

Church News Ireland

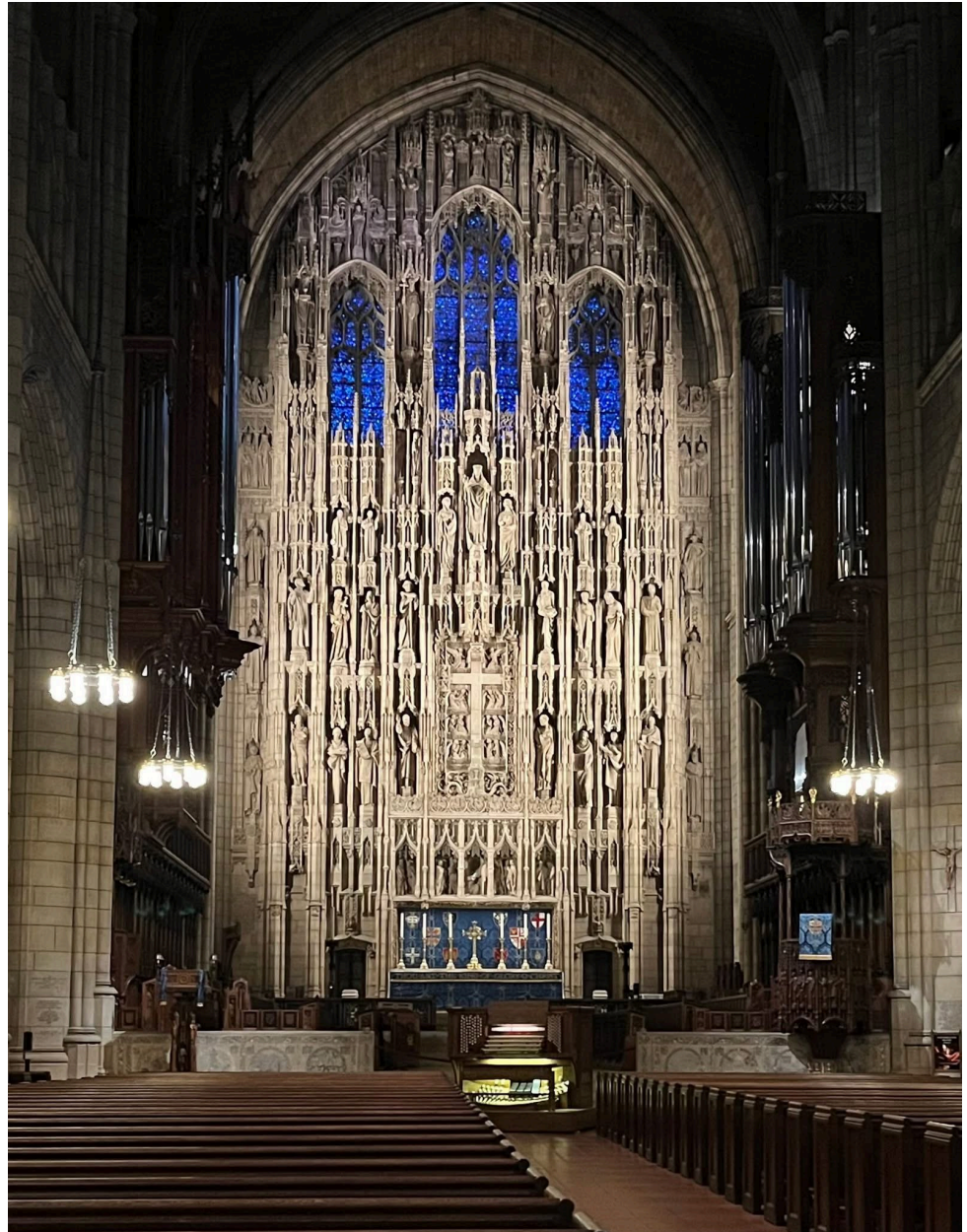


Image of the day – New York's citadel of singing

Image of the day – New York's citadel of singing

Always a place to visit for some of the best singing anywhere in the Anglican choral tradition.

St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City is known not only for the quality of its music but also its splendid architecture.



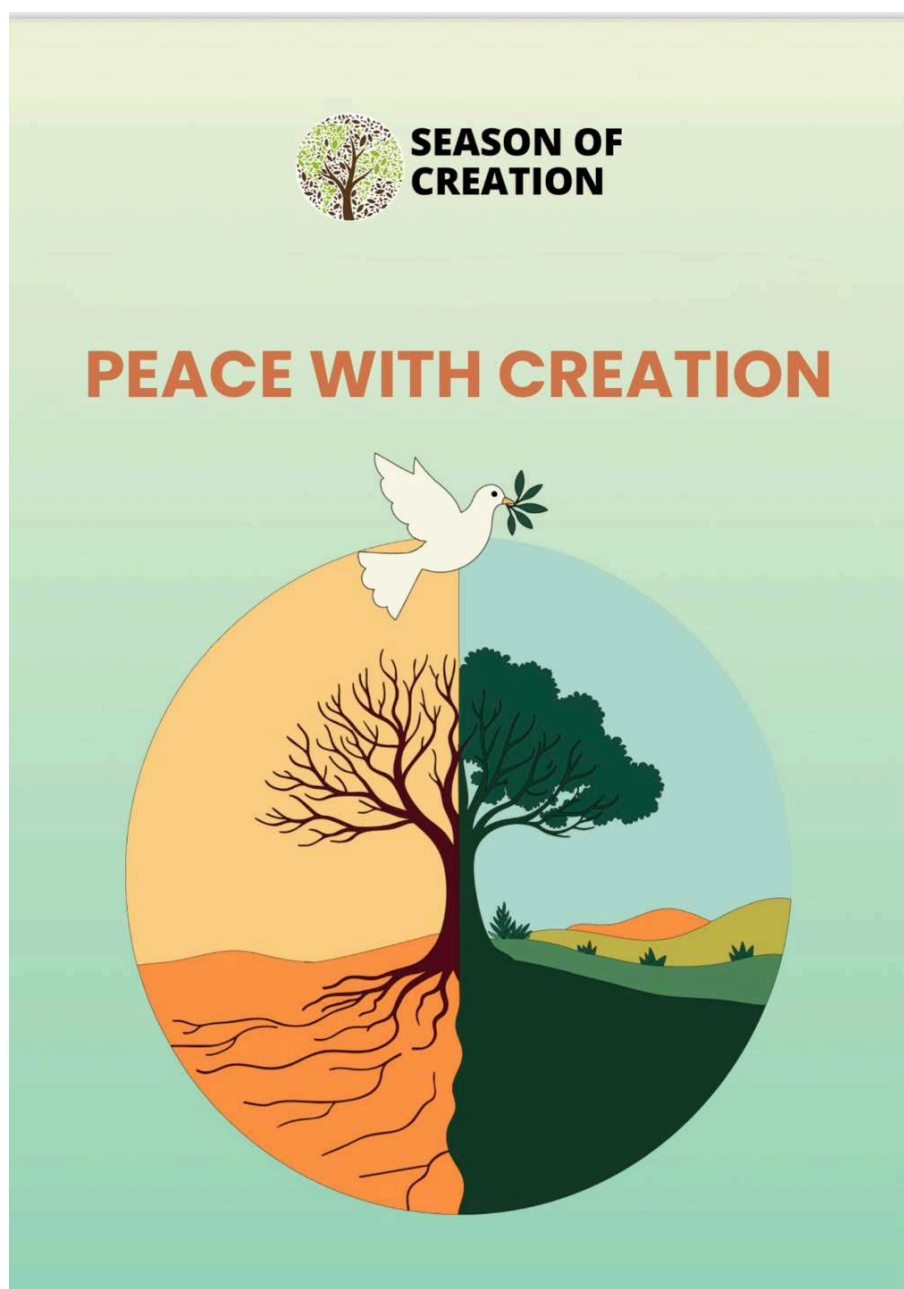
The High French Gothic Revival masterwork of Ralph Adams Cram and Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue was consecrated in 1913. The magnificent reredos is 80 feet high and consists of more than 60 stone figures. Thanks to Donovan Reynolds for photos.

News

Season of Creation 2025

From 1st September – 4th October, Christians across the world unite in prayer and action for our common home. This year we reflect on the theme: “Peace with

Creation”, inspired by Isaiah’s vision of justice and harmony (Isaiah 32:14-18).



Pope Leo XIV has renewed the invitation first made by Pope Francis 10 years ago, reminding us that prayer for creation is “more urgent and important than ever.”

Throughout

September 2, 2025

September, let us pray for peace and hope for creation, and commit ourselves to living in harmony with God's gift of the earth.

You are invited to:

Join in daily prayer for creation.

Take part in community actions for care of the earth.

Share hope by planting seeds—literal and spiritual—that foster peace.

Together, as one Christian family, may we be pilgrims of hope, tending the garden of peace entrusted to us.

Resources can be found at -
<https://seasonofcreation.org>

Journey towards Irish unity won't lead to violence: Archbishop Eamon Martin

The leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland has said he does not believe that a move towards Irish unification would inevitably lead to violence, James McNaney writes in the Belfast Telegraph

In an interview with the Daily Mail, Archbishop Eamon Martin added that he understands the pain to victims of the Troubles caused by the memorialising of political violence.

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland also said he feels it is “a pity” that the Irish government has not made Irish unity “an issue for conversation”.

September 2, 2025

Archbishop Martin reiterated his previously declared support for Irish unification, as well as his belief in the importance of dialogue with Protestants and unionists.

He rejected the notion that conversations about or campaigns for reunification would definitely cause a return to violence.

“Right across Ireland at the moment, there's an increased

level of violence. Violence can easily be hijacked and used for purposes,” he said.

“You've mentioned how extreme groups, even today, are already fomenting violence on the streets over various social issues, and I think that there they can be easily

PARISH BBQ

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
EAST GLENDALOUGH SCHOOL

Entertainment for the children will be provided by "Reuben the Entertainer" he will have everyone in stitches with his magic, puppets, fun toys, daft voices and bendy body!!!

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE IN AUGUST

Please support as it combines good food, community, and raises much needed funds for the upkeep of the church building

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LINDA WALSH 086 8228378, HEATHER MINION 086 0872643, PAULINE WOODROOFE 087 9073812

hijacked for old causes.

“Again, it is true also that, for example, loyalists and indeed, republicans will celebrate and commemorate their, inverted commas, heroes of the past, which can be upsetting to people who were hurt and who had, maybe people who were murdered, who were killed, who were injured during the Troubles.

“I think you're right in saying that there is indeed a threat of violence, whether or not the issue of the border would give cause for that.

“That's why the conversations, the reflection, because we do have, sadly, a history of return to violence on this island, and what we need to do is make sure we do everything in our power to ensure that that is avoided.”

The Archbishop also said that while he does not believe the Church would implore congregants to vote for a particular outcome on a border poll, it would still have a voice on the issue.

He also expressed disappointment in how the government in Dublin has approached the topic of Irish unity.

“I personally feel that It's a pity that the southern government has not made this more of an issue for conversation.

“There's almost this sense we'll keep pushing it, pushing it out there.”

Bishops' joint plea over proposed Enniskillen hospital clinic closure

Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic bishops have joined voices in a bid to save an emergency hospital clinic from closure in Enniskillen, Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter

Rev Dr Ian Ellis, the Church of Ireland's bishop of Clogher, and the Rev Larry Duffy, Roman Catholic bishop of Clogher, have expressed "deep concern" in a joint statement at the proposed closure of the emergency surgery services at South West Acute Hospital (SWAH).

They echoed concerns already raised by the Fermanagh Christian leaders' fraternal, that vulnerable patients are finding they are unable to travel to the next-nearest emergency unit in Londonderry city, 55 miles distant through three counties – Fermanagh, Tyrone and Londonderry.

"We live in one of the most remote parts of Northern Ireland and we both believe our communities have a right to equal treatment to other areas of the province," the bishops said. "We express our deep concern at the potential permanent withdrawal of vital services from parishioners resident in Co Fermanagh and surrounding areas, where there is poor public transport and inadequate travel links to alternative hospitals."

Emergency services at SWAH were temporarily suspended in December 2022, which local campaigners say posed a

risk to life. The bishops have called for a greater consultation process before any permanent closure goes ahead.

The statement sent to local campaign group, 'Save Our Acute Services' (SOAS), by the bishops asserts: "We too express our deep concern at the potential permanent withdrawal of vital services from parishioners resident in Co Fermanagh and surrounding areas, where there is poor public transport and inadequate travel links to alternative hospitals."

Highlighting the rural nature of the region, they emphasise that local communities deserve equal access to healthcare services comparable to those available in more central areas of Northern



Applications are invited for

YOUNG SINGER

Extra audition
date added:
September
11th

**FOUNDATION COURSE
SCHOLARSHIPS**

12 PLACES available on this **FREE** Glengormley based scheme, incorporating first steps in vocal tuition, with music theory, ensemble work and preparation for a graded singing exam

AGE RANGE: SENIOR PRIMARY / JUNIOR POST-PRIMARY

Auditions on Thursday 28th August, Thursday 4th September, and Thursday 11th September in Lilian Bland Pavilion, Glengormley

To book an audition slot/request further information, please contact Lagan Camerata conductor and course tutor, Judith Watson: judewatson@live.co.uk

Ireland. “We live in one of the most remote parts of Northern Ireland and believe our communities have a right to equal treatment to other areas of the province.”

The bishops call for a “more genuine consultation” process, involving local community leaders and those directly impacted by the proposed changes. They urge health authorities to provide acute services that reflect the real needs of the population in the region.

“We believe our communities should be provided with access to appropriate and expert surgical care within easy

reach of where we live,” the statement adds.

As Christian leaders, the bishops stress the importance of health care that attends to the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – with health care provision that supports “life

THE SALVATION ARMY Love God Love Others

IRELAND DIVISION

YOUTH EVENT

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon & evening of fun, food and worship

Pizza – Praise – Social – Quiz
– Crafts – Meet Old and New Friends

Special Guests
Capt Emily & Lt Joel Watson

Belfast North Salvation Army
258 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1G

**SUNDAY
12TH OCTOBER
3.30 – 7.30PM
£3**

THE SALVATION ARMY
Ireland Youth

in all its fullness". They conclude by appealing for a swift resolution to the issue: "The continued uncertainty adds further worry and inconvenience to people in the area."

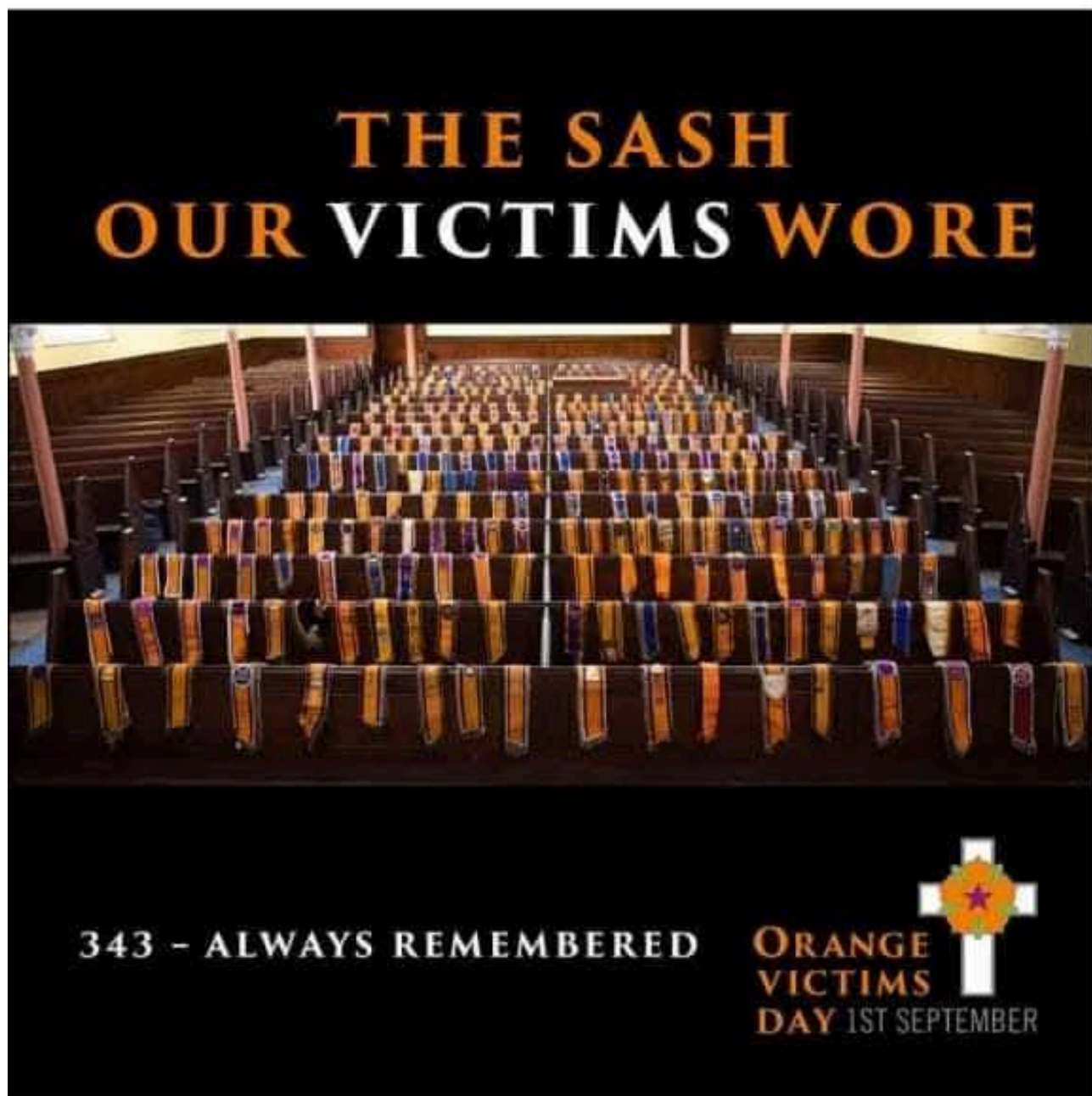
The proposed closure has evoked widespread concern among residents and campaigners in Northern Ireland's western region, with many fearing that losing emergency surgery at the SWAH would put lives at risk due to lengthy travel times to other hospitals.

Orange Victims Day - Tullyvallen remembers

On this Orange Victims Day we remember our band members past and present, as well as their families who have been impacted by the actions of terrorists in this country, writes Tullyvallen Guiding Star Temperance LOL 630 -

Tullyvallen Guiding Star Temperance LOL 630 suffered the loss of seven members over a seven month period of 1975 and 1976. Five of these men were members or past members of our band, James McKee J.P., Ronnie McKee, Nevin McConnell, William Herron and William Meaklim. Current and past members were also survivors of the attack on Tullyvallen Orange Hall.

Today (Monday) marks the 50th Anniversary on the attack on Tullyvallen Orange Hall which resulted in five lodge members being murdered, James McKee J.P. W.M., Ronnie McKee, Nevin McConnell Sec., John Johnston Chaplain, and William Herron.



Willam Meaklim had been murdered just two weeks prior in August 1975. Joseph McCullough Chap. was murdered in February 1976.

This evening the band will be taking part in the Memorial Service at Tullyvallen Orange Hall to remember these men, their families and all others impacted. Please remember them in your prayers.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10

Education



ljhs.co.uk



Laptops for Lurgan Junior High School

A huge thank you to Leprino Foods, the new owners of the Magheralin cheese factory, for their generous donation of laptops and desktop computers to school.

Your support will have a very positive impact on daily life at Lurgan Junior High School and we're excited to welcome you as part of Magheralin's future.



Wallace High Pelican Programme at Cambridge

We're incredibly proud of our Year 14 pupils who recently took part in prestigious academic programmes at Cambridge.

Ellen, Martha, and Annabel completed the Pelican Programme, hosted by Corpus Christi College.

Ellen explored Physical Sciences, focusing on Chemistry and Physics.

Martha studied French and Annabel's course centred on Architecture.

The Pelican Programme included several months of online tutorials and a residential course at Cambridge.

September 2, 2025

Katie attended a residential at Christ's College, where she deepened her interest in Psychological and Behavioural Sciences. She also completed the acclaimed Sentinus Enhancement and Enrichment Programme over the summer holidays. Well done to all!



Honours Blazers recognise girls rugby at Coleraine GS

In 1960 Sammy Moore, Johnston Redpath and John Nicholl designed an Honours Blazer for one of our founder schools, CAI.

With consent from the then Headmaster Dr Humphries the first boy's rugby blazers were presented and worn in 1961.

September 2, 2025

Since then the award of School Honours for excellence in sport has evolved to recognise other sports within school.

In 2025, 65 years later, girls rugby is the latest sport to be recognised at CGS with the award of Honours Blazers. This photo shows one of the first Honours blazers awarded to John for boy's rugby in 1961 and one the first girl's rugby blazers awarded in 2025 to his granddaughter Hannah.

Cathedral Calls



St Flannan's Cathedral 800th anniversary

It was glorious to be at the celebrations for the 800th anniversary of the stunning St Flannan's Cathedral and the dedication of this beautiful new icon of the Saint by Ian Knowles.

A truly uplifting and joyous act of



worship and with a beautiful new hymn penned by Richard Marsh!

On Sunday the Dean of St. Flannan's Cathedral was joined by the Bishop Michael Burrows of the Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, along with clergy from across Ireland, to mark a truly momentous occasion — 800 years since the consecration of this beloved cathedral.

Over 160 people gathered for this special service of thanksgiving, uplifted in music and song by the Killaloe Male Voice Choir and The Gunas. The Bishop's sermon was warmly received, offering a moving tribute to the enduring witness of St. Flannan's.

A highlight of the celebration was the dedication of a beautiful new icon of St. Flannan, which will now take its



rightful place as a permanent part of the cathedral's heritage.

The cathedral conveyed its heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined in the service and to all who gave their time and talents to make this milestone such a memorable and joyful occasion.

Clergy and ministry

Pray for Pakistan with Down & Dromore

Down & Dromore diocese writes - Dear friends, please join us in praying urgently for Pakistan amidst

devastating floods that have claimed the lives and homes of many.

We have heard from Bishop Leo that Multan City is at risk and 300,000 residents have been evacuated. Please pray.

Irish Methodist Prayer resource

Download the Prayer Focus: Connexional Prayer Guide 2025-2026 and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers.

You'll be joining hundreds of Methodists across the island and beyond who long to see God's transforming power at work in our world.

- Daily prayers or suggestions for prayer.
- More in depth guides about how to pray for specific areas of church life.
- Quotes on the difference that prayer makes.

Available now to download. (Making its way to churches throughout September).

→ irishmethodist.org/prayer-focus

Events

Calling All Music Loving Gents

Ever wanted to be part of a male voice choir? Now's your chance...



LAGAN SEAHORSES

MALE VOICE CHOIR

Ever wanted to be part of a male voice choir? Now's your chance! Join us for our Choir Open Night — a relaxed, no-pressure evening of music, fun, and community!

OPEN NIGHT (NO AUDITIONS!)

Monday 15 September at 7:30pm
Malone Presbyterian Church Halls,
452 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GT

RSVP or just show up!
Laganseahorses@hotmail.com

ABOUT THE CHOIR

Founded in 2011, the Lagan Seahorses is a non-audition male voice choir with over 30 members who share a love of music, friendship, and fun. Rehearsing every Monday evening, they sing everything from musicals to chart hits, the choir has won the Bangor Music Festival Light Entertainment class twice and performs regularly at concerts and community events.

Join us for our Choir Open Night — a relaxed, no-pressure evening of music, fun, and community.

September 2, 2025



Date: 15th September 2025



Time: 7.30pm



Location: Malone Presbyterian Church Halls, 452
Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GT



All male voice types & experience levels welcome!

Come along, meet the choir, sing a few songs, and see what we're all about. No auditions — just good vibes and great harmonies!

RSVP or just show up — we'd love to see you there!

laganseahorses@hotmail.com

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

September 2, 2025

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

Please recommend to your friends