern, who are protesting outside Parliament as the debate takes place.

Among the group are those have received terminal diagnoses and exceeded them. Cecil Harper was told in 2019 that he had less than three years to live.

In protest of the Bill, he said: “When you’re told that you only have, say, a year to live; it does get to your head. But you have to try and put that to the back of your mind because the doctors are not God.”

Around 190 speakers are expected to put their views to the Lords, as the Bill is debated into next week.

Education

Birthday milestone for Árainn Mhór Island post-primary school





Recently we celebrated a birthday milestone for our Árainn Mhór Island post-primary school Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, Arranmore .

The school marked its 35th birthday with the opening of a new Biodiversity and Sustainable Garden, along with the launch of a new school website and parents' app.

Named after Dr Eugene McDermott, who spearheaded the action committee that pursued the setting up of the school, it officially opened its doors on 8 October 1990, after years of tireless campaigning by Father McDermott and the island's parents. Before that, young people had to leave the island at 12 years of age to attend boarding schools or mainland institutions.

Three and a half decades on, the long-standing pattern of students leaving the island for second-level education has now reversed, with young people from the mainland commuting daily to attend this well-resourced, bilingual school. Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada is one of two island schools under our patronage and one of only five in the country. You can read more here:

<https://www.donegaletb.ie/2025/09/11/gairmscoil-mhic-diarmada-celebrates-35-years-of-education-on-arainn-mhor-island/>.

BRA Celebrating First Class Honours in Midwifery and...

We are so proud of our former pupil, Georgia Harvey, who has achieved a remarkable milestone!

Not only has she graduated from Cardiff University with First Class Honours in Midwifery, but she also delivered her 40th baby as part of her training.

Congratulations, Georgia — what an inspiring achievement!





Methody student paddle boards across North Channel

A massive well done to our very own Rory on his incredible paddleboarding challenge across the North Channel from Donaghadee to Port Patrick, 34.2km in just under 6 hours!

Rory set off at 5:30am, proudly wearing his fostering T-shirt, not only to raise funds for the Marine Conservation Society,

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but also to shine a light on the urgent need for more foster carers across Northern Ireland.

Thank you for your courage, determination, and for promoting such an important message. We are so proud of you!



Cathedral Calls

A day of colour and celebration at Newry Cathedral

On Sunday the Order of Malta marked the Raising of the Great Siege of Malta (1565) — a historic victory that continues to inspire their mission of service to those in need.

At 2.00pm on Saturday 13th September, Archbishop Eamon Martin welcomed members of the Order from across Ireland for a special Mass of thanksgiving.



Commemoration of The Raising of the Great Siege of Malta 1565





Knights, Dames, Officers, Volunteers, and Cadets from Order of Malta Ireland gathered with their guests including the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Down, the Venerable



Order of St. John Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, friends from St John Ambulance Northern Ireland and Knights of St. Columbanus to celebrate Mass in honour of Our Lady of Philermos and to commemorate the Raising of the Great Siege of Malta in 1565 which is a pivotal time in the history of Europe and the Order Of Malta.

You can view the service here: <https://churchmedia.tv/newrycathedral/video/order-of-malta-commemoration-of-great-siege-of-1565-13-sep-1400>

See Archbishop Eamon Martin's homily at - <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2025/09/14/primate-faith-hope-and-charity-underpin-raising-of-the-malta-siege-commemoration/>



The Order of Malta, Order of St John, ministers from other Christian denominations, Newry Cathedral Parish, and the wider community came together to celebrate faith, history,

and a living tradition of care at home and worldwide. The Lord-Lieutenant of County Down represented His Majesty King Charles at the Mass. Photo Credit: Mark G. Byrne.

Appointed Canon at Belfast Cathedral

The Rev'd Joanne Megarrell, has been appointed by the Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Right Reverend David McClay, as a new diocesan canon to Belfast Cathedral.



Her appointment was announced as Bishop David celebrated the **300th Anniversary of consecration of St John's Parish Church, Moira**, where Joanne has been rector for the past 13 years.

Joanne, who was ordained in 2003, said of her appointment "I was very much taken by surprise when Bishop David invited me to become a Canon in Belfast Cathedral. I feel incredibly humbled and honoured to take up this role and will do my best to serve the Lord in this new responsibility. I

very much look forward to being part of the Cathedral Chapter under the leadership of Dean Stephen Forde."

Joanne succeeds Canon Stephen Lowry as one of the canons from the Diocese of Down and Dromore who serve in the Chapter of Belfast Cathedral.

Dean Stephen Forde said "I very much look forward to welcoming Joanne as the newest member of the cathedral chapter. I know that she will bring energy, enthusiasm and faithfulness to the position. I know that she will also enjoy the opportunity to meet so many people when she takes her place alongside the other canons of the cathedral for the annual Black Santa Sitout in the days before Christmas"

Clergy and ministry

Zack Was the Junior Minister in Derryvullen North

On Sunday morning Zack as the Junior Minister in Derryvullen North Church was well





received.

He wore the Black Scarf and sat in the Prayer Desk. In the Service, he did the welcome, announced the hymns, did a Bible reading, helped with the sermon and received the collection. At the door afterwards he then shook hands with everyone.

The other Reader was Marion and a special piece was sung by Iris, Carol, Marion and David. There was Sunday School

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registration in the hall as people enjoyed the refreshments. Thanks was expressed to those who kindly provided and served them.

Service of welcome at St Patrick's Church, Clonevan



On Friday 12th September at an evening service of Holy Communion in St Patrick's Church, Clonevan, the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, the Rt Revd Adrian Wilkinson welcomed the Revd Robert Jones to his role as an assistant priest to serve in the Ardamine Group of Parishes.

Though retired from stipendiary ministry in 2022, until recently Revd Jones was the chaplain to St John the Evangelist Church in Sandymount in the Diocese of Dublin.

Robert will travel to Ardamine at weekends to lead worship on Sundays as well as do some pastoral work while there. Ardamine Group of Parishes consists of six attractive rural churches all situated close to or at the coast in Co. Wexford. In the summer months, the regular congregations are joined by holiday makers and regular visitors who have holiday homes and mobile homes in the parish.

More at - https://cashel.anglican.org/liturgical-welcome-for-the-revd-robert-jones-in-st-patricks-church-clonevan/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

Poem for today

Church Going

by Philip Larkin

Once I am sure there's nothing going on
I step inside, letting the door thud shut.
Another church: matting, seats, and stone,
And little books; sprawlings of flowers, cut
For Sunday, brownish now; some brass and stuff
Up at the holy end; the small neat organ;
And a tense, musty, unignorable silence,
Brewed God knows how long. Hatless, I take off
My cycle-clips in awkward reverence,

Move forward, run my hand around the font.
From where I stand, the roof looks almost new-
Cleaned or restored? Someone would know: I don't.
Mounting the lectern, I peruse a few
Hectoring large-scale verses, and pronounce
'Here endeth' much more loudly than I'd meant.
The echoes snigger briefly. Back at the door
I sign the book, donate an Irish sixpence,
Reflect the place was not worth stopping for.

Yet stop I did: in fact I often do,
And always end much at a loss like this,
Wondering what to look for; wondering, too,
When churches fall completely out of use
What we shall turn them into, if we shall keep
A few cathedrals chronically on show,
Their parchment, plate, and pyx in locked cases,
And let the rest rent-free to rain and sheep.
Shall we avoid them as unlucky places?

Or, after dark, will dubious women come
To make their children touch a particular stone;
Pick simples for a cancer; or on some
Advised night see walking a dead one?
Power of some sort or other will go on
In games, in riddles, seemingly at random;
But superstition, like belief, must die,
And what remains when disbelief has gone?
Grass, weedy pavement, brambles, buttress, sky,

A shape less recognizable each week,
A purpose more obscure. I wonder who
Will be the last, the very last, to seek

This place for what it was; one of the crew
That tap and jot and know what rood-lofts were?
Some ruin-bibber, randy for antique,
Or Christmas-addict, counting on a whiff
Of gown-and-bands and organ-pipes and myrrh?
Or will he be my representative,

Bored, uninformed, knowing the ghostly silt
Dispersed, yet tending to this cross of ground
Through suburb scrub because it held unspilt
So long and equably what since is found
Only in separation - marriage, and birth,
And death, and thoughts of these - for whom was built
This special shell? For, though I've no idea
What this accoutred frowsty barn is worth,
It pleases me to stand in silence here;

A serious house on serious earth it is,
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet,
Are recognised, and robed as destinies.
And that much never can be obsolete,
Since someone will forever be surprising
A hunger in himself to be more serious,
And gravitating with it to this ground,
Which, he once heard, was proper to grow wise in,
If only that so many dead lie round.

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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