

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Cullybackey, Rieu in Maastricht and Newcastle**

## Image of the day



## Cullybackey, Rieu in Maastricht and Newcastle

**Cullybackey Pipe Band recently played at 12 concerts for André Rieu in Maastricht.**

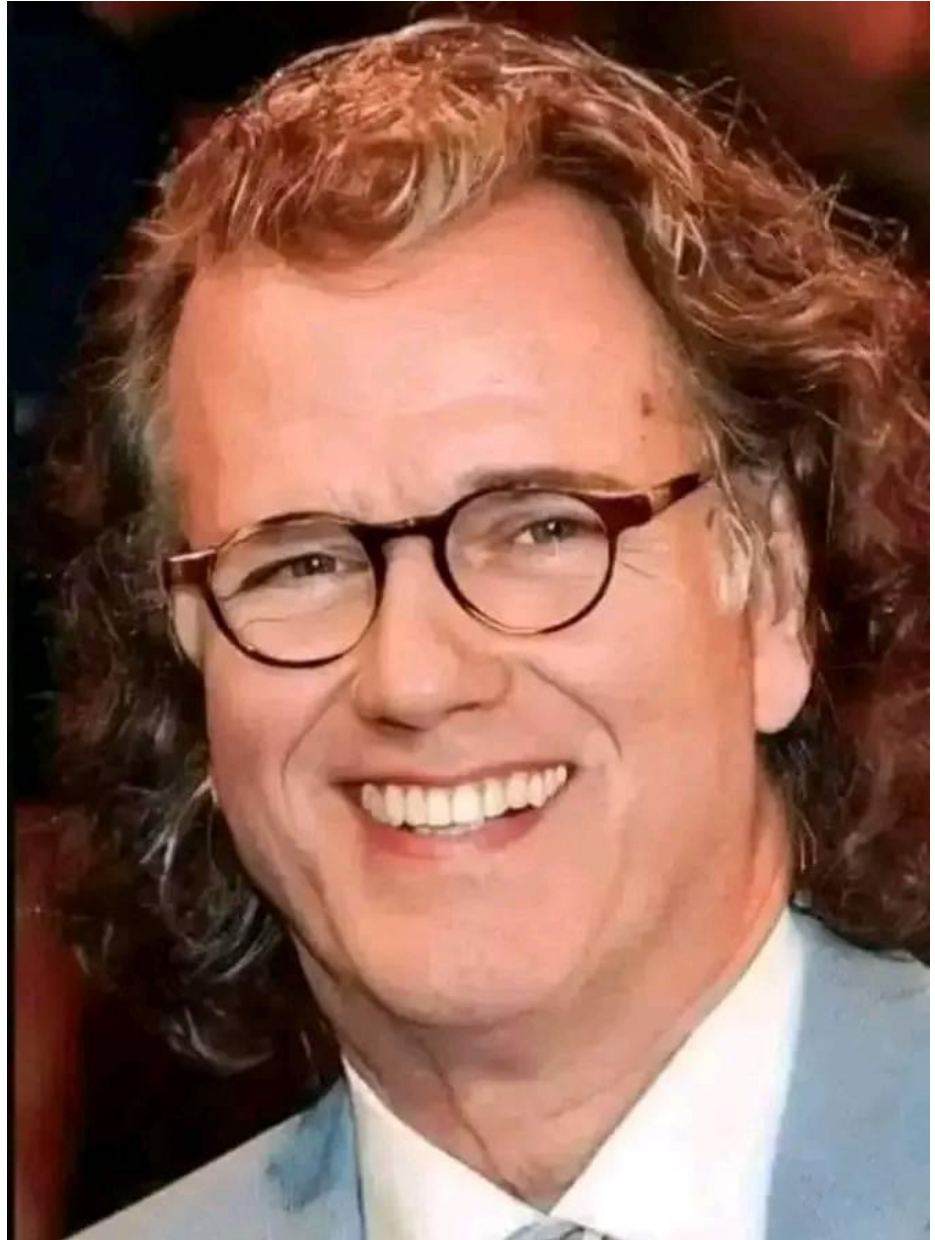
Andre Rieu's manager for the events said, "Over the last three weeks I have had the honour of leading a pipe band comprised of 150 pipes and drums from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands. "In total, over 220 musicians made up the bands for the 12 shows and each night I saw 150 of them work as one band -

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working together to support and encourage each other, regardless of experience and playing ability.

“It has been an incredibly moving experience and I could not have done it without the support of ALL the players involved.

“Huge thanks and congratulations to everyone!”



The Cullybackey Pipe Band was again in action at Newcastle at the weekend where they collected trophies at the at the Heart o’ Down Championships.

The event attracted local churches to provide food, refreshments and car-parking.

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# People and places



## St Michael's Baking Buddies Academy

**There has been a magnificent number of church Bible and holiday clubs.**

So far CNI have noted only one Baking Buddies Academy Certificate which has been awarded St Michael's, Belfast.

One in the know commented, "We had a fabulous week. Thanks to all our staff, volunteers, 'Star Bakers', lunch and dinner teams, you are amazing!"

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Bishop Donal McKeown with Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick at World Youth Day Mass this morning in Lisbon, Portugal. Both were leading their diocesan youth pilgrimage to #wyd2023



*Organiser Pam Troy with coaches, volunteers and members of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church, the Roscrea Parish and Oasis Christian Fellowship, Cityrise Church in Houston Texas, and over 50 boys and girls who enjoyed a week-long summer camp. Photos: PJ Wright*

## **Successful kids camp takes place in Texas - Roscrea**

**The week-long kids camp was organised by the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church, the Roscrea Parish and Oasis Christian Fellowship, but this week would not have been possible without the help from the wonderful team that came from Cityrise Church in Houston, Texas - The Nenagh Guardian reports.**

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The planning for this camp started with a dream that Bobby O'Neal and his late wife Aleta O'Neal had for the young people of Roscrea. They both attended Cityrise Church where multiple annual mission trips take place to various places around the world. Bobby and Aleta went back to Cityrise with their dream and shared it with everyone in their church.

Last year the missions director from Cityrise Chuck Oak and his wife Karen came to visit Roscrea and decided to make this dream a reality. Collectively with the help of all the churches in Roscrea, this camp was an amazing experience.

“We are so grateful for all the help and prayers that came from the Cityrise and their wonderful team. Each day the kids did some fun games, sports, dances, crafts and listened to a bible story. Over the course of the week they learned more, made new friends and it was all in all a great experience. The week came to a close with a fantastic barbecue for all the kids and their families to enjoy.

“We would like to thank Reverend Jane Galbraith from the Church of Ireland, Reverend Denis Maguire from the Methodist Church, Father John Molloy and Father Antun Pasalic from the Roscrea Parish, Pastor Pam Troy from Oasis Christian Fellowship and the Cityrise team led by Eric and Kristen Campbell. Huge thanks to everyone in the four churches, Cityrise, all the kids who attended the camp and to Andrew Walsh for providing transportation for the team.”

*Courtesy of The Nenagh Guardian and PJ Wright, photo*



## **From Cumbria to Drumcliffe**

**The Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, the Rt Revd Michael Burrows, has announced the appointment of the Revd Vicki Lynch as Priest**

**in Charge of the Drumcliffe with Kilnasoolagh Group of Parishes.**

Vicki was born and brought up in Cumbria in the north west of England and moved to London to attend university. While living in Kent, she met her husband, Steve and they moved to the west coast of County Clare with their three children in 1995.

Over the years Vicki has worked in a variety of social care and community development roles, including managing Clare Haven Refuge and designing and delivering youth personal development programmes. Vicki trained in the Church of Ireland Theological College and was ordained in St Columba's church, Ennis in 2009. From 2007 she was

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the Youth and Community Development Officer for the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe and assisted in the parish of Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh.

In 2012 she was appointed minister of Christ Church United Methodist and Presbyterian Church, Limerick and completed an MA in Consultancy and Leadership for Mission and Ministry.

In 2019 Vicki became priest in charge of Fiddown Union in the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, combining parish ministry and PhD research in practical theology and community development.

Commenting on her appointment Vicki said, 'I am delighted to be appointed priest in charge of Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh and look forward to working together with the parish. It feels like coming home.'

Following this appointment Bishop Michael Burrows welcomed Vicki saying, 'After some years of fruitful parochial ministry in the diocese of Lismore, we look forward to welcoming Vicki 'home' to Killaloe and to Co Clare, and we know how much we will all benefit from her many gifts, her imaginative approach and her pastoral diligence. Over the years Vicki's ministry and experience have been uniquely enriched by the manner in which she has taken advantage of opportunities for interchangeable ministry now available between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church'.

The Introduction will take place at St Columba's Church, Bindon St, Ennis on Friday 8th September 2023 at 7:30pm.



## **Victims' group SEFF celebrates 25 years with service in St Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen**

**A service was held in St Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen on Sunday to reflect on the years of work the South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) has done in supporting victims and survivors of violence in Northern Ireland.**

The event is not being held on August 13, as had been intended, as the group did not want to distract from a service being held to mark the 25th anniversary of the

Omagh bomb, according to the group's director, Kenny Donaldson.

He also accused the UK and Ireland of overseeing "a process of appeasement of terrorism for 25 years plus" which has "brought us to where we are today".

Mr Donaldson said that SEFF, formed on August 15 1998, had grown from one full-time staff member in 2003 to 33 staff more than two decades later.

"Many of the innocent victim/survivor-focused support groups were established in the same year as Omagh, which was also the year of The Belfast Agreement, signed on Good Friday," he said.



“Omagh was said to mark a watershed moment when society moreover understood the absolute need for violence not to grip our society as it had in the past.

“Twenty-nine innocent people from across the community and unborn twins had their lives prematurely ended, never able to experience the relative peace that came to Northern Ireland and that is an issue that grieves us, but particularly their families – and, of course, sadly others continued to be murdered post the events of Omagh with terrorism seeking to enforce its will upon the community of this place and beyond.”

He cautioned against dividing society into Protestant and Catholic camps and instead look at those who seek to use or justify violence and those who oppose it.

“Northern Ireland is a tale of two sets of experiences. Some have enjoyed a significant ‘peace dividend’ and life is undoubtedly better across many measures and criteria.

“In this Northern Ireland people are increasingly at ease with themselves and each other, integration is becoming commonplace and they feel they are in a post-‘conflict’ time.

“However, for others, Northern Ireland has not changed substantively. For those innocents who been directly impacted by the violence there has been reduction in the cycle of injustice that they have experienced.”

He added: “Many don’t want to talk about this second Northern Ireland which has been allowed to persist and for those of us who dare, the unscrupulous and naive seek to portray us as anti-peace, problem children and bitter.”

He reiterated his group’s opposition to the UK government’s Legacy and Reconciliation Bill, stating that it is the “opposite” of victim centred.

It would also prevent future civil cases and inquests. The controversial legislation would give immunity from prosecution for Troubles-related offences to people who co-operated with the ICRIR (Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery).

The bill is opposed by all major Stormont parties, the Irish government and victims’ campaign groups, prompting several protests against its passage through Westminster.

Mr Donaldson said: “The legislation as promoted could well disempower the individual and many have indicated that it

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would turn back time in redefining their status as ‘victim’ once more, for to be a survivor and to thrive there must be the existence of hope and an assuredness that right will prevail.

“Our message is clear as we mark 25 years of service to innocent victims and survivors of terrorism and other Troubles-related violence, but also the broader community – there is much more to be done and we need people prepared to journey with us.”

## News reports

### Closing youth festival in Portugal, Pope shares 'old man's' dream of peace

**Pope Francis closed an international festival of Catholic Youth on Sunday with a huge outdoor Mass and his own "I have a dream" speech, saying it was for world peace, especially for Ukraine.**

About 1.5 million people attended his closing Mass at a riverside park in the Portuguese capital, the Vatican said, quoting local authorities. Many of the faithful slept outdoors, having attending a vigil there on Saturday night, and they gathered in sweltering heat.

Speaking after the Mass, the 86-year-old Francis urged the young people to take the fraternal experiences of the six-day jamboree back home and apply them to their daily lives.



*The young Catholic crowd at the World Youth Day in Lisbon*

"Dear friends, allow me, this old man, to share with you young people a dream that I carry within me: it is the dream of peace, the dream of young

people praying for peace, living in peace and building a peaceful future," Francis said.

"As you return home, please continue to pray for peace. What is more, you are a sign of peace for the world, showing how different nationalities, languages and histories can unite instead of divide. You are the hope of a different world," he said.

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He asked them to think of the young people who could not come to the event because of the world's many armed conflicts and wars, adding: "In thinking of this continent, I feel great sorrow for beloved Ukraine, which continues to suffer greatly".

Francis, who was returning to Rome on Sunday evening after an event to thank volunteers at the World Youth Day festival, met a delegation of 15 young people from Ukraine during his trip.

Sunday's Mass was concelebrated by 700 bishops and 10,000 priests, who distributed communion to the huge crowd.

The pope announced that the next World Youth Day would be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2027.

One of the recurring themes of the pope's visit was social media and its potentially negative effects on young people.

During the week, Francis urged them to beware the false happiness lurking in the virtual world and at another event, the young people themselves reflected on their anxieties, enslavement to the "tyranny" of social media and yearning to save the planet.

The trip took place in the shadow of a report six months ago by a Portuguese commission said at least 4,815 minors were sexually abused by clergy - mostly priests - over seven decades in the country.



*The next World Youth Day will be Seoul, South Korea in 2027 and there will be a Jubilee for Youth in Rome during the forthcoming Jubilee Holy Year of 2025, with the overall theme of "Pilgrims of Hope".*

It was just one in a series of reports around the world that have exposed clerical sex abuse and rattled the Catholic Church in recent years.

Francis said on Wednesday the Church needs a "humble and ongoing purification" to deal with the "anguished cries" of victims of clerical sexual abuse, and met privately with 13 victims.

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*Many of the young people at World Youth Day walked for over four hours to be with the Holy Father*



## **Everyone without exclusion can enter church, Pope Francis says in Fatima**

**Thousands of Catholics congregated from before dawn on Saturday (August 5) at Portugal's Fatima shrine where Pope Francis prayed the rosary with sick youngsters, people with disabilities and inmates.**

At the huge outdoor sanctuary, one of Europe's most famous, Pope Francis said, just like the Fatima sanctuary, the church has no door and is open to all without exclusion :



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"The small chapel in which we meet. This is such a beautiful image of the church. Cosy, no doors. The church does not have doors so that everyone can enter. It is. And here we can also insist that everyone can enter because it is in the mother's house. And a mother always has an open heart for all her children. Everyone, everyone, everyone without exclusion."

Francis arrived in the Portuguese capital Lisbon on Wednesday (August 2) for World Youth Day, a huge gathering of the faithful every two to three years in a different city.

The visit ended with a papal Mass on Sunday (August 6).

## In the media

**BBC NI has shaped our culture and politics... but now it's facing real trouble**

**Belfast Telegraph - Largely unseen by viewers, BBC NI is suddenly haemorrhaging some of its key journalists – and worse may be to come.**

Radio Ulster has been overtaken by Cool FM after schedule changes failed to arrest decline. A changing BBC NI will change Northern Ireland.

Ever since Tyrone Guthrie's voice proclaimed "Hello, hello, this is 2BE, the Belfast station of the British Broadcasting



Company” in September 1924, BBC Northern Ireland has shaped the culture, politics and parameters of acceptable debate here. Now it is in trouble. Subscription at - <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/sam-mcbride/bbc-ni-has-shaped-our-culture-and-politics-but-now-its-facing-real-trouble/a1143724591.html?#=123>Revealed:

**BBC NI's £500k bill for high-profile dispute cases it 'could not win**

**Belfast Telegraph - TWO long-running workplace disputes have left the BBC facing a legal bill of almost £500,000 after the cases were settled.**

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Ex-Newsline anchor Donna Traynor had claimed she had been discriminated against, while freelance producer Lena Ferguson had sued over alleged bullying. So far, the BBC's legal costs for defending the cases, each of which ran for three years before being settled, stand at £464,115, not including VAT.

DUP MP Gregory Campbell queried why the BBC keep “paying significant sums of money fighting cases they know they have little prospect of winning”.

“You have to ask why the BBC keep ending up paying significant sums of money fighting cases that they know they have little prospect of winning — in these cases, almost half a million pounds,” he said.

The BBC has previously settled a number of equal pay cases, including one taken by presenter Samira Ahmed.



## Organisers to clear South Korean Scout jamboree site early as typhoon looms

## **Site has been plagued by issues including heatwave that left hundreds ill last week**

All participants at this year's World Scout Jamboree in South Korea are to leave the event's campsite before the scheduled end date of 12 August due to an incoming typhoon that is expected to make landfall over the Korean peninsula in the coming days.

In a statement on Monday afternoon, the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) said it had received confirmation from the South Korean government that, due to the expected impact of Typhoon Khanun, an early departure will be planned for all participants at the global youth event in the south-western county of Buan.

Choi Chang-haeng, the secretary general of the jamboree's organising committee, said organisers had secured more than 340 evacuation venues, including community centres and gyms, in regions near Buan. Local governments and cities across the country, including Incheon, North Gyeongsang Province, and Gyeongju, were convening emergency meetings to support the young scouts with accommodation and experience programmes.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/07/world-scout-jamboree-to-end-early-as-typhoon-khanun-looms-in-wake-of-heatwave?utm>

**BBC News: Thousands at Scout camp move into hotels after S Korea heatwave**

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-66407392>]

## **Are priests' collars a blessing or a curse? 'A bad experience won't stop me from wearing mine'**

**independent.ie The wake of multiple scandals, clerics' clothes can mark them out for abuse in the street — but they still serve as a symbol of trust, some say**

Canon Paul Arbuthnot was waiting for a bus on Aungier Street in Dublin when he was surrounded by a small group of drunk people. After hassling him for money, they began to verbally abuse him, shouting what he calls “the usual tropes” about priests and paedophilia. The clergyman, who is based at St Ann’s Church on Dawson Street, is not a Catholic priest but is in fact a member of the Church of Ireland.



## **Sinn Fein MLA slammed for 'shameful' tweet honouring hunger striker who killed Ballymena mother**

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## **Belfast Telegraph - Sinn Fein's national chairperson has been criticised after sharing a social media tribute to a hunger striker who killed a young mother.**

South Antrim MLA Declan Kearney took to Twitter to share photographs of himself at a memorial for Thomas McElwee on the 42nd anniversary of his death, writing he was “filled with hope and aspiration” and “ambitious for himself and community.”

In 1976, McElwee was charged for manslaughter for his involvement in an incendiary bombing of a shop in Ballymena which killed a worker, mother of three, 23-year-old Yvonne Dunlop.

She shouted a warning to her nine-year-old son who escaped, but she could not get out and was burned to death.

The Bellaghy republican died on August 8, 1981 in prison at the age of 23, after 62 days on hunger strike.

More -

<https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/sinn-fein-mla-slammed-for-shameful-tweet-honouring-hunger-striker-who-killed-ballymena-mother/a976043159.html>

## **RTE - Support for Sinn Féin has increased to 34%, the latest Sunday Independent/Ireland Thinks opinion poll suggests.**

<https://www.rte.ie/news/politics/2023/0805/1398356-ireland-thinks-poll/>

# THIS WEEK'S MUSIC

1. **THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS**  
THE CHURCH OF ST CROSS, WINCHESTER

2. **BE THOU MY VISION**  
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, DUNGANNON

3. **GOD I LOOK TO YOU**  
ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

4. **BLESSED ASSURANCE**  
LSO ST LUKE'S, LONDON

5. **COME TO JESUS**  
NEW IRISH ARTS

6. **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**  
THE OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE, GREENWICH



SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2023  
1.15PM BBC ONE #SONGSOFPRAISE

**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,  
and books**

**Songs Of Praise still available**

The King Of Love My Shepherd Is  
Be Thou My Vision

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God I Look To You

Blessed Assurance

Come To Jesus

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Songs Of Praise here [bbc.in/367drKp](https://bbc.in/367drKp)

## **Belfast Highlights list for European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) 2023**

### **Belfast Central Library**

Visitors can tour the wonderful example of one of Belfast's many Victorian Buildings. The Central Library's top floor features two galleries with glass vaulting. No booking required and free of charge.

Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 1EA

Saturday 9 September 10:30 - 16:30 with tours starting at 10:30 and 14:30

### **Belfast Cathedral**

Belfast Cathedral offers a treasure trove of art, culture and music for all to explore. The InSpire Kids Trail is available for schools and families, and Visitor and Audio Guides are available in eight languages. No booking required and free of charge.

St. Anne's Cathedral, Donegal Street, Belfast BT1 2HB

Saturday 9 September 11:00 - 16:00

### **Titanic Hotel**

Visit the historic Titanic Hotel Belfast and former Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and enjoy the Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival. No booking required and free of charge.

8 Queens Road, Titanic Quarter, Belfast BT3 9DT

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 September 10:00 - 17:00



## **Clifton House**

Join Clifton House, built by the Belfast Charitable Society in 1774, at their 'open house' event and learn about the nature of their work helping thousands of people seek sanctuary within their walls. No booking required and free of charge.  
2 North Queen Street, Belfast BT15 1ES  
Saturday 9 September 12:00 - 14:00

## **Belfast Print Workshop**

A behind-the-scenes tour of a print workshop, visitors will have the opportunity to see what goes into making a print, which is an artform thousands of years old and still in use today. No booking required and free of charge.  
Cotton Court Building, 30-42 Waring Street, Belfast BT1 2ED

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 10:00 - 16:00

**EHOD 2023** will be opening its doors across Northern Ireland on 9 & 10 September. Our digital brochure and Webapp will be available from Monday 7 August. For more details visit: <https://bit.ly/3Dy2u1Q>

## **Chamber Choir Ireland Quartet to play concert at Calary Church**

Calary church in Kilmacanogue will play host to Chamber Choir Ireland's 'The Birds and the Bees' concert, taking place on Thursday, August 24.

# 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)