

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Wood Festival fabulous**

August 26, 2023

## Image of the day

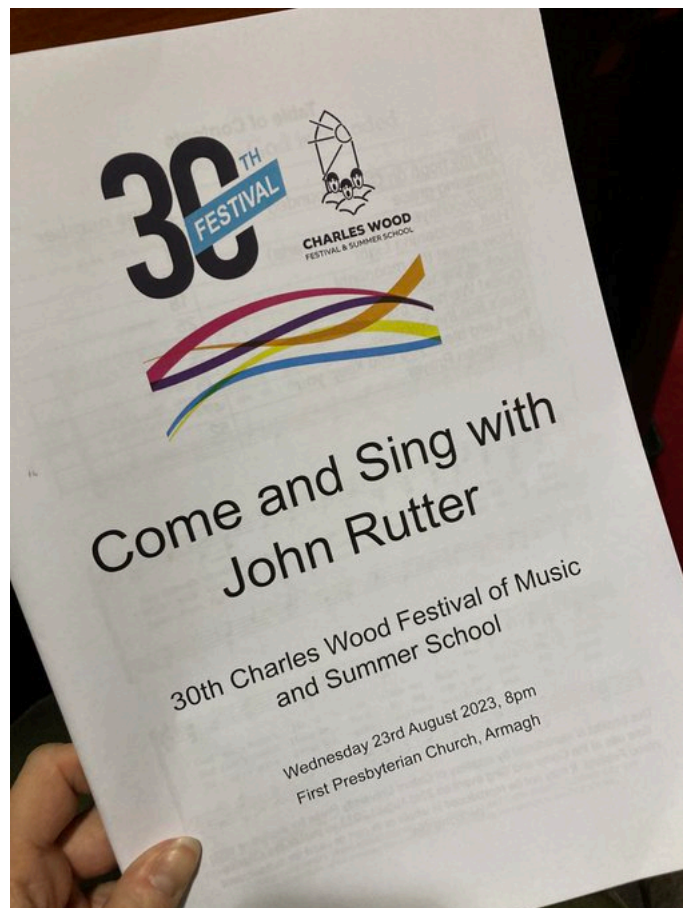
### Wood Festival fabulous



*John Rutter, Charles Wood Festival Patron, arriving for his Come and Sing in First Presbyterian Church, Armagh.*

The 30th anniversary of the Charles Woods Festival at Armagh more than lived up to the occasion. Choral singing by well known local choirs, members of a young people's choir receiving encouragement and education, the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition, the professional skills, enthusiasm and patronage of John Rutter and others.

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## First prize

Congratulations to Anita Mawhinney for her setting of Hail Gladdening Light, which was chosen by the expert judging panel.

Capella Caecilliana of which Anita is a member were understandably and rightly the first to congratulate their member on social media



“Delighted to see our member Anita Mawhinney win the inaugural Charles Woods Armagh Composers' Competition. Very well deserved, and particularly impressive given that there were many other high quality entries.”

Photo on previous page - Anita with the judges John

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Rutter, Bob Chilcott and David Hill.

## People and places



### **Cardinal Dolan to mark 150 years of Armagh's St. Patrick's Cathedral**

**Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, will celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh to commemorate 150 years of its dedication on 24 August 1873.**

For the special occasion, the American prelate from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, will be the main

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celebrant and preacher at a Mass of Thanksgiving in the cathedral tomorrow, Sunday, 27 August, at 11 am.

All are welcome to attend the Mass that will be a celebration, "to give praise and thanks to God for the faith expressed within the cathedral," the Archdiocese announced.

The Archdiocese of Armagh, from Thursday to Sunday of this week, is celebrating the historical event.

The foundation stone of the cathedral was laid by Archbishop and Primate William Crolly on Saint Patrick's Day, 1840, but all building work was later suspended due to the famine, and funds raised were distributed for the relief of the poor.

In 1854, work on the cathedral resumed after Easter under the leadership of Primate Joseph Dixon. But it was Primate Daniel McGettigan who oversaw the completion of the building, and declared Sunday 24 August 1873, as the day of its opening and dedication. Massive crowds from all over Ireland, and beyond, attended the opening.

## **Archbishop Eamon Martin invites everyone**

Archbishop Eamon Martin has invited the people of Ireland and around the world, especially whose ancestors contributed to the construction of the cathedral, to join in joyful prayers of thanksgiving on this special anniversary. This week, on Thursday, 24 August, an outdoor 'Celebration for Families' took place in the Shambles Yard, Armagh, at the cathedral's main gates, between 5 pm to 7 pm.



**ST. PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL**  
*Celebrating*  
**150 YEARS**



*St Patrick's Youth - "Let's gather to honour the legacy of St. Patrick and the significance of St. Patrick's Cathedral in the Archdiocese".*

This week, on Thursday, 24 August, an outdoor 'Celebration for Families' took place in the Shambles Yard, Armagh, at the cathedral's main gates, between 5 pm to 7 pm.

There was music, entertainment, and activities. For the evening prayer which began at 7:30 pm, groups and



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organisations from across the Archdiocese followed bands in procession from the Shambles Yard to the cathedra.

## **Countless activities to commemorate**

During the Evening Prayer, there was an unveiling and dedication of a specially-commissioned icon of Saint Patrick, written by the Redemptoristine Sisters in Drumcondra, Dublin.

After the ceremony, a print of the icon was presented to each parish of the Archdiocese.

We praise You, faithful God,  
for the steadfast love which has always guided us,  
for the promise which has never faltered,  
for the light which has lightened our way,  
for the story which has reminded us  
of those who came before us.

For Your steadfast love  
and mercies new with each morning,

We join with one the voice  
To give You praise and thanks.

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Community and other Church leaders, and representatives from other dioceses, joined together.

Archbishop Martin led the Evening Prayer, accompanied by the Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh, Bishop Michael Router, and retired Archbishop of Armagh, Cardinal Seán Brady.

## **Sufi and Celtic music fusion at Belfast Cathedral**



*A vibrant Sufi and Celtic music fusion at the Belfast Mela Concert. Dr John Collins DL and his wife Dr Florence Collins represented HM Lord Lieutenant.*

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*A memorable evening curated by the outstanding Belfast composer Neil Martin.*



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## News reports

### Pope Francis' message for Methodist and Waldensian Synod

**Pope Francis has sent a message to the annual meeting of the Synod of the Union of Methodist and Waldensian Churches, which meets in Torre Pellice, Piedmont, from 20 to 25 August.**

The Pope's greetings were conveyed in a telegram from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the local Catholic Bishop.

The message expresses the Holy Father's prayer that "the days of the meeting may be for each person an opportunity



for a profound experience of Christ, who welcomes, guides and leads us to the fullness of communion with him and with our brothers and sisters.”

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The Pope's message makes specific reference to progress made in the quest for Christian Unity, "raising a prayer of praise to God the Father for the gifts bestowed through ecumenical dialogue, as well as for the harmonious collaboration between the Churches".

The message continued by stating that Pope Francis wished to unite himself spiritually with the Synod gathering, "so that we may grow in mutual knowledge in order to witness together to the Gospel of Jesus".

The Union of Methodist and Waldensian Churches, founded in 1975, is comprised of the Methodist Evangelical Church in Italy and the Waldensian Evangelical Church, which will mark its 850th anniversary in 2024.

## In the media

### Gardai were monitoring dissidents within minutes of data breach: Harris

**Belfast Telegraph - Intelligence officers in An Garda Siochana had "eyes and ears" in dissident republican circles within minutes of receiving the news about the PSNI's catastrophic data breach, the leader of the Republic's police force has said.**

Details of more than 10,000 officers and police staff were mistakenly released to the public as part of a response to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request earlier this month.

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The incident will be the subject of an independent review led by City of London Police Assistant Commissioner Peter O'Doherty.

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris, who formerly served as deputy chief constable on this side of the border, said the force had been in regular contact with the PSNI and UK security services since the breach.

Mr Harris added his officers had reacted to the news “within 10 or 15 minutes”.

“We started putting eyes and ears \[out], just to see what was being said in dissident republican circles, frankly,” he told the Irish Times.

“We have kept a watching brief and would exchange information constantly with the PSNI and the British security services, MI5.

“That is just ongoing, everyday cooperation.”

Mr Harris said dissident republicans were the biggest domestic threat faced by An Garda Síochána, branding them a “small lunatic fringe”, and insisted cooperation between his force and the PSNI was seamless when required.

**RTÉ spent €106,000 on the first review by auditors Grant Thornton into the pay controversy that has engulfed the national broadcaster all summer**

Journal.ie - The initial Grant Thornton review found that Ryan Tubridy’s salary was under-reported by €120,000 between 2017-2019.



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Journal.ie - The initial Grant Thornton review found that Ryan Tubridy's salary was under-reported by €120,000 between 2017-2019.

A [second review by the auditor](#), published last week, examined how it came to be that Tubridy's salary was under-reported.

A third Grant Thornton review is underway into the costs of the Toy Show The Musical Production. The fee charged by Grant Thornton for the second and third reviews is not yet known.

[https://www.thejournal.ie/ryan-tubridy-rte-3-6150958-Aug2023/?utm\\_source=shortlink](https://www.thejournal.ie/ryan-tubridy-rte-3-6150958-Aug2023/?utm_source=shortlink)

## **GCSE results: Northern Ireland students still ahead of counterparts in the UK**

**News Letter - While GCSE results may be down this year, Northern Ireland students remain ahead of their UK counterparts, Graeme Cousins writes.**

Of the 30,800 GCSE students in the Province who received their results yesterday, 86.8% received grade C or above – a standard pass.

The proportion of UK students getting at least a pass grade – C in NI and Wales and a grade 4 in England – fell from 73.2% last year to 68.2% this year.

Northern Ireland was well ahead of England, where 70% of students got a pass grade, and Wales on 64.9%.

In Scotland, the national results for the National 5 qualifications were published earlier in the month and showed that the pass rate was 78.8%.

In terms of top grades – A or above in Northern Ireland and Wales and 7 or above in England – Northern Ireland was in second place behind Scotland.

In Scotland 38.6% of students got top grades while in Northern Ireland the figure was 34.5%, England was on 22.4% and Wales on 21.7%.

Meanwhile this year's GCSE results suggest some subjects are flourishing while others could be heading for extinction.



### New York's Róisín is crowned Rose of Tralee



● Róisín Wiley (27) from Manhattan was crowned Rose of Tralee last night by presenters Kathryn Thomas and Dáithí Ó Sé at the Dome in Tralee, Co Kerry. Her parents, Eddie and Majella, are originally from Co Limerick. Photo: Domnick Walsh/Eye Focus. See page 3

# Irish electricity bills €900 higher than EU average

● Households in this country are paying almost €1,000 more every year for their electricity than the European average. The startling figures have been obtained by the

Household Energy Price Index. Its latest survey shows electricity prices here are the highest of the 32 capitals surveyed, not all of which are in the EU. Page 5

### Parenting

12 Irish children's books that have stood test of time



### Boy (10) held as grandfather is beaten with an iron bar

● A 10-year-old boy was one of four people held against their will during a violent home invasion in Dublin, in which his grandfather was beaten with an iron bar.

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### Sport

Fourth for Magecan as she breaks Irish record in final

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The top 10 subjects with the most GCSE entries is unchanged this year – as it has been every year since 2018, with the science double award in first place, maths in second place and English third.

There is a new entry in the top 15, however. Computing has been climbing the chart in recent years and is now in 15th place, up from 16th last year and 20th place in 2016.

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Design and Technology has been moving in the other direction for some time. It was the sixth most popular subject in 2012, but slipped out of the top 10 in 2018 and is now out of the top 15.

## **Scappaticci probe cleared for publication without change**

**Belfast Telegraph - A £37m investigation into over 20 murders carried out by the informer known as Stakeknife could be released as early as next month, by Alison Morris**

The report has now gone through strict national security checks and has been cleared with no redactions.

Operation Kenova was headed by former English chief constable Jon Boutcher.

The focus was to ascertain whether there is evidence of the commission of criminal offences including murders, attempted murders or unlawful imprisonments attributed to the IRA.

Kenova also looked at whether there was evidence of criminal offences having been committed by members of the Army, the security services or other government personnel.

The report was commissioned by former Director of Public Prosecutions Barra McGrory and ex-PSNI Chief Constable George Hamilton following the quashing of convictions of a

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number of republicans who claimed to have been entrapped by the high ranking informer.

Freddie Scappaticci has been linked to around 20 murders, but may have been indirectly involved in a number of others.

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

### Rich resources of St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh

**On 24th August in 1873, now all of 150 years ago, St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh City was formally dedicated.**

This anniversary will be a source of great celebration for all. See the First Survey records of the visit of the lister Colin Hatrick from 1970.

Make sure to drop in to visit the interior - described by Kevin Mulligan in the Pevsner series The Buildings of Ireland South Ulster as 'Spellbinding, with an atmospheric brilliance owing to the stupendous scale of the tall, narrow nave and a superabundance of shimmering mosaic decoration'.

St Patrick's Cathedral is also a confirmed opener for this years EHOD weekend. Come visit this 9th and 10th September.

For more on the celebrations see: <https://bit.ly/3KRAQkk>

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## Christopher Wren's 300th - Songs of Praise

Under the guidance of master architect Oliver Caroe, Rev Kate Bottley finds out about some of Wren's early design choices in St Stephen Walbrook and other London churches which went on to inspire St Paul's Cathedral.

Songs Of Praise Sunday @BBCOne 1.15pm  
[bbc.in/367drKp](http://bbc.in/367drKp)

The poster features a large, stylized lantern icon in the center, with the text "The Furthest Lantern" written in a serif font above it. Below the title, it says "Film Screening in Nano Nagle Place Thurs 31 Aug at 7pm". A circular logo for "PRESENTATION SISTERS - TAITA - AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND" is positioned above a photograph of a group of people, including several nuns and men in suits. The website "www.bytesize.co.nz" is also visible. The Nano Nagle Place logo is in the bottom right corner.

**Film screening: "The Furthest Lantern"**

Thurs 31st Aug at 7pm

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In 1950, 5 Presentation Sisters travelled to New Zealand to open a school. This film tells the story of these women, their school and students in Aotearoa.

FREE event, no registration required

<https://nanonagleplace.ie/nanoevents/the-furthest-lantern-film-screening/>

## **The Methodist Church in Ireland is hiring...**

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## **City of Derry International Choir Festival**


**Save with early bird tickets for this year's 10th anniversary City of Derry International Choir Festival**

The City of Derry International Choir Festival is hitting the big 1-0 this year! Can you believe it!? We burst onto the scene way back in 2013 during the City of Culture celebrations, and now we're all grown up and ready to party!


To celebrate this incredible milestone, we've got an amazing lineup of guest artists and concerts galore at this year's festival:




 **Wed 18 Oct: Verdi's Requiem:** Experience the magic of Verdi's epic *Messa da Requiem* performed by the Ulster Orchestra, 100 Voice Festival Chorus with members of Codetta, as well as a stellar line-up of guest soloists at the Millennium Forum Theatre & Conference Centre

 **Fri 20 Oct | The Sixteen:** The legendary ensemble returns to Derry for the first time since 2016 for "A Watchful Gaze," a musical journey honoring legendary composer William Byrd. Don't miss out on this one at the Guildhall!



 Sat 21 Oct | International Competition: The highlight of the City of Derry International Choir Festival will see eight of the finest international choirs compete to be crowned winner of the prestigious Oak Tree of Derry International Competition.


 Sun 22 Oct | Closing Gala: The 10th anniversary celebrations of City of Derry International Choir Festival are brought to a close with a gala concert featuring performances from each of this year's international

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competitors. The Festival's final award ceremony will follow the performances, including the announcement of special awards and the winners of the Festival's top International prize, the Oak Tree of Derry trophy.

✓ Pro Tip: Grab your tickets now to enjoy early bird offers throughout the month of August. They won't last long!



For more info and ticket sales, head to  <https://derrychoirfest.com/tickets/>

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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