

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Guillemont & Ginchy**



## Image of the day

### The Battles of Guillemont & Ginchy

Today we remember the brave actions of the 16th (Irish) Division in the Battle of the Somme.







The Battles of Guillemont & Ginchy took place from the 3rd to 9th September 1916.

The division was tasked with capturing the German-held strategically important villages of Guillemont and Ginchy to advance British lines and secure ground that overlooked the German positions. The fighting was fierce. The 16th (Irish) Division successfully captured both villages, but at a very

high cost. Between 3rd– 9th September the Division had 224 officers and 4090 men killed or wounded.

A big thank you from the Somme Association to the Mayor of Guillemont Didier Samain, his wife Valerie and all the villagers for always remembering the actions of the 16th (Irish) Division during the Somme campaign.

## News

### Indoor bowls at Benburb Priory – A fun weekly community event

**If you're searching for community activities in Benburb or looking for a great way to spend your Wednesday evenings, then Indoor Bowls at Benburb Priory is the perfect choice, Rikki Thompson writes**

Hosted by Priory Bowling Club, this exciting weekly event brings people of all ages together for a night of fun, friendship, and light competition.

Commencing on Wednesday, September 3 at 7.30pm, indoor bowls will take place every Wednesday evening at the historic Benburb Priory.

This event is open to everyone in the local area, whether you're an experience bowler or completely new to the game.

Indoor bowls has long been a popular pastime across Northern Ireland, offering the perfect mix of activity and relaxation. It's also a wonderful way to meet others, connect

September 4, 2025

with neighbours, and enjoy a welcoming community environment.

Family-friendly and affordable

The event is designed with the whole community in mind. Children under 16 are welcome to take part, provided they are accompanied by a responsible adult. At just £5 admission (including supper), it's one of the most affordable and enjoyable local events in Benburb.

Attendees can look forward to not only a few games of indoor bowls but also a delicious supper – the perfect way to round off the evening.

Why you should join

Great value: £5 entry includes supper

Fun for all ages and abilities

A chance to stay active and social midweek

Family-friendly with a welcoming atmosphere

Supports local community engagement at Benburb Priory

Event details

Location: Benburb Priory

When: Every Wednesday, starting 3rd September

Time: 7:30pm

## **The Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis will be reconsecrated before Holy Mass resumes**

**The announcement was made by the Most Reverend Bernard Hebda, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, in a statement to OSV News.**

He said: “The Church does make provision” for reconsecrating a church when it has been desecrated. He added: “I’ve never had to do that, but I think it will be an important time. Here, where the church is still a crime scene and where there’s been substantial destruction, I think it’s probably going to be a while before we’re able to do that.”

The need to reconsecrate the building arose after a shooting on 27 August, which has been described by the FBI as an “anti-Catholic hate crime”. The attack took place during a school Mass for students from kindergarten to eighth grade. The Mass was being celebrated to mark the first week back at school following the summer break when Robin Westman, who self-identified as a “trans woman”, opened fire on the congregation. Two children were killed and 17 others injured before Westman took his own life.

Westman appears to have been at least partially motivated by a hatred of Catholics. In a series of videos posted online and believed to have been created by Westman, one message on a gun magazine reads: “For the children”; another reads: “Where is your God?” One clip shows what appears to be a target with the head of a crucified Christ superimposed on it.

Canon 1211 of the Code of Canon Law states: “Sacred places are violated by gravely injurious actions done in them with scandal to the faithful, actions which, in the judgement of the local ordinary, are so grave and contrary to the holiness of the place that it is not permitted to carry on worship in them until the damage is repaired by a penitential rite according to the norm of the liturgical books.”



September 4, 2025

The liturgical book likely to be used is the *Ordo Dedicationis Ecclesiae et Altaris* (Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar), which contains the rite for rededicating a desecrated or rebuilt church.

There are several examples of reconsecration in recent years. In 2019, Transfiguration Parish in Conemaugh, Pennsylvania, was reconsecrated after a break-in. St Joseph's Church in Astoria, Queens, New York, also required reconsecration in 2023 after the tabernacle was broken and the Eucharist desecrated.



## **Congolese Anglican cathedral collapse devastates members**

**Congolese Anglicans are devastated by the collapse of their cathedral which took 19 years to build and was close to completion.**

The Rt Revd Cyrille Kambale Tavuirima, Bishop of Beni in the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo, shared that the emotional impact of the disaster after so long a journey leading to the construction of the cathedral was 'traumatic'.

'After twenty years of hard work to build this temple, to see it collapse in the blink of an eye, imagine how our hearts are affected.'

The area had reportedly seen a prolonged period of extreme weather, which is believed to be the cause of this disaster.

Read the full story: <https://bit.ly/47VGjms>

## **Iraqi prime minister reopens two historic Catholic churches in Mosul**

**In the city of Mosul, Iraq, an official celebration was held on Monday, Sept. 1 to mark the reopening of the churches of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception known as Al-Tahera Church (for Syriac Catholics) and Our Lady of the Hour ((within the Dominican Monastery), after their full restoration.**

The event was attended by Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani, several government officials, and representatives of the organizations that supported the reconstruction.

Speaking inside the Church of the Immaculate Conception, al-Sudani declared: "This church rises from the rubble to represent the house where the Lord gathers people's hearts





without division or hostility, in a coexistence as old as Iraq itself.” He emphasized that the reopening is a return to “the spirit of Mosul and the brotherhood that unites its people.”

Archbishop Benedictus Younan Hanno, bishop of Mosul and its surroundings for the Syriac Catholics, urged the prime minister to extend the same care shown to Iraqi heritage toward “rebuilding the Christian people.”

He stressed: “The people of Nineveh need your care and attention, and someone to listen to their cries, especially your sons and daughters from the Christian community.”

Hanno noted that around 80% of Iraq’s Christians today “suffer violations and denial of their rights,” with many forced into exile.

September 4, 2025

“Iraqi Christians migrated under compulsion, leaving their homeland in tears and pain, and they continue to look forward to returning, longing to see Iraq as a beautiful country again, able to embrace its Christian children alongside their brothers from other communities,” he said.

Following the speeches, Hanno, al-Sudani, and other participants rang the church bell and planted an olive tree in its courtyard as a symbol of peace. The prime minister then moved on to the Dominican Monastery to reopen the Church of Our Lady of the Hour.

## Education



## Lady Mary Peters meets athletes and D of E Award pupils at Foyle





**Foyle College were privileged to have been joined in school by Olympic athlete and sport ambassador Lady Mary Peters.**

Lady Mary, between 1958 and 1974, represented Northern Ireland at every Commonwealth Games, winning two gold medals for the pentathlon and a gold and a silver medal for the shot-put and, in 1972, won the gold medal for the pentathlon at the Munich Olympics.

During her visit to Foyle College, Lady Mary had the opportunities to meet with some of our talented athletes and a number of pupils who are currently engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, for which for she served as a Network Ambassador in Northern Ireland.



September 4, 2025

Thank you to Lady Mary for her sincere interest in our young people's extra-curricular pursuits and for continuing to inspire as Northern Ireland's first Olympic gold medalist.



## Welcome to Wallace High School!

**We're thrilled to welcome several new faces—and some familiar ones—into our teaching staff this year.**

Mr Philip Ramsey joins us as Head of Computing, and Mrs Emma McFerran is our new Head of Art and Design.

Mr Peter Wildsmith will be teaching in the Modern Languages Department, and we're especially proud to welcome back two former pupils who return as teachers:

Mrs Laura Wright, now Head of Chemistry, and Mr Kyle McCall, teaching Geography and Maths.

## Cathedral Calls

### Limerick's new website is only round the corner

**As the long days of summer gently give way to autumn's golden light, we pause to reflect on a beautiful season at Saint Mary's Cathedral - a place that has stood at the heart of Limerick for over 850 years.**

From music and worship to quiet moments of reflection, this summer brought warmth, community, and peace within our ancient walls.

A New Era Begins...

We're excited to launch our brand new website this Sunday — a fresh and beautiful way to stay connected with everything happening at Limerick's oldest building.

From upcoming events to stories of our rich history, you'll be able to explore Saint Mary's like never before.

Take a sneak peek: <https://saintmaryscathedral.ie>

Here's to a new chapter in an old story.

## Clergy and ministry

### Rev. John I. Davey

**Peacefully at hospital. Late of Milebush Manor, Dromore, Co Down.**

September 4, 2025

Dearly loved husband of Ann and the late Ruth. Much loved father of Kathryn, Chris and Gavin, dear father-in-law of Paul, Danielle and Jennifer and devoted grandfather of Joel, Joshua, Leah, Anna, Noah and Lucy.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of John will be held in Hillsborough Presbyterian Church on **Thursday 4th September 2025 at 11:00am**. Followed by a Private Family Cremation.

No flowers please. Donations in lieu, if desired, to Christian Aid or Alzheimer's Society NI (cheques made payable to Bobby Morrison Funeral Directors) c/o 32-34 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn BT28 1AQ.

## Musical

### Very special concert at Balmoral Castle for radio broadcast

Last week, Classic FM recorded a very special concert at Balmoral Castle for radio broadcast.





September 4, 2025

Hosted by Alan Titchmarsh, the hour-long concert brings together an ensemble of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, of which His Majesty The King is Patron, and a rich tapestry of Scottish musical talent.

Listen to 'The Honours of Scotland Concert' on Friday 5 September at 7pm on Classic FM.

## **Perfect Pitch perform Every Time I Feel The Spirit.**

**Feel The Spirit From Chatsworth House in Derbyshire.**

SongsOfPraise / School Hymns / Sunday 1:15pm BBC One & BBC iPlayer

<http://bbc.in/3KACBA2>

## **Lunchtime Recital Series at St Ann's Dawson Street for September.**

This month there is an exciting line-up of outstanding musicians, with programmes ranging from Poulenc and Franck to Bach, Liszt, Ravel, and brand-new intercultural projects.

**Thursday, 4 September, 1:20 pm** Jisun Min (violin) & Mengze Shen (piano) Poulenc – Sonata for Violin and Piano FP 119 Franck – Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano

**Thursday, 11 September, 1:20 pm** Sulamita Pyvovar (piano) Bach – Prelude from English Suite No. 2 in A minor

Liszt – Transcendental Etudes Nos. 2 & 3 Ginastera –  
Sonata No. 1

## Boy Choristers at Saint Columb's Cathedral

**Are you ready for the opportunity of a lifetime? Becoming a Boy Chorister at Saint Columb's Cathedral is not only the biggest honour and a remarkable discipline, but also a chance to be part of something truly special.**

For boys aged 6-14 with a passion for music, this is an extraordinary journey waiting to begin.

No prior singing experience is necessary — all that matters is your enthusiasm and dedication. We warmly welcome boys from all backgrounds and denominations, or even those with no religious affiliation at all. This is your chance to develop your musical talents, forge lifelong friendships, and be part of a rich tradition that spans generations. With a free musical education, discounted lessons at St. Columb's School of Music and the chance to sing on TV, radio and tour Ireland and the UK, the opportunities are endless!

Watch the inspiring video below to discover why becoming a Boy Chorister could be the best decision you ever make. The new choir year begins in September 2025 - now is the perfect time to join!

September 4, 2025

Interested? Please contact Nicky at 07858097290 for more information. We can't wait to hear from you and to welcome you into our choir family!

## Events

### European Heritage open Days 2025 in Fermanagh

**On Sunday 14th September, 10am–4pm, the Triumphal Arch Lodge on the historic Colebrooke Estate will open its doors for a special FREE event.**

Visitors can enjoy a self-guided tour of this beautifully restored neo-Classical gatelodge, originally built around 1830 to impress guests arriving through the magnificent triple-arched gateway.

Discover the conservation work of the Irish Landmark Trust, a non-profit dedicated to giving historic buildings sustainable new life – from lighthouses to castles and gate lodges like this Grade B listed treasure.



Triumphal Arch Lodge, Colebrooke Estate



Sunday 14 September 2025 | 10am–4pm



FREE entry

## In the media



## **'We'll be burnt out before school has barely begun': A letter from a principal to Helen McEntee**

**A principal in Tipperary tells the Minister for Education how her school is at a loss while its secretary and caretaker are striking for fair treatment. The Journal**

Dear Deputy Helen McEntee,

I am the principal of a school in Tipperary whose beloved secretary and caretaker are taking part in the ongoing strike to call for parity with their colleagues.

We are waiting for the Department of Education and Youth and Fórsa to sign an agreement. Until that happens, our school community is at a loss while our secretary and caretaker have to strike to call for fair treatment with regard to their pension and leave entitlements.

For reference, we are a small all-girls secondary school without DEIS status serving a town where all of the primary schools have DEIS status (a conundrum for another day!).

Our school office is closed. I'd like you to try to understand what that means for our school community.

Students who weren't here on the first few days of school before the strike started don't know where to get a book that they might be missing. There is nowhere to go if they have forgotten their locker key.

They have deposits for school trips, but no one to take them to.

They are unsure where to go if they feel unwell and the person who always signs them in when they return from an appointment is now absent.

The smiling person who knows every student in our school by name, often knows their parents' numbers without looking it up, is outside on the picket line asking for equality with her Education and Training Board (ETB) counterparts.

For parents, Lorraine, our secretary, is the first person who meets and greets them. She is the problem-solver when they can't access the school app or can't get pay something online. She refunds them if trips have to be cancelled. She is the backbone to our school.

Lorraine and Matt, our caretaker, are our colleagues. Currently, we have to pass them on the picket line. This is heartbreaking. We all fully support their cause.

The start of any academic year is busy but normally Lorraine and Matt are there to support everyone, finding books, relocating furniture and setting up new students on the school system. Without these key staff, the settling in period is going to take a lot longer and is far from seamless.

Our deputy principal Catherine and I went home last week absolutely floored after doing the jobs of four people while unable to actually do the jobs. Our school bins are full, our corridors (normally sparkling) have dust and grime on them

and it is taking every bone in my body not to take up a sweeping brush and mop to clean it.

I haven't, however, out of respect for our caretaker Matt. Our building is over 150 years old and every person who visits normally comments on how well kept, welcoming and homely it is.

Catherine and I both teach, St Anne's being a small school, and our phone apps tell us we are doing over 14,000 steps during our school day.

In St Anne's, we consider ourselves family, and currently, two of our family are outside our gates. This isn't right and cannot continue.

I'd like to ask you, Minister McEntee, what is being done to sort this issue, as from where I sit, very little conversation has taken place since last Wednesday.

This issue should have been sorted long before the return to school. Matt and Lorraine should never have to be put in this position where they feel they have to stand outside the building that they have worked for years while their colleagues enter, completely uncomfortable that this is the situation we all find ourselves in.

And while this isn't about us principals and deputies, once again we find ourselves unsupported by the Department of Education and Youth, expecting us to work effectively without the backbone of our schools. As the dispute continues, we will end up burnt out before the year has barely begun.



September 4, 2025

If anyone from the department asked any student, parent or teacher who are the people who are most important in running our school, you can be guaranteed that Lorraine and Matt would be some of the first mentioned.

As principal, I cannot continue to do my job effectively without them, and I implore the Department of Education and Youth and Department of Finance to enter talks to sort this situation out so our schools and students don't suffer any further without our key personnel.

Jeanne Dowling is the principal of St Anne's Secondary School in Tipperary tow

## 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

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

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