

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Olympic thank you**

August 13, 2024

# Image of the day

## Olympic thank you

**One final deed of congratulations to Team NI whether as members of Team Ireland or Team GB**

4 Gold

1 Silver

2 Bronze

Wonderful performances from Norn Iron & Restof Iron

Than you  
BBC Sport  
for a  
magnificent  
photo.



## News

### Another Day - Another Award

**Malcolm Kitt getting best in show at the Tullamore show.**



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Canon David Gillespie comments: Congratulations to Malcolm. Remember well his two arrangements at the Flower Festival in Church of Ireland, United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh's

## **Bible study group's sweetie tin enables Nairobi community**

**Twenty odd years ago, Dorothy Adair brought her empty sweetie tin to a Bible Study group at**

**St Mark's, Dundela. Those present agreed to drop some coins in every week to support CMSI's work in Nairobi.**



“These days, the tin lives at our hospitality serverly at the back of church where we gather after the service for coffee and chat. Our partners and friends in the Tujisaidie community in Nairobi use the money from us and many others to support their school feeding and community development programmes. And more recently, to help families who lost their homes through devastating floods”.

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## Book sale at Culdaff raises 'decent sum'

**Bruce Clarke comments - Very pleased to have raised a decent sum for the fabric fund of St Buadan's Church in Culdaff by offering a few books for sale!**

With thanks to Sean Beattie George Mills and other supportive local friends who made it all possible.

## Templepatrick mission team in Albania



**The Rev Jeremy Mould, rector of Templepatrick, led a team of seven including four young people on a mission trip to the city of Elbasan in the centre of Albania at the request of A2B Albania. There, they ran a Bible Holiday Club.**

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Joining Jeremy in Albania from July 16-25 were Emma Boyce, Anna, Glover, Carole Williamson and Denise Martin, all from Templepatrick, Hannah Collins from Central Presbyterian, and Nicole Rea from Mossley Parish.

A2B Albania ([www.a2balbania.org](http://www.a2balbania.org)) runs two children's day care centres, an elderly day care centre, a House of Opportunity for three young men, and a Family Link project, supporting and feeding impoverished families.

The team ran a six-day Bible Holiday Club for 40+ children aged 5–16, visited the House of Opportunity, and two churches where they took part in the services. They also visited some of the Family Link families in Elbasan and in the mountains to see how A2B supports them.

## **Moderator to attend Missionary Convention**

**The Moderator of the PCI will be attending the Worldwide Missionary Convention this coming Saturday.**

Prayer requests - Give thanks for the work of the Convention as it seeks to inform and encourage interest in global mission.

Continue to remember the global mission workers from PCI, some of whom are working in increasingly challenging circumstances.

## **No Christian should be Far-Right, says Archbishop Welby**

### **Archbishop rebukes groups that rioted after Southport stabbings and exploited religious iconography**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has called far-Right groups “un-Christian”, condemning the widespread riots that followed the Southport stabbings as “racist” and “anti-Muslim”.

The Most Rev Justin Welby has said that far-Right groups are ‘un-Christian’

The Archbishop said the riots had been fuelled by disinformation on social media, which wrongly claimed that an asylum seeker on an MI6 terror watchlist was the suspect behind the attack.

In an article for The Observer, the Archbishop said far-Right extremists had exploited Christian iconography in an attempt to justify their criminal behaviour, but also warned that there were communities that felt “left behind in our country’s race to growth”.

He wrote: “Let me say clearly now to Christians that they should not be associated with any far-Right group – because those groups are un-Christian.”

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The Archbishop has praised community figures who sought to heal tensions on Merseyside following the knife attack in Southport, which sparked a wave of rioting.

Three children, Bebe King, six, Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, and Alice da Silva Aguiar, nine, were killed in the attack at a Taylor-Swift themed dance class on July 29. Eight other children and two adults were seriously injured. The deaths sparked a wave of civil unrest with riots in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The National Police Chiefs' Council said that 927 people had been arrested as of yesterday afternoon in relation to the riots, 466 of whom had been charged.

The Most Rev Justin Welby was criticised after backing calls for Israel to end its “unlawful” presence in the occupied Palestinian territories, saying doing so was “a legal and moral necessity”.

The Rev Giles Fraser, an Anglican priest and broadcaster, also wrote for The Mail On Sunday: “If archbishops.... venture into more clearly political territory, they have to get it right.

“And given the long history of Christians saying stupid and downright wicked things about the Jewish people, it is doubly incumbent upon Christian leaders to demonstrate a great deal of sensitivity.”

## Cathedral Calls



## **Charles Wood Festival and Summer School has begun**

**The Lowry Singers, conducted by Elizabeth Seale and accompanied by Peter Thompson at the organ, raised the roof in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.**

They presented a selection of both favourite and lesser-known hymns, all centered around the theme of beginnings. Introductions to the hymns were made by John Crothers, an activist both of the Festival and The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

## **Clergy and ministry**

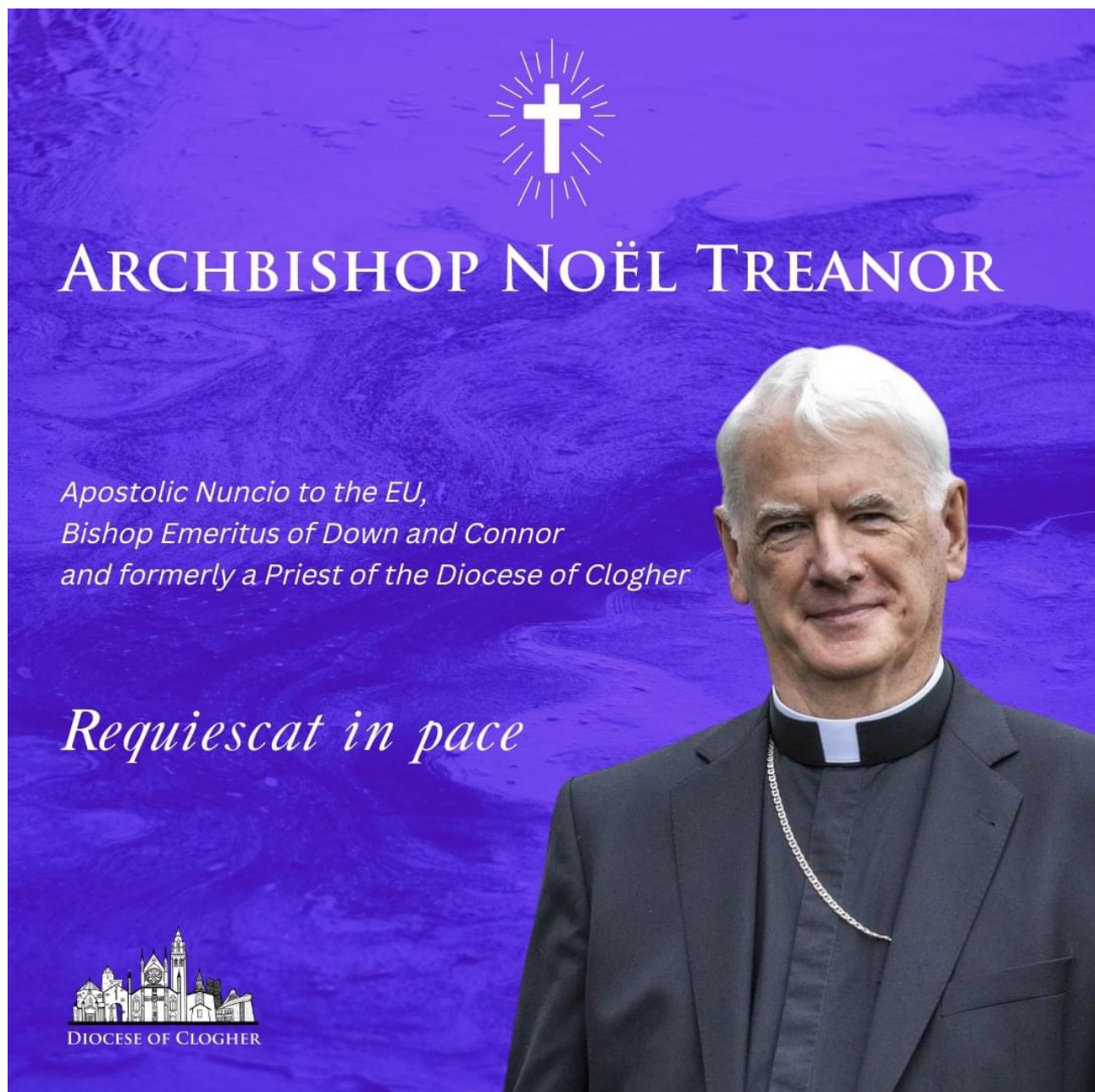
### **Tributes to Archbishop Noel Treanor Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union and formerly Bishop of Down and Connor**

**Tributes have been paid following the death of Archbishop Noel Treanor, the former Bishop of Down and Connor, at the age of 73. He passed away in Brussels Sunday morning.**

His death was announced by Bishop Alan McGuckian, of Down and Connor diocese.

Archbishop Noel Treanor was appointed as The Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union two years ago.





The role in the ecclesiastical office of the Catholic Church, which has offices in Brussels, was announced by Pope Francis in 2022. However Archbishop Treanor, who was born on Christmas Day in 1950 and originally from Monaghan town, did not commence the role until January 2023.

After completing his early education at Saint Mary's Christian Brothers School in the county, he studied at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth and subsequently in Rome. He

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was ordained as a priest in 1976 for service in the diocese of Clogher in Saint Macartan's Cathedral in Co Monaghan before being appointed to the staff of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) in 1989.

Four years later, he was appointed Secretary General of COMECE and remained in the post until his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI as Bishop of Down and Connor in 2008.

Archbishop Treanor is survived by his brother John and his sister Mary.

## **Archbishop John McDowell, Church of Ireland Primate**

“I was profoundly shocked to hear of the sudden death of Archbishop Noel Treanor, Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union and, for many years prior to that, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, a vast and demanding diocesan area with a commensurate workload.

“Prior to returning to Ireland to take up episcopal ministry, Archbishop Noel was the Director of the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) where he used his considerable diplomatic and academic skills to ensure that Christian values were advocated for at the heart of the European Union.

“Archbishop Noel hailed from Tyholland in Co. Monaghan and retained a strong affection and many connections in that beautiful Border parish. I got to know Archbishop Noel well through work which we did together in relation to the impact of Brexit.



“When I was Bishop of Clogher I was delighted when he accepted an invitation to speak at an ecumenical gathering in the little Church of Ireland parish church in Tyholland. Noel was always extremely well prepared for any engagement and arrived with a hefty volume of paper in his case. However, half-way through his address he abandoned his notes and spoke directly to many people in that small Protestant community whose families he had grown up with and for whom he had a clear and clear-eyed affection. It was a truly memorable occasion.

“Noel was a most accomplished linguist moving freely between English, Italian, French, German and Spanish. Although not someone given to emotional flourishes, he was a wonderful host and dialogue partner and I well remember a very convivial dinner he shared with Archbishop Eamon Martin and me when we called on Noel at his home in Brussels en route to a ceremony in Messines.



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“Archbishop Noel’s final posting in Brussels was one of immense complexity and diplomatic delicacy which must have been a challenge to his naturally perfectionist instincts; yet never verbose, he was always worth listening to.

“My prayers and sympathy go to his brother John and his sister Mary as I reflect with warmth and gratitude on a deeply civilised and widely read episcopal colleague but above all faithful disciple of our common Lord.”

Ar dheis De go raibh an anam

## Queen’s University Catholic Chaplaincy

**We at  
Chaplaincy  
are deeply  
saddened to  
learn of the  
death of  
Archbishop  
Noel Treanor,**



**Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union, and we extend to his family, friendship circle, and colleagues our sincere condolences.**

Archbishop Treanor brought to his role in Europe immense expertise and decades of experience in diplomacy which served well the exigencies of justice and peace at a critical time for our Continent.



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During his leadership of Down and Connor Diocese, Archbishop Treanor was generous in his support of our students and wider academic community at Queen's.



His fresh vision for Chaplaincy, and unwavering commitment to deliver ambitious

plans for our landmark building and the important ministry to students which it serves, will rank high among Archbishop Treanor's enduring pastoral legacies.

We owe him much, and will miss him greatly.

May he rest in peace.

## **Bishop David McClay, C of I diocese of Down & Dromore**

**“I would like to join Archbishop John in expressing my sadness at the sudden death of Archbishop Noel Treanor.**

“I first met Archbishop Noel on a visit to a little tin church that was one of a number of such buildings that had been built in the Belfast shipyard and exported all over the world.

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This particular building had been used as a place of worship in the Church of Ireland and later by the Roman Catholic church.



“We had some thoughts that day as to how the church

might someday become a centre of prayer, possibly in the Titanic quarter, and a place that every denomination might use.

“This didn’t materialise, but it was good to get to know Archbishop Noel and witness the deep respect that he had for all traditions in our province.

“He attended my consecration as Bishop in 2020 and we shared other happy occasions in his time as Bishop of Down and Connor.

“I would like to assure Noel’s brother John and sister Mary of my sympathy and prayers at this time of personal loss and grief for them and assure the parishioners of Down and Connor, who remember

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## **Philip McGarry OBE**

Bishop Treanor was a very thoughtful and intellectually gifted man who had a very engaging personal manner. He will be a loss to diplomacy, and to those who knew him .  
RIP

## **Colin McGrath, SDLP MLA for South Down**

"I remember his work and especially his opening of the new primary school building at my old school in Saul," he said in a post on X.

## **Phillip Brett, DUP MLA for North Belfast,**

Said he was "very sorry" at his passing. "His dedication and service to North Belfast, in particular to the Mater Hospital, will be fondly remembered."

## **Angelina Eichhorst EU diplomat**

There is shock and sadness at the news. My sincere condolences to the Nuncio's family and friends. His passing is a terrible loss, may he rest in peace.

# **Events**

## **Goldberg Variations alert at St Anne's, Dublin**

**Jakob Tchorzewski performs Goldberg Variations for us this Thursday.**

Make the time. 1:20pm Thurs 15 August. €10 at the big red doors



**EPWORTH PLAYGROUP PRESENTS  
AN EVENING WITH.....  
BELFAST COMMUNITY  
GOSPEL CHOIR**

**DOORS  
OPEN 7PM  
ADMISSION  
£20**

**CRAIGAVON CIVIC CENTRE  
SAT 12<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2024, 7.30PM**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM FAITH MISSION  
BOOKSHOPS & CRAIGAVON CIVIC CENTRE**

CHARITY NUMBER NIC100545

## **Belfast Community Gospel choir concert in aid of Epworth Playgroup.**

This event will support fundraising towards their own purpose built building for Epworth Playgroup. Please share and spread the word. Tickets are on sale NOW!



## Presbyterian Women - Entrusted to Share Special Autumn Event

**With just over a month to go until their special Autumn event for women Presbyterian Women are delighted to see that spaces are filling up fast!**

If you are planning to attend please book now by clicking on the link below;

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Events/Entrusted-to-Share.aspx>

“This is a Special Autumn event for women to come together to explore ways in which we can realise afresh that, in Christ, we are all responsible for sharing the good news of the gospel with others. We will think biblically about how we can be better equipped in knowing the gospel and how we can effectively share this good news across the generations and in our communities”.

The guest speaker is Kate Patterson. Kate is Director of Gift of Blessing Trust, a speaker and author of books commended by R T Kendall and J John. Kate was in church leadership for 20 years and has been a school chaplain and lecturer at St. Mellitus College, London. She loves helping all ages to encounter and share the love of God. You can find out more about Kate here.

The seminars are - Knowing the gospel; Sharing across the generations, and Sharing in community. Cost: £10.00 (includes tea & coffee)

## In the media

### Daily Telegraph - Islamophobia definition could 'curtail free speech'

**A definition of Islamophobia being considered by Labour would “curtail free speech”, the founder of a project that monitors anti-Muslim hatred has warned, Nick Gutteridge writes.**

Fiyaz Mughal said adopting too broad a definition of Islamophobia could make it worse and “inflame or give oxygen to groups like the far Right”.

The wording being looked at by Sir Keir Starmer could be used to shut down legitimate debates about issues such as polygamy, he added. The Prime Minister is considering introducing the first formal definition of Islamophobia, which he pledged to do in opposition.

Under wording drawn up by Labour it would be defined as “a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness”. Mr Mughal founded Tell Mama, which measures anti-Muslim attacks, and was once tipped to become the Government’s first Islamophobia adviser.

Mr Mughal said he agreed with the need for a formal definition of Islamophobia but that he disagreed with the broad one proposed by Sir Keir.

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He told Times Radio: “There should be some form of definition, but that definition must be in accordance with the current and existing laws. Those that are pushing for a definition to be accepted right now, I think have their point of view. I don’t accept it.

“This is a definition that’s so expansive it doesn’t have any real value. This is a definition to curtail free speech.”

Mr Mughal expressed fears that such a definition could prevent legitimate criticism of Muslims, including from members of the same religion.

He said he was opposed to polygamy, which is practised by some Muslims, but a wide definition could prevent him from airing those views. “Can that definition of an attack on somebody’s Muslimness be used against me?” he said.

Senior Conservatives have warned that such a definition could be used to stifle legitimate criticism of Islam. Bob Blackman, chairman of the 1922 Committee, warned there was a risk that it could turn into a “so-called blasphemy law” if too loosely drawn up.

While it would not be legally binding, concerns have previously been raised that a vague definition could undermine efforts to tackle extremism.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism, which was accepted in 2016, is used by police forces, judges and private companies. A Government spokesman said: “We will take into account a

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range of views and outline any updates on the Government's position in relation to this in due course.”

## Poem for today

### I Am Kerry

By Sigerson Clifford

I am Kerry like my mother before me  
And my mother's mother and her man  
Now I sit on an office stool remembering

And the memory of them like a fan  
Soothes the embers into flame.  
I am Kerry and proud of my name.

My heart is looped around the rutted hills  
That shoulder the stars out of the sky  
And about the wasp-yellow fields  
And the strands where the kelp streamers lie;  
Where soft as lovers' Gaelic the rain falls  
Sweeping into silver the lacy mountain walls.

My grandfather tended the turf fire  
And leaning backward into legend spoke  
Of doings old before quills inked history.  
I saw dark heroes fighting in the smoke,  
Diarmuid dead inside his Iveragh cave  
And Deirdre caoining upon Naoise's grave.

I see the wise face now with its hundred wrinkles  
And every wrinkle held a thousand tales



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Of Fionn and Oscar and Conán Maol  
And sea-proud Niall whose conquering snails  
Raiding France for slaves and wine  
Brought Patrick to mind Miolchú's swine.

Ah! I should have put a noose about the throat of time  
And choked the passing of the hobnailed years  
And stayed young always shouting in the hills  
Where life held only fairy fears.  
When I was young my feet were bare  
But I drove the cattle to the fair.

'Twas thus I lived skin to skin with the earth  
Elbowed by the hills, drenched by the billows,  
Watching the wild geese making black wedged  
By Skelligs far west and Annascaul of the willows.  
Their voices came on every little wind  
Whispering across the half-door of the mind

For always I am Kerry

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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