

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Greek Orthodox contemporary**

## Image of the day

### Greek Orthodox contemporary at World Trade Centre

The St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at the World Trade Center in New York City has a poignant and resilient history.

Originally founded in 1916 by Greek immigrants, the church stood at 130 Liberty Street and was the only house of worship destroyed during the September 11, 2001 attacks.

After years of planning, delays, and fundraising challenges, the church was reborn as the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.





Designed by renowned architect Santiago Calatrava, the new structure draws inspiration from Byzantine architecture, including the Hagia Sophia, and was consecrated on July 4, 2022.

Today, it serves not only as a place of worship but also as a national shrine and a symbol of hope, remembrance, and interfaith unity





## 'Crucial to NI peace process' ... Martin Mansergh dies at 78

**Senior political figures have led tributes after the passing of Martin Mansergh, a key figure in the Northern Ireland peace process.**

Dr Mansergh was an adviser to three Fianna Fáil taoisigh and also served as a TD and junior minister.

He died while in the Western Sahara on a visit monitoring democracies with other parliamentarians.

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The 78-year-old was a widely respected figure in politics on both sides of the border — and amongst nationalists and unionists alike.

Serving under Charles Haughey, Albert Reynolds and Bertie Ahern, both as taoisigh and leaders of Fianna Fáil, he served as director of research, policy and special adviser on Northern Ireland.

As a member of the Anglo-Irish ascendancy, he was an unlikely conduit to the nationalist parties in the peace process. But he served in a vital role for successive governments and built up strong relationships with figures such as intermediary Fr Alec Reid.

Dr Mansergh played a prominent role in the formulation of the Downing Street Declaration.

He acted as a backchannel to the republican movement, with Sinn Féin and the Provisional IRA referring to him as 'the man'.

Republicans knew he was speaking for the taoiseach of the day.

His handling of this role proved vital in the run-up to the Good Friday Agreement where he was an important negotiator.

His deep historical understanding was admired by those who worked with him.

Dr Mansergh was married to Elizabeth Young and the couple had four daughters and one son.

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He lived in Killiney in Co Dublin and continued to be a widely respected observer of political events in Northern Ireland and Westminster.

First Minister Michelle O'Neill said: "Martin played a key role, particularly in the early stages of the Irish peace process and in the later development of the Good Friday Agreement."

Irish president Michael D Higgins said: "Dr Mansergh's capacity for detail was of enormous assistance in the period leading up to the Good Friday Agreement and in the very significant contribution which he made to the broader peace process."

Tánaiste Simon Harris said: "Few people were as consequential in shaping Irish Government policy on Northern Ireland, and few on the Irish side were more crucial to the peace process, whether through his role as an intermediary or his work to craft a new political and intellectual framework for peace."

## **Thanksgiving for Armagh Diocese programme in Gitega-Burundi**

**Giving thanks for the CMS Ireland Team from Diocese of Armagh as yesterday they visited 3 different parishes in Anglican Diocese of Gitega-Burundi.**

Prayers were offered for inspiration for Keith Scott, Elizabeth Cairns and Derek Kerr and their translators as



they preached, and for Davina McAllister as she represented Armagh Diocesan Mothers' Union.

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Thanks once again to Kimararungu Aime Joseph & Arsène Mafurebe for organising such a wonderful exchange programme, and to Archbishop John McDowell for initiating the partnership.



## Armagh team visit to Burundi continues...



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equipping the church in mission



## Carmoney Parish pilgrims explore the Struel wells and Nendrum



## **Carmoney Parish pilgrims explore the Struel wells and Nendrum**

**On an afternoon the folk from Carmoney had visits to two sacred places. Firstly the Struel wells, the largest complex of holy wells in Ireland , originally a pagan site hallowed by Patrick.**

Then on to Nendrum monastery which dates back to the 5th century where they held an open air service following in the steps of thousands of other Christians over the last 1600 years.



## King and Queen to meet Pope in Vatican state visit

**The trip will coincide with the celebration of the 2025 jubilee year**

The King and Queen will meet the Pope for the first time during a state visit to Vatican City next month.

Buckingham Palace said the couple will join Leo XIV, elected earlier this year following the death of Pope Francis, in late October to celebrate the 2025 jubilee year.

Charles and Camilla had a meeting with Francis just 12 days before his death. The couple's historic state visit to the Vatican in early April was cancelled because of the Pope's poor health, but they managed to visit privately during their trip to Italy.

Charles and Camilla's meeting with the head of the Roman Catholic Church was arranged at the last minute and took place on their 20th wedding anniversary on April 9, with the pontiff wanting to personally wish them a happy anniversary.

The King, in an official message released following the news of Francis's death on April 21, said he and Camilla were "most deeply saddened".

In May Buckingham Palace said the King sent a private message to Pope Leo XIV, congratulating him on his election.

Pope Leo, the first ever pontiff from the US, marked the start of his papacy by calling for unity within the church and for it to act as a "leaven of harmony for humanity"

Formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost from Chicago, Pope Leo was elected on May 8 after a conclave meeting of 133 cardinals from 70 countries in just over 24 hours.

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In the days after his election, the 70-year-old outlined some of his key priorities as Pope, saying the Holy See's three pillars of diplomacy are peace, justice and truth during his first foreign policy address.

## Education

### Foyle College success in Mathematical Olympiad

**Huge congratulations to our Year 10 pupil who achieved the top score in Northern Ireland in the Junior UKMT Mathematical Olympiad.**

The Junior Mathematical Olympiad is a prestigious competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust, designed to stretch the brightest young problem-solvers across the UK. It challenges pupils with tough, creative problems that test deep thinking, logical reasoning, and mathematical flair beyond the school curriculum.

We are incredibly proud of his outstanding achievement – a true testament to his hard work, talent, and passion for mathematics!

### Dalriada bikers raise £8K MacMillan Unit

**Two Year 12 pupils, Joseph and Harrison, took part in a 32 mile charity mountain bike cycling event.**



Hosted by Agivey Cycling Club the boys cycled in dismal weather conditions completing the hugely challenging on/off road course known locally as Tae in the Pot.



They took part in the longer route consisting of approx 32 miles & 3400ft elevation. Whilst not members of the club, they helped to raise over £8000 for MacMillan Unit at Antrim Area Hospital. Agivey Cycling Club were delighted the two boys took part.

## **BRA Politics Society: The big conversation**



**We were delighted to recently welcome SDLP leader Claire Hanna MP to speak with our F5–M6 pupils.**

She shared insights into political life, leadership, and the importance of engaging in the democratic process.

Pupils asked thoughtful questions and gained a real sense of how politics connects to their own lives and futures.

A huge thank you to Claire Hanna for joining us and making this such a great discussion with the pupils! 🙌

We're looking forward to more in this series of Big Conversations with local politicians over the next few weeks and months.

## **Exciting Digital Hub news from Lisneal**

**We're absolutely delighted to be part of the launch of the North West Digital Hub, a transformative initiative fully funded by the Allstate Foundation.**

Thanks to their incredible generosity, £30,000 worth of cutting-edge digital equipment has been donated to support the development of our students' digital skills and digital literacy. This investment will empower our young people to



thrive in an increasingly digital world and open doors to future opportunities in tech and beyond.

A huge thank you to the Allstate Foundation for helping us shape the future of education in the North West! ✨

## Clergy and ministry

### Commission on Ministry Advent Retreat

**‘Shall God’s wonders be known?’ – led by Dean John Mann will be held on 28th-30th November 2025**

CHURCH OF IRELAND COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

ADVENT RETREAT

# SHALL GOD'S WONDERS BE KNOWN?

WITH GUEST SPEAKER THE VERY REVD JOHN MANN



For forty-eight hours just prior to Advent I invite you to explore with me how we speak of the Incarnation in a world where the voice of the prophet, pastor or priest is as much sought as ever, and just as much - wilfully or unconsciously - smothered.

MANRESA RETREAT CENTRE,

CLONTARF ROAD, DUBLIN

28TH-30TH NOVEMBER 2025

€280/£240, ALL MEALS INCLUDED

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TO BOOK EMAIL: [JANET.MAXWELL@RCBCOI.ORG](mailto:JANET.MAXWELL@RCBCOI.ORG)

BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY, 17TH OCTOBER

REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY (REG CHARITY NO: 20003623 / CHY2900)

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The Commission on Ministry is delighted to announce this year's Advent Retreat which will be hosted at the Manresa Retreat Centre, Clontarf, Dublin, from the evening of Friday, 28th November, to lunchtime on Sunday, 30th November 2025.

This year's retreat is entitled 'Shall God's wonders be known?' and will be led by the former Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann,

The title for the retreat teases us with layers of meaning, considering its source, which is the beginning of Psalm 88 verse 14: "Shall your wonders be known in the dark or your righteous deeds in the land where all is forgotten?"

John invites you "to take forty-eight hours just prior to Advent to explore together how we speak of the Incarnation in a world where the voice of the prophet, pastor or priest is as much sought as ever, and just as much – wilfully or unconsciously – smothered."

The Advent Retreat provides an inspiring, uplifting weekend as participants take time to listen to God's voice and explore a biblical theme through periods of reflection and worship, with space for individual contemplation as well as the opportunity to meet and engage with others.

## **About Dean John Mann**

John Mann spent most of his ministry in Connor Diocese, serving most recently as Dean of Belfast (after serving in St John's Church, Malone). During his ministry in Belfast Cathedral, he created a cross-community youth choir and

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led the annual Black Santa sit-out for charity. In 2018, Dean Mann was awarded the Lambeth Cross for Ecumenism. John is also the author of a number of books, most recently Moments of Love, a series of eight reflections on the Bible's poetic allegory of divine love, the Song of Songs, which was launched at the General Synod in May 2025.

## How can I book a place?

The cost is €280/£240 with all meals included. For booking details, please contact Janet Maxwell at [janet.maxwell@rcbcoi.org](mailto:janet.maxwell@rcbcoi.org) or call 01 4125 621 from the Republic of Ireland or 00 353 1 4125 621 from Northern



Church's  
Ministry  
of Healing  
Ireland

# Everyone has a vocation. Find yours.

TLK Vocation Day  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
10.30 am – 2.30pm (lunch provided)  
Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick  
Email [hello@ministryofhealing.ie](mailto:hello@ministryofhealing.ie) to  
book or enquire.

If you feel a wish to serve God but aren't sure what to do next, then this day is for you. Come as you are, with your doubts and your questions. Everyone welcome!

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Ireland. Please note that the closing date for bookings is Friday, 17th October 2025.

## **New Rector appointed for Trim and Athboy Group**



**Bishop Pat Storey has announced the appointment of Rev Abigail Sines as the new rector for Trim and Athboy Group of parishes.**

Abigail, originally from Virginia, USA, first studied international relations and Chinese, later teaching in China and working at the

East–West Centre in Hawaii, where she helped develop programmes in leadership and media.

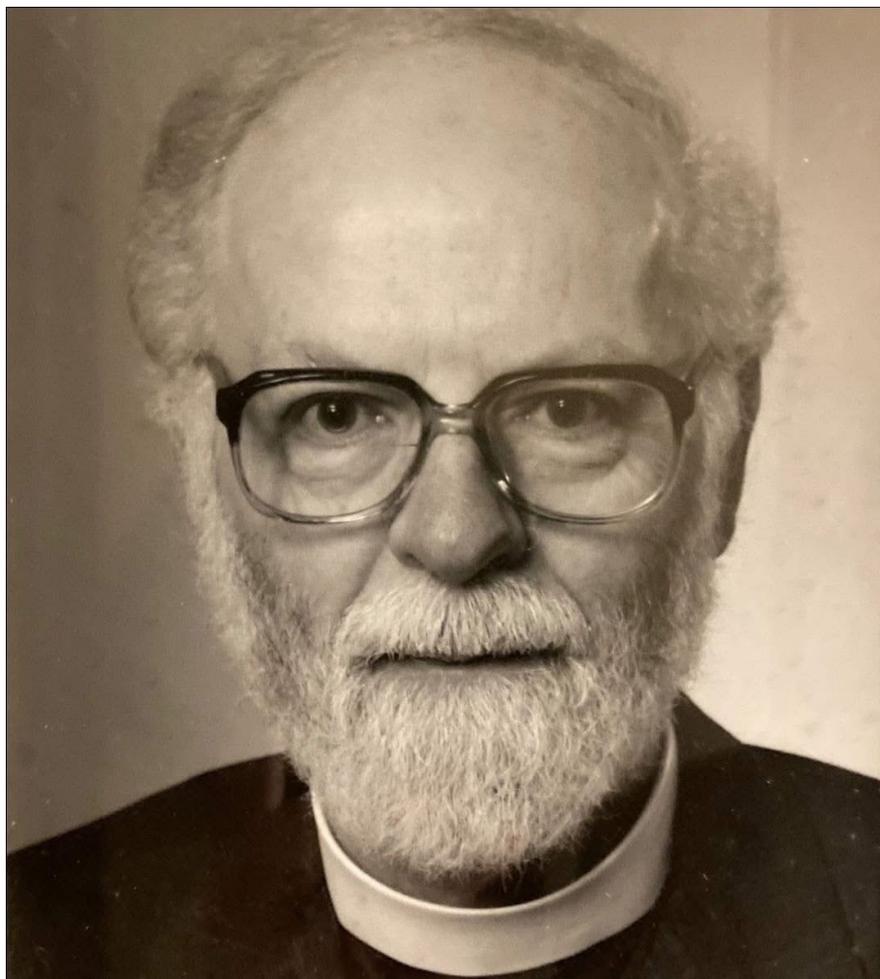
Sensing a call to ministry, she moved to Belfast and Dublin for theological training, was ordained in 2015, and served in the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes before becoming Dean’s Vicar at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin.

She now serves in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes as Children and Family Ministry Representative, with a special heart for welcoming families into church life. Alongside this,

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she pursues PhD research on theology and refugees and convenes the Church of Ireland Interfaith Working Group.

## Revd Canon Dr William Marshall



**It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the death of the Revd Canon Dr William Marshall, who passed away peacefully on September 26 2025.**

Canon Marshall served as Rector of Rathmichael from 1976 to 1992, and his ministry touched

countless lives both locally and internationally. Originally from Co Tyrone, he was ordained in 1959.

After serving in Ballyholme, Bangor during his early years, he dedicated a decade to missionary work in Chota Nagpur, India, with the Dublin University Mission.

On his return to Ireland, he served as Assistant Chaplain at Trinity College Dublin between 1973–76. He became

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Incumbent of Rathmichael in 1976, the same year he completed his doctoral studies. His commitment to ecumenical dialogue and theological scholarship was evident throughout his life, notably in his doctoral work on the Church of North India and his leadership roles within the Church of Ireland, including Vice–Principal of the Theological College and Chancellor of Christ Church Cathedral.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

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

**Please recommend to your friends**