

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Airborne heritage**

## Image of the day



## Airborne heritage this weekend

**The Ulster Aviation Society is playing a full part in the European Heritage programme. A Red Arrows Hawk, and a Bulldog are but two of the exhibits.**

The Ulster Aviation Society base of operations and display aircraft can be found in two WWII Aircraft hangars on the Maze Long Kesh Site.

These structures, which are now Scheduled Monuments, were constructed around 1941 and used throughout the war.

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They currently house approximately 30 notable aircraft in a museum run by the Ulster Aviation Society. This collection is the largest private collection in Ireland.

A Voluntary Association of Aviation Enthusiasts, it was founded in 1968 and is made up of nearly 300 members, including Europe & USA.

You can visit their EHOD Open Weekend over 9th - 10th September. The members intend to have their largest ever set of aircraft out from Hangars 1 + 2 in the Compound, leaving plenty of room to explore inside. They are open 10am - 5pm both days. Free.

Their Bulldog was also out in the sunshine with the Red Arrows' Hawk, in front of Hangar 2's sparkly new doors. To see them yourself (and their other aircraft), be sure to mark this EHOD open weekend (9th-10th Sept) on your calendar. Two days to go!

## People and places

### The Spinning Yarns Festival returns

#### Calling all yarn lovers!

The Spinning Yarns Festival is back this Saturday, 2 September, at Theatre at The Mill in Newtownabbey. from 10am - 5pm.



This one-day festival is a celebration of all things wool and linen, with a wide range of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Shop from over 50 stalls selling yarn, fibre, and handmade crafts

Learn new skills at one of the many workshops, such as spinning, weaving, and felting

Be entertained by demonstrations and storytelling

Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea at Manns

The Ulster-Scots Agency will have a small stand at the event and we're looking forward to having a yarn with visitors and giving out some free goodie bags.

Tickets are just £5 and kids go free.

[spinningyarnsfestival.com](http://spinningyarnsfestival.com)

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## Christian Aid Sheeps Head Hike this Saturday

Rev Andrew Coleman - the annual Christian Aid Sheeps Head Hike....

this year its happening on Saturday 2nd September in Kilcrohane and I hope as many friends and supporters will join me on a great day and a great hike on the Sheeps Head peninsula ..

Christian Aid Sheeps Head Hike @ 10:30am Kilcrohane

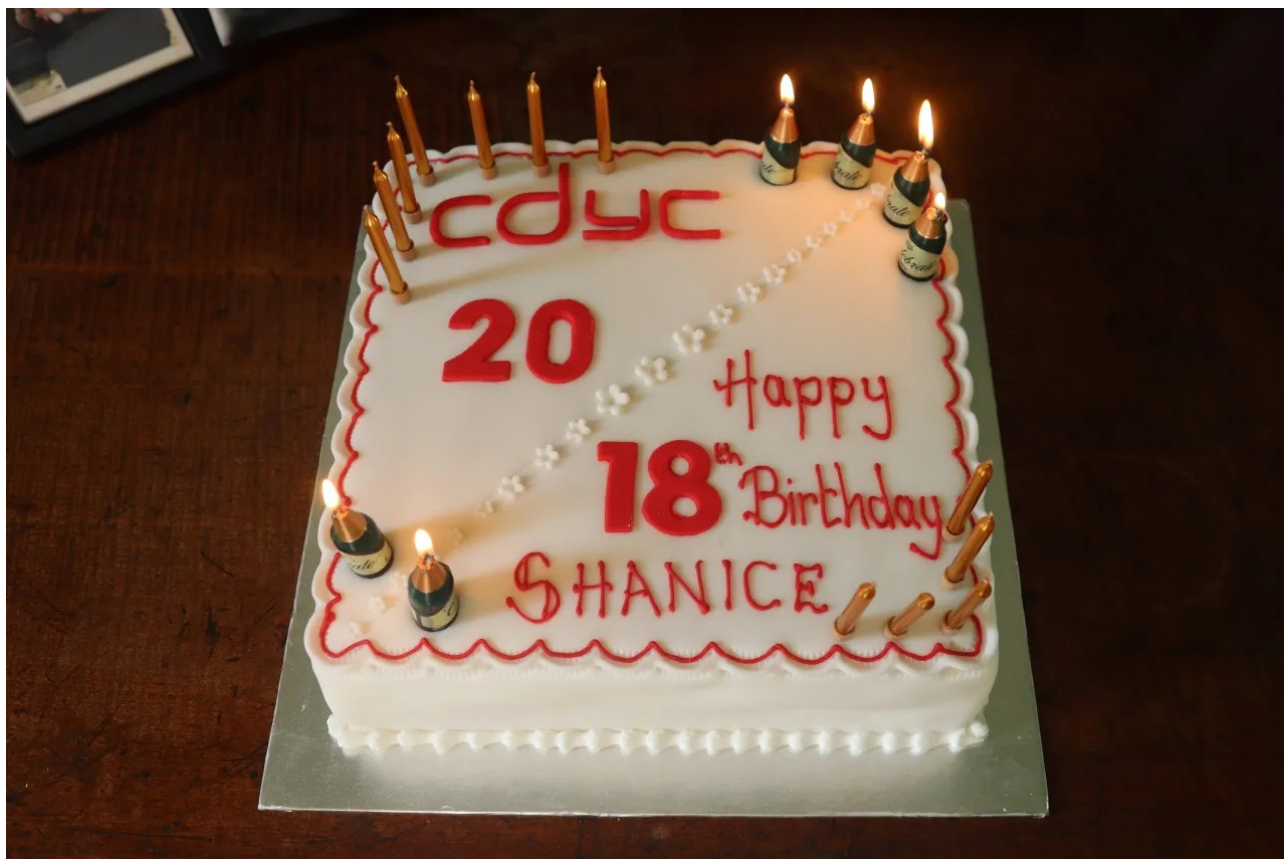


## **Cork Diocesan Youth Council celebrates 20 Years**

**This year the Cork Diocesan Youth Council are celebrating their 20th Anniversary. On Saturday the 26th August Bishop Colton and Mrs Colton invited the Youth Council and some of the young leaders to their home for a BBQ to mark the occasion.**

Hilda Connolly, Diocesan Youth Officer, writes:

Over the years, CDYC have seen many changes and shift in trends, but it has kept up with the needs of the young people and has successfully kept running events to suit everyone. With just three original council members, The President –



Bishop Colton, Chairperson – Judy Peters, Elected Lay Member – Peter Coughlan, withstanding the test of time. It is a huge achievement to have kept the “show on the road” and there is a lot of appreciation from parents and young people from around the diocese, which have benefitted and found the events a great help in the past and in the present day. Well done to all the council members throughout the years on your commitment and enthusiasm with the young people of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

And to make the evening even more special, it was not just a 20th Anniversary, but one of the young leaders also turned 18 that day, which led to the necessity of a cake for both.

The Council said - Thank you to Bishop Colton and Susan for the wonderful spread and hospitality. It was a very enjoyable night.

## **The magical peal of church bells set to once again ring across north Cork village of Doneraile**

**The bells at St Mary’s Church of Ireland in Doneraile, the only ringing peal in Ireland to be hung on their original 19th century fittings, have undergone major restoration and refurbishment, Bill Browne writes in Independent.ie.**

The magical peal of tolling bells is set to once again ring across Doneraile after the historic bells at St Mary’s Church of Ireland have undergone their first major restoration and refurbishment in more than a century.

Presented to the church in 1889 by Lady Castletown in memory of her father the 4th Viscount Doneraile, they are one of the few remaining in Ireland with a ring of six bells and the only ringing peal left in the country to be hung on their original 19th century fittings.

Parishioner Ina Lillis said the bell installation had not received any significant attention since they were installed 134-years-ago and were therefore in need of a major overhaul.

“As the last bell foundry in Ireland has long since closed, this involved their removal and transportation to a foundry in Somerset, England ,” said Ms Lillis.



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“While the people of Doneraile have not heard the bells ringing recently, the good news is that they will be returning home to St Mary’s in the near future. Once the re-installation works have been fully completed they can be safely and easily rung for generations to come. The restoration works will enhance their individual tone and musicality as a peal,” she added.

Ms Lillis said that prior to the “arduous task” of re-hanging the bells they will go on public display from 7pm-9pm next Monday and from 2pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The church will be open to visitors, and everyone is welcome to come along and share in this once in a lifetime experience,” said Ms Lillis.

However, the restoration has come at a price, with the process costing in the region of €70,000.

With this in mind the church has set up an appeal to cover the cost of the project, with people able to donate through the following link at <https://www.idonate.ie/cause/donerailebells-68798>.

“Alternatively people will be able to buy line for a raffle at €5 each when they come to view the bells. The first prize will be a night for two people at the Kinsale Hotel and Spa,” said Ms Lillis.

“Any donation that people can make to the fundraising efforts of the bell committee will be greatly appreciated,” she added. Report courtesy of Bill Browne and Independent.ie



*On Tuesday The Queen unveiled a portrait of Secret Operations Executive, Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan at the Royal Air Force Club. Khan was the first female wireless operator to be dropped into enemy-occupied France to support the French Resistance during WWII.*

## **Benemerenti Medals for Ferns couple**

**Nancy Byrne and Brian O'Neill were presented with Benemerenti Medals from Bishop of Ferns, Ger Nash, recently at Tempeludigan church in recognition of their services to the parish and the Church.**

The Benemerenti Medal is a medal awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Catholic Church. Originally established as an award for soldiers in

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the Papal Army, it is now a civil decoration but may still be awarded to members of the Pontifical Swiss Guard and to lay members of the church.

Nancy was a founding member of the Ladies Committee and served the parish faithfully for many years.

Brian has been a long-time member of the Parish Committee and worked tirelessly for the parish since his youth.

A crowd attended the presentation and everyone enjoyed refreshments afterwards in what was a proud day for the Byrne and O'Neill families. Report courtesy David Looby, New Ross Standard

## **Canon Elizabeth Johnston, 1937–2023**

**Revd Canon Elizabeth Johnston, former Missionary of India and one of the first female Church of Ireland Ministers serving in East Belfast, ARDS and Down, died peacefully aged 86 on 22 August.**

The funeral service will be held in Down Cathedral on Monday 4 September at 11.00am.

Elizabeth was born in Bangor on 16th July 1937, the daughter of John and Margaret Johnston. She was educated at Regent House in Newtownards before going to Queen's University Belfast where she graduated B.A.(Hons) in 1958.

She answered the call to ministry as a young woman and served as a missionary to India with Crosslinks (formerly BCMS) from 1962 to 1992. During this period, she achieved a Diploma in Education (Q.U.B.) in 1969 and completed her Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1987 at Senate of Serampore, West Bengal. She also achieved a Diploma in Theology from the University of London. During her time as a missionary in India, she worked extensively with the Church of North India, becoming a deacon in 1981. On her return to Northern Ireland in 1994, she was ordained a priest by Rt Revd Gordon McMullan and appointed to St Christopher's in East Belfast where she was the incumbent until her retirement in 2003.

Elizabeth became the first female canon of Down Cathedral in 2001 when she was appointed by Rt Revd Harold Miller. During her retirement, Elizabeth settled in the tranquil setting of Whiterock, where she remained active in the ministry as Minister Emeritus in the United Parish of Killinchy, Kilmood and Tullynakill.

The Rector of Killinchy, Revd Dr Stanley Gamble said, "Elizabeth was a wonderful saint of God, who quite simply radiated the light and love of Christ. Theologically, she was crystal clear in her understanding of the Christian faith, and valued Bible Study and the opportunity to teach and preach. Pastorally, she was very caring and compassionate with a heart for the poor, the sick and the bereaved. Her time in India taught her so much about what is truly valuable in life. Her faith was so important to her, and she always tried to encourage others in their own walk with God. She will be sorely missed."

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Bishop David said: Canon Elizabeth served the Lord so faithfully for years both in India as a missionary and then in Ireland as a deacon and presbyter. So many lives were impacted by her great grace and wonderful generosity. As a friend to many, Elizabeth, while gentle, had a strength of character like few I have known. Her love for Jesus was contagious and inspirational.”

## News reports

### **Hundreds of faith leaders call for social care workers to be paid at least £12 per hour**

**More than 400 Scottish faith leaders have signed a declaration calling for social care workers to be paid at least £12 per hour.**

It urges the Scottish Government to do "everything within its power" to immediately ensure that all frontline staff earn a fair wage to help them better cope with the ongoing cost of living crisis.

With demand continually growing for social care services, an improved wage level is essential to retaining staff and boosting recruitment.

Initiated by the Church of Scotland, whose social care arm CrossReach runs cradle-to-the-grave social care services across Scotland, and the Catholic Church in Scotland, the



*CrossReach provides social care for over 10,000 people of all ages in Scotland.*

Scottish Faith Leaders declaration is part of the '4 Steps to Fair Work' campaign.

Spearheaded by the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCSP), the campaign aims to tackle the growing crisis within Scotland's not-for-profit social care sector.

Providers like CrossReach are feeling the impact that a Scottish Government-funded base rate of pay of just £10.90 per hour is having on staff and services.

As a result of this many staff are leaving the workforce for better-paid jobs elsewhere and there are challenges in trying to recruit new staff.



*Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton said the Church of Scotland's voice on national and international issues has authenticity because it represents people working across the country to support and uplift local communities. Photo: Andy O'Brien*

This is leading to a loss of expertise and potential talent, and an undermining of key services – all of which jeopardises support for those who need it most.

Church members are encouraged to show their support for the campaign by contacting their local MSP and asking them to raise the aims and objectives in the Scottish Parliament.

The Moderator has recorded a video calling for fair pay for social care staff and every day this week a video from a faith leader on the same topic will be posted online.

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Speaking on behalf of the Scottish Faith Leaders Forum, Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "As people of faith we have a calling to honour care and service.

"Dignity and respect for others is at the very heart of the faith message.

"We are delighted to have this opportunity to have our collective voice heard on this matter of great importance."

The Moderator has recorded a video calling for fair pay for social care staff and every day this week a video from a faith leader on the same topic will be posted online.

Established more than 150 years ago, CrossReach provides social care for over 10,000 people of all ages in Scotland who find themselves facing challenging circumstances at any point in their life.

Operating 70 locations across Scotland, the charity employs 1,600 staff and 350 volunteers.

Viv Dickenson, Chief Executive Officer of CrossReach, said: "This is not just a matter of justice for those working in care, but it is a matter which speaks to the way in which we as a society value those that they support and care for.

"Our fundamental belief that every life is worth living and can be lived in the fullest way possible."

The 4 Steps to Fair Work campaign, which has been running since June, aims to ensure that social care and



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support workers begin to be properly rewarded and recognised and the people they support can thrive by getting the support they need at the right time and in the right places.

### **The four steps are:**

**Deal with pay inequality:** As a first step, implement the promise of a minimum of £12 per hour for social care staff, starting from 1 April 2023.

**Ensure equal pay for equal work:** Apply pay uplifts to staff in all services, not just those in registered adult social care.

**Value all staff who play their part:** Deliver funding packages that value the crucial role of support staff and managers, alongside frontline workers.

**Give us hope of equality:** Publish a timetable by this September to deliver fully on Fair Work in Social Care by 2025.

## **In the media**

### **Police Federation welcomes Judicial Review which raises questions about decision-making**

**Police Federation** - welcomes Judicial Review outcome which found the decision to suspend and reposition officers involved in the Ormeau Rd Covid incident was unlawful.



## [Federation wins JR into Ormeau Rd ‘injustice’ and raises questions around decision-making](#)

**Police Federation** - The PFNI says serious questions have to be asked of the decision-making of the PSNI’s Senior Executive Team after the Federation won a Judicial Review into actions taken against probationer officers involved in the Ormeau Rd Covid-related incident in 2021. PFNI statement in full:

<https://www.policefed-ni.org.uk/media-centre?tag=Members+News>

Jon Burrows is a retired senior officer and says his former colleagues have now “lost faith in the competence and the fairness of those at the top of the PSNI”

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**Belfast Telegraph** - “Yesterday’s judgment at the High Court ought to be a defining moment for both the current leadership of the PSNI and the relationship in our society between policing and politics.”

Sam McBride - “PSNI officers from various ranks & backgrounds are getting in touch to express dismay at Simon Byrne. One says: "He has been found to have acted unlawfully & accepts it; he has to go. We’re a laughing stock". Another says Policing Board is "underestimating anger amongst officers"

“These officers were sacrificed on the altar of political expediency in a disgraceful attempt to pander to political pressure," the chair of the Police Federation has said.

**BBC NI** - Jayne McCormack “The only option open to Simon (Byrne) is to resign at this stage,” DUP policing board representative Trevor Clarke tells [#bbcgmu](#), he says it’s clear “officers, politicians and the public” no longer have confidence in the PSNI chief constable

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

**Join Dana on Camino adventure along St Patrick’s Pilgrim Way**

Dana, who recently released a new song, Light the Fire, in honour of St Patrick to launch the Centre’s new exhibition will walk with pilgrims on the Downpatrick part of Saint

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Patrick's Way on September 23, 2023. This is a six mile route that includes the site of Patrick's first church and Inch Abbey, a 12th century site where the legend of St Patrick banishing the snakes was written.

The Downpatrick Camino includes lunch, a pilgrim passport and guided tours of key sites for £45. For more information and to book please contact The Saint Patrick Centre on 02844 619000 or [www.saintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.saintpatrickcentre.com)

## **Benburb Priory Newsletter**

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[https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Uyboav729L1ecj\\_TBdSboEaVmk1LGz0/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Uyboav729L1ecj_TBdSboEaVmk1LGz0/view?usp=share_link)



**BBC4 service marking the 50th anniversary of the Greenbelt Festival**

## Perspective

### Heaney anniversary marks milestone for his native Bellaghy

**More than 100,000 people from across the world have visited Bellaghy the home village of the late Nobel laureate, Seamus Heaney in the last seven years writes Seamus McKinney in The Irish News.**

Wednesday marked the tenth anniversary of the writer's death. The south Derry man, who grew up at the family home at Mossbawn near Bellaghy, is considered one of the most popular poets in English literature.

Focusing his writing on his rural upbringing, Heaney's poetry reflects his personal history, from his days as a pupil at Anahorish primary school and later as a boarder at St Columb's college in Derry and on through his family life.

His talent opened up a glittering literary career in which he served as Oxford Professor of Poetry and as visiting professor at Harvard University and won many of the world's leading cultural accolades.

His career reached its height in 1995 when he was awarded the Nobel prize for literature.

Heaney died suddenly in Dublin in 2013 at the age of 74. After suffering a fall, he went into hospital for a medical procedure.

At his Requiem Mass in Dublin, the poet's son Michael revealed that his father's last message to his wife Marie was in his "beloved Latin" in a text in which he said "Noli timere" (do not be afraid).

Following his funeral Mass, his cortege came back to his native Bellaghy where he was buried in the graveyard at St Mary's parish church, close to his family grave where his parents and younger brother Christopher were laid to rest.

Heaney immortalised his brother in Mid Term Break, which poignantly recalled the four-year-old's death in a car accident.

Within days of his funeral, the Bellaghy writer's grave became a place of pilgrimage for poetry enthusiasts. When his simple headstone was unveiled, it bore the quotation "Walk on air against your better judgement" from his poem The Gravel Walks.

Over the last 10 years, the number of people visiting Bellaghy and, from 2016, the Seamus Heaney HomePlace centre has continued to grow.

A spokeswoman for the centre said it has attracted many leading figures to Bellaghy, including President Michael D Higgins and King Charles. Other visitors have included actors, Liam Neeson, Simon Callow and Michael Palin,

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fellow writers, Michael Longley and Paul Muldoon and singer Van Morrison.

“We have welcomed over 100,000 visitors from more than 50 countries, including the USA, Australian, Canada, Germany and France among others," she said.

Bellaghy councilor Ian Milne said that as well as his great literary legacy, Heaney’s reputation has transformed his home village in the years since his death.

“You meet people from all over the world and you can feel the positive attitude. People are very proud of Seamus Heaney,” he said.

Mr Milne said Bellaghy was fast becoming a must-visit destination for literature enthusiasts.

St Mary’s parish confirmed that prayers in memory of the poet were read at Masses in Bellaghy on Wednesday to mark his anniversary. Courtesy The Irish News. 29 August, 2023

## **[Read more](#)**

Queen's unveils plans for new £4.9m Seamus Heaney Centre

[\[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66579623\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66579623)

Seamus Heaney's widow watches on as Joe Biden cites work of late Irish poet

[\[https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/joe-biden-seamus-heaney-irish-bill-clinton-irish-parliament-b2319426.html\]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/joe-biden-seamus-heaney-irish-bill-clinton-irish-parliament-b2319426.html)

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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