

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Into the Eye of the Storm**

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## Image of the day

### Into the Eye of the Storm



Don Binder is travelling from Dulles International airport Washington to Tel Aviv

**A few weeks ago Canon Don Binder of the diocese of Jerusalem was one of the group of clergy which visited the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough.**

He commented, “As we are about to board the plane for the first leg of our trip back to Jerusalem for another year of missionary service, we ask your prayers for travel mercies, since we are truly heading back into a war zone after the recent pair of assassinations in the Middle East.

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“So it came down to the last day of our vacation to see our dear daughter Mary because she was working hard all summer as the Quarter Master at a Scout Camp.

“As we head back to Jerusalem, we leave her and Thomas with all our love and prayers as they both report back next week to prepare their classrooms in their respective schools!

“May God bless us all!”

## News

**ECI  
Climate  
Justice  
Candle  
visits  
Bishop  
Street  
Quaker  
Meeting,  
Derry**



**The candle was present at Meeting for Worship at Bishop Street Quaker Meeting on 7th July 2024.**



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“Would your church or faith community like to host the ECI Climate Justice Candle?” I co Congregation asks.

“You can use the candle in worship to raise awareness of climate justice and caring for our common home. Just drop a line to - [info@ecocongregationireland.com](mailto:info@ecocongregationireland.com) and we will arrange to get the candle to you”



## Lammas Day in England

Yesterday was the 1st August, Lammas Day. An old English festival, a sort of mini-Corpus Christi, at which the first fruits of the harvest were gathered and made into bread for the Holy Communion. In Preston, Paignton, there is "Lammas Lane", which is a street name of medieval origin. (Picture courtesy of Justin Trevelyan Parker)



## Exciting things happening at St Saviour's Craigavon

### Some upcoming Events

Tonight 7-8pm | **Prayer Walk around South Lake**

An easy walk around the south lake as we pray blessing over our city. Godspeed, Craigavon!

Sunday 11am | **Morning Worship**

Stu continues our summer series through the Psalms as we dig into Psalm 51 - David's song of repentance after his affair with Bathsheba.



Sunday 6:30-8pm | **YF Campfire at the Rectory**

All our young people are invited to the rectory for fun and games and toasting s'mores round the campfire.

27-30 August 7:45pm | **Diocesan Bible Week**

An incredible opportunity to meet for worship and Bible teaching with Bishop Stuart Bell, right on our doorstep at St Saviour's Dollingstown (Magheralin Parish). Get it in your diaries!

30-31 August | **Young Adults Retreat**

An opportunity for young adults to retreat from the hurry of normal life, and gather with other Jesus followers to chill, play and eat! Contact Janine at Diocese of Down & Dromore for more info, or follow this link to book: <https://shorturl.at/HkRa8>



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## Sun 8 Sep | **Back to Church Family Service**

Got out of the habit of coming to church?

Maybe you never had the habit to start with? We'd love to invite you to our Back to Church Family Service - an easy,

welcoming, no-judgement first step. There'll be a simple, family friendly service, some fun and relevant Bible

teaching, and loads of opportunity to connect and build friendships with fun and food after the service.

## **Randalstown holiday Bible club**

Sally Moore, community outreach worker, Second Randalstown would appreciate your prayers for the holiday Bible club starting on 5 August, specifically for the weather to enable use of outside space. Pray for the leaders as they

TALES OF THE  
**UNEXPECTED**

BIBLE

A FRESH LOOK AT  
**FOUR PARABLES**

27-30 AUGUST AT 7.45PM  
IN ST SAVIOUR'S DOLLINGSTOWN

BIBLE  
WEEK  
2024

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prepare to lead the week, and for the children who would attend – that they might open their hearts to God. Pray that opportunities might arise for leaders to make connections with parents.

## **43 young adults STEP UP into leadership.**

**One of the highlights in the BBNI calendar is our Step Up weekend and last weekend did not disappoint.**

Over the weekend we worked with 43 young adults who have stepped into leadership in The Northern Ireland Boys' Brigade (BBNI) and have given up their weekend to get more equipped for the role.

With leaders from BB companies throughout Northern Ireland, new friendships were made, ideas were exchanged, and the craic was mighty.

The weekend focused on equipping the young leaders with skills and techniques that will assist them with programme planning, working with children and young people, story telling, and sharing faith, in addition to the important compliance elements including safeguarding and risk assessments.

### **Participants told us:**

‘My highlight was just learning new things for being a leader for anchors like different games and how other leaders structure their nights.’



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‘I have enjoyed being equipped with great skills to help me as a leader.’

‘I liked how Christian orientated it was and very real and how each speaker linked what they were saying back to God and what he can do for us.’

‘My highlight was the fun and fellowship with everyone. I love that we have been equipped over the weekend to step up for our Lord. The christian model from the leaders made it so special for me.’

Thanks to our volunteer trainers who invest so much in this training and to our friends at Made for More for leading some of our sessions.

Investing in younger leaders is such an important part of ensuring that we can continue to work with children and young people through Boys’ Brigade in Northern Ireland and Donegal.

Thank you to everyone who completed the training, we really enjoyed getting to know you and look forward to hearing great things about how you put the learning into practice.

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## Cathedral Calls

### Selby Abbey

**On Tuesday 6th August, the final recital of Selby Abbey Trust's 2024 Lunchtime Summer Series was to be given by Alessandro Licata.**

Sadly due to a recent injury, Alessandro is unable to perform for us on this occasion, so we wish him a speedy recovery.

The recital will instead be given by Oliver Waterer beginning at 12.30pm. His programme will include music by JS Bach, Herbert Howells, Charles Villiers Stanford and Louis Vierne. Admission is FREE.





Oliver is Organist and Director of Music at Selby Abbey where he has been custodian of the Abbey's choral tradition and its renowned "Hill" organ since 2021. He combines this role with that of a freelance organist and conductor, performing at churches and cathedrals across the UK and Europe, and broadcasting on BBC Television and Radio. He has recently given recitals at the Church of San Saturnino in Rome, at Leeds and Howden Minsters, and at Hull City Hall.

Built by the famous firm of William Hill & Sons in 1909, the organ of Selby Abbey is widely regarded as among the finest 'romantic' organs in Britain. It was restored by Geoffrey Coffin and Principal Pipe Organs of York in 2016: it has 4 manuals and 67 speaking stops. The organ is renowned for the sound of its bright principal choruses, its wealth of tonal colour, and its powerful and thrilling reeds. It



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gained international recognition in the 1960s when the Italian virtuoso organist, Fernando Germani made several recordings at the Abbey. Since then the organ has been played and celebrated by many distinguished musicians from all over the world.

We also look forward to an Evening Piano Recital by Benjamin Frith on Saturday August 3 beginning at 7.00pm. Tickets will be available on the door.

Selby Abbey welcomes visitors from 10.00am to 4.00pm every day. For more information about worship, events and activities, please visit our website [www.selbyabbey.org.uk](http://www.selbyabbey.org.uk)

Photo credit: Ben Elliott-Hill

## Clergy and ministry

### **New £50,000 clergy wellbeing officer to assist growing number of Catholic priests in need of care**

**Down and Connor first in Ireland, Paul Ainsworth writes in the Irish News, August 01, 2024.**

The north's largest Catholic diocese has created a new full-time role to care for the physical and mental wellbeing of priests facing increasing pressures within the church, with an annual salary of up to £50,000.

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The search is on for a clergy health and wellbeing officer within the Diocese of Down and Connor, with the role aimed at registered nurses with experience in older peoples' services and primary care.

It is understood the post is one of the first of its kind in the north, and has been established to assist both serving and retired priests.

The job description states the officer will observe “the overall wellbeing of clergy including sick and retired priests, to ensure awareness of their living circumstances in order to establish whether they are living well”.

The successful applicant will also assess the “physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing of clergy in need of care”, such as priests facing issues including loneliness.

The role is being introduced as the Catholic church across Ireland growing pressures caused by declining clergy numbers that mean an increasing workload for priests.

Last month it was reported that three parishes in Co Tyrone and Co Donegal were being combined as a result of dwindling clergy and mass-goers.

Down and Connor spokesperson, Fr Eddie McGee said the new position will build on existing structures within the diocese to provide support for clergy of all stages in their career.

“In the past, much of the pastoral care provided by the church would have been the responsibility of priests

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appointed by a bishop to the role of episcopal vicar,” he explained.

“This new role is indicative of the increasing numbers of clergy who are older and infirm, but it isn’t only for those with physical needs - it’s also in support of the mental wellbeing of priests and to assist them with the challenges of their ministry, and to help them achieve a holistic balance in their lives.”

The post, with a three-year fixed-term contract, results from work started in a project launched by the diocese in 2019, titled Pathways to the Future, which among other areas was aimed at improving pastoral care for priests.

“Ultimately, the role represents the commitment of the bishop to the welfare of his clergy,” Fr McGee added.

## Fancy a Bluegrass parish

**St. John’s  
Episcopal  
Church in  
Versailles, KY is  
seeking a half-  
time priest for  
its warm and  
forward-looking  
congregation in  
the Bluegrass**





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**region of KY, 12 miles from Lexington.**

Further information: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/jobs/priest-in-charge-pt-78/>

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

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Applications: <https://www.music.ox.ac.uk/choral-and-organ-awards>

We can't wait to hear from you!

**Please note** that applications for Organ Awards are for the 2026-27 academic year (deferred entry).

## Heritage

### Plaster cast pioneer

**Anne Crawford Acheson CBE FRBC (5 August 1882 – 13 March 1962)**

Anne was born in Portadown in County Armagh. The Achesons lived at 51 Carrickblacker Rd. After graduating from Victoria College in Belfast and the Belfast School of Art, Ms Acheson won a scholarship to the Royal College in Kensington, London, where she studied sculpture from 1906-1910.



During the First World War she volunteered with the Surgical Requisites Association. Acheson and Elinor Hallé were both sculptors and they witnessed soldiers returning from the front with broken limbs held

together with only wooden splints and basic bandages.

Acheson suggested taking a plaster cast of the limb and when the cast had hardened, wrapping papier-mache over it, and placing it over the broken limb to support it whilst healing. This was inspired by the plaster of Paris she used in her sculptural work.

The anatomically correct papier-mache splint reduced the healing time while properly supporting the broken limb. The idea of using plaster of Paris was adopted and refined over the years and is still in use today by the medical profession.



Anne was awarded the CBE in 1919. She was the first woman, in 1938, to be elected a fellow of the Royal British

## WEST TYRONE UNIT ARE RECRUITING



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Please contact:**

✉ [Kimberley.McMullan@sjani.org](mailto:Kimberley.McMullan@sjani.org)  
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Society of Sculptors. In the 1950s, she returned to live in Glenavy, Co Antrim, where she remained for the rest of her life. A blue Plaque was unveiled to honour Ms Acheson in her home town of Portadown in 2018.

Photograph of Anne in her SRA uniform courtesy & copyright of the Acheson estate.

## Poem for today

### In memoriam Francis Ledwidge - Killed in France 31 July 1917

**By Seamus Heaney**

The bronze soldier hitches a bronze cape  
That crumples stiffly in imagined wind  
No matter how the real winds buff and sweep  
His sudden hunkering run, forever craned

Over Flanders. Helmet and haversack,  
The gun's firm slope from butt to bayonet,  
The loyal, fallen names on the embossed plaque —  
It all meant little to the worried pet

I was in nineteen forty-six or seven,  
Gripping my Aunt Mary by the hand  
Along the Portstewart prom, then round the crescent  
To thread the Castle Walk out to the strand.

The pilot from Coleraine sailed to the coal-boat.  
Courting couples rose out of the scooped dunes.

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A farmer stripped to his studs and shiny waistcoat  
Rolled the trousers down on his timid shins.

At night when coloured bulbs strung out the sea-front  
Country voices rose from a cliff-top shelter  
With news of a great litter – “We’ll pet the runt!” –  
And barbed wire that had torn a friesian’s elder.

Francis Ledwidge, you courted at the seaside  
Beyond Drogheda one Sunday afternoon.  
Literary, sweet-talking, countrified,  
You pedalled out the leafy road from Slane.

Where you belonged, among the dolorous  
And lovely: the May altar of wild flowers,  
Easter water sprinkled in outhouses,  
Mass-rocks and hill-top raths and rafted byres.

I think of you in your Tommy’s uniform,  
A haunted Catholic face, pallid and brave,  
Ghosting the trenches with a bloom of hawthorn  
Or silence cored from a Boyne passage-grave.

It’s summer, nineteen-fifteen. I see the girl  
My aunt was then, herding on the long acre.  
Behind a low bush in the Dardanelles  
You suck stones to make your dry mouth water.

It’s nineteen-seventeen. She still herds cows,  
But a big strafe puts the candles out in Ypres:  
‘My soul is by the Boyne, cutting new meadows...  
My country wears her confirmation dress.’



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'To be called a British soldier while my country  
Has no place among nations...' You were rent  
By shrapnel six weeks later. 'I am sorry  
That party politics should divide our tents.'

In you, our dead enigma, all the strains  
Criss-cross in useless equilibrium  
And as the wind tunes through this vigilant bronze  
I hear again the sure confusing drum

You followed from Boyne water to the Balkans  
But miss the twilit note your flute should sound.  
You were not keyed or pitched like these true-blue ones  
Though all of you consort now underground.

## 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  
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