

# Church News Ireland

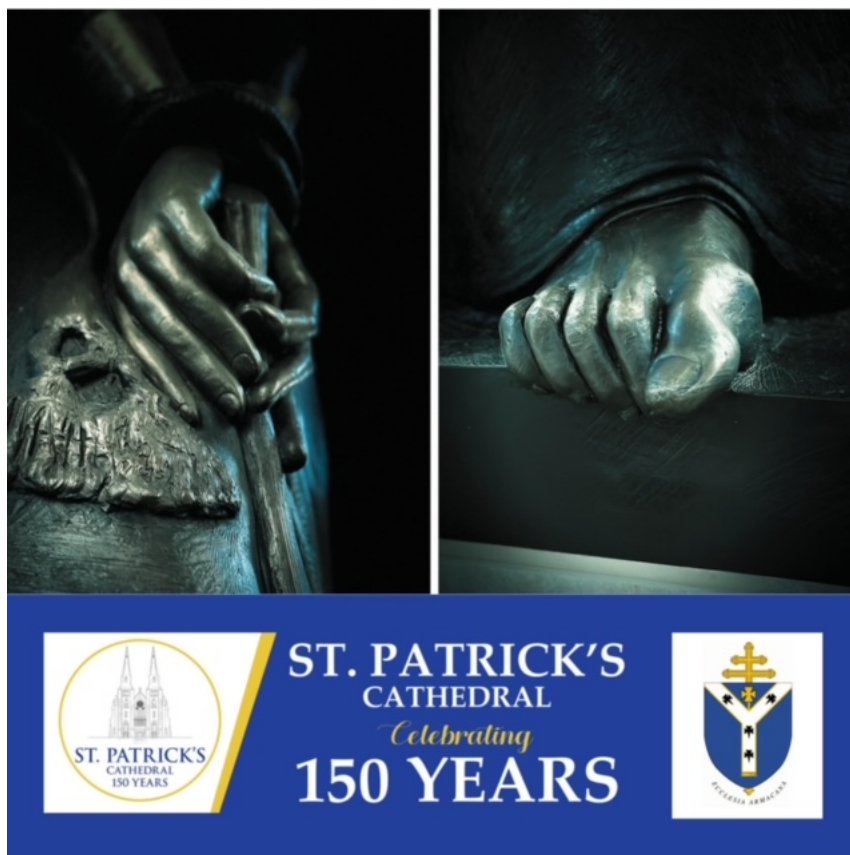
---



**Image of the day – St Patrick's Armagh 150 years**

August 24, 2023

## Image of the day



## St Patrick's Armagh 150 years

**St. Patrick's Cathedral is not just a building; it's a testament to the enduring power of faith.**

You are invited to join in celebrating this extraordinary landmark's 150th anniversary at St Patrick's Cathedral and the Shambles Yard, today 24th Aug 2023.

The '**Celebration for Families**' will be held at Shambles Yard, Armagh, from 5pm to 7pm - music and entertainment - followed by **Evening Prayer** in Cathedral at 7.30 pm.



Some pilgrims who travel to World Youth Day Lisbon from 31st July-7th August attended a commissioning Mass, led by Bishop Michael Router in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh



A specially commissioned icon of St Patrick, by **Redemptoristine Sisters, Dublin**, will be unveiled and dedicated.

Since the building of the Cathedral was commenced in 1840, thirteen primates, including seven cardinals, have each contributed in his own way to its history.

Its commanding site overlooking the City gives it an enduring presence, a reminder to each generation of the sacrifices of those who have gone before. The now restored building is a further realisation of Dr Crolly's vision of a Great National Cathedral of St Patrick and one worthy of the Primatial See of Armagh.

August 24, 2023

There is an accessible and short comprehensive guide by the late **Archbishop Tomas Ó Fiaich** to the cathedral's development at -

[<https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/history-cathedral/>]

**FREE ENTRY**

FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE!!  
BALLOON MODELLING, FACE PAINTING,  
PADDLE BOATS, BUMPING CARS,  
ARCHERY & LOTS MORE!

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, ARMAGH

**CELEBRATING  
150 YEARS**

THURS 24TH AUGUST  
5PM-8:30PM

SHAMBLES YARD, ARMAGH

LIVE MUSIC INC. THE  
SHAMROCK TENORS,  
MALACHI CUSH &  
OTHERS!

ST. PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL  
150 YEARS

August 24, 2023



People  
and  
places



## Dublin Boys Brigade August of activities

**Well done to the Eastern District for hosting two events for the three Companies; 2nd Dublin, 7th Dublin and 10th Dublin.**

August 24, 2023

August has been fun filled with Archery, Giant Dominoes, a Model Glider Repair and Test Workshop, Giant Hoopla, Rocket Launch, and of course Football.

Not to forget the night hike for both Company and Senior Sections.

## Westport occasional organist appreciation

The organ, Holy Trinity Westport, with its occasional organist, John Dexter and grandchild.

John and family received a spontaneous round of applause in thanks, on Sunday 13 August, for their

contribution to worship in Holy Trinity Westport over these summer weeks - organ, violin, voice, and even some spontaneous dance by the little ones!

Go raibh mile maith agaibh!





## Fermanagh County Show artist

Congratulations to Levi Hurst from Magheracross Parish who came second in the 4-8 age group in the poster competition for the Fermanagh County Show organised by the Clogher Diocesan Mothers' Union

## Appointed to lead The Suitcase Project

**Tim Burns has been appointed as leader of The Suitcase Project – a new Down & Dromore diocesan outreach for asylum seekers and refugees which will have a hub in East Belfast linking into churches throughout the diocese.**

The Suitcase Project will seek to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees and demonstrate God's love both practically and through relationship building.





Tim will be coming to the post from Northern Ireland Alternatives, where he has been working as a restorative justice practitioner since December 2021. He is a familiar face in the diocese having served as the Diocesan Youth Development Officer for seven years, prior to which he spent eight years as a youth pastor in Swords Baptist Church, North Dublin.

Tim is married to Leah, and they have two boys, Seth aged 9 and Brodie aged 2. They worship in St John's, Ballyclare, where they host a young leaders' group every Friday night and Tim leads a home group.

Tim has a passion for caring for people in need and applied for this role as way of living out his faith by supporting asylum seekers and refugees. For him this is captured in the verses of Isaiah 58: 6 & 7:

This is the kind of fasting I want...

Remove the chains that bind people.

Share your food with the hungry  
and give shelter to the homeless;

Give clothes to those who need them,

and do not hide yourself from relatives who need your help.

Tim said: “I am excited to be part of this new initiative. I am looking forward to building relationships with those in need and with organisations, connecting with churches across the diocese and establishing a welcoming Christian presence in East Belfast for asylum seekers and refugees.”

Please pray for Tim as he prepares to take up this new role on 1 October. He will be commissioned at a service in St John’s Orangefield on Sunday 8 October at 7.00pm.

## **From Clogher to Connor**

**The Rev Brian Harper was instituted as rector of the Parish of Dunluce on Friday August 18 by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison.**

He succeeds the Rev Canon George Graham who retired last October after 17 years as rector of the Church of St John the Baptist in Bushmills.

Brian is married to Heather and they have three grown-up children – Jonathan, a teacher, and Samuel, a radiographer, both live in Northern Ireland, while daughter Elizabeth works as a nurse in Liverpool. They have one granddaughter.

Heather recently retired from Castlederg High School where she was a Sixth Form Supervisor, and Brian and Heather are looking forward to the opportunity to spend more time walking, which is something of a passion, along with their three rescue dogs.



*At the Institution of the Rev Brian Harper as rector of Dunluce Parish are, from left-right: Billy Creighton, people's church warden; then Ven Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada; The Rt Rev George Davison, Bishop of Connor; the Rev Brian Harper, rector of Dunluce; the Rev Gareth Morgan, Team Vicar in the Diocese of Liverpool (preacher); the Rev Malcolm Ferry, Rural Dean, and Ronnie Garvin, rector's church carden. Photo courtesy of the Coleraine Chronicle.*

The couple are directors of Park Run in Enniskillen, and on Coronation Day Brian completed his 250th Park Run! In 2019, he walked the 500-mile Camino in Spain, and he has been Sports Chaplain with Ballinamallard Utd FC for the past 12 years.



*Bishop George speaking following the institution service in Dunluce. Photo: David Johnston. Astute observers may reflect on the trinity - of teapots.*

Brian was formerly rector of Magheracross Parish, Clogher Diocese, where he was also Archdeacon of Clogher. Originally from Dungiven, he attended Limavady Grammar School and has a Degree in Psychology from the University of Liverpool. Following graduation, he began training at the Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin and was ordained in 1985, when, at the age of 24, he was the youngest Church of Ireland clergyman on the island.

Brian's first curacy was in St Columba's, Portadown, and this was followed by a second curacy in Drumglass Parish, Dungannon. He was rector in Ballygawley, Errigle Keerogue and Killeshill before moving to Mullavilly Parish in Tandragee, where he remained incumbent for 19 years.

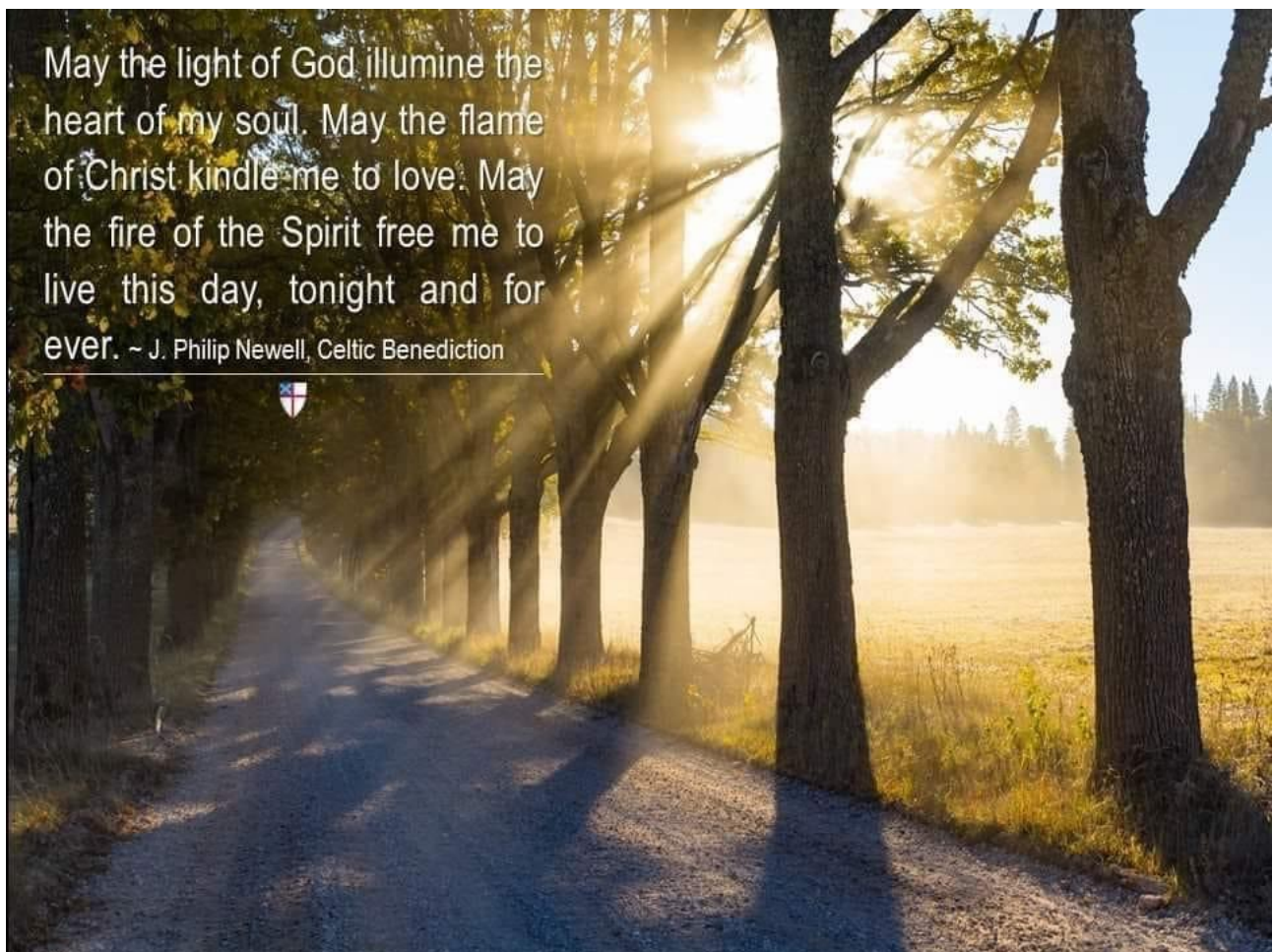
August 24, 2023

Having served all his ministry in the Diocese of Armagh, Brian moved to Clogher Diocese in 2012 when he was appointed rector in Magheracross Parish, Ballinamallard. He was Archdeacon of Clogher from 2016 until his move to Bushmills.

The preacher at the Service of Institution was the Rev Gareth Morgan, team vicar of Halewood and Hunts Cross in the Diocese of Liverpool.

Hymns sung were Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; Breathe on Me Breath of God; and Give Me Oil in My Lamp.

Colonel Neil Salisbury OBE DL read the Old Testament Lesson and Glenda Rodgers-McCormick BEM read the New Testament Lesson.



## In the media

### My tip-off led to the IRA killing the wrong man, reveals priest

**Belfast Telegraph - Book tells how cleric gave gang info on British official, but assassination “went horribly wrong”, Stephen Gordon writes.**

A notorious Irish priest has revealed how his tip-off to the IRA led to the mistaken identity murder of a senior Brussels bank official, a new book reveals.

Father Patrick Ryan has admitted his link to the murder of banker Andre Michaux (47) to award-winning investigative journalist Jennifer O'Leary.

Ryan, now in his nineties, has revealed the IRA unit's real target in March 1979 was a Brussels-based senior British diplomat at NATO.

“It went horribly wrong. They (the IRA unit) shot the banker and it was a major calamity,” Ryan told O'Leary for her new book on the IRA priest — *The Padre*.

Fearing arrest, Ryan fled Brussels in the back of an ambulance and took refuge in a monastery.

Michaux, a senior official at the Central Bank in Brussels, lived in the same street as the diplomat named in the book as Paul Holmer, the deputy British Ambassador to NATO.



In early 1979 some British officials in Brussels were put on high alert that the IRA were plotting to kill a senior UK representative in the city.

Among those warned was former British Home Secretary Roy Jenkins, who was then President of the European Commission.

In O'Leary's new book the Tipperary-born priest reveals how and why he set up Mr Holmer.

O'Leary first spoke to Ryan in 2019 for the landmark BBC NI series Spotlight on the Troubles — A Secret History in which he admitted securing explosives for the IRA from Libya and confessed to his role in the Hyde Park and Brighton bombings.

In the book O'Leary goes into more detail with Ryan about his activities, including his role in helping an IRA unit in Europe.

On March 22, 1979 Sir Richard Sykes, the British Ambassador to Holland, was shot dead by the IRA as he sat in his Rolls Royce outside his residence in the Hague. His 19-year-old footman, Karel Straub, was also killed in the attack. Just hours later two IRA gunmen ambushed Brussels banker Michaux in his car, mistaking him for NATO diplomat Holmer.

At the time Patrick Ryan often stayed at the Brussels home of well-connected art historian Lucie Ninane and he was there on the day of Sir Richard's murder.

[\[https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/books/my-tip-off-led-to-ira-killing-the-wrong-man-confesses-disgraced-priest/a371597217.html\]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/books/my-tip-off-led-to-ira-killing-the-wrong-man-confesses-disgraced-priest/a371597217.html)

## **Top A-level grades fall in Northern Ireland but remain above pre-pandemic levels**

**Press Association - The number of A\* and A grades awarded at A-level in Northern Ireland has dropped for the second consecutive year, writes Jonathan McCambridge**

More than 26,000 students across the region received their AS and A-level examination results on Thursday morning. Exam chiefs have said the results reflect the continuing



August 24, 2023

journey back to pre-pandemic grading levels, with this year's results still higher than those achieved in the final year before Covid-19 disrupted examinations.

In A-levels, 11.6% of pupils across the region achieved an A\\* grade (down from 14.5% last year) and 37.5% achieved an A\\* or A grade (down from 44% last year). In total, 98.8% of students achieved grades A\\* to E (down from 99.1% last year).

Biology has replaced mathematics as the most popular A-level subject choice in Northern Ireland for the first time in nine years. Male students achieved a slightly higher rate of A\\* grades than females, although girls had a higher overall pass rate.



God, we pray for all the people of the world.  
Bring peace for people caught in the  
indifferent destruction of war.  
Bring hope for all those who cannot see an  
end to their struggling and despair.

The number of A-level examination entries in Northern Ireland has increased by 1.3% to 32,925 from 32,506 last year. Over a third of A-level entries in Northern Ireland continue to be in Stem subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

AS-level entries saw an increase of 11.3% from 35,328 in 2022 to 39,336. In provisional AS outcomes 33.5% of students achieved grade A, with 97.5% achieving A-E grades. Courtesy the Press Association.

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

### Bike for Bibles!

**Get active this summer and fundraise for Bible mission by signing up to do a sponsored bike ride – there are so many ways to take part!**

Hop on your bike and head out on the road or clock up the miles on your exercise bike.

Don't have a bike? No problem! Why not walk for the word? Strap on your pedometer, grab your map, and trek out across town and country.

It's so easy to take part:

Sign up here and set up a JustGiving page for your ride.

August 24, 2023

Decide on your route and how many miles you want to commit to.

Spread the word! Let your friends and family know. Put the word out on your social media, asking people to pledge their support.



## **Bike for Bibles!**

How many miles do I have to do?

There's no minimum – do whatever you feel you can commit to or would like to challenge yourself to achieve. You could take inspiration from the Bible and commit to:

Seven miles: the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus, following in the footsteps of the disciples who met Jesus on the road.

Twenty miles: the distance between Jerusalem and the river Jordan. All of Jerusalem went out to hear John the Baptist at the Jordan and you can recreate that journey.

Eighty-five miles: the distance between Capernaum and Jerusalem. Jesus and his disciples made this journey to celebrate the Passover and his Passion.

Ninety miles: the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem. Joseph and pregnant Mary made this journey to the place of Joseph's ancestors, the place of Jesus' birth.

The pledges you raise and donate to Bible Society by taking part in Bike for Bibles are valued and appreciated. Your support will help to get the life-changing message of the Bible to those places where it is desperately needed – places like Ukraine, China, and the very lands where the Bible was written. By biking for Bibles this summer, you will be helping to transform lives for the better.

[<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bikeforbibles>]

## **Blog for students - Advice on how best to start uni from some Presbyterian chaplains**

In the first of a special blog series, three of PCI's university chaplains serving in Northern Ireland share some thoughts for students preparing for studies in September.

This is an amended version of an article that first appeared in the July / August edition of the Presbyterian Herald.

Read here -

August 24, 2023

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Blog/August-2023/Advice-on-how-best-to-start-uni-from-some-Presbyte.aspx>



## Youth Link NI podcasts

Youth Link NI have launched a great podcast series recently, check it out !

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2211494/13292151?>

August 24, 2023

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

---

## 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)