

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

Walled City Passion

St. Augustine's is a beautiful little church nestled on the walls.

Each year, the garden in St. Augustine's has provided the backdrop to some very moving scenes in The Walled City Passion, and this year is no different.

Witness a powerful conversation here between The Guard and Jesus, where The Guard reflects on his life and ponders what to do next.

You can book your tickets via the @millenniumforum now. Don't miss out!

News

Crisis made worse by disaster

In Myanmar, the earthquake has left people facing unimaginable loss — of loved ones, homes, livelihoods and hope.

Even before the earthquake, Myanmar was already grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis. Over a third of the population were in need of humanitarian aid.



Now, with entire communities destroyed and critical services disrupted, the situation is catastrophic.

Christian Aid is working with trusted local partners to deliver emergency support — food parcels, clean water, hygiene kits and shelter. We are there for those most affected, but we need your help.

Please pray. Please give. Help us meet the escalating needs of people facing crisis 🙏 <https://caid.ie/KS>

New Archbishop of Liverpool appointed

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop John Sherrington as the next Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool.

Bishop Sherrington will transition from the Diocese of Westminster to succeed the Rt Rev Malcolm McMahon OP, who has held the position since May 2014.

Reflecting on his appointment, Bishop John said he looks forward to "serving as shepherd of the historic and faith-filled Church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, which is rich in its heritage of the English martyrs, Irish immigration, and now looks to the future."

Archbishop McMahon submitted his resignation to the Pope last summer, having reached the age of 75, the typical retirement age for bishops.

On X, the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, expressed his pleasure at Bishop John's appointment. "Liverpool is, of course, my home diocese, and I am delighted that it is to be led by Bishop John. In Westminster, we know his gifts, dedication, and utter generosity only too well. We will miss him greatly.

"Today, we offer our profound thanks to Bishop John for all that he has given to us over these last fourteen years, and we assure him, wholeheartedly, of our prayers and constant support. And, of course, we continue to hold Pope Francis very much in our prayers too," he wrote.

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Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP also commented: “We are receiving a new Archbishop with considerable gifts, talents, and skills, but most of all, we are receiving a man of deep prayer who loves the Lord Jesus and who loves His Church. I have had the pleasure to serve with Archbishop-elect Sherrington in the Diocese of Nottingham and in the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, and I am delighted to welcome him today.”

Archbishop-elect Sherrington will be officially installed at Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral on May 27.

'Death will come to us all': Bishop of Manchester reveals cancer diagnosis

The Bishop of Manchester has publicly shared that he is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer, which was discovered through a routine blood test.

The Rt Rev Bishop Walker, 67, is currently receiving care at The Christie Hospital in Manchester and says his prognosis is positive due to early detection.

“I am feeling well at the moment and have shown no signs of the disease,” he told BBC Radio Manchester. “My prognosis is pretty good as they have caught it early which was the result of having the test done before I had any symptoms.”

Reflecting on his diagnosis, Bishop Walker said the news prompted a deeper awareness of his own mortality and strengthened his spiritual perspective.

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“It reaffirmed my Christian faith and made me feel closer to Jesus,” he said. “Death will come to us all.”

A father of two who was ordained in 1983, Bishop Walker added that he hasn't needed time off work, though he is managing some fatigue.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, with over 52,000 cases diagnosed each year.

Education



Belfast High School Abaana Uganda trip

After an early start yesterday (0430 departure from BHS) the team arrived at Gate 306 ready for their first flight of the day to Istanbul.

‘Pathways to Inclusion’ feasibility report

TCPID was delighted to join Stranmillis University College, Belfast this week for the launch of their ‘Pathways to Inclusion’ feasibility report.

This important work demonstrates how Higher Education can support young people with intellectual disabilities while maintaining strong academic standards.

The report highlights the work of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, and also incorporates insights from global best practices. In collaboration with the team at Stranmillis, TCPID worked to document its Pathways Inwards, Through and Onwards ethos which facilitates clear pathways to higher education, a positive and impactful college experience and meaningful employment opportunities post-graduation.

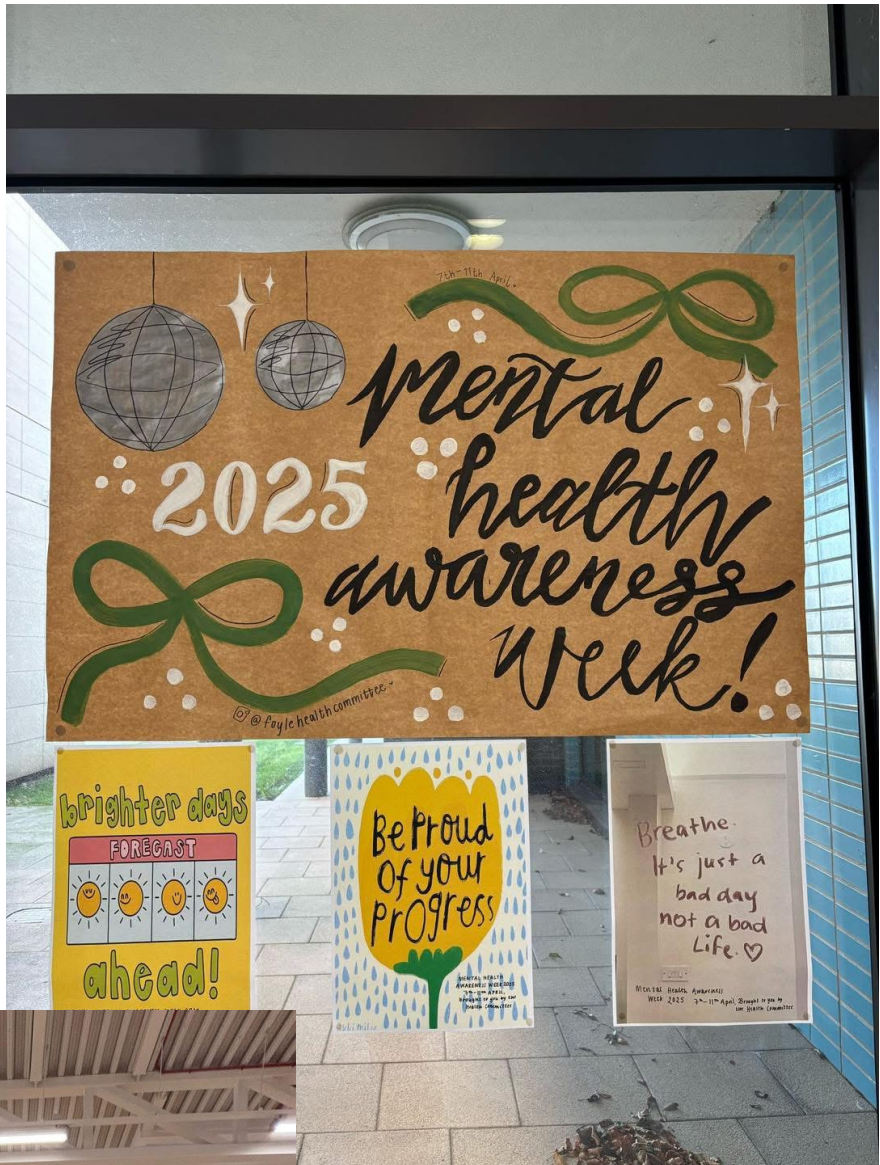
Congratulations to all those involved in getting to this point. Best of luck to Stranmillis in the next steps in their goal to have a fully inclusive Higher Education landscape in Northern Ireland.

Hugo McNeill further commented - This was a fantastic day. The team at Stranmillis Belfast have produced a thorough report as they look to set up a programme for young people with Intellectual Disabilities . It was also a great opportunity for us at the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities as we look to help roll out programmes across the island and indeed beyond.

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Foyle College opportunity in Mental Health Awareness Week

Yesterday's commencement of Mental Health Awareness Week saw the welcome arrival



of the sunshine.

Upon arrival into school, pupils and staff enjoyed music and sweet treats and had the opportunity to visit the Mental Health Awareness stall.

Mr Keown entertained quizzers during lunchtime with his witty questions

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and fun spot prizes - it was brilliant to see every table filled! A massive thank you to Mr Keown for his organisation.

Pupils heard from past pupils Calum Gillen and Alex Graham, who shared their respective journeys after Foyle College and their tips for promoting positive mental health.



Aspire Peaceplus project launched at Monaghan Peace Campus

The ASPIRE PEACEPLUS project, which will build positive connections between children and young people from different socio-economic, cultural, and political backgrounds, was launched at Monaghan Peace Campus, in County Monaghan, on Tuesday, 8th April 2025.

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ASPIRE (Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education) is led by the Education Authority (EA), alongside Léargas, Early Years- the organisation for young children, National Childhood Network and the Fermanagh Trust. The project is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

To read the full story go to: <https://ow.ly/a6Hu50Vw11o>

Cathedral Calls

St. Mary's College Orchestra
Anne-Marie Hickey
Roisin Rice
Choristers of St. Columb's Cathedral

Cathedral YouthVoice ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

COMMUNITY CONCERT

THURSDAY 10TH APRIL
7.00PM Christ Church, Derry Free Admission

Big week for St Columb's Cathedral Choir

It's a big week for the Cathedral Choir with two big events coming up today and tomorrow.

First up, the Cathedral Choristers will be performing in a special Community Concert on Thursday 10th April at 7pm in Christ Church, Derry. They'll be joining the brilliant St.

Mary's College Orchestra, Anne-Marie Hickey, and Roisin

ST COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

QUIZ Night

Join our choir fundraising event and test your knowledge to win great prizes!

Friday 11th April 2025
7:30PM
Brigade Cricket Club, BT47 6LP
£10 per head, max. 6 per team

To book your seat or table, contact
Nicky: 07858097290



Rice for an uplifting evening of music. Admission is FREE – all are welcome to come along and support these amazing young performers!

Then on Friday 11th April, it's time for the parents (and anyone who fancies it!) to test their brain power at our Cathedral Choir Quiz

Night – 7.30pm at Brigade Cricket Club.

£10 per person + Max 6 per team + Great prizes to be won!
To book a seat or table, contact Nicky: 07858097290

It should be a brilliant couple of days of music, community, and a little friendly competition. See you there!

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Clergy and ministry



Pathways to The Future Team

It's been another busy few weeks for the Pathways to The Future Team in Down & Connor supported by Jim Deeds.

Fr Paul has been working closely with children with additional needs and their teachers as they prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

The Called and Gifted group have finished their course.



The Belfast 20 Families of Parishes have concluded their Christian Leadership Training.

The Down 3 Family of Parishes continue their training.

Down 1, 2 & 2a Families of Parishes have begun their Christian Leadership training.

The Belfast 18 Families of Parishes have begun a discernment process together to navigate the way forward.

Lots of great connections, conversations, moments of prayer, fun and even birthday cake taking place across the diocese. God is Good.



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Events

9.4.25 – Choral Scholars of University College Dublin: Poems of Springtime, St. Ann’s Church, Dawson Street, Dublin

10.4.25 – Irish Baroque Orchestra presents: Bach – St Matthew Passion, St Canice’s Cathedral, Kilkenny

11.4.25 – Irish Baroque Orchestra presents: Bach – St Matthew Passion, St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin

12.4.25 – Limerick Choral Union is ARMED for April!, University Concert Hall Limerick



 **Christ Church Cathedral Dublin**

Organ Recital Series
Spring 2025
Mondays at 6PM
Free entry, with retiring collection

5th May
12th May
19th May

2nd June
9th June
16th June
23rd June

James Short
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Robin Shakespeare
St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin

Patrice Keegan
Holy Cross, Dundrum

James Gough
Southwark Cathedral, London

Arthur Greene
Dublin/Kildare

Tom Little
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Luke Bond
St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle

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Public Lecture, IYM 2025

Friday, April 25, 2025 at 19.30
Main Hall, Friends' School Lisburn,
BT28 3BH, and online

James Nelson on the topic
Quakers, Learning and Education –
Using the Future to Rethink the Present.

THE CRUCIFIXION

A MEDITATION ON THE SACRED PASSION OF THE HOLY REDEEMER

BY SIR JOHN STAINER



A special Easter performance of the beloved choral classic.

St Mark's Church, Portadown. Sunday 13th April, 7pm.

Eugene O'Hagan, Tenor. **Jonathan Reynolds**, Bass

Richard Campbell, Organist

The Choir of St Mark's Portadown. Orly Watson, Conductor



A Civic Service marking the 80th Anniversary
of Victory in Europe Day (VE80)

will take place in

Saint Columb's Cathedral

Wednesday 7th May 2025

at 7.30 p.m.

All are very welcome to attend.

A retiring offering will be in aid
of Saint Columb's Cathedral
and British Legion (Waterside Branch)

Londonderry

15th to 18th May 2025

80th Anniversary of VE Day

and the end of the

Battle of the Atlantic



Londonderry Branch

Royal Naval Association.

Supported by the

Royal Marine Band Scotland,

invite you to join them to commemorate the

Service and Sacrifice of our predecessors

CONTACT S/m Frank Brown for more detail

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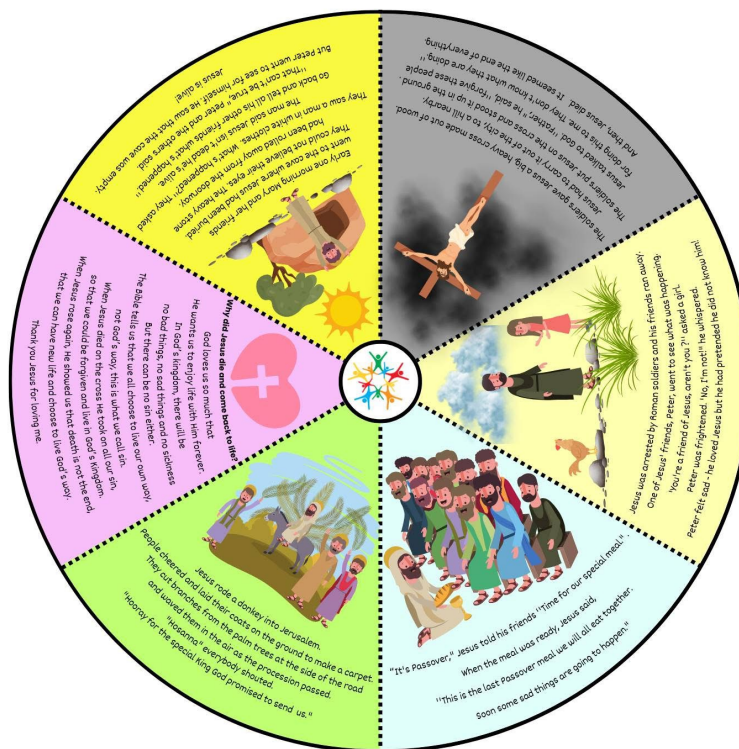
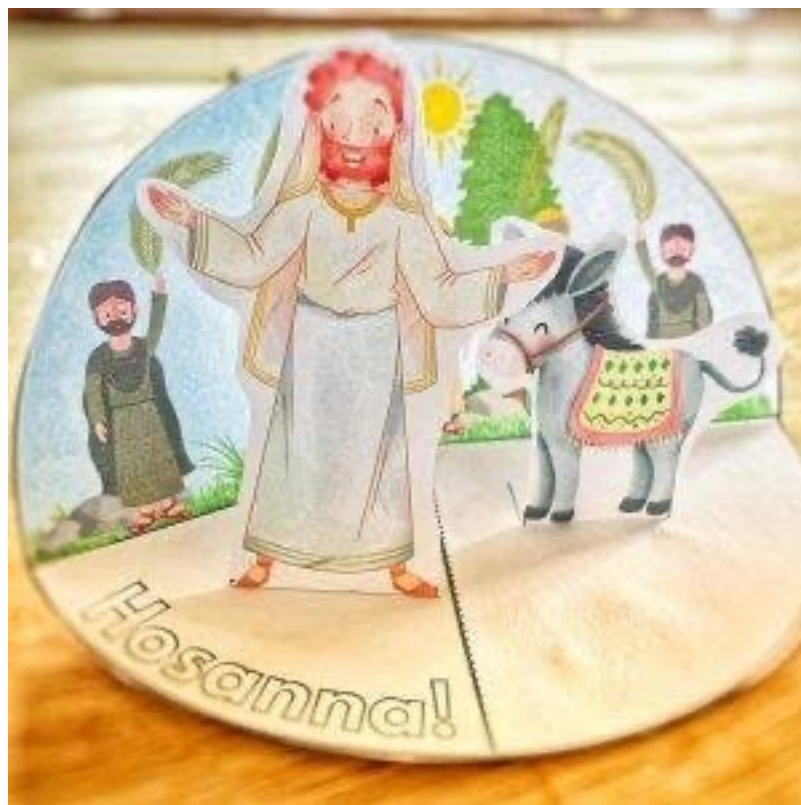
Cc: castlecooley@hotmail.co.uk



Resources

Another Holy Week resource free

Another Holy Week resource free to download on the C of I Family and Children's Ministry website is their Easter story wheel:



<https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/easter-story-wheel/>

“Our Easter wheel resource tells the story of Easter one segment at a time with a final segment explaining in simple

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terms why Jesus died. We have one with full text taken from the Big Bible Story book, and the other is an Easy Reader with just a few lines of simple text each section.

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Christian Aid Week 2025 resources

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We've developed a new, easy-to-use platform on our website for Christian Aid Week 2025 resources!

For your Christian Aid Week buckets, bunting and more, visit our new platform today to order all you'll need to host an incredible fundraising event (cake not included)!

Resources www.caweek.ie/Resources Week buckets, bunting and more, visit our new platform today to order all you'll need to host an incredible fundraising event (cake not included)!

<https://resources.christianaid.ie/ireland/resources/christian-aid-week>

Tom Hanks reads poem by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Sanctuary Foundation have released a video to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, just weeks before the end of the Second World War.

Bonhoeffer was deeply concerned about those suffering because of war. He not only helped those who were fleeing, but also challenged the Nazi regime about its xenophobic stance against immigrants living in their country. Six million Jews and other minorities and critics were executed in the war - Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one of them.

Tom Hanks, Hollywood legend, features in this video narrating a poem Bonhoeffer wrote shortly before his death.

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Clearly suffering from anxiety and self-doubt, it is a poignant reflection on identity, humanity and faith.

You can also hear the poem on this week's BBC Radio 4 special Sunday service recorded at the Bonhoeffer Church in London led by the Bishop of Chelmsford Guli Francis-Dehqani and Dr Krish Kandiah, to mark the 80th anniversary of the execution of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The recording of that programme will be available for the next 28 days.

See: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0029q94

Hear Tom Hanks reading Who Am I:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBATNRYIBdc

In the media

BBC interview shows tragedy of Welby - Angela Tilby in Church Times

There has been much criticism of the Rt Revd Justin Welby for saying, in a BBC interview with Laura Kuenssberg, that he “forgives” John Smyth.

In reality, his comments were much more nuanced. Watching the whole interview, I found it impossible not to be moved as he sat still like a prisoner, or at least a penitent, as, for nearly 40 minutes, Ms Kuenssberg politely but firmly hammered in the nails, and, again and again, he expressed profound sorrow at the safeguarding failures that led to his resignation last November.

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There has been much tragedy in Bishop Welby's life: an unhappy childhood, the death of his own child in infancy, and a depressive tendency that runs through the family. Towards the end of the interview, he expressed a longing for the obscurity of private life.

It left me wondering whether the greatest tragedy of his life was to have been appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. It was, after all, an unlikely appointment. He had only recently become Bishop of Durham; he was a late ordinand, having previously worked in the oil industry, and he was initially turned down for ordination.

But he was also an Evangelical with Charismatic leanings, and had worked briefly at Holy Trinity, Brompton. The ever-powerful Evangelical networks chose him as their man, trusting him to promote their particular vision of mission and growth, which he did, as far as he could, setting the Church on a path of rewarding church-planting and innovation over traditional parish ministry. In the interview, rather touchingly, he claimed that the Church was actually growing, a claim for which there is, sadly, limited evidence.

In his years as Archbishop, he gradually outgrew his initial supporters. One of the most moving parts of the interview was when he spoke of conducting the funeral for the late Queen. Suddenly, it was as though he "got it": he understood what it meant for the C of E to be the national Church. As his archiepiscopate went on, he upset the Evangelical lobbies and a substantial part of the Anglican Communion over gay relationships, greatly overestimating his ability to bring them on board.

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For all his well-earned reputation as a reconciler, he never really had the bandwidth to cope with the demands of those who had promoted him and expected him to toe the line. But then this was the central dilemma of his episcopate. He is a product of the Iwerne camps, with their repressed homo-eroticism and, in some quarters, disregard for the wider Church of England. It was his misfortune to have come from the same stable as the serial abuser Smyth.

Plain Bishop Welby, in his blue open-necked shirt, has carried the can not only for safeguarding errors, but for the whole theology that has been used to mould the C of E into its image and is now exposed as theologically and morally bankrupt.

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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www.churchnewsireland.org

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

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