

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Mourne Sunflowers**

August 16, 2023

## Image of the day



### Mourne Sunflowers

Sunflowers appear to be making even greater impact this year. The cover photo is of sunflowers with a backdrop of the Mourne Mountains. They are at Carginagh near Kilkeel. They are supporting Southern Area Hospice and Christ Church Parish, Kilkeel + their Mission Partners.

A very modest snapper posted - "It's not Van Gogh, it's just a picture of the Mournes taken with my iPhone."





Bishop David and Mrs Hilary McClay recently paid a visit. Tomorrow, Thursday at 7.30pm the parish will hold a closing time of worship and thanksgiving. All welcome.

The Carginagh Sunflowers even have their own Facebook site - file it for next year, come along, refreshments available, and support really good causes.

[<https://www.facebook.com/CarginaghSunflowerFields/>]

## People and places

### The Bell of Bangor will ring again

**Recently a group of parishioners of Bangor Abbey was invited to meet the fantastic team looking after one of the best museums in Northern Ireland: North Down Museum in Bangor.**

They report - “Just like Columbanus, we started our journey into a world of discovery this gem has to offer. We have spent the last few weeks learning, reading and designing



products for their shop, one of which being our own representation of the Bell of Bangor.

“This bell dates back to 9th century and is very rare. It was discovered buried in the cemetery of Bangor Abbey in the 1780’s. It is thought it was hidden at the time the Vikings were invading Ireland.

“There is an amazing story associated with Columbanus , this bell and the journey which took him and other scholars all the way to Bobbio in Italy.

Looks like you could have a great day out in the castle grounds . See -

[<https://www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/things-to-do/north-down-museum-p675271>]



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## Kilkenny in Korea

**Kilkenny's participants at the World Scout Jamboree 2023 which was held in Korea this month.**

Anna Ryan, Lily Brennan, Sadhbh O'Neill, and Mary Kelly (Thomastown Scout Group), and Aidan Brennan from Kilkenny City.

The Kats contributed to the Scouting Ireland World Scout Jamboree Contingent as a participant...

...A troop leader and three members served on the IST - international service team (staff).





## Knights of Saint Patrick prove popular

**Fantastic turn out this week at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin for Albert Fenton's talk on the Knights of Saint Patrick.**





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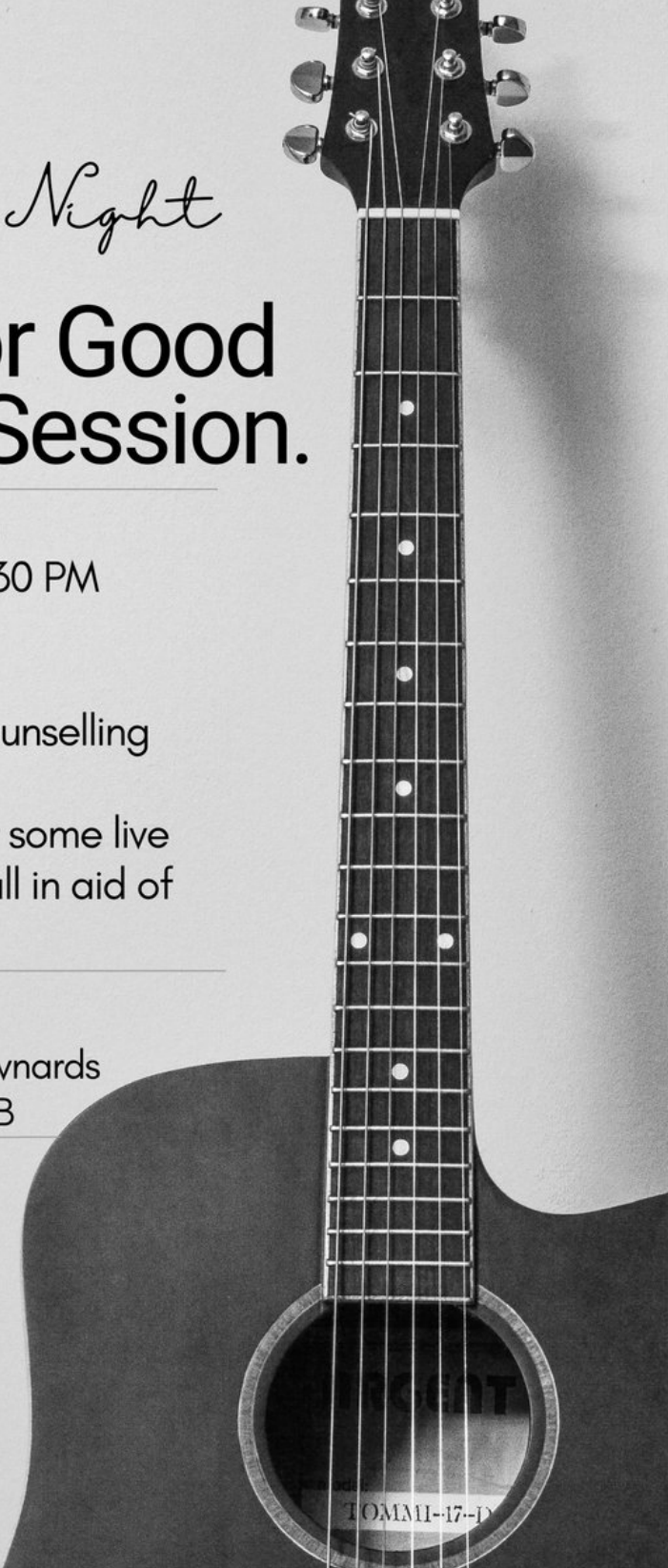
There's lots more happening all week at the Cathedral as part of Heritage Week with extra spots for sold out events just released. See -

<https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/events/>



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<http://churcharmy.org/thenandnow>



*Friday Night*

# Guitars for Good Acoustic Session.

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September 29th  
Open Doors 07:30 PM

Ticket £10  
in aid of care counselling

Come join us for some live  
acoustic music all in aid of  
a good cause!

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**Hearth Belfast**  
199 Upper Newtownards  
Rd, Belfast BT4 3JB



**EAST BELFAST  
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Join **East Belfast Mission** at Hearth this September for a great night of music all in aid of their care counselling!

Tickets are available here

<https://ebmmusicnight.eventbrite.co.uk>





## Thanks from ROC School Uniform Project

**ROC has issued a big THANK YOU to local churches for partnering with the ROC School Uniform Project.**

“Their church halls provided central venues for families to pick up uniforms for the new school year. Thank you for partnering with us and providing these spaces (and volunteers) to enable us to help 650+ children”

## In the media



### Omagh bomb: The 29 victims

**The bomb that devastated Omagh town centre in August 1998 was the biggest single atrocity in the history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.**

Twenty-nine people were killed, including nine children, a woman pregnant with twins and three generations of one family.

It came less than three months after the people of Northern Ireland had voted yes to the Good Friday Agreement. Dissident group the Real IRA claimed responsibility for the attack.



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In June 2009, four men were held responsible for it in a civil case brought by the families of those killed.

## **BBC News - NI remembers those who lost their lives in the attack 20 years ago**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-45112942.amp>

## **Prime Minister reflects on Omagh bomb 25 years after it 'shook the world'**

**Belfast Telegraph - The Prime Minister has reflected on the Omagh bomb 25 years after it “shook the world”, as families prepare to attend a private memorial service to mark the solemn anniversary - Brett Campbell, Tuesday at 09:26**

Survivors and bereaved relatives of the 29 people and two unborn babies killed in the Real IRA attack on August 15, 1998 will gather in the town's library on Tuesday before laying flowers at the scene of the atrocity on Market Street. Prayers will also be recited in English, Irish and Spanish. Rishi Sunak acknowledged the milestone on social media this morning.

“25 years ago the Omagh bombing shook this country and the world,” he Tweeted.

“But this appalling act of terror didn't break the will for peace.

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“As we remember those killed and injured that awful day, we stand together in working to fulfil the promise of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.”

In June, a senior Scottish judge was appointed as the chairman of the Omagh bomb inquiry which follows years of campaigning by victims and survivors.

Lord Turnbull will use the full powers of the Inquiries Act 2005 to examine four key issues which include the handling and sharing of intelligence, the use of mobile phone analysis, whether there was advance knowledge or reasonable means of knowledge of the bomb and whether disruption operations could or should have been mounted to prevent the atrocity.



**Time Féile silenced pro-IRA chanting**

**Belfast Telegraph opinion leader - This is a week when Northern Ireland is remembering the victims of the**



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## **worst single loss of life in the history of our troubled times.**

On August 15, 1998, a car bomb destroyed the centre of Omagh which was packed with Saturday shoppers and visitors.

Meanwhile, seemingly oblivious to the death and destruction brought to the families of the 29 victims in Omagh and beyond — and countless other towns and villages around Northern Ireland — those who destroyed innocent lives are celebrated with sectarian chanting at what is billed as a community festival.

Thousands joined in the pro-IRA chant at Féile an Phobail in west Belfast as the Wolfe Tones played their annual gig on Sunday evening at Falls Park.

But someone started the chant in the first place. Like last year, and the year before.

Dismissing it on the follies of youth cannot go on forever.

The question is, what exactly do organisers expect when they continue to book the same act year after year, given all the controversy it causes?

Neither side of the debate is without blame.

What Northern Ireland needs is someone to rise above the tribal squabbles and say enough is enough.

# The Pride of Northern Ireland Since 1737 News Letter



Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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### Bomb victim's brother calls for resignations after IRA chanting

SEE PAGE 6



### Doing it for the kids ... O'Neill appoints Wright and McAuley

SEE SPORT

## Dissidents 'will use data to breed fear'

### Byrne confirms republicans have information

By Mark Hainey  
mark.hainey@newsletter.co.uk

The crisis facing the PSNI over the "industrial scale" data breach last week intensified yesterday with confirmation that dissident republicans have acquired the information – and will be intent on using it to "generate fear and uncertainty" among police officers and staff.

At a press conference at police headquarters last night, Chief Constable Simon Byrne said the PSNI is working around the clock to assess the risk.

Last week it was revealed that a document had mistakenly been shared online in response to a routine Freedom of Information request. The electronic file included the surname and first initial of every employee, their rank and when they are based.

Mr Byrne said: "I would like to confirm the picture in relation to last week's breach continues to evolve at pace.

"We are now confident that the workforce dataset is in the hands of dissident republicans.

"It is, therefore, a planning assumption that they will use this list to generate fear and uncertainty as well as intimidating or targeting officers and staff."

The PSNI chief's press conference followed an incident earlier yesterday,



PSNI Chief Constable Simon Byrne during a media briefing at the force's headquarters in Belfast yesterday. Picture: Liam McIlroy/PA Wire

who in the incident republicans are suspected of posting a copy of the police data on a wall close to Sinn Féin's Falls Road office.

MLA Gerry Kelly said the material also contained messages he perceived to be a threat to himself.

Mr Byrne said: "Clearly, that was the first indication that started to

validate our planning assumption that this list had fallen into the wrong hands."

Police Federation chairman Liam Kelly said Mr Byrne's announcement came as "no great surprise," however, he added: "We must do all we can to frustrate and prevent attacks on our colleagues and their families."

Last night, NI Secretary Chris Houston-Harris said: "The UK government remains committed to providing specialist support and expertise, and I know that PSNI and security partners will continue to take proportionate actions to protect officers and staff and their families."

\* See pages 4 and 5



### Varane edges Reds to lucky win

SEE SPORT

## Teen crash victim named

A man who died after his motorbike collided with a car in Co Antrim has been named as James Gordon, 19, from the Cullyhackey area, according to police.

The two-vehicle road traffic collision occurred in the Whitepark Road area of Ballyvaughan on Sunday.

The victim's green Kawasaki Ninja bike was in collision with a black Toyota Yaris shortly after 5pm close to the Carraduff Park Junction.

A PSNI spokesperson said: "Officers attended, alongside colleagues from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and Air Ambulance.

"Sadly, Mr Gordon died at the scene from his injuries.

"A full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the collision is ongoing.

"Police would like to thank members of the public who provided assistance at the scene."

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Make the first move in trying to rid Northern Ireland of the constant need to provoke others.

The Wolfe Tones have made no secret of their affiliations. They are, unapologetically, a republican band. There is also



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no doubt over their popularity. They sell tickets for Féile every year and are invited back time and again.

But it does make a mockery of the claims that Féile is promoting 'inclusion' — a festival for everyone.

There can also be no doubt that, in its 35th year, Féile an Phobail has grown to include a host of events that are welcoming to all, foster debate and hear opinions from across the political landscape.

Sadly, those are all but forgotten in a grand finale which sees the voices of over 10,000 drown out all the welcoming words. That they are singing without knowing, joining in with no thought for the words, cannot be used as a reason to sweep the hurt under the carpet until next year.

The Féile was organised against the backdrop of a community united in anger. Today, the scenes of violence that marked annual internment bonfires are gone. But there is always a difference between remembrance and glorification, a difference too many have yet to fully appreciate.

And like it or not, there is a collective responsibility to ensure that difference is clear.

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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## Christian Aid Prophetic Activist Scheme 2023/24

Christian Aid is running a 6-month Prophetic Activist Scheme (PAS), starting in October 2023, to inspire, engage and equip young adult (18-30 year-old) Christians in campaigning and activism for climate justice. PAS supports young adults to influence churches across the UK to take action towards the climate justice movement as we follow the Biblical call to do justice (Micah 6:8).

Prophetic Activists will:

Join a network and build community with like-minded Christians, passionate about climate justice.



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Help to plan, lead and deliver a campaign that will activate and shake up the Church

Attend an in-person residential (all expenses paid) and webinars packed full of training, speakers and workshops to develop their campaigning

Opt-in mentoring scheme with highly skilled Christian Aid Staff

Gain skills and experience for their CV as a volunteer for Christian Aid

Applications and interview

Applications are open throughout August.

Interview date: 25 September 2023.

More information and to apply

Please see the Christian Aid website -

[\[https://jobs.christianaid.org.uk/vacancy/prophetic-activist-scheme-2023-24-4203/4221/description/\]](https://jobs.christianaid.org.uk/vacancy/prophetic-activist-scheme-2023-24-4203/4221/description/)

### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT

USE YOUR BIBLE...

- What is the last book of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the first book of the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the book that comes after Jeremiah? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the book with only 3 letters in its title? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the book before Habakkuk? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the last book in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the book after Romans? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the first book named after a woman? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the book before Haggai? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the 17th book of the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

### OLD TESTAMENT SCAVENGER HUNT

USE YOUR BIBLE TO FIND...

- The first book of the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_
- The last book of the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_
- The book with only 3 letters in its name \_\_\_\_\_
- The book named after a queen \_\_\_\_\_
- The 16th book of the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_
- The book before Zephaniah \_\_\_\_\_
- The book with 150 chapters \_\_\_\_\_
- The book about the man who was in the den of lions \_\_\_\_\_
- The wisdom book with 31 chapters \_\_\_\_\_
- The book before Joel \_\_\_\_\_

**Free scavenger hunts for use with older children**

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(or possibly even adults!) - most books of the Bible included.  
Click here: [bit.ly/3qrQOeb](https://bit.ly/3qrQOeb) [facebook.com/23916952843903](https://facebook.com/23916952843903)...

## Perspective

### Omagh by Steven Oliver

**On this day 25 years ago I was working in a town centre shop interacting with customers – locals and tourists – in what seemed like another ordinary Saturday. And it was an ordinary day - in Enniskillen.**

But late in the afternoon, word started coming through of a bomb 23 miles up the road in Omagh. And as the day went on, the scale of what had happened was only dawning on us. I seemed to have written a few times in my diary throughout that evening. Five had died, then twelve. 21... 27... The next day I was preaching in Churchill Methodist Church. I noted that I completely changed the service to reflect on the gravity of what had happened, which we were still trying to comprehend.

What I do remember, without consulting the diary, was finding it incredible, fearful I suppose, that the worst incident of 'The Troubles' came after the signing and approval of the Good Friday Agreement. So much work, pain, effort and utter grace by many to have reached the settlement that would give the hope of a permanent peace in society. And then this horrifying act. Were we going to see more of this? Where would it happen next? Was the peace process in





*On Sunday last  
Belfast  
Cathedral lit a  
candle for each  
of the Omagh  
victims*

vain?

Thankfully,  
despite  
desperately  
cruel and sad  
loss of life  
since, there  
hasn't been  
anything even  
approaching  
this scale. My  
heart goes out  
to members of  
the PSNI this  
past week who

fear that personal details are now in the hands of such  
dissidents, set on death and fear.

Today however, belongs to the people of Omagh, not to  
mention Buncrana, Spain and elsewhere. Hundreds of  
individuals suffered incredible loss as well as injury. The  
town and community as a whole suffered in a particular way  
from the scale of this disaster. And there has been the  
added heartbreak over the years in the search for answers.  
It's a daily trauma for many. May all who feel the pain of this

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anniversary know peace, strength and much solidarity - from each other and from further away.

*Steven Oliver is a Minister of the Methodist Church in Ireland*

## 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)