

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Portrush is prepared

June 28, 2025

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Image of the day

Portrush is prepared

The greens are all in top form as the home team at Royal Portrush make their preparatory progress towards the Open Championship within a few days.

The building in the foreground is a new high quality hotel which was conceived and built since the last Open.

Meanwhile the old faithful of the Atlantic Ocean delivers its daily tidal sequence which in a few miles east is met with the robust defence of the Giant's Causeway. Regardless of the weather or the sporting outcome, players and visitors alike will receive a genuine welcome and indeed a Royal one.

News

Holidays are part of the life of the school community

Dr Ken Fennelly, Secretary to the Church of Ireland's General Synod Board of Education (Republic of Ireland), writes in the Education News Brief for June -

Rest and relaxation is essential to human health and well-being, and is an essential part of our ethos in the Church of Ireland! We read in Mark 6:30-31 that Jesus recognised the importance of rest for his disciples:



“The Apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. He said to them, ‘Come away to a quiet place all by yourselves and rest awhile.’”

School holidays are times to ‘rest awhile’, reflecting important times and seasons in the Christian year. School holidays provide time for school staff and pupils to rest from teaching and learning, to focus on the enjoyment of leisure time and time with friends and family.

It is important to recognise that holidays are part of the life of the school community, and an expression of the Church of Ireland ethos of the school. So enjoy your holidays!





Clogher MU Indoor Members gather for worship and fellowship

The Indoor Members' Event earlier this month was held in Holy Trinity Parish Church and Hall, when over 60 Mothers' Union members gathered for a Holy Communion service led by The Right Reverend Dr Ian Ellis.

Bishop Ellis was assisted by the Rector Revd Bill Boyce and the

Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain Revd Maureen Desborough.

The lessons were read by Mrs Irene Boyd and Revd Maureen Desborough, Mrs Lorna Thompson played the organ and Mrs Ivy Edwards and Mrs Noreen Little, took the offering. Bishop Ian encouraged everyone to 'listen to the Master's voice' 'The Lord Jesus' voice', relating the story behind the HMV record logo.

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Dromore Mothers' Union members had prepared a sumptuous Afternoon Tea in a beautifully decorated and welcoming hall.

They also provided a special cake for the Indoor Members and it was cut by their most senior member, Mrs Florence Jackson, assisted by the Bishop. Mrs Irene Boyd, Indoor Member Contact, led some community hymn singing accompanied by Lorna on the piano.

She also gave everyone a bookmark which told the story of Annabella Hayes, the Founder of Mothers' Union in Ireland in 1887 and included a special prayer written by Mrs Eleanor Orr, from The Grange Parish in Armagh Diocese, which celebrated Annabella Hayes' legacy.

Mrs Heather Ellis spoke briefly to encourage each member and to thank those who made the afternoon so enjoyable. Irene presented thank-you gifts to those involved.





Girl Guides Guild meets in Galway

Meet the fifth branch of Irish Girl Guides incredible Trefoil Guild.

Last month, they gathered at Joy House in Galway for their first-ever National Committee meeting outside of Dublin!

The Galway Guild were perfect hosts, welcoming members from across the country, giving a lovely tour of Joy House,

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and celebrating a special moment: the enrolment of four new members!

Welcome to Ellen Keady, Sharon Flynn, Annmarie Walsh, and Nonie Hickey!

The sun was shining, the meeting was productive, and the sense of community was strong.

A big thank you to the Galway Guild for making this milestone day so memorable!

C of E General Synod a moment of opportunity

"This is a moment of opportunity. Churches are revitalising, starting new services, planting, and reaching people in new ways."

Members of Synod will gather in York for their annual meeting from 11 - 15 July.

A major package of proposals to support clergy; signs of growth in church attendance, and how Christians can respond to potential for armed conflict are among topics on the agenda at the upcoming General Synod.

Read the papers for July 2025 Synod at cofe.io/JulySynodAgenda.



Anglicans urge the United Nations to work with churches to help migrants

“What can be done to encourage states to work alongside faith communities to build safe, legal pathways for migrants?”

This was the question the Anglican Communion posed to the United Nations Human Rights Council at its 59th Session in Geneva.

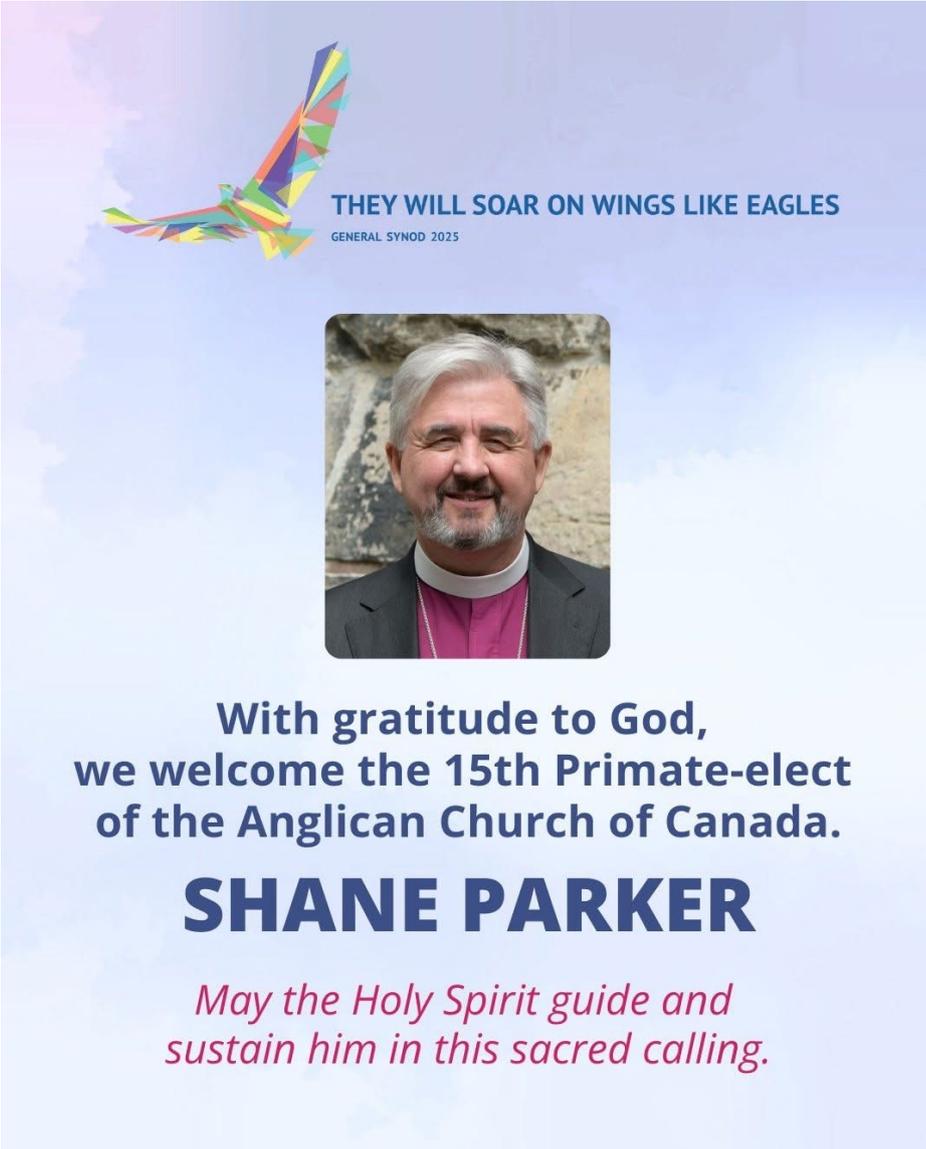
During an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur for Migration, the Revd Glen Ruffle, Anglican Communion Representative to the UN in Geneva, urged states to support international agencies and partner with churches in delivering care and protection for those on the move.

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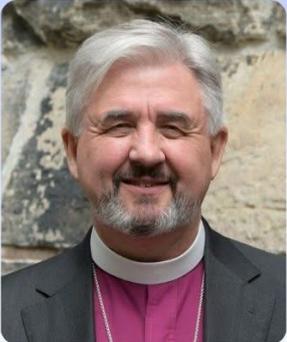
He called for cooperation between states and faith communities across the migration journey—from countries of origin to transit and destination. Reflecting on his address to the Council, Glen Ruffle said:

“Inspired by Jesus, Christians across the world are working to encourage governments to recognise that each person carries the image of God in them, and thus each person has the potential to contribute to their new home if only allowed.”

Read the full article: <https://bit.ly/4ewb8zx>



THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES
GENERAL SYNOD 2025



With gratitude to God,
we welcome the 15th Primate-elect
of the Anglican Church of Canada.

SHANE PARKER

*May the Holy Spirit guide and
sustain him in this sacred calling.*

New Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker has been elected as the 15th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Church said - With

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thanksgiving, we announce the election of the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker as the 15th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. We give thanks for the laity, clergy and bishops of the General Synod who discerned in prayer and faith; for the nominees who offered themselves in trust; and for the Diocese of Ottawa, which will also enter a time of transition.



Bishop Shane will be installed as Primate during Closing Worship on Sunday, June 29. Join us via livestream at gs2025.anglican.ca/live as we pray for his ministry and for the whole Church.

The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo (Photo above, Left), the Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion has been attending the General Synod and Primatial election and said: "We pray for the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker as he takes up this important ministry. May God use him powerfully to serve the churches and communities in the Province of Canada, and as part of the global family that is the Anglican

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Communion. We look forward to welcoming Archbishop Shane to the next Primates' meeting and his involvement in the Instruments of Communion in the years ahead.”

Read more about The Rt Rev Shane Parker and the Primatial elections here: <http://bit.ly/3Ght0l2>

Full information about the election results can be found on the Anglican Church of Canada's website here: <https://gs2025.anglican.ca/articles/primatial-results/>



Castel Gandolfo ready to welcome Pope Leo XIV

Castel Gandolfo is preparing to welcome Pope Leo XIV on July 6. The imposing papal villa in this town on the shores of Lake Albano, a fortified 17th-century palace,

was converted into a museum for tourists in 2016 by the decision of Pope Francis.

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Although only a few rooms are open to the public, they feature showcases exhibiting liturgical vestments belonging to previous popes as well as their portraits.

The Argentine pontiff didn't pack his bags to go there in the summer like his predecessors but instead stayed in room 201 on the second floor of St. Martha's House at the Vatican, where he usually resided.

“He [Francis] did a lot for the city, opening the doors of the papal residence and the gardens... But now, Leo XIV will return to the city its daily connection with the pope: the Angelus, the visits, the contact with the people. We want to experience all of that again,” Mayor Alberto de Angelis told ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner.

Education

St Dominic's Year 8 retreat

Our Year 8 students have spent a meaningful and reflective day at the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, stepping away from the usual classroom routine to focus on personal growth, community, and spirituality. ✨

The retreat offered a full day of activities designed to encourage self-reflection, teamwork, and deeper connection with their faith and each other. From group discussions to quiet moments of contemplation, it was a truly enriching experience for all involved.

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The students had so much fun — laughter, smiles, and great memories all around! It was wonderful to see them engaging so positively and making the most of every moment.

A huge thank you to the staff at De La Salle pastoral centre for their warm hospitality and to our pastoral team for organising such a special day.

Slemish College at Corrymeela



We're delighted to have taken our new Student Leadership team to Corrymeela, Ballycastle, for an inspiring leadership training programme.

Over the two days, students engaged in workshops, built strong bonds, and

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developed a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Slemish leader.

They've returned full of energy, fresh ideas, and exciting plans for the year ahead. We're impressed by their commitment and can't wait to see the positive impact they will make in our College community.

Well done team, we hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.



Cambridge Honorary Degree for Sir John Rutter



Congratulations to former Clare College Director of Music Sir John Rutter who received a Doctorate in Music as one of a group of eight recipients of the University of Cambridge Honorary Degrees, which also included Sir Simon Russell Beale, Stormzy, Dame Katherine Grainger and others.

The joint choirs of The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge and The Choir of Gonville and Caius College performed Sir John's 'I my best beloved's am' and Charles Wood's 'Hail, gladdening light' from the gallery of the Senate House.

Music Success at Belfast High

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Congratulations to Head Girl and Leader of our School Orchestra, Leah Horan, on passing her Grade 8 Violin with Merit.



Cathedral Calls

Canon installed at Raphoe cathedral

The Cathedral Chapter of St Eunan has been restored to its full complement following a ceremony during a service in Raphoe on the evening of Tuesday 24th June 2025.

The **Rev Canon David Skuce** was installed as Prebendary of Clondehorkey, succeeding **Rev Canon David Crooks** who retired last August.

He was led to his stall in the Cathedral by the Dean of Raphoe, **Very Rev'd Liz Fitzgerald**.



Clergy and members from other denominations were present with parishioners from the Dunfanaghy, Raymunterdoney and Tullaghobegley Group of Parishes and members of Canon Skuce's family.



Turning an important page at Saint Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny

Dr John Gillis and Dr Susan



Hood of the RCB Library visited Saint Canice's Cathedral for the final page turn on the Red Book of Ossory.

They were accompanied by library staff and members of the RCB Property and Trusts Department. The final stage of the exhibit shows off the fabulous red binding that gives the book its name.

As well as answering all of our questions Dr Gillis took lots of measurements of the book ahead of an exciting project to create a replica, thanks to the Church of Ireland Church Fabric and Development Fund.

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Clergy and ministry



25th anniversary of Dublin ordination

On 25 June 2000, they were ordained deacon in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, by Archbishop Walton Empey...

... the Revd Averil Bennett, the Revd Tim Close (Centre), and the Revd Patrick Comerford (Right)... the Revd Roy Byrne was ordained priest

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Events



RedSailsFestival #BlessingOfTheBoats #Portstewart#July 20

Join us at the Bandstand in Portstewart on Sunday 20th July at 2pm for the traditional Blessing of the Boats, a cherished moment of reflection and community as part of the Red Sails Festival.

All welcome to this special seaside tradition.

John Hewitt Summer School

Literature, discussion, music, drama, workshops and more literature... It's the 38th John Hewitt International Summer School.

The theme of this year's John Hewitt Summer School is: "Our country also: difference and belonging".

Join us in Armagh from 28 July - 2 August for a week-long programme of events featuring celebrated speakers, writers and performers across literature, poetry, art, drama, music, and politics. From avid readers to aspiring writers, published writer seeking inspiration, or simply lovers of literature and the arts, there's something for everyone.

johnhewittsociety.org

Resources

C of I hosting website advice

Parish website managers can now find everything about hosting a website through the anglican.org domain system all in one place; the page will also be useful for rectors and select vestry members in their roles in planning and providing online media content.

This includes the 9-page Guide to Church of Ireland Website resource, which outlines how parish websites with the anglican.org domain name can be hosted, updated and

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backed up, and how to request an email address redirect to an anglican.org address.

Payments for SSL certificates can also be made through a QR code and the linked Stripe website – details for making payments by cheque are also provided.

Please check it all out here in the Parish Resources section of the Church of Ireland website:

<https://www.churchofireland.org/parish-resources/717/guide-to-church-of-ireland>

Poem for today

The Sun Rising

by John Donne

Busy old fool, unruly sun

Why dost thou thus,

Through windows, and through curtains call on us?

Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run?

Saucy pedantic wretch, go chide

Late school boys and sour prentices,

Go tell court huntsmen that the king will ride,

Call country ants to harvest offices,

Love, all alike, no season knows nor clime,

Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time.

Thy beams, so reverend and strong

Why shouldst thou think?

I could eclipse and cloud them with a wink,

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But that I would not lose her sight so long;
If her eyes have not blinded thine,
Look, and tomorrow late, tell me,
Whether both th' Indias of spice and mine
Be where thou leftst them, or lie here with me.
Ask for those kings whom thou saw'st yesterday,
And thou shalt hear, All here in one bed lay.

She's all states, and all princes, I,
Nothing else is.

Princes do but play us; compared to this,
All honour's mimic, all wealth alchemy.

Thou, sun, art half as happy as we,
In that the world's contracted thus.

Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be
To warm the world, that's done in warming us.
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere;
This bed thy centre is, these walls, thy sphere. M

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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

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