

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Priory Singers at Bath Abbey

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Image of the day



Priory Singers wonderful weekend at Bath Abbey

Priory Singers report that they had a wonderful weekend in Bath singing two Choral Evensongs and a Eucharist service at beautiful Bath Abbey last Saturday and Sunday.

“Thanks again to Jack Wilson for his skilful accompaniment on the organ, and many thanks to our director, Philip Bolton MBE, for all of his hard work and for bringing out the very best of the choir”.



Livestreams of the Sunday services are available to watch again on Bath Abbey's YouTube channel.

The choir will have a well-earned rest before resuming rehearsals in September. New voices are always welcome, do get in touch if you are interested!

News

Eglinton Girls Brigade North Coast camp

“Some of our officers and girls are on their way to GB Camp on the North Coast for a few days of fun, fellowship and hopefully some surfing!”

As with the BB earlier this summer, Camp is a wonderful opportunity for officers and girls to build relationships, share



experiences and create memories that will stick with them for years to come.

The GB's time away is always filled with days of entertainment which create lots of laughs - we are so grateful to our officers who give up their holidays to look after the girls.

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Please pray for all involved that they will be kept safe and there will be no homesickness, especially amongst the younger girls who may be on their first trip away from home. Pray that camp would be one that leaves behind great memories, that the officers will have lots of opportunities to chat with the girls and share their faith, and that the girls would come see the hope that radiates from knowing Jesus.

(Photos from camp in 2023)



Why Scouts Choose Hope

“The continued violence and unrest in our towns and cities makes this a worrying and unsettling time for our members.

“Most are still on summer holidays and away from Scouts, while others may be at camp. We share some practical ways to support young people and volunteers, and remind

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ourselves why Scouts remains a powerful beacon of hope and positivity in our communities”.

<https://bit.ly/WhyScoutsChooseHope>



Clogher Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

Most Rev. Lawrence Duffy, DD, Bishop of Clogher led the Clogher Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on Wednesday of this week.

The Diocese of Clogher encompasses all of Co Monaghan, almost all of Co Fermanagh, together with portions of Counties Tyrone, Donegal, Louth and Cavan. The diocese has 37 parishes, 85 churches and is served by 50 priests

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and 2 deacons. The patron saint is Saint Macartan and the Cathedral church is in Monaghan town.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross commenced at 2pm, followed by Rosary. Mass took place at 3pm in the Basilica with Anointing of the Sick.

Down and Dromore bicycles enhance ministry in South Sudan diocese

One hundred new bicycles purchased by parishes in Down and Dromore have arrived with their owners in our link diocese of Maridi in South Sudan.

Their arrival was cause for celebration and thanksgiving as Bishop Moses and his clergy gathered in the Cathedral compound. The County Commissioner was also present.



Bishop David had launched a fundraising appeal following his visit to Maridi and the realisation that a lack of suitable transport was the biggest obstacle to ministry that Bishop Moses' clergy faced.

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At Diocesan Synod we were able to announce a fantastic £36,782.32 raised by 63 parishes – enough to purchase 100 bikes for priests and 10 motorbikes for the archdeacons who visit multiple parishes. The motorbikes will arrive later this month. All of the new transport has been purchased in the country.

In a short video message Bishop Moses said:
“We are so grateful to the Diocese of Down and Dromore and to Bishop David. Thank you very much from the Diocese of Maridi.

“Today we are celebrating, and you have kept your word and you have given us support in the ministry. The priests in the Diocese of Maridi today have received bicycles. This is a great support that is the real partnership. I thank all of you – all the parishes which have contributed - for giving these bicycles to the Diocese of Maridi.

“We pray that the partnership between the Diocese of Maridi and the Diocese of Down and Dromore will continue, not only in the form of things, but in our fellowship.”

Archbishop of Canterbury: Violent rioters are defiling the flag they wrap themselves in

The Most Rev Justin Welby says only peaceful protests get results

The riots taking place across the country are not English or British, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said.



The Most Rev Justin Welby condemned the “criminal violence” seen in parts of the UK, which has involved attacks on mosques, assaults on police officers and the looting of shops.

The leader of the Anglican church told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme: “This [violence] is not the United Kingdom. It’s not British. It’s not English. They defile the flag that they wrap themselves in. Violence and swearing in the face of police from a distance of 2ft is never going to convince anyone.

“Protest is good and is right, and is fundamental to all our freedoms. But peaceful protest will have 1,000 -10,000 times the impact that this violence is having. This violence turns people away from your cause, whatever you’re protesting about, and it is just criminal violence.

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“Peaceful protest, peaceful statements will convince, will change people’s mind, will – at the very least – cause them to listen.”

The Government has accused social media firms of fuelling the disorder, which began after false claims spread online that the suspect in the killing of three girls in Southport was an asylum seeker.

Mr Welby spoke of “manipulation” through social media and “by people abroad”, which he said must be “strongly resisted”.

He did not mention names, but several other critics have condemned Tommy Robinson, the former English Defence League leader, for stoking tensions online while out of the country.

He has denied encouraging violence and orchestrating or coordinating the demonstrations.

Amid scenes of community clean-ups following some of the disorder, Archbishop Welby praised the “extraordinary cohesion and caring for neighbours that is going on all around the country in the wake of these riots”, adding that he believes the trouble will die down “very shortly”.

He said the Government had been “responding extremely well” through policing, but called for “medium and long-term reflection” in the aftermath.

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He added that “some politicians will always take an opportunity to cause trouble, but that’s very few and far between”.

Stop and think about our reputation as a welcoming society - Belfast bishops



The Bishop of Connor (left) and the Bishop of Down and Dromore (right) issued a further joint statement in the wake of anti-immigration protests.

The Rt Rev George Davison and the Rt Rev David McClay said:

“It has been distressing to witness the scenes of intimidation and violence that have taken place on the streets of Belfast in recent days. Our fellow citizens, valued members of our communities, have been left without businesses, without

jobs, feeling afraid and unable to go about their everyday lives.

“As Christian leaders, it is even more upsetting to hear some of those involved in these protests say that they do so out of a sense of seeking to defend our Christian society and way of life.

“We unequivocally reject that claim. Intimidation, threats and actions which create fear have no part in the gospel of Jesus Christ or of those who claim to be his disciples.

“As it appears that further protests are being planned, to those who are tempted to join in we say: ‘Please stop! Think about what your actions are doing to your community, to our reputation as a welcoming society, and also what the consequences might be for children and young people who are caught up in them.’

“Jesus said: ‘In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.’ (Matthew 7:12) If we truly wish to build a society which espouses Christian values and which is at peace with itself, let us treat every person with the same care and respect that we would want to be shown to us and to our loved ones.

“As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to a largeness of heart and vision for Northern Ireland, inspired by an immovable commitment to respect the dignity of every individual created in the image and likeness of God, not least those who have come from other countries, often as refugees, and who wish to make our home their home too.

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“Our thoughts, support and prayers are with all those who feel vulnerable or fearful today and for the leaders and members of the PSNI who have the difficult job of policing protests and protecting all of our citizens.”



Cathedral Calls

Tributes to Ian Keatley of Southwark and Christ Church

Charles Wood Festival and Summer School



The Artistic Director, Chair and Board of the Charles Wood Festival and



Summer School are deeply shocked and saddened by news of the sudden passing of Ian Keatley, Founding Director of our Girls' Choir.

Ian was a very special talent, who worked so brilliantly with young singers. He sought and achieved the highest possible standards and we were so fortunate to have enjoyed his skills,

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insight and friendship.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ian's parents, his family and many friends.

NI International Organ Competition

The Chair and Board of the NI International Organ Competition are so saddened to learn of the sudden passing of their dear friend, Ian Keatley.

Ian was one of the Competition's founding board members, and a strong supporter of our work and vision.

Ian was a wonderfully talented musician and he made a huge impact in his 42 years. He was an inspirer and a visionary. We will miss him immensely.



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Our thoughts and prayers are with his parents, family, colleagues and friends.

Clergy and ministry

50,000 young European altar servers meet with Pope at Vatican

Pope Francis expressed his gratitude to the young altar servers for their dedication and for making the pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate their faith.

“Thank you, dear young friends. Have a good journey with Jesus!” he concluded in German

In a momentous event, Pope Francis welcomed around 50,000 altar servers from across Europe to the Vatican on Tuesday, July 30. This was the first gathering of its kind in six years, offering young participants a profound sense of belonging within the global Catholic Church and the chance to explore the historic city of Rome.

The majority of attendees hailed from German-speaking countries, influencing the event’s proceedings. Prayers and songs were predominantly in German, and the Pope’s catechesis was translated into the language. Pope Francis even addressed the crowd in German, reminiscing about his time in Germany during the 1980s. The event kicked off at 4:00 PM with a vibrant program of songs and prayers, allowing young altar servers to share their experiences with

peers from different nations. The atmosphere was electric as Pope Francis arrived earlier than expected at 5:40 PM, greeted by enthusiastic applause and a sea of colorful pilgrim caps. Despite being on his summer break, the Pope made a special effort to join this significant gathering.

In his catechesis, Pope Francis reflected on the theme of the 13th altar servers' pilgrimage: "With Him." He emphasized that serving in the liturgy highlights God as the central figure of this "with Him." Quoting Jesus, he reminded the youth, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." This presence, he stressed, is fully realized in the Eucharist, where God becomes tangible in the body and blood of Christ.

The Pope encouraged the young participants to embody the "with Him" of Jesus in their everyday lives, urging them to love and serve others without prejudice or exclusion. He called on them to empathize deeply, to cry with those who cry and to rejoice with those who rejoice, fostering genuine and heartfelt connections. "Thanks to Jesus, we can tell our neighbor: 'I am with you,' not just with words, but with actions and from the heart," he said.

Pope Francis expressed his gratitude to the young altar servers for their dedication and for making the pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate their faith. "Thank you, dear young friends. Have a good journey with Jesus!" he concluded in German, highlighting the significance of their role as bearers of Christ's love and healers of wounded hearts.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Leading for a change - Major new PCI event this autumn

Changing times? Changing church? For ministers, key congregational leaders and staff

“Across the Presbyterian Church in Ireland there is a growing sense that change has come and more is on the way.

“We need to enable congregations and members to adapt and respond. What would it take to make the space in

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church life to do so? How could we go about that in practical ways?

“As leaders, what is our role in making sure it happens? Explore how change can come in the life of your congregation at the Leading for a change morning in Belfast”.

Thursday 17 October 2024, 10:30am-12:45pm. Assembly Buildings, Belfast



The poster features a blue background with a faint map of Ireland. On the left is a tall stone tower, and on the right is a large domed building. At the bottom, there is a colorful silhouette of a city skyline. A red banner at the top contains the text: EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2024 14-15 SEPT. The main title is 'EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2024' in large white and black letters. Below it, the text reads 'LINKS TO HERITAGE CONNECTIONS ROUTES AND NETWORKS'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Love HERITAGE NI', 'Department for Communities www.communities-ni.gov.uk', 'An Roinn Pobal', and 'Department für Communities'.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE
OPEN DAYS 2024
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LINKS TO HERITAGE CONNECTIONS
ROUTES AND NETWORKS

Love HERITAGE NI

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn Pobal

Department für Communities

European Heritage Open Weekend arrangements



Heritage Day at Christchurch, Mouncharles

As part of Heritage Week, Christchurch will be open from 10am - 4pm on Sat. 17th August,

for anyone who would like to visit the church and discover its history.

Tea will be served and there will be vintage items on display.

During the day there will also be the opportunity to join a walk and guided tour down to visit the grounds of Hall Demesne House.

The tours are at 12noon and 2pm.

Booking is essential and places are limited.



National
Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

Contact David on 087-6971646 to secure a place.

First Dunmurry NS Presbyterian Church

- Saturday 14th September Open: 11-2pm, with Graveyard tour at 11.30am

- Sunday 15th September Open: 11.30-1pm, with Sunday Service: 11.30-12.30pm.

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St Patrick's Church Cairncastle & graveyard

All welcome for a free guided tour round St Patrick's church Cairncastle & graveyard.

Come see the remains of the famous Spanish Armada tree and hear its story, view the beautiful Mayer stained glass windows and the old font from Dean Jonathan Swift's church.... and more besides. Join us for morning prayer on Sun 15th... Refreshments available.

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

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