

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – the highest high church

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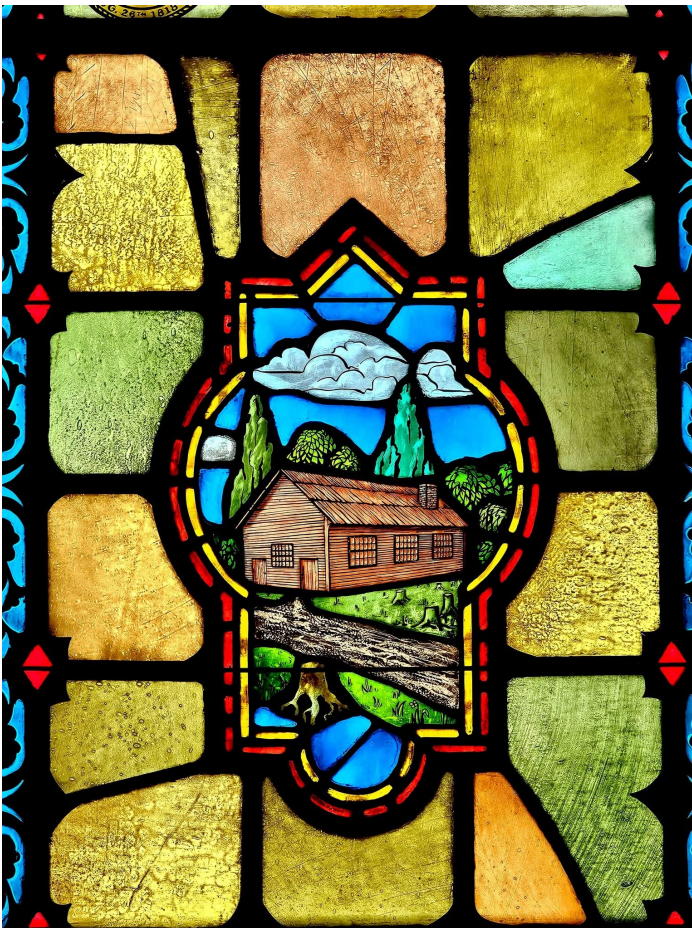
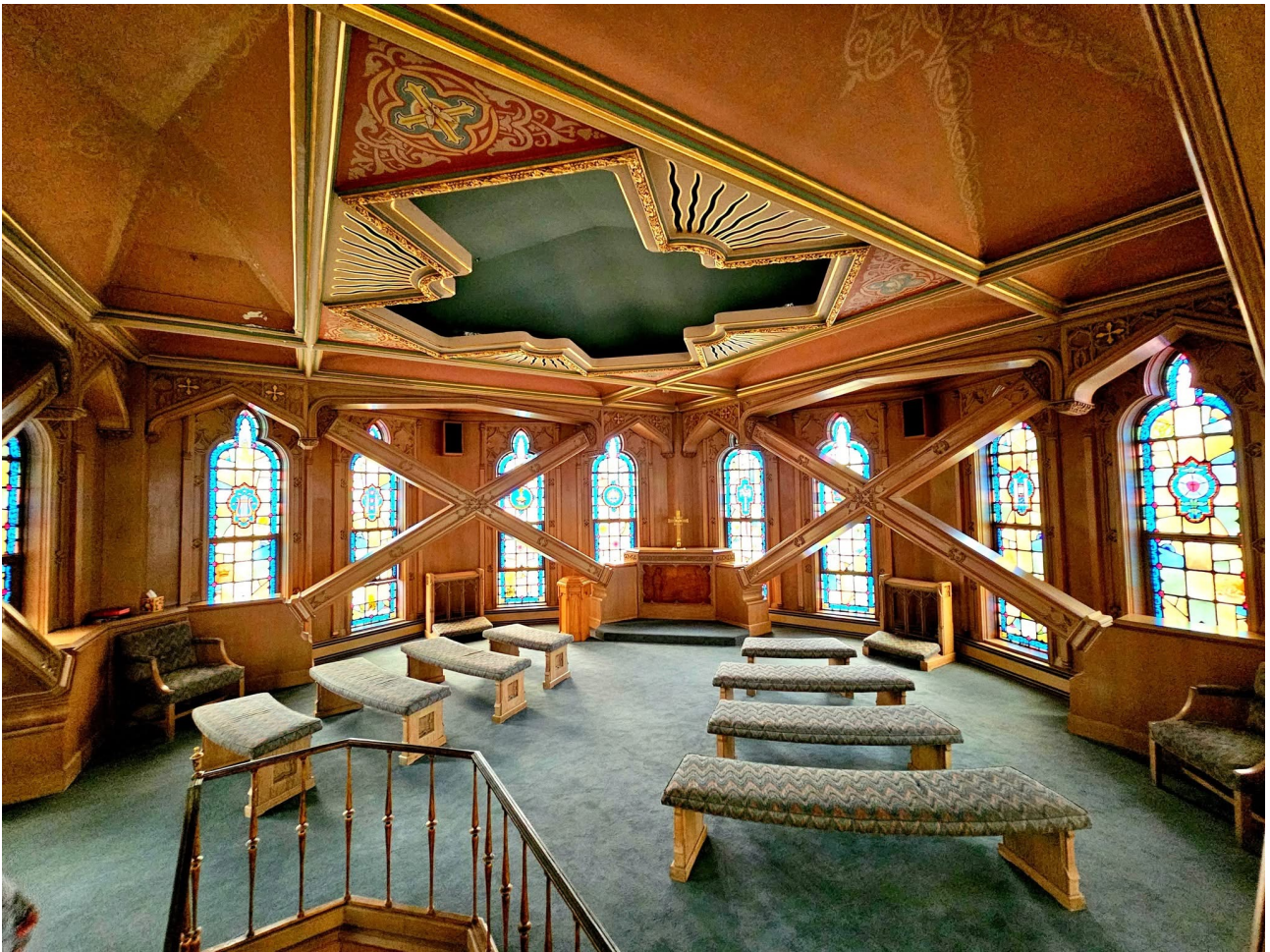
Perched 400 feet above street level in the steeple of the Chicago Temple Building, the Sky Chapel was established

in 1952 as a gift from the Walgreen family in memory of Charles Walgreen, founder of the Walgreens pharmacy chain.

It belongs to the First United Methodist Church of Chicago, the city's oldest Christian congregation, which dates back to 1831.

The chapel is renowned as the world's highest worship space and features 16 stained glass windows that narrate





biblical stories and the history of Christianity across continents. Its carved altar depicts Jesus overlooking Chicago, mirroring the main sanctuary's image of Jesus watching over Jerusalem, symbolizing the church's spiritual connection to both its urban home and sacred tradition

Todd Arnhold

News

MU Certificates presented to Eglantine long serving members

**On Thursday
18th September
Eglantine
Mothers' Union
held its opening
service.**

The guest
speaker was
Alison Skillen, Connor Mothers' Union Diocesan President.

At the service two new members were enrolled and a
number of long-service certificates were presented.

“We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Alison for
joining us and also to Canon Warren Russell who celebrated
the Eucharist”.

The music at the service was provided by Jonathan our
organist and the parish choir.





Carnmoney Parish on Pilgrimage

Following a lovely picnic at Inch Abbey and a guided tour of Down Museum we have now arrived safely and settled in to the Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre in Crossgar...



...as we embark on our Pilgrimage discovering more about St. Patrick. Everyone is enjoying the peace and beauty all around us.



Calary Songs of Praise celebrates window restoration

Parishioners of Calary raised their voices in thanksgiving yesterday evening (Sunday September 21) at a special Songs of Praise service to celebrate the church's beautifully restored stained glass windows.

The congregation was joined by Archbishop Michael Jackson who dedicated the restored windows. The service featured a host of favourite hymns which were all chosen by parishioners and melodiously accompanied by organist Charlotte O'Brien. Soloist Maria Gorman gave two beautiful renditions.

Organist Charlotte O'Brien and soloist Maria Gorman.

Before leading the Prayer of Dedication, Archbishop Jackson commended the parishioners for carrying out the careful and loving work of restoration which is important to maintain and enhance the church and ensure its preservation for future generations.

“These windows enable us to see the transition between God inside and God outside this church building,” he said thanking all who had enabled the work to happen and those who had carried it out. He particularly focused on the beautiful East Window which contains the symbol of Christ at its centre.

The Archbishop thanked Archdeacon Ross Styles for his work both as Rector and as Archdeacon of Glendalough. Archdeacon Styles thanked the Archbishop of coming to the service and Charlotte and Maria for their beautiful contributions as well as the congregation for coming out in large numbers and singing so well.

The evening closed with one final effort from the congregation as they sang happy birthday to parishioner, Edie Wheatley who celebrates her 100th today (Monday September 22) before everyone was rewarded with generous refreshments in the adjoining parish room.

New Strategic Plan for Changing Attitude Ireland



A new Strategic Plan for Changing Attitude Ireland was adopted as Changing Attitude Ireland AGM was held at St John the Baptist Church, Clontarf, Dublin.

Changing Attitude Ireland (CAI) has worked consistently to create a Church of Ireland that is open, inclusive, and affirming of LGBTQIA+ people. Over the past decade, the organisation has built a reputation for persistence, relationship-building, and visible witness.

From supporting parishes to become Open and Welcoming Congregations, to helping diocesan synods pass motions of inclusion, to hosting high-profile conferences and Pride services, CAI has demonstrated that steady, grassroots change can reshape the church and wider society.

Public attitudes towards LGBTQIA+ people in Ireland have shifted markedly, and within the Church of Ireland, visible signs of inclusion have emerged, yet conservative resistance remains strong. The next three years represent an opportunity for CAI to consolidate its achievements, broaden its influence, and build resilience for the future. By combining visibility, advocacy, and relationship-building with a strong focus on care and sustainability, CAI can continue to change the Church of Ireland from within. Above all, the Strategic Plan reaffirms our vision: a Church of Ireland that fully affirms and celebrates LGBTQIA+ people, offering a witness of welcome, justice, and love to the wider world.

The Strategic Plan therefore identifies the following priorities, with actions and measures to ensure progress:

- Membership growth and engagement
- Expanding Open & Welcoming Congregations (OWC)
- Exploring LGBTQIA+ inclusive beliefs
- Normalising LGBTQIA+ relationships in the church
- Partnerships & networking
- Organisational resilience & care

If you would like to work with us in any of these areas, please get in touch.

Letter from Irish Church leaders on recent government UK-Ireland Legacy Framework

Church leaders have said - “All who have interest in how justice and truth can best be served must closely consider UK-Ireland Legacy Framework documents.”

A letter from John McDowell, Eamon Martin, Dr Trevor Gribben, Alan Wardlow, Sarah Groves states -

The Church Leaders Group (Ireland) welcomes the fact that substantial proposals on how to deal with the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland have been issued.

We urge that the Legacy Framework documents be closely considered by all who have an interest in how justice and truth can best be served. Above all, we owe it to the victims and survivors to ensure that their needs are met with compassion and thoroughness.

It is noteworthy that the Legacy Framework is the result of cooperation between the government of the United Kingdom and the government of Ireland and will require legislation in both jurisdictions for it to be put into effect.

Just as importantly, it will need the continued cooperation and good will of both governments and of all of us to carry it forward.

Like other groups in wider society, we will examine and consider the framework in greater detail over the weeks

ahead, together, and in our individual denominations. In doing so we will continue to support and pray for all victims and survivors who have waited for decades with great dignity and patience for helpful structures to be put in place.

Addressing the legacy of the past remains a complex, yet vital, responsibility for all of us on these islands.

While no framework or legislation will by itself achieve reconciliation, it can open the path to ongoing restoration of relationships and building of trust.

The Most Revd John McDowell, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland; The Most Revd Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland; The Rt Revd Dr Trevor Gribben, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; The Revd Alan Wardlow, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland; The Rt Revd Sarah Groves, President of the Irish Council of Churches

Annual meeting of Irish Episcopal Conference and the C of I House of Bishops

The now annual meeting of representatives of the Irish Episcopal Conference and the Church of Ireland House of Bishops took place at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin on Monday, 22nd September 2025.



Bishop Niall Coll (left), Catholic Bishop of Ossory, and Bishop Michael Burrows (right), Church of Ireland Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

Discussions were set in the context of the sharing of worship and hospitality.

Those present included:

On behalf of the Episcopal Conference

Bishop Niall Coll

Bishop Larry Duffy

Bishop Martin Hayes

Bishop Brendan Leahy

Bishop Gerard Nash

Bishop Donal Roche

Bishop Michael Router

On behalf of the House of Bishops

Bishop Michael Burrows

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute, at Braemor Park, Dublin.



Bishop Ian Ellis
Archbishop Michael Jackson
Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

In the course of a wide-ranging discussion, topics considered included:

- perspectives on the papacy of Leo XIV
- the unfolding tragedy of Gaza
- the Churches and AI
- curricular developments in primary education

These meetings are held as part of an Irish response to the request some years ago from the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission

(IARCCUM) that there should be regular meetings between Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops in countries where both share a parallel diocesan structure. The next such gathering will take place in Maynooth in September 2026.

Bishop Niall Coll (left), Catholic Bishop of Ossory, and Bishop Michael Burrows (right), Church of Ireland Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

Archbishop ‘should steer clear of immigration’

The next archbishop of Canterbury should not talk about immigration, according to a poll.

New Ipsos polling suggested 28 per cent of respondents want the next archbishop of Canterbury to talk less about political topics. Around 25 per cent said it was unacceptable for the Church of England’s most senior religious leader to speak about immigration and asylum.

The next archbishop is expected to be named in the coming weeks, almost a year after Justin Welby announced his resignation. The Most Rev and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York who has been the stand-in while the role is vacant, recently waded into the debate on immigration, accusing Nigel Farage of an “isolationist, short term knee-jerk” response to the Channel crossings crisis.

The poll, for the PA news agency, meanwhile found that less than a fifth (17 per cent) think the next archbishop should speak out more about politics. Less than two in five people

(37 per cent) felt it was acceptable for the next archbishop of Canterbury to speak about immigration.

While no shortlist of candidates has been published, one of those thought to be a favourite is the Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford, who is a former refugee who fled Iran with her family as a teenager in the wake of the Iranian revolution in 1980. She would be the first female archbishop of Canterbury if selected.

A committee, chaired by a former director-general of MI5, must reach a two-thirds majority decision on who should be the new archbishop, with a nomination then presented to the Prime Minister who passes it to the King.

A job description published earlier this year, stated that the person filling the role should be someone willing to be “unapologetic about offering a Christian perspective to local, national and international dialogue”.

Education

VCB Past Pupil success in Dublin Half Marathon

Huge congratulations to Victoria College Belfast past pupil, Caitlyn Harvey, who won the Dublin Half Marathon on Sunday in a time of 1.18.42.



As a College we love to keep in touch with our wonderful alumni as we celebrate the amazing journeys they have taken since leaving our care.

No matter the discipline, your successes remind us of the power of curiosity, dedication and community.

Ballyclare High School bridges the years

On Thursday, we captured a special moment as RAF Cup recipient, 2024–25 Head Girl Erin Cochrane, met our Guest Speaker, Mr Jonathan Anderson, the inaugural recipient in 1993.

September 24,2025

They stood proudly in front of the Head Boy & Head Girl board, where their names are both inscribed.



Belfast High School's Hockey hosting

The School hosted the first Ulster Hockey primary school blitz of the year this morning.

We were delighted to welcome back former pupil Mrs Emily Creighton with her team from Seaview Primary School. Our 1st XI players Sophie Hartley (Captain) and Lily Prince (Head Girl) met the team and donated a number of hockey sticks which will be used by Seaview PS to support new hockey players at the school.

Wallace High School's Health and Social Care students

Our Year 13 Health and Social Care students are beginning a block of weekly work experience in a variety of placements that align with their course content.

Many have opted to attend a local primary school to gain insight into working with early years children. Others are undertaking placements at a school for pupils with additional educational needs, a pharmacy, a medical practice, and a hospital-based podiatry clinic.

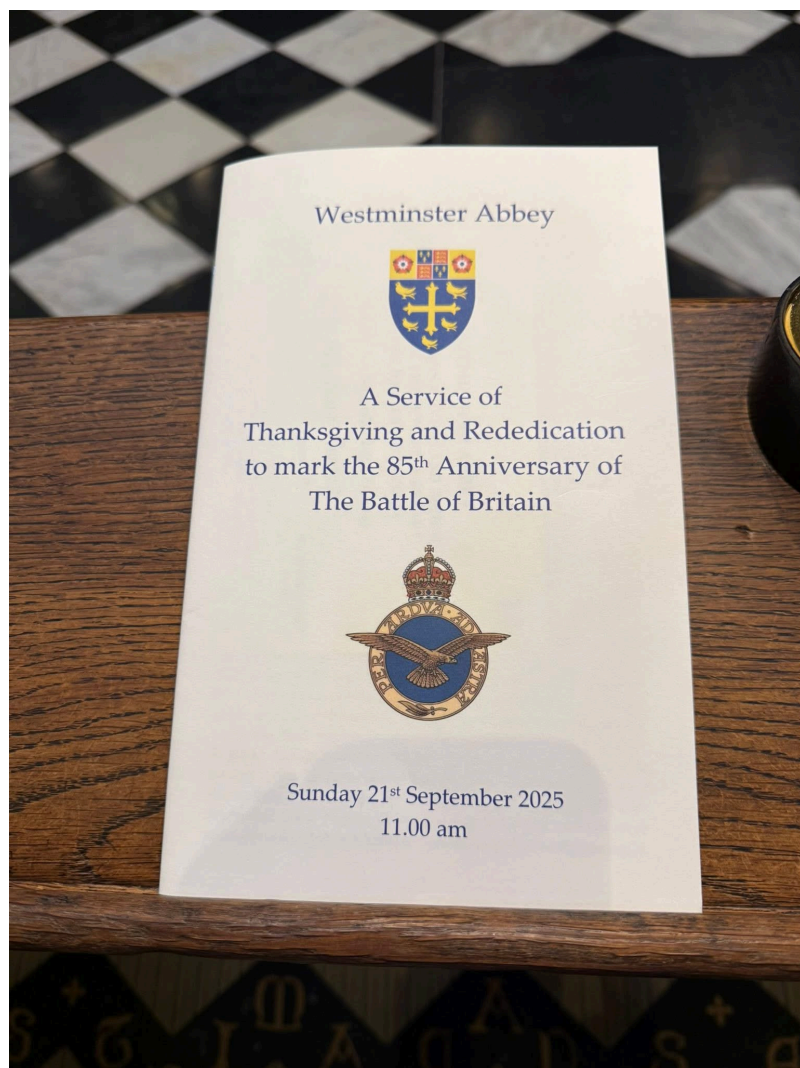
We wish them all the very best as they step into the world of work, and hope the experience brings their AS Health and Social Care studies to life!

Cathedral Calls

Westminster Abbey 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain

The heroes who fought in the Battle of Britain were commemorated in Westminster Abbey on its 85th anniversary.

A service attended by Sir Keir Starmer and his wife Lady Victoria honoured the victory of the Royal Air Force pilots and aircrew during the 1940 battle against the Luftwaffe.



The Prime Minister, who was greeted at the service by members of the RAF yesterday, said in a statement: “Today, we pause to remember the heroes of the Battle of Britain.

“Those who stood firm in the face of unimaginable odds to defend our skies, our freedoms, and our future.

“Their courage was not just a moment of military brilliance, but a profound act of national unity and resolve. We will remember them.”

Before the service, wreaths were laid at the RAF Memorial by Chief of the Air Staff and Air Chief Marshal Harv Smyth.

The service, which has taken place at Westminster Abbey since 1944, included an Act of Remembrance during which the Battle of Britain Roll of Honour was borne from the Grave of the Unknown Warrior to the Sacrarium by Flight Lieutenant Bird.



They were escorted by serving descendants of Battle of Britain airmen and serving RAF aircrew from former Battle of Britain Squadrons.

The commemorations concluded with a trumpeter playing The Last Post followed by the Reveille.

In an address at the service, Royal British Legion chaplain Dr Giles Legwood said it was “worth remembering” that some Battle of Britain pilots were “immigrants who fled to Britain to join the fight for freedom, decency and tolerance.”

He added: “Their difference was a strength and not a weakness. In their unity of effort, it was diversity and not uniformity which bound them together and brought them to success.”

Astronaut Tim Peake also flew in a formation of Spitfires and Hurricanes as part of the commemorations, which comes after it was revealed that almost two in three people under the age of 40 do not know about the legendary battle, - considered to be one of the most significant British victories in the Second World War.

Cathedral Chapter Swap

St Mary's Limerick was delighted to welcome back Canon Gilbraith, former Curate and Priest-in-Charge of Saint Mary's, as part of their Chapter Swap.

During the Eucharist, Canon Gilbraith was assisted by the Curate and reunited with her training rector, the Very Revd Maurice Sirr, along with longtime friend Noreen.

It was a wonderful occasion of worship, fellowship, and friendship, reminding us of the strong bonds that unite the Cathedral family.

Clergy and ministry

Rector of Tullanisken and Clonoe

The Archbishop of Armagh has appointed the Rev'd Timothy Eldon to the Incumbency of the grouped parishes of Tullanisken and Clonoe.

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The Rev'd Tim is currently curate in Drumbeg Parish in the Diocese of Down. It is planned that the service of Institution will take place early in December.



The Revd Canon Robert Deane

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of the Revd Canon Robert Deane on Sunday September 21 2025.

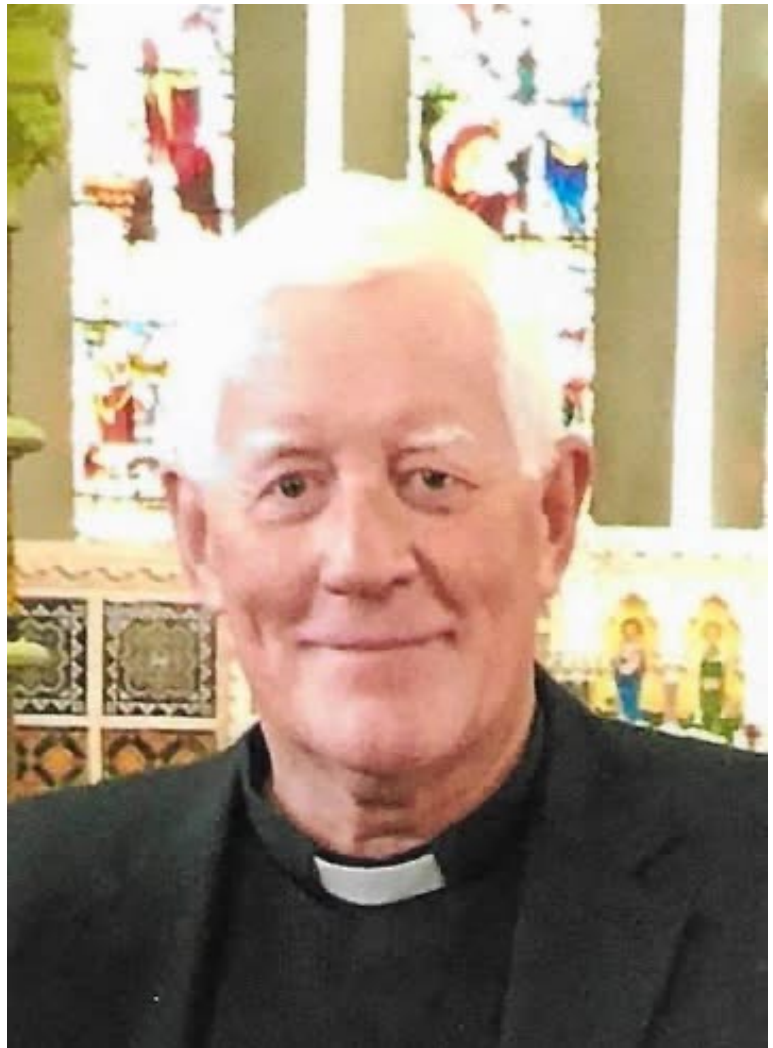
Our sympathy goes out to his wife Anne and daughter Sarah and all members of Robert's family, writes Dublin and Glendalough diocese.

Robert was ordained a Deacon in 1985 and a priest the following year. From 1985 to 1988, he served as Curate in Raheny and Coolock before becoming Rector of Edenderry in the Diocese of Meath and Kildare where he was a Canon of St Brigid's Cathedral in Kildare and of Trim Cathedral in Meath.

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He was appointed Rector of Swords with Donabate and Kilsallaghan in 2000 where he served until his retirement in June 2018. He was appointed a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in 2008 and became Canon Treasurer of the Cathedral in 2014.

Paying tribute to Robert, Archbishop Michael Jackson said:



“Robert served in these dioceses with pastoral sensitivity, human kindness and liturgical nuance. He was loved in every context where he served over a lifetime of ministry. We remember Robert with gratitude and affection and commend him with joy to his Heavenly Father”. He extended his sympathy to Anne and Sarah and their family.

Removal will take place on Wednesday September 24 to All Saints’ Church, Raheny, arriving at 11.30am.

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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