

# Church News Ireland

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April 14, 2025

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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# Image of the day

## Durham prepares for Royal Maundy

“We're getting ready for The King and Queen's visit on Maundy Thursday”, writes our correspondent at Durham




### Cathedral.

“Our Volunteer Flower Arrangers have been busy practising the floral arrangements for the Royal Maundy Service. They'll be using locally grown flowers and sustainable materials to create arrangements fit for royalty.

“They've been guided by local

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floral arranger and flower farmer Deborah Simpson Boston.

Read more here  <https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/articles/volunteer-flower-arrangers-at-durham-cathedral-prepare-colourful-displays-for-the-king-and-queen>

## News

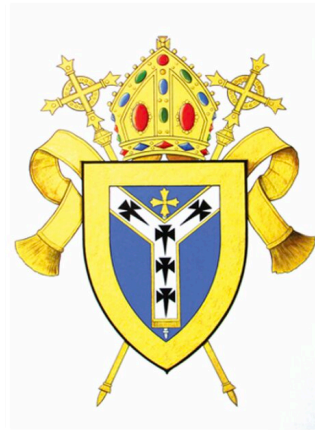
### **Further attack on Al Ahli Arab Hospital an outrage says Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin**

**The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, yesterday morning (Sunday, 13th April 2025) issued this statement following the further attack on Al Ahli Arab Hospital.** The hospital is supported by the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough through their relationship with the Diocese of Jerusalem:

As Christian people worldwide mark the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday we recollect with thanksgiving how he gathered to himself a new community of the despised and the rejected.

He himself became despised and rejected – a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

We walk in solidarity and in sadness with the brave souls – staff and patients – who have kept Al Ahli Hospital functioning against the odds for so so long.



I share their outrage, having experienced their selfless work and worshipped with them in their hospital chapel, at the destruction and desecration of the hospital – a place of care and healing for all in need.

I appeal for a cessation of violence and warfare in Israel–Palestine and particularly in Gaza.

I appeal to all people in the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough to pray throughout Holy Week for those who suffer and for those who serve, for those who die and for those who struggle to live.

## **Persevering in Hope - A Message for Holy Week and Easter from the Archbishops of Armagh**

**In his gospel account of the resurrection, the evangelist St Luke tells us it was very early in the morning ‘at the first sign of dawn’ when the women discovered that the stone had been rolled way from the tomb of Jesus.**



*Archbishop John McDowell & Archbishop Eamon Martin*

Although they had left home in darkness and grief, by sunrise the women were witnessing with joy to the resurrection, and sharing the Good News, “Christòs anésti, Christ is risen!”

The recent warm spell has brought out the best in springtime and helped to raise our spirits in time for Easter. To see the trees bursting into life and the green shoots of spring flowers everywhere lifts our hearts, and reminds us of the promise and hope of new life after the dark sleep of Winter.

Of course, even in the midst of Spring, it is difficult to escape the reality that the world is currently experiencing a

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high level of instability and uncertainty. The darkness of war and violence continues to rage; countless families are displaced, and lasting peace seems elusive as more and more countries divert resources from welfare to warfare.

The journey to Calvary is a path that people everywhere are walking this Holy Week. However the knowledge that Jesus Christ walked that path before us, and continues to walk that path today, is central to the message of Holy Week and Easter. Whatever cross we carry, we do so with the strength of God upholding us; with Jesus by our side, we can truly overcome even the heaviest cross, the darkest situation.

During our recent St Patrick's Day visits to the United States, we were honoured to speak together at a 'Faith and Law' event for Congress Members and staff on Capitol Hill in Washington. We were asked to reflect on the impact of faith on the peace process here in the years that have followed the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. This opportunity allowed us to emphasise once again the importance of not giving up on hope, and of maintaining a strong Christian voice in the public square. We stressed the need to persevere along the road to deeper friendship, respect, tolerance and dialogue. Perhaps strangely, we were heartened by the fact that so many of the young adults we met on Capitol Hill had little knowledge of our "troubles"; it reminded us both of how far our communities have come in terms of moving away from the darkness of violence, death and destruction. The ongoing process towards a true and lasting peace here is offering renewed hope to our young people, many of whom have no recollection of the darkness of the past. Still, the work of peace-building is unfinished and there remains much to do.

Inspired by Easter Hope, St Paul once wrote to the Romans: “Our sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope. And this hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3–5).

As Easter people, both here on the island of Ireland and around the world, we must continue to welcome the ‘dawn moments’, and nurture the green shoots of reconciliation and peace.

This year Christians everywhere are marking the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. Despite long-lasting tensions and divisions at that time between Christians of different traditions, the Council was able to find agreement on a common ‘Creed’, or statement of belief. They chose to begin that Creed by using for the first time the expression “We believe”, as a sign that all the Churches had found communion.

The anniversary of Nicaea is a reminder to all of us to persevere with Hope along the path to greater understanding and reconciliation. Interestingly, the Council of Nicaea also discussed the date of Easter – an issue that has sadly continued to prevent Christians in the West and in the East from celebrating Christ’s resurrection on the same day. But coincidentally, or perhaps providentially, this year Easter falls on a common date – 20th April – from East to West. Persevering in Hope, in 2025 we can all truly acclaim together, “Christòs anésti, Christ is risen!”



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## Education

### Bright outdoor classroom at St Andrew's National School, Malahide



*Nick and Jacqui Turner, Canon David Gillespie, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Lesley McElhinney and the Revd Dr Norman Gamble.*

**A drab and dreary courtyard has been transformed into a bright outdoor classroom at St Andrew's National School, Malahide, as part of their bicentenary celebrations.**

The school's patron, Archbishop Michael Jackson, dedicated the new space following a special Easter service in the parish church last *Friday* morning (April 11).

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St Andrew's NS marked its 200th anniversary last year and were due to celebrate the milestone in November 2024 but the small matter of a General Election put proceedings on hold as the school is a polling station. This meant that the dedication took place in glorious spring sunshine instead of the cold winter weather.

The Rector, Canon David Gillespie, welcomed pupils, staff and parents to the church along with former Rector and chairperson of the board of management for many years,

the Revd Dr Norman Gamble. He thanked the Archbishop for joining them and thanked the Principal Lesley McElhinney for all the work she has done.

The service was led by 5th class and their teacher Miss Gillen. Pupils ably told the Easter story and highlighted the importance of each day of Holy Week. They also informed the congregation of traditions surrounding the celebration of Easter around the world.

Archbishop Jackson commended the pupils on their presentation and spoke of the long history of St Andrew's NS. He focused on two words: 'local' and 'extension'.

He said there was something uniquely local about Malahide. He pointed to Malahide Castle and the Talbot family whose generosity saw the establishment of both the church and the school. He observed that every area of Dublin was growing in population and that the pupils of St Andrew's 200 years ago could never have envisaged such numbers attending their school now.



*St Andrew's NS Malahide pupils at their Easter service.*

After the service they were going to dedicate the outdoor classroom and the Archbishop said that this extension to their facilities was another sign of growth in new ways of teaching and learning. He added that their local school also encouraged them to extend themselves and stretch and grow in new ways.

Over in the new outdoor classroom Ms McElhinney said that the dull and dreary area had been transformed into a beautiful space for people to enjoy. New furniture will further enhance the area. She thanked parents Nick and Jacqui Turner and Heather Lamont (who was unable to attend) for all their work in creating the outdoor classroom.

## **BRA 240th anniversary events**

**On September 9, 1785, the School's founder, Rev Dr James Crombie placed a notification for the Academy in the Belfast Newsletter advertising the curriculum that would be taught in the four schools.**

To mark 240 years since this historic occasion which established the Academy as the oldest school in Belfast of its type, we are planning three commemorative events in September 2025.

The first event is “**An Illustrated Talk - Belfast Royal Academy - the School and the City**” on Tuesday 9th September. Former Head of History in BRA and author of Belfast Royal Academy, The Second Century 1885 – 1985 and editor of the 225th anniversary book, Mr Eddie McCauley, will deliver an illustrated talk on the history of the Academy and link it with the growth of the City of Belfast. This will take place at 7 p.m. in the Lower Sixth study area and after the talk, which should last approximately 45 minutes, refreshments will be served by members of FOTA. This talk is open to all members of the BRA community including former pupils, former staff and Governors. E mail [alumni@belfastacademy.net](mailto:alumni@belfastacademy.net)

## **Launch of Scouts new NI Challenge Badge at The Siege Museum**

**The Siege Museum was delighted to team up with the NI Museum's Council and Scouts NI in the launch of the Scouts new NI Challenge Badge.**

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One of the compulsory elements of the badge will be to complete an activity at a local accredited museum and the Siege Museum fits that criteria!

So on Tuesday evening we'd the pleasure of welcoming the 3rd Londonderry Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for a visit. It was a beautiful evening so a walk on the walls and visit to Walker's Plinth was a must.

We hope to have many more Scouts groups visit us as a result of this new partnership.



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# Cathedral Calls



## St Paul's, Lichfield and Bradford Cathedral Choirs join for Clergy Support Trust special service

**Three Cathedral choirs will come together on Tuesday 13th May for the 370th Festival of the Clergy Support Trust a special service which will raise money to support members of the clergy across the UK.**

The Festival is one of the oldest choral music events in the world. 370 years on from the first event, this year's service will see our own Choir joined by Lichfield and Bradford Cathedral Choirs.

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Alongside celebrating the work of clergy members, the service will also act as an opportunity to raise funds for the Clergy Support Trust, so that they may continue their work of financially, physically, and mentally supporting Anglican clergy and their families.

🕒 Tuesday 13th May, 5pm

Attendance is free but ticketed - we suggest booking ahead at <https://bit.ly/3XXYd2m> to avoid missing out. Photo by Graham Lacadao, Clergy Support Trust Festival 2024.




## **First Director of the Cuthbert Centre for Pilgrimage and Prayer at Durham**

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## **Durham Cathedral has announced that Revd James Shelton has been appointed as the first Director of the Cuthbert Centre for Pilgrimage and Prayer**

The Cuthbert Centre is a key initiative within Durham Cathedral's Vision 2033, and is being created to enable the Cathedral to build on and expand its capacity to encourage and welcome pilgrims and people exploring prayer. James is coming to an end of his curacy in South Norfolk and previously had a career in marketing and communications, with four years at Norwich Cathedral

Read more about the appointment here  <https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/articles/appointment-of-the-first-director-of-the-cuthbert-centre-for-pilgrimage-and-prayer>

## **Clergy and ministry**

### **Meath & Kildare clergy conference**

**Meath & Kildare clergy gathered for their conference at Ballyvaloo. They enjoyed wonderful weather and a superb speaker in Dr Helen Paynter.**

Revd Dr Helen Paynter is Director of Theological Education, Tutor in Biblical Studies, and Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence.





## **New Clogher Diocesan MU Chaplain**

**Rev  
Maureen  
Desborough  
was  
welcomed  
as the new  
Clogher  
Diocesan  
Chaplain at  
her first  
Trustee  
Body  
meeting last  
week.**

She received her badge from Diocesan President Heather Ellis.

## **Perspective**

### **What is Holy Week?**

The Canon Precentor of Liverpool Cathedral explains:

### **What is Holy Week?**

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Holy Week follows the story of the last week of Jesus' life, from his entry into the holy city of Jerusalem, on Palm Sunday, to celebrate the Passover Festival. This most important Jewish festival celebrates God delivering Moses and the Jewish slaves in Egypt from death and persecution

## **When is Easter 2025?**

Easter day is on Sunday 20th April 2025.

## **What is Maundy Thursday?**

The name comes from a Latin word - 'mandatum' - meaning 'commandment', because at the Last Supper Christ told his disciples 'Love one another as I have loved you'. He shared a final symbolic meal with them, and later that night was betrayed, arrested, and imprisoned.

## **Why do we mark Good Friday?**

Good Friday is a sad day but a triumphant one, good news for us, because God is with us in the darkest place, death.

## **What is Easter?**

Easter is when Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, marking the beginning of a new creation. It begins a season of 50 days mirroring the original period between the empty tomb, and his appearing, his Ascension into heaven, and Pentecost when the disciples received God the Holy Spirit.

## Heritage

### Harry Clarke and 'The Years at the Spring'

**Tucked away in the RCB Library's special reserve collection is a volume of poetry titled "The Years at the Spring; an anthology of recent poetry".**

Originally published in 1920 this book is one of only 250 copies printed and contains a compilation of contemporary poetry, accompanied by the striking illustrations of Harry Clarke. The book features work by a variety of modern poets such as W.B. Yeats, Thomas Hardy and Francis Brett Young. The collection varies in style with many of the works being romantic in nature, with a handful of the poems also highlighting The Great War which was still fresh in the minds of the public.

Clarke, who was born in Dublin in 1889, was the son of a commercial church decorator. His father Joshua, originally from Leeds, encouraged his son's artist talents from a young age, providing the young Clarke exposure to many different artistic styles through his father's work. At 14 years old, Clarke was apprenticed to his father's studio, while also attending night classes at the Metropolitan College of Art and Design. While studying, he won numerous awards for his stained-glass work.

After his study, Clarke visited both London and France just prior to the start of World War I where he studied medieval

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stained glass. This study led to a significant career as a stained-glass artist, receiving both religious and secular commissions within Ireland as well as internationally. While Clarke is remembered today for his stained-glass work, he was also an accomplished illustrator, with notable commissions including Edgar Allan Poe's *Tales of Mystery & Imagination* as well as a compendium of *Fairy Tales* by Hans Christian Anderson.

The RCB libraries copy of *The Years at the Spring* was a gift from Clarke to the Most Revd Dr Gregg (1873–1961), Archbishop of Dublin (1920–1939), including a handwritten inscription, signed by Clarke in December of 1922. This is the 50th imprint of the limited run and includes 21 full page plate illustrations.

Many of the illustrations invoke a whimsical nature, such as the black and white illustration for Patrick Chalmer's poem 'If I Had a Broomstick' and Queenie Scott-Hopper's 'Very Nearly' while other illustrations showcase an interest in a more macabre illustration style, such as the full colour illustration plate for James Elroy Flecker's poem 'The Dying Patriot' which echoes the darker sketches seen in Poe's *Tales of Mystery & Imagination*. Clarke's illustrations not only showcase his varied artistic range, but they also give the reader a visual interpretation of the poems, providing an additional depth to the overall work.

Based on work by **Rachel Bennett**, Assistant Archivist, RCB Library

With April being National Poetry Month, the RCB Library is taking the opportunity to explore four unique poetry-related

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items currently held in the archive and special reserve collection. These distinctive pieces showcase the diverse holdings of the RCB Library as well as the invaluable role that the archive plays in preserving historically unique items.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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)

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Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning

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