

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Spanish Armada redeploys in Derry**



## Image of the day



## Spanish Armada redeploys in Derry

### Spanish Armada collection moves in Derry

Big changes are underway at  
the Tower Museum

The world-renowned Spanish  
Armada collection, including  
treasures from the La  
Trinidad Valencera, was  
carefully moved for





conservation last week ahead of its journey to its new home at the upcoming DNA Museum at Ebrington.

This internationally significant collection will undergo work by National Museums NI and will be showcased as part of the new world-class visitor experience.

An exciting milestone for the heritage for the North West



# News

## Harvest focus - Malahide

**Harvest Family  
Eucharist was  
celebrated at  
11.30am in St  
Andrew's Church  
of Ireland, United  
Parishes of  
Malahide,  
Portmarnock & St.  
Doulagh's.  
Parishioners were**





**requested to bring a few non-perishable items for the Capuchin Centre in Dublin.**

Canon David Gillespie posted - Thank you to those who donated flowers and greenery and to those who did such a wonderful job of decorating the church.

## **Harvest focus - Slavin**

**Slavin Church was packed on Saturday night for a Harvest Thanksgiving and Country Gospel Concert.**

The preacher was Sarah Maguire, Clogher Diocesan Parish Reader and former Slavin Parishioner. The



singer was Andrew McMurdie from Banbridge. He entertained everyone with a great selection of songs from Jim Reeves to songs he had



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written himself.

The Church was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements by Delene Saunderson who also helped the parish ladies with impressive creations.

The parish posted -  
“We are greatly indebted to Delene who is so generous with her time and



resources. A beautiful supper was served by the ladies. A great night of fellowship was had by all.

We were touched by the numbers attending from our own community and from neighbouring counties.”





## **Rock Choir Northern Ireland performs in St Anne's Cathedral for Culture Night Belfast**

**Rock Choir Northern Ireland “gave their emotive rendition of Hallelujah within the walls of the incredible Belfast Cathedral”.**

The choir also posted - “We had such a brilliant time performing as part of Culture Night Belfast, thank you to the amazing crowd who came to watch us! We loved singing for each and every one of you.”

## **Marking Culture Night 2025 in Kilkeel town centre**

**The echoes of the Fife and Lambeg Drum could be heard in Kilkeel town centre -**





“Joining our Fifer & Lambeg Drummers was our own Ulster Champion Highland Dancer Bethany Shields from our Kirknarra School of Dance who performed to the traditional sounds of the Fife and Lambeg Drums!

“Fifing, Lambeg Drumming and Scottish Highland Dancing is a thriving part of Ulster-Scots culture today in the Kingdom of Mourne and it was great to see our members out in our hometown of Kilkeel to celebrate Culture Night 2025!”

## Limerick Culture Night Intercultural Walk

**The Very Rev'd Niall J. W. Sloane, Dean of Limerick, was delighted to welcome all who joined the Intercultural**



## Walk as part of Culture Night, including representatives from Limerick's diverse faith communities.

The Dean expressed his sincere thanks to Trish Kieran (Mary Immaculate College) for organising this meaningful event.

During the visit to Saint Mary's Cathedral, the Dean spoke about how scripture, reason, and tradition are central to Anglicanism. He also shared the rich history of Limerick's oldest building and the Cathedral's ongoing outreach in the city.

My goodness, my Guinness  
Anthony Boyle on his lead role in Netflix's House of Guinness

INSIDE THE SWEATHOUSE  
How Turkish baths emerged in Cork

Chance a lifetime  
Best day puts in medal frame  
Weekend Sport Page

# Irish Examiner

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Weekend

No. 63,522 €4.20 (€2.20 in N Ireland)

## Ministers to 'sing for supper'

**Tadhg McNally**  
Senior Government ministers have been warned about runaway spending in their departments, with the public expenditure

**Warning over runaway spending ahead of budget**  
higher than it was for the sustainable and must not

cluding those related to Ireland taking on the EU presidency. The latest warning comes after discussions took place surrounding and that ministers will have to "justify and make a business case" for their budgets. The source described the change of approach as dra-

a change in how social welfare payments are increased, with a move away from increasing payments like Jobseekers' Allowance at the same rate as the

CULTURE NIGHT: Lani Gallenberger from Germany enjoys a tour of Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral yesterday as part of Culture Night in Cork City. Picture: Darragh Kane

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## St Finbarre's Culture Night publicity



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Above all, the Cathedral continues to be a place of welcome for all, celebrating culture and community at the heart of Limerick.

## Education



### Lagan College Tourism Trip at the Giant's Causeway

**Our Year 12 and Year 14 Travel & Tourism students had a fantastic day on Friday 12 September exploring the Giant's Causeway!**



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They learned all about the site and its management, before making the all-important stop for some well-earned “fuel” at McDonaldsn. That’s how the Travel & Tourism Department does Fridays!



## St Malachi's boys visit Pope Leo's historic Villanova University

The boys have received a warm welcome by the community at St Anastasia School in Philadelphia.



They have immersed themselves in American school life, participating in classes and engaging with their peers. The itinerary so far has also included a visit to the historic Villanova University, where students explored the campus and learned about its notable alumni - Pope Leo was a student here!

Thank you to our hosts in Philadelphia for their hospitality and support.



## **Wesley College rings Roy Torrens Bell**

**Past pupil,  
former  
teacher and  
93-cap Irish  
international  
cricketer  
Mike  
Halliday had  
the honour  
of ringing  
the Roy  
Torrens Bell**





**to signal the start of play at the Ireland v England international in Malahide last week.**

On 6 August 2025, Janice Walsh — current Wesley staff member and Irish cap #21 — was also recognised with the same honour. A former left-handed batter, she represented Ireland 15 times.

## **Cathedral Calls**

### **10 years since the death of Sir David Willcocks.**

**John Rutter writes:**

**Sir David Willcocks transformed my life. I met him in 1965 at the height of his illustrious career: he was director of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, conductor of The Bach Choir , co-editor of the renowned Carols for Choirs, and acknowledged leader in his generation of the choral renaissance in Britain and beyond.**

I was a member of his harmony and counterpoint class at Cambridge, he took an interest in my fledgling compositions and recommended me to the publisher I have been with ever since. He encouraged me to write my first large-scale work The Falcon and conducted the première in 1969, then invited me to co-edit the second and three subsequent volumes of Carols for Choirs.

For years afterwards he continued to champion my work, giving me support, friendship and tactful mentoring, opening up opportunities for me wherever he could.



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I am just one of innumerable musicians who owe their careers to his inspirational example and generous encouragement. I still miss him.

**The Girls' Choir at St Peter's took their rehearsal into the cathedral gallery as they prepared to sing at their first Mass back on Sunday. Their voices rising through the space promised a beautiful return.**



## **Barcelona's Sagrada Familia set to become Europe's tallest church**

**Barcelona's Sagrada Familia is set to become Europe's tallest Christian church with the imminent completion of its central tower, dedicated to Jesus Christ.**



The milestone marks a historic moment in the life of the basilica, which has been under construction since 1882.

The central tower, expected to be finished by the end of this year or early 2026, will stand at 172 metres, surpassing Germany's Ulmer Münster, currently the tallest Christian church in Europe at 162 metres.

"It is remarkable that in the 21st century we are building a cathedral," said Xavier Martínez, general director of the Sagrada Familia Foundation.

Designed by devout Catholic architect Antoni Gaudí, the basilica is rich in Christian symbolism throughout its structure. The central tower will be crowned with a cross and surrounded by five other towers, honouring Mary and the four evangelists.

The church, consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010, remains unfinished, with ongoing work on its interior and facades. The foundation hopes to complete the entire structure within a decade.

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of Gaudí's death. The basilica has invited Pope Leo XIV to celebrate a solemn Mass in his honour on 10th June.

Last year, 4.9 million people visited the Sagrada Familia, making it one of the most prominent sites of Christian pilgrimage and architectural devotion in the world.



## In the media

### Hounding Humphreys about Orange parade a bad look for Irish unity - Suzanne Breene in Sunday Life

**It's impossible to be sincere and serious about Irish unity and then hound Heather Humphreys over whether she attended Orange Order parades and her husband's membership of the institution.**

The Fine Gael presidential candidate has been questioned about her presence at the annual event in her home village of Drum in Co Monaghan.

There was talk by some media of her husband's "secret" Orange Order past. It doesn't matter whether Eric Humphreys was a member many decades ago or is still going to lodge meetings.

It is equally irrelevant whether the event his wife attended was a parade or a picnic. Republicanism at its very core should be inclusive and accepting of the Orange tradition.

From some accounts you'd think Humphreys had skipped down the Garvaghy Road hand-in-hand with Ian Paisley and David Trimble in 1995.

The men and women taking part in the event in Drum are not marching where they're not wanted or rubbing their neighbours' nose in anything. This is not a show of supremacism.



The Irish flag displays three equal sized bands of green, white and orange: it is not a hierarchical structure. It represents the two traditions on this island and the desire for peace between them in a republic.

The tricolour was brought over from Paris in 1848 by Thomas Francis Meagher who had travelled to France to learn about revolution. It first flew that year in south Tipperary when Meagher and his comrades attempted their own unsuccessful rebellion.

Their death sentences for treason were commuted to transportation to Van Diemen's land. The tricolour was rarely seen again in public until the Easter Rising in 1916 when it was raised over the GPO.

Those who have a problem with Protestants in a small Co Monaghan village don't reflect republicanism, its history or ideals.  
genocide.

Focusing on Humphreys' attendance at an Orange parade or picnic is also a complete waste of time when there are so many other issues to grill her on.

She should be challenged on her party's record in government — particularly on housing — and what concrete action it proposes as Israel continues its genocide in Gaza, because carefully crafted statements are not enough.

Humphreys should also be quizzed about her handling of a whistleblower allegation while in the Department of Justice; her previous opposition to bans on fox hunting and hare



coursing; and her intervention in an alleged animal cruelty case before it was dropped.

She needs taken to task on the reasons she gave for retiring from the Dáil. “We give all we can for as long as we can but time catches up on us all,” she said last year.

“As I get older my health and energy levels are not what they were and I know going forward that I would not be able to give the job the time and commitment it deserves.”

Now “everything has changed” and “the tank is full again”. It's amazing how the prospect of a €250,000 salary and the chance of living in splendour in Áras an Uachtaráin can recharge the batteries.

Sinn Féin's support has breathed new life into Catherine Connolly's campaign. She is a very substantial candidate who will have an opportunity to shine in the TV debates. Yet there may be a silver lining for republicans if the Fine Gael candidate is elected.

DUP leader Gavin Robinson used the focus on her background to declare that Irish unity would be disastrous for his community. “You tell me unionists would be accepted when they can't even accept a former Irish government minister who has Orange heritage,” he said.

But if Humphreys becomes the 10th Irish president, then that argument will be turned on its head. She would be the third person from a Protestant background to hold the office, following Douglas Hyde (the first president) and Erskine Childers (the fourth).



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The Fine Gael candidate isn't someone who will be personally pushing for Irish unity but, if she wins, expect the symbolism of her victory to be employed by those who are committed to constitutional change. 21/09/2025.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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