

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Portrait at Hillsborough**

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## Image of the day

### Portrait at Hillsborough

HM Queen Elizabeth II's portrait - This painting by renowned Northern Ireland artist Colin Davidson is on display at Hillsborough Castle for the first time.

It is on display in the State Drawing Room until late November.

## People and places

### Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty The Queen

**The Ancre Somme Association Charity invite you to their Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Marking the 70th Anniversary of her Coronation in 1953.**

The service is being held on Sunday 10th September 2023 at 3pm in St Marks Parish Church, Portadown.

The Reverend William Orr will officiate and music will be provided by the Northern Ireland Military Wives Choir.

The Service of Thanksgiving will include bible readings, songs, poems and congregational hymns, expressing

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thankfulness for the life of Her Majesty. Tributes will also be made highlighting her commitment to the Armed Forces, her faith and to the 70 years of service she gave.

“I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.”

We would be honoured if you would join us as we give thanks for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

\* Please register in advance if you plan to attend this service. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/service-of-thanksgiving-for-the-life-of-her-majesty-the-queen-tickets-556017612647>

## **Calling all cyclists - 'Cycle the Foyle' returns early next month**

**The Foyle Hospice has launched this year's 'Cycle the Foyle' event which will take place on Saturday, September 2.**

The event is open to everyone and will consist of 50 miles leaving Ebrington Square at 8.30am

The route will continue onto Magilligan where cyclists will cross on the Ferry to Greencastle, sail into Donegal, then cycle to finish at Foyle Hospice.

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All participants will be greeted upon their return to Foyle Hospice with a much-needed cuppa and some delicious home-baked goodies.

This event is now in its eighth year and is organised by Evelyn Donnelly and Mark Maroney with the aim of encouraging those across the region to ride their bikes while raising much-needed funds for Foyle Hospice.

Ailbhe Temple, Community Fundraising Officer, Foyle Hospice said: "We are delighted to once again have the support of Foyle Cycle Club and are looking forward to seeing as many people on their bikes on Saturday, September 2 showing their support for Foyle Hospice. We



**Going Deeper**  
**Saturday 2nd September**  
9.30am - 2.30pm  
St. John's  
10 Fort Road, Helen's Bay

**With Anne Donaldson -**  
**"God's Alignment for Assignment"**

**\*\*\* To register interest, send an email to**  
**office@divinehealingministries.org**

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are indebted to our community for their continued support and generosity.

“Events like this allow us to continue to provide specialist palliative care to our patients and support for their families and loved ones.”

Registration is £20 which will include the ferry and refreshments. So come on and get on your bike for a great cause!

You can sign up for this years' Cycle the Foyle at [www.foylehospice.com](http://www.foylehospice.com) or call our fundraising team on 028 71 359888.

## Heritage Week in the Donagh Group of Parishes

**On Monday 14th August St Salvator's hosted two Heritage week talks at 12noon and 2pm.**

The Donagh Group reports - The Revd Tim Irvine spoke about Bishop John Leslie and his involvement in the three phases of the Irish Confederate Wars: the 1641 Rebellion, the Confederates War and the Cromwellian War which preceded the Restoration of the Monarchy and Bishop Leslie's translation from Raphoe to Clogher and the purchase of the lands at Donagh which we know today as the Castle Leslie Estate.

Revd Tim spoke about the construction of St Salvator's Parish Church and pointed out interesting architectural



features and how they represented changes in religious practice within the Church of England and Ireland.

Revd Tim concluded his talk by showing how, until the 1840's, St Salvator's had stood beside the gates of the earlier manor house at the end of the village Main Street and how it had once been part of the village rather than its current position enclosed within the demesne walls.

Bishop Leslie came to Donagh after one of the most turbulent periods in Irish history, in an eleven year period of wars which had seen the largest loss of life in Ireland until the Great Famine of the 1840, the time when the village of Glaslough was being remodeled into its current form and we were left wondering what had happened to the villagers who had once lived in the dwellings that once flowed down the



hill up to the church and the old manor house: had they simply moved into the surrounding countryside, or had they boarded ships headed for America, or had they, like so many, died in the famine? Perhaps some future researcher might be able to provide us with an answer.

On Wednesday 16th August Brigid Clesham, who has been carrying out archival research on St Sillian's, Tyholland delivered a fascinating talk on St Sillian's from its earliest times which sources from the Early Middle Ages connect to both St Patrick and St Cillian.

Sadly the records that might definitively link the site of our current church and the ancient ecclesial/monastic settlement mentioned in the Tripartite Life of St Patrick, written many centuries after the death of St Patrick, have

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been lost to the mists of time, however, our records for the 18th and 19th Century are excellent and we were reminded of how the parish was once responsible for the upkeep of the local roads. One comforting continuity is that, as in the early Nineteenth Century the Church Wardens were a Montgomery and a Wilson, so too in the early Twenty First Century the Church Wardens are still a Montgomery and a Wilson.

Our thanks to Brigit for her research and for Monaghan County Council Heritage Department who have funded her research into our parish. We hope to hear more from Brigit next year when she reveals how the parish developed in the Twentieth Century and she has fired our imaginations about what archeological evidence may be hiding under our feet that might confirm the association of our site with the early Church in Ireland.

On Thursday 17th August in St Muadain's, Errigal Truagh Ethne McCord took us on a tour of the parish looking for evidence of those who once populated the pews of the two Church of Ireland Church's of Errigal Truagh and Errigal Shanco. Ethne's research took her to properties, long abandoned but whose last inhabitants are still remembered locally.

We had two guest speakers, one whose homestead now leaves no trace and another who recalled his school days at Errigal Truagh, hearing the short pitched note of the blacksmith's hammer on the anvil and daydreaming of the freedom of the forge outside the schools' thick walls.





Ethne has more research to do and she promises us that next year she will travel the lanes of Errigal Shanco and Errigal Portclare to record the presence of the families who once filled long closed churches. In the Nineteenth Century over one thousand children were baptized in Errigal Shanco and Errigal Truagh; in the Twentieth Century this number dropped to one hundred and twenty; in the Twenty First Century we had had one baptism.

Our thanks to everyone who helped organise these talks and who catered for the lovely suppers at Tyholland and Errigal Truagh.

Special thanks to Ethne McCord for all the administrative work that she put in to promote our Heritage Week events, she is a gem!

## **Bishop of Clogher, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Ellis speaks about his faith**

*In the first of a new series, The Impartial Reporter talks to local religious leaders and people of faith. Here, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Ellis, Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, shares insights into his own belief, his role, and how his faith has shaped and directed his life.*

### **Can you share with us your personal journey of faith and how it has evolved over the years?**

I was brought up within a traditional Church of Ireland family; we were parishioners of Eglantine parish in the Diocese of Connor.

There I was baptised, went to Sunday School and was confirmed. I was nurtured in this cradle-Anglican way and came to understand in my early teens that faith has a personal element, and that Jesus calls us individually to follow Him.

Happily, that stirring of faith occurred at the same time as my confirmation and so was very significant – a time of commitment and confirming what had begun at my baptism.

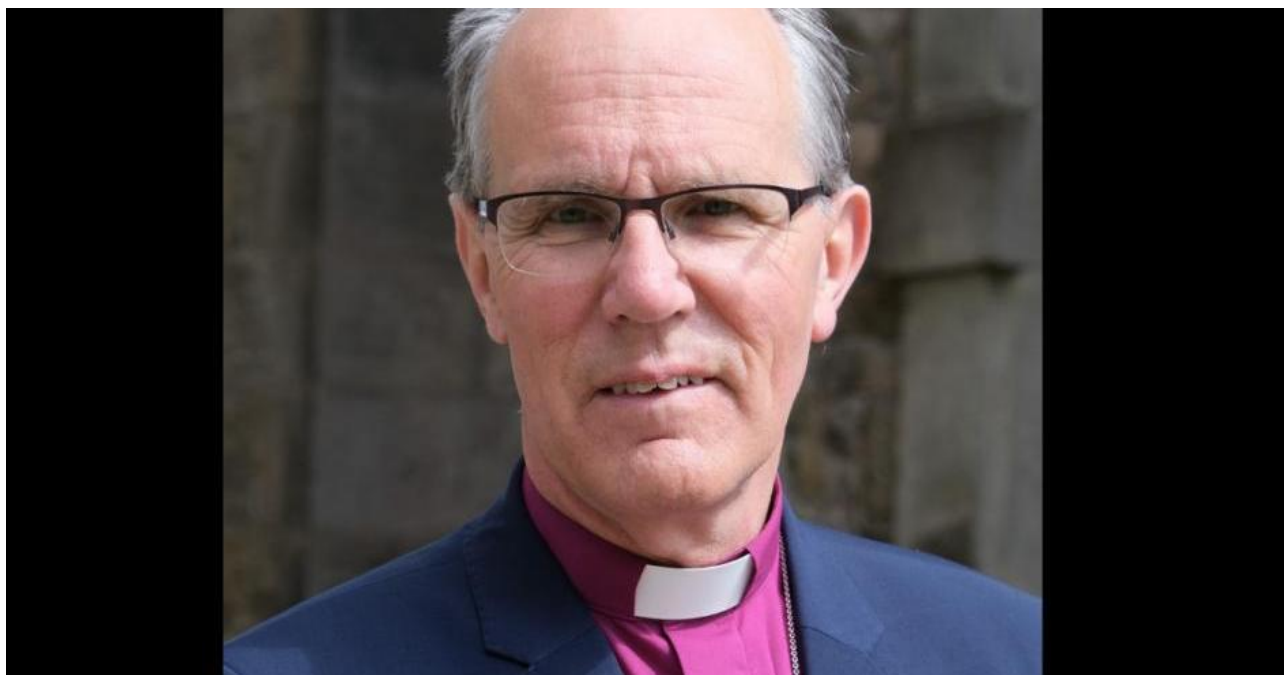
### **What does your faith mean to you, and how does it influence your daily life and decisions?**

Followers of Jesus Christ are ‘disciples’ – in the original Greek language of the New Testament, that is mathetes, or ‘a learner’ (we get our word, ‘mathematics’, from it).

Jesus said to the disciples, ‘Follow me’; Christian faith is about following Jesus Christ through each day of your life.

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Every day will present challenges and learning opportunities – our goal is to allow the mind of Christ our Saviour to live within us and direct our path.



## **How do you find solace and comfort in your faith during challenging times or difficult situations?**

Clergy can find themselves dealing with many complex and challenging life situations. You share with your parishioners in their joys and sorrows.

It can be particularly tough in times of great suffering or loss.

Clergy are often called upon to stand in places where others are unable to stand, and say what others are unable to express.

Words often fail, and being with people in terrible times is often all we can offer.

When I have been in difficult situations, I offer a prayer that God will be with me and to inspire my thoughts and words and to strengthen me in my weakness.

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That verse from Philippians 4:13, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' is one in which I find great reassurance.

Also, there is a line from a poem that I find helpful to say to myself: 'I steadier step when I recall, that though I slip, though dost not fall'.

**Could you describe some of the most significant moments or experiences that have strengthened your belief in your faith?**

There are some beautiful places in County Fermanagh where the majesty of the scenery evoke awe and wonder of God the creator – I feel that for sure at the viewpoint at Lough Navar, for example, or atop Cuilcagh mountain on a clear day.

I find as I visit many of the parish churches in this diocese, they provide wonderful spaces to enjoy the peace and presence of God.

The occasions of my ordination as deacon and priest over 30 years ago, and my consecration as a bishop in 2021, were very significant moments where the offering of my weak human commitment was strengthened by the grace of God for service in His Church.

Those were amazing moments of nearness to the presence of God.

<https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/23729922.coi-bishop-clogher-rt-rev-dr-ian-ellis-speaks-faith/?ref=socialflow>

# News reports



## Pope calls mother of young man that died after World Youth Day

**The mother of a young man that died of a bacterium infection just days after attending World Youth Day has been consoled by the Pope via a phone call.**

City-wide mourning was proclaimed in the province of Varese following the death of 24 year old local Luca Re Sartu.

Just days prior to his death, Luca had attended the prominent Catholic festival World Youth Day, attended by the Pontiff.

Known candidly as “The Catholic Woodstock”, festivalgoers gather from across the globe every three years. It’s celebrated on a diocesan level annually.



### *Irish bishops at Lisbon WYD*

This year, the event was held in Lisbon, Portugal.

Prior to the funeral mass held for Luca on Friday, Pope Francis made an unexpected phone call with Luca's mother.

The mother's verbatim words," Bishop Raimondi told Vatican News, "were, 'When you see him \[the Pope], thank him for his exquisite kindness.

“He was moved with me, he cried with me, and above all he was like a father. He comforted me as if he were my father.”

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Luca's funeral mass was attended by friends wearing World Youth Day t-shirts, as well as civic leaders and family members.

## **Rowan Williams features on anthem composed for 100 year anniversary of Welsh diocese**

**To mark 100 years of the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, the Church in Wales has launched a new centenary anthem with a former Archbishop of Canterbury set to feature on it.**

Composed by musician and broadcaster Mal Pope, For This Reason will be performed at the Royal Welsh Showground next month, as part of a festival to mark the centenary.

Previously, Pope was the brains behind an anthem to mark the 50th anniversary of Swansea's city status, as well as a Platinum Jubilee anthem featuring voices from across the Commonwealth.

The song is inspired by a message Mal once listened to from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, as the same showground upon which the centenary festival will be held.

The text for Bishop Tutu's message that day was Ephesians 3:14-21: "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus

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throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"

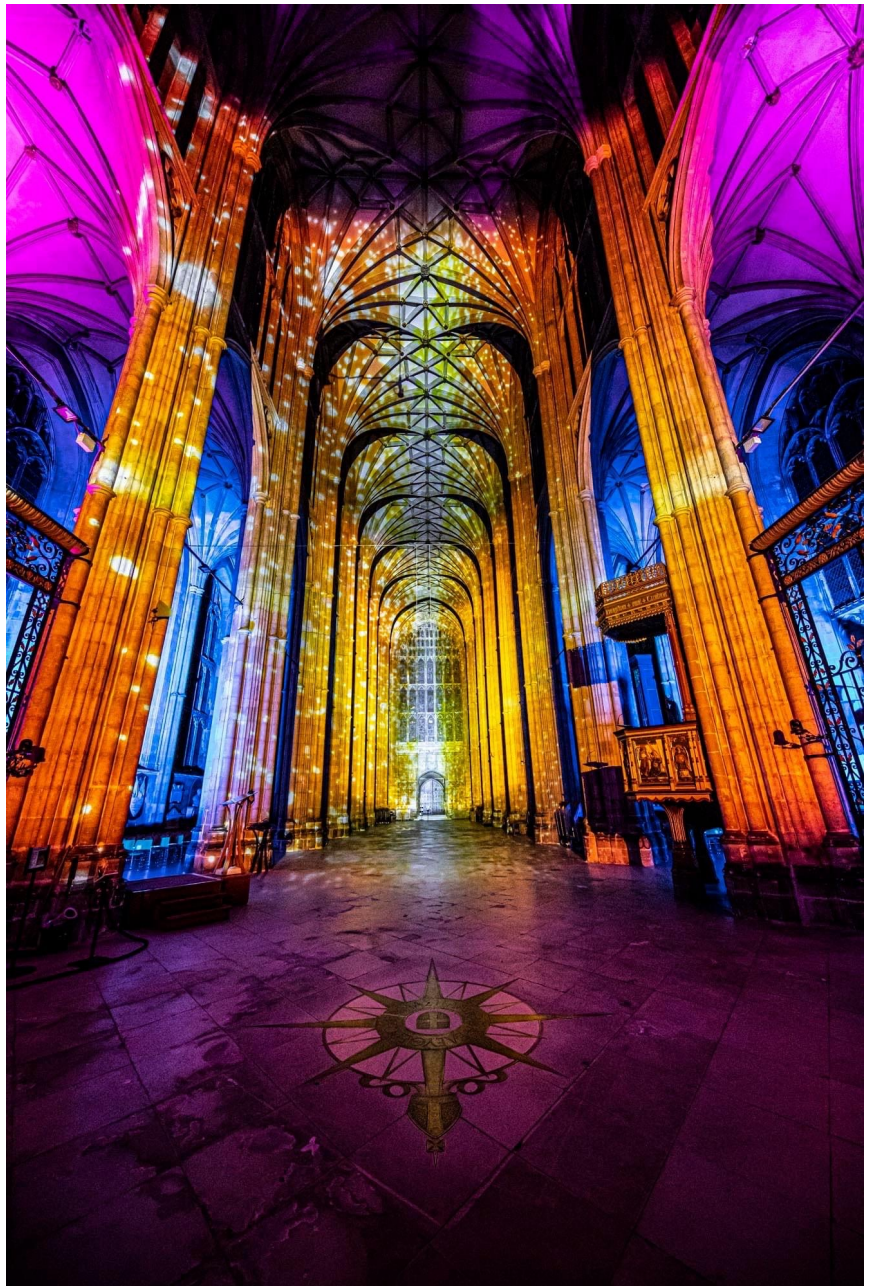
In keeping with the Bishop of Swansea's message at the start of the year, Mal wanted the anthem to focus on thankfulness.

"There it all was - family and generations and thankfulness," Pope said

"Steve Balsamo, Kev Johns, Lorraine King, Camille Meskill

and Lisa Marie Williams all popped around and sounded wonderful blended together," he said.

"I've always loved Brecon Cathedral, which also celebrates its centenary this year, so I really wanted the choir and cathedral organ to be central to the recording. With the help of Andrew and David Griffiths we turned up with some equipment and captured their glorious sound in that wonderful building.





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“We next visited the Swansea U3A Ukulele Big Band under the direction of Andy Skilling who added their harp-like sound to the mix, before finally travelling to Cardiff to the home of the former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams. It had always been our intention to add a version of the diocesan prayer to the anthem and we could think of no one better fitted to sharing that prayer on our recording than Rowan.”

The lyrics and background track have been made available for school, choirs and individuals across the diocese to take part and there will be a special performance at the centenary celebration festival, which takes place on the 9th September.

The festival, which will be hosted by Kev Johns, will also feature performances by Only Men Aloud, Guvna B, Steve Balsamo, Who’s Molly, Ify Iwobi, and Builth Wells Male Voice Choir.

## **Churches must lead development in Black communities – if they want it to get done**

**Black churches are primed to lead a new kind of movement, one centered on economic development and closing the staggering racial wealth gap.**

Some view America as the land of opportunity, but those who peer beyond the publicity know that for certain communities, opportunity is lacking, and triumphs are hard-won. Slavery, Jim Crow, the New Deal and redlining

continue to cast a long shadow over Black Americans — these ugly parts of our collective history have [created stark and persistent structural disparities](#) in every area we use to measure economic well-being in the United States.

Legislation has indeed helped address these inequities, but it simply hasn't done enough, especially when we consider new and promising real estate development in underserved Black communities. Examples of such developments abound, and increasingly, so do examples of Black churches taking the lead to design and build new, viable and exciting mixed-use real estate projects, all with an eye to increasing economic development.

As the son and grandson of Black pastors, I'm keenly aware that Black churches are rooted in care. For centuries, these institutions have worked to nurture and serve their congregants and communities, providing resources where societal safety nets fail and fighting to right historic wrongs they had no part in creating. And as a longtime real estate developer who's been in the industry for more than 30 years, who also happens to have significant knowledge of the role Black churches have played in the welfare of their communities, I know developments helmed by churches can flourish.

### **Black churches offer far more than pastoral care**

Black churches have played a significant role in Black community development for ages. History shows that ever since enslaved Black people set foot in America, they [organized religious congregations in secret](#); these meetings served as a rare outlet where enslaved people could worship, sing and freely express their feelings and beliefs in



a way they saw fit. This was, in a sense, an early form of community development. But as the needs of the Black community have evolved over time, the church has shifted its efforts to answer the call.

Later, in the years preceding the Civil War, Black ministers and churches fiercely — and bravely — [condemned slavery](#) and, in the North, partnered with white abolitionists to establish the underground railroad. Fast-forward to the late 19th and early 20th century: Between 1890 to 1930, more than 2 million working-class Black people left the South and migrated north in search of better lives during the Great Migration. Black churches stepped up their social service efforts to meet new congregants' needs.

In the 1950s and '60s, Black churches were pivotal players in the Civil Rights Movement. Martin Luther King Jr. was a minister and the child and grandchild of ministers. He joined hands with other faith leaders to create the influential Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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But governmental action to erode structural disparities and invest in Black and brown communities hasn't been fast or effective enough. Take, for instance, the [Community Reinvestment Act of 1977](#); it has only partially achieved the core goal of increasing bank lending in low-income neighborhoods. One study done by researchers from the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Federal Reserve Board and the University of Southern California found the [“CRA’s effect on loan volumes and profitability appeared to be small.”](#) For this reason, churches are taking charge.

Today, more than ever before in light of the events of the past few years, Black churches are primed and prepared to lead a new kind of movement, one centered on economic development and closing the [staggering racial wealth gap](#). Often among the few institutions that remain in underserved Black communities, churches are tapped into the community's history, potential and needs and uniquely equipped to spur neighborhood development.

## **Community investment that drives generational change**

Faith-based development is nothing new. Most church-led development has [focused on affordable housing](#) and community assets for neighborhood residents, even as neighborhoods have changed and wealthier members have moved to more affluent areas. Without question, affordable housing is necessary, especially given the [surging costs to rent or own a home](#) and limited housing availability.

More at -

<https://religionnews.com/2023/08/18/churches-must-lead-development-in-black-communities-if-they-want-it-to-get-done/>

## In the media

### South urged to help PSNI recruitment

**The Irish government must do more to encourage nationalists to join the PSNI, a former Policing Board vice-chair has said, Adrian Rutherford reports**

Denis Bradley called for political leaders in Dublin to “claim the PSNI” as their own, and challenged them to carry the message into the heartlands of nationalism in Northern Ireland.

Mr Bradley said the recent data breach, which saw the details of 10,000 police officers and staff accidentally posted on a website, went beyond a security issue.

It has led to fears that Catholics may be discouraged from signing up to the PSNI.

Writing in yesterday's Irish Times, Mr Bradley accused dissident republicans of holding the people of Ireland “to ransom”, saying that as a result, the PSNI has not embedded itself into the nationalist community, more than two decades after its formation

Mr Bradley served as vice-chair of the Policing Board between 2001 and 2006, covering the early years of the PSNI.



### *Denis Bradley*

He cited the influence of the late Martin McGuinness, who encouraged nationalist support for the PSNI after Sinn Fein signed up to policing following the 2006 St Andrews Agreement.

In 2009, Mr McGuinness condemned dissident republicans as “traitors to the island of Ireland” after the murder of police constable Stephen Carroll.

Writing in the Irish Times, Mr Bradley said dissidence was “an Irish problem that has cascaded down the generations, and bringing it to a resolution needs all the attention and authority of the Irish people and their Government”.

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He wrote: “The Irish Government must now claim the PSNI as its own. To make it clear that to kill or injure a PSNI officer is the same as killing a Garda.

“They must launch a campaign to encourage young nationalists, North and South, to join the PSNI.

“They must challenge all the other parties in the Dail to join them as they encourage and challenge all institutions and organisations, from the GAA to the Catholic Church, in promoting that message.

“They must deliver that message in the heartlands of northern nationalism, where the dissidents have a small foothold and where the people still carry the memory and the fear of the gun.”



*Therapy dog Sandi brings comfort to Marie Curie NI hospice patients*

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Mr Bradley said people should be reassured that violence, not the British people, is the obstacle to “a shared and reconciled Ireland”.

He added: “Finally, in issuing the ultimatum, they must acknowledge the complexity and tragedy of Anglo-Irish history and acknowledge that a similar agreement to that offered to the Provisional IRA and the loyalist groups will ultimately be offered to those dissident prisoners who are in jail.”

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

### Methodist teams are hiring

“We’re looking for a highly skilled and motivated individual who has significant hands-on experience in the areas of communications and/or content creation, with a heart for enabling the church locally and connexionally, into effective and fruitful mission and intentional discipleship.”

The role will involve working closely with various Teams including, but not limited to, Irish Methodist Youth & Children's Team (IMYC), Methodist Home Mission Ireland and the MCI Ministries Team.

For a full job description and to apply now, visit: [bit.ly/3RcWCAA](https://bit.ly/3RcWCAA)



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## Westminster Cathedral Grand Organ Festival

In September 2023, four of Europe's most distinguished and talented organists will give recitals at Westminster Cathedral as part of its Grand Organ Festival.

Click below or visit <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/music/grand-organ-festival/> for more information to whet your appetite - there is a musical feast for you!

Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Tickets available on the door

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## Church News Ireland

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