

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day - Down Cathedral**

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## Image of the day

### Down Cathedral - A Place of Welcomes

**BBC Radio 4 were at Down Cathedral, Downpatrick this week producing a broadcast service recording for Sunday 20th August.**

The Very Rev Henry Hull, the Dean of Down, reflects on the theme of Welcome - how God welcomes us, how we should welcome Him and the welcome we should give each other.

### Revive & Renew textile art at Belfast Cathedral



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# People & Places



## Revive & Renew textile art at Belfast Cathedral

**An exhibition of textile art by Helen O'Hare and Wilma Kirkpatrick, who crafted Belfast Cathedral's Titanic Pall, will open in St Anne's on September 1.**

This new piece, in Irish linen, is entitled Revive & Renew, and has been created by Helen and Wilma for the second Northern Ireland Linen Biennale.

Further information at <https://rb.gy/de3ap>





## **Archbishop Eamon Martin speaks to PSNI Chief Constable Simon Byrne concerning data breach**

**In conversation on Wednesday with the Police Service of Northern Ireland Chief Constable, Simon Byrne, Archbishop Eamon Martin expressed his concern at the circumstances surrounding, and implications of, the recent release of sensitive data, in error, by the PSNI.**

Archbishop Martin said, “In recent days I have spoken to several families and relatives of Catholic PSNI members. I

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wish to state my unequivocal support for all those who serve as police members or civilian support workers for the PSNI.

“I have previously encouraged young people from the Catholic community to consider a career in policing. Today I reiterate this sentiment. For that reason I also call on everyone in the community to reject entirely those who would intimidate or threaten the courageous women and men – including those from the Catholic community – who selflessly choose this noble vocation of policing.”

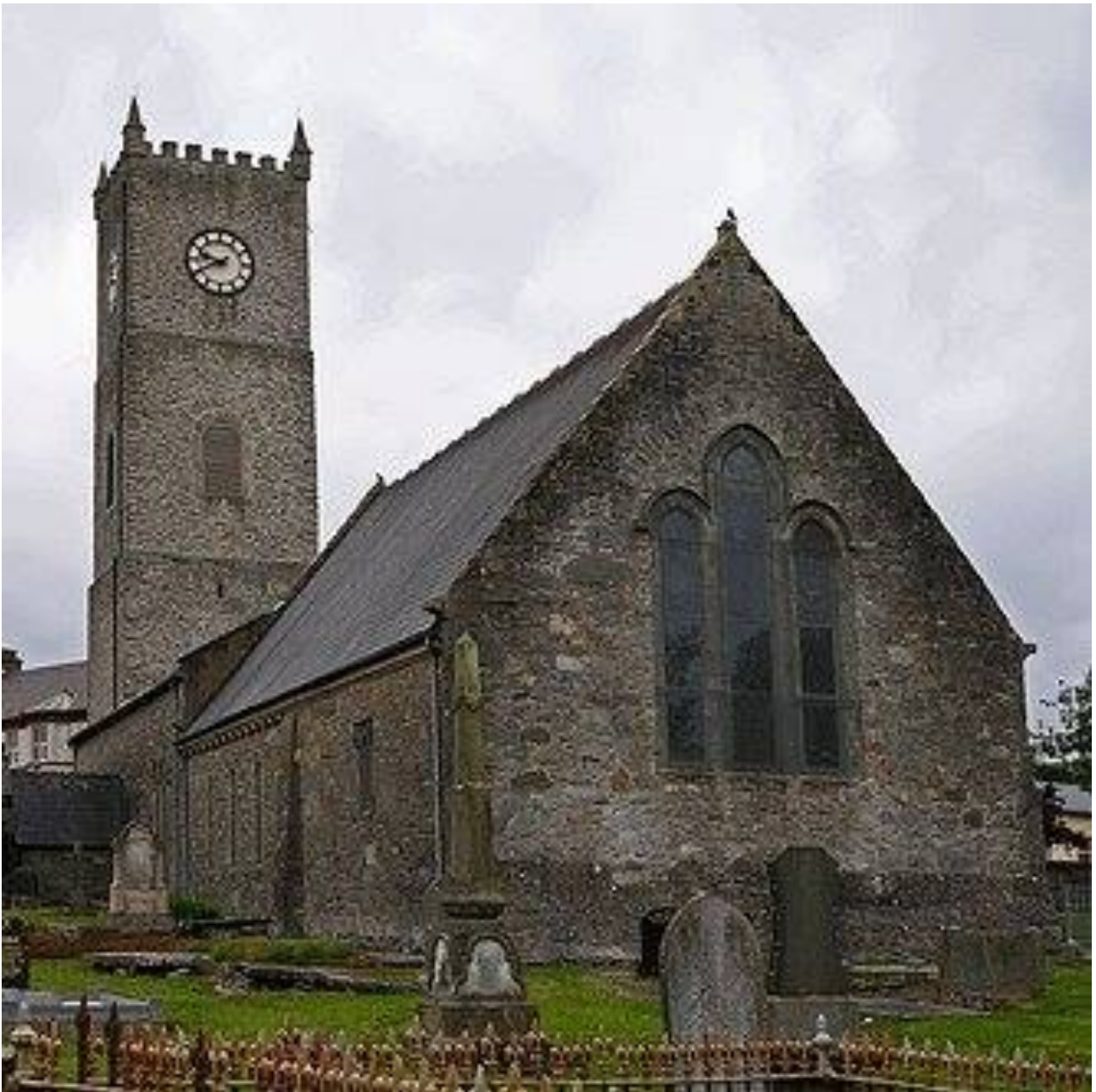
Archbishop Martin concluded, “I am in no doubt but that the future of peace and prosperity across the island of Ireland will depend upon respect and support for policing. Today I assured the Chief Constable that all members of the PSNI, and their families, are in my prayers at this time.”

## **The smallest cathedral city in Europe**

**Did you know that Raphoe is regarded as 'The smallest cathedral city in Europe' ?**

Evidence of this can be traced back over 400 years to a petition dated 15 July 1600 to Pope Clement the Eighth from the ‘City of Raphoe’.

The cathedral in question is St Eunan’s Church of Ireland Cathedral, situated on the Diamond in Raphoe and the principle church of the Church of Ireland Diocese of Raphoe. But the history of this church, which is to undergo a major restoration programme next year, goes back over 1,000 years.



It was named after St Adamnán (Eunan) who was born around 627, probably in or near Rath Bhoth, Raphoe and whose death and feast day are commemorated on this day, 23 September.

A cousin and later a biographer of St Columcille, Adamnán joined Columcille in Iona, becoming its ninth abbot in succession to Columcille. He is believed to have founded a monastery close to the site where the Cathedral now stands. The only visible remains of the monastery are two pieces of sculptured door-lintels from the ninth or tenth

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century which were incorporated into an addition to the church around the 18th century.

St Eunan played a pivotal role in the spread of Christianity.

His biography of Colmcille, the *Vita Columbae* has been described as the most considerable surviving literary production of the Celtic Church of Ireland.

Tradition has it that after his death in Iona his body was interred in the Cathedral in Raphoe.

The oldest part of the present building is the south east corner, which dates back to the 12th century. The rest of the cathedral is a mixture of successive rebuilding and alterations dating from 17th century to the late 19th century.

The first bishop of Raphoe, George Montgomery, began the construction of the cathedral in around 1605. He had been chaplain to King James 1, and was nominated not only Bishop of Raphoe, but of Clogher and Derry.

Within its structure is evidence of different architectural styles and times. The sedilias date from the 12th or 13th century and the shamrock carvings dating from around the same time are among the earliest examples of references to St Patrick.

## **John Creedon's Guatemala Diary Part 3**

RTE Broadcaster John Creedon travelled to Guatemala to see the impact of Trócaire's work.

<https://vimeo.com/325472753>

## News reports



### **One Day: Families in Uganda reclaim their lands, living in peace and prosperity.**

**Trócaire's support has empowered families like Evelyn's to fight for their rights and regain ownership of their land.**

Together, we make "One Days" happen. [#Trocaire50](#)

<https://www.trocaire.org/news/one-day-families-in-uganda-live-peacefully-on-their-land/>



## **Pakistani police arrest 129 Muslims after mob attacks Christian churches**

**Police arrested more than 100 Muslims in overnight raids from an area in eastern Pakistan where a Muslim mob attacked churches and homes of minority Christians, prompting authorities to summon troops to restore order, officials said on Thursday.**

The attack by the mob was prompted by the alleged desecration of the Koran by a Christian man.

There were no casualties as Christians living in a residential area in the city of Jaranwala in the Faisalabad district moved to safer places following one of the country's most destructive attacks against Christians.

Christians slowly returned to their homes Thursday, only to see the destruction of at least one church that was burned.

Four other churches were also damaged and two dozen homes were torched or badly damaged during the riots.

Speaking outside her home, which had been torched, Shazia Amjad said: "We were sitting at home when suddenly we heard that a mob is coming and it is burning homes and attacking churches."

She told The Associated Press that the rioters burned household items and furniture. Some of her possessions were stolen as she moved to a safer place with her family, she added.



*The interior of Christ Church, Macclesfield, resembles a modern concert hall designed so that the congregation could all see and hear the preacher. The original pulpit was more than 3.5 metres high, allowing the preacher to command the attention of his congregation.*

*Churches Conservation Trust cares for over 350 historic buildings with world-class art, architecture and archaeology spanning 1,000 years of history.*

Mrs Amjad said the rioters sprinkled petrol to burn homes in their area and they stole jewellery and other things. Other Christians described similar ordeals and expressed bewilderment.

Local Christians consoled each other outside their damaged homes, as many women wept and cried over the destruction. Those whose homes were burned had no idea where to go or what to do now.

On Wednesday, Khalid Mukhtar, a local priest, said that most Christians living in the area had fled to safer places.

“Even my house was burned,” he said, adding that he believes most of Jaranwala’s 17 churches had been attacked.

Delegations of Muslim clerics arrived in Jaranwala to help calm the situation, as troops and police patrolled the area.

Local authorities have shut schools and offices and banned rallies for a week to prevent more violence.

The violence drew nationwide condemnation, with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar ordering police to ensure the rioters are arrested.

## **Swedish churches flourish despite rise in secularism**

**Sweden, a traditionally Christian country, has experienced a rise in secularism in recent years — as have many countries in the world. However, Christianity is still alive and thriving in the country.**

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Unlike America's Bible Belt, Paul Glader reports that in Sweden, active faith communities are spread out in smaller pockets across the country: what he calls the country's "Bible Buttons."

Both the Church of Sweden, connected to the Lutheran denomination, and "free churches" (mostly evangelical and charismatic) are hoping to increase attendance, bring in young people and serve their communities. In many ways, they've been successful. |

Paul Glader reports on what's made these churches thrive and suggests American churches may have something to learn from them as well.

[\[https://religionunplugged.com/news/2023/8/3/churches-flourish-in-one-of-swedens-bible-button-cities-by-caring-for-neighbors?\]](https://religionunplugged.com/news/2023/8/3/churches-flourish-in-one-of-swedens-bible-button-cities-by-caring-for-neighbors?)

## In the media

### **Irish government urged to have public inquiry on Omagh bombing**

**News Letter - All questions around the Omagh bomb atrocity can only be answered by holding a public inquiry on both sides of the Irish border, a lawyer representing some bereaved families has said, Jonathan McCaambridge PA reports.**

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John McBurney urged the Irish Government to "reconsider" its position after a minister indicated this week that there is no new evidence which would warrant holding a public inquiry in the Republic of Ireland.

Twenty-nine people, including a woman pregnant with twins, were killed when a massive car bomb exploded in the Co Tyrone town in 1998.

No-one has ever been criminally convicted of the attack.

In 2021, High Court judge Mr Justice Horner recommended the UK Government carry out a new investigation into the Omagh bombing, and urged the Irish Government to do likewise.

Earlier this year, Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris announced that an independent statutory inquiry would be carried out.

Peter Burke, Irish Minister for European Affairs and Defence, said this week during an interview with the BBC that a number of investigations, including the Nally Report, had already been carried out in Ireland into the bombing. He said that the Nally Report had found no significant new evidence which warranted the establishment of a public inquiry, adding "that is our position at the moment".

Mr Burke stressed that the Irish Government would cooperate fully with the UK inquiry in an attempt to ensure there are no unanswered questions left about the atrocity.

Mr McBurney, who represents some families in the Families Moving On victims' support group, said: "The Nally Report

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which he referred to throughout the interview did not have the necessary powers to fully probe all matters and therefore many aspects remain to be inquired into. Lord Justice Horner made it quite clear in a very detailed judgment that full investigation in both jurisdictions was necessary in order to fully deal with the matter."

Mr McBurney continued: "It is essential that the Irish Government must reflect urgently on how disrespectful and unsatisfactory it is to ignore the obvious need, in tandem with a statutory inquiry in Northern Ireland, to properly investigate by public inquiry all matters outstanding as elucidated in the judgment of Lord Justice Horner.

"The call is now for reconsideration of the negative position outlined by Minister Burke and an indication that a tandem inquiry will be launched in the Republic of Ireland."

The Irish Government has been approached for a response.

On Tuesday, a number of families marked the 25th anniversary of the Omagh bombing.

## **Further questions for PSNI bosses over timeline of laptop and data theft from car**

**News Letter - Answers to questions arising from the theft of a police laptop in Newtownabbey last month will be demanded from the PSNI chief constable at a meeting on Tuesday, Mark Rainey reports**

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The convening of the Policing Board will be the second non-scheduled meeting of the oversight body since the PSNI announced details of two major data breaches.

Last Tuesday, the PSNI said the inadvertent release of sensitive information – containing data on all 10,000 police officers and support staff – was on an “industrial scale”.

The incident occurred in response to a routine Freedom of Information request.

The following day, police also revealed that a PSNI laptop, radio and information on 200 staff members, had been stolen from an officer’s private vehicle on July 6.

As further details emerged, Policing Board member Mike Nesbitt raised concerns that it took eight days for the 200 people mentioned on the data sheet to be notified of the breach.

“The timelines in the statement do not make sense to me. They need interrogation and I intend to do so at the next session between the chief constable and the Policing Board,” he said.

It was confirmed by police earlier this week that the data from last Tuesday’s data breach was in the hands of dissident republicans – after copies were posted on a wall opposite Sinn Fein’s office on the Falls Road in Belfast.

More than 3,000 PSNI employees have now registered an interest in a possible legal action against their employers – with several claiming they are now considering moving

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house over fears their personal safety has been compromised.



Commenting on his concerns over the theft from the car, Mike Nesbitt said:

“For quite some time I have been unhappy with the quality of the information flow from the police to the policing board.

“When I say, quality I mean accuracy. In this case there are several questions arising out of the timeline that they published on Saturday.

“When it came to the 10,000 names, they were able to tell the board, to the exact minute, when the data was uploaded, when they contacted the information commissioner... yet when it comes to the deactivation of this stolen laptop all they can say is that it was deactivated ‘soon afterwards’. Soon after the 6 July. Surely they should be able to tell us to the very minute, to the very second, when the deactivation was complete.”



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Mr Nesbitt added: “So my question is, why are you being so vague about when it was deactivated? The suspicion is \[it was] because you didn’t know it was deactivated.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Welcoming the stranger event - One month to go

**It's on Saturday 16th September in Drogheda Presbyterian Church.**

Across this island it is clear that communities are increasingly multi-cultural as people seek to make Ireland their home, having travelled here for all sorts of reasons.

The world truly is on our doorstep and many congregations in PCI are responding in creative and meaningful ways to welcome newcomers. Welcoming the Stranger will offer the opportunity to come together with others with a particular interest in this work to outline the importance of it from the Bible and participate in three discussion forums sharing practice and stories from a variety of contexts across the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some

# Welcoming the stranger



have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. —  
Hebrews 13:1-2

Book in here:

[www.presbyterianireland.org/Events/Welcoming-the-stranger.aspx](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Events/Welcoming-the-stranger.aspx)

## **Resource matching workshop at Southern Regional College (Newry)**

**Learn how your business can support the green economy and save money through reducing waste materials.**

This **FREE** event, in partnership with Invest Northern Ireland, will be held at Southern Regional College Newry East Campus, Patrick Street BT35 8DN.

**Energy & Resource Efficiency**

**Invest Northern Ireland**

**WORKSHOP**

**Resource Matching**

**Southern Regional College - Newry Campus**  
**Patrick Street, Newry, BT35 8DN**

Wednesday 30 August 2023, 9:00 to 13:00

**International Synergies**  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
industrial ecology solutions

We match you together and everyone wins, including the environment.

Registration will be from 9.00 in the Graduate Restaurant with the Resource Matching session until 1:00pm.

At International Synergies Northern Ireland's Resource-Matching Workshop, we believe that one company's waste can be another's treasure. This event is designed to bring together businesses of all sizes and industries to list their underutilized resources and material needs. By connecting these resources with companies looking for them, we aim to create a sustainable and mutually beneficial solution.

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During the workshop, you'll have the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals and explore potential partnerships and synergies that can lead to cost savings, reduced environmental impact, and increased operational efficiency. Whether you have pallets and timber, steel off-cuts, cardboard, vegetable mulch, used furniture, plastic containers or any other resource, this event will provide a platform for you to find innovative ways to re-purpose them.

Here's what you can expect at the Resource-Matching Workshop:

- Engaging presentations on the principles of the circular economy and the benefits of resource matching.
- Facilitated resource-matching sessions to help you identify and list your available resources in terms of both HAVES and WANTS
- Networking opportunities to connect with other businesses and explore resource-matching synergies.
- Expert guidance from our resource-matching team on implementing circular practices and integrating sustainability into your operations.
- A chance to contribute to a greener future and make a positive impact on our local economy.

This event is completely **FREE** to attend, but space is limited, so reserve your ticket now to secure your spot. Tickets will be allocated on a **first come, first served** basis. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to transform waste into valuable resources and create a more sustainable business ecosystem.

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<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/resource-matching-workshop-at-southern-regional-college-newry-tickets-657718282087?twclid=2-4nnq87p2js9ufuufng0wq2zkt>





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<https://www.corrymeela.org/about/recruitment/miscellaneous>

And please share widely!

## Seagoe Youth Group Youth Work Coordinator



Seagoe Youth Group seeks to appoint Youth Work Coordinator. The person appointed will have responsibility for the development of the Group's youth work programme in line with Education Authority priorities (80% of post), and the development youth work within Seagoe Parish (20% of post).

Job descriptions and application forms are available by emailing [office@seagoeyouthgroup.co.uk](mailto:office@seagoeyouthgroup.co.uk)

The closing date for applications is **11<sup>th</sup> September 2023** at noon. Interviews will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## 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)

