

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day

100 Years of Scouting in East Belfast



100 years of Scouting in East Belfast

Mr Gavin Robinson MP said he was, “Honoured to attend a special service to mark 100 years of Scouting in East Belfast .


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“From my time in the 33rd at Stormont to our son Reuben’s time in the 4th at Knock (right), we know Scouting equips young people with incredible life lessons and values.



“Thank you to all, past present and future who invest so much in our young people. Well done to lead EB volunteer, Gareth McAuley and team”.

Welcome to East Belfast District Centenary Parade Service
Sunday 23rd March 2025 | Campbell College Belfast
1924/25 - 2024/25



Everyone Achieves Scouting Together

Praise – Shine Jesus Shine
(flags received – lead by 7th / Dundonald & 10th / McMordie Explorer Scouts)

Opening prayers
30th / Ballyhanwood Explorer Scout
27th / Gilnahirk Explorer Scout

Praise – Great Big God (actions)

Reading – John 15: 9-17
4th Cub Scout
27th Cub Scout

SCOUT PROMISES & LAWS
Squirrel & Beaver Scout Promise
District Beaver Scouts Team
33rd Squirrel Scout
30th Beaver Scout

The Cub Scout Law
9th Cub Scout



Pictured at the King's Badge presentation in Edenderry Memorial Methodist Church are from left ; Mr. Kenneth Twyble BEM (former Company Captain), Alex Jackson, Joshua Kelly, Mr. Kenneth Vennard BEM (Company Captain), Adam Charles and Rev. Alan Wardlow (Company Chaplain). Photo by Alex McCausland

King's Badges for three young men from Portadown BB

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A historic occasion was marked in Portadown as three young men among first to receive King's Badges.

The boys were presented with their badges by Mr. Kenneth Twyble BEM, former President of the Portadown and District Boys' Brigade Battalion and ex-Company Captain of Seventh Portadown Boys' Brigade.

Mothersing Sunday responses



Photo above - Among the many things happening in **Christ Church, Derriaghy**, on Mothersing Sunday, five new members of the Mother's Union were enrolled.

Canon Nicola of **Enniscorthy and Monarrt Union** and pupils from 5th and 6th class in St. Mary's N.S led the Sunday Service at 10am on South East Radio on Sunday 30th March, Mothersing Sunday

Myanmar earthquake demands a humanitarian response

Responding to the devastating earthquakes that hit Myanmar (Friday 28 March), Christian Aid's Head of Asia, Middle East & Europe, Julie Mehigan, said:

“This disaster has left people isolated, devastated and in need of drinking water, food and shelter. An urgent emergency response, with full humanitarian access, is needed.

“Christian Aid has heard from partners and colleagues on the ground that the Kyaukse Kinta Dam has burst in Mandalay with water levels rising in the lowland areas around.

“We are working closely with our partners and networks to identify the extent of the existing damage and risk to communities there. Mandalay airport is closed to international and domestic travel due to damage to the infrastructure.

“Christian Aid is reaching out to our partners to carry out assessments to identify the most vulnerable people who need our help immediately. However, with a nationwide power outage, communication will continue to be challenging.

“Myanmar is one of the least developed countries in the world. Even before this heartbreaking earthquake, we know conflict and displacement has left countless people in real

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need. Every prayer and every gift will bring hope to people hit by disaster.”

Education



BRA history students enjoy hit play Dr. Strangelove

Form 5 History students from Belfast Royal Academy enjoyed a screening of the National Theatre Live West End hit play Dr. Strangelove, starring Steve Coogan, at the Theatre at the Mill.



The play, an adaptation from Stanley Kubrick's 1964 satire about cold war brinkmanship, fitted in perfectly with the GCSE History course on International Relations 1945-2003.



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The students really enjoyed the clever production where Steve Coogan took on 4 different roles, and with classic lines like, “Gentlemen, you can’t fight in here. This is the War Room!”, there was much laughter in the audience.



King Lear in the Gate Theatre attraction for MCB

Upper Sixth form English Literature students from Methodist College, Belfast, recently visited Dublin.

They went to see a performance of King Lear in the Gate Theatre as part of their study of Shakespearean Genres. Before the performance, they spent some time at the



Garden of Remembrance admiring the magnificent Children of Lir statue designed by Oisín Kelly.

Fort Hill Integrated College first Iftar



Welcome
to
FHIC

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Fort Hill Integrated College, Lisburn, is honoured and humbled to have held our first Iftar on Wednesday night.

We came together as a school community to share Iftar, the evening meal during Ramadan, and we believe it was the first time this has ever happened in a school in Northern Ireland.

The atmosphere was filled with warmth, understanding, and a beautiful sense of unity. We shared stories, broke bread together, and celebrated the diversity that makes our school so special.

A massive thank you to everyone who made this historic event possible: Dr Al-Wazzan and the Belfast Islamic

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Centre, Mr Khaled Elfotooh for leading the prayers and Mr Mohamad Souriani for performing the Adhan. To the students, staff, and families who contributed their time and effort, your dedication was truly inspiring. We extend particular gratitude to those who brought the most incredible food. From savoury delights to sweet treats, every dish was absolutely delicious. It was definitely an unforgettable evening.

We are incredibly proud to be an integrated school where all faiths and cultures are celebrated. Wednesday night's Iftar was a testament to the power of community and the importance of understanding and respect. We look forward to many more events like this in the future.

Cathedral Calls





Confirmed under the moon

On Sunday afternoon the Bishop confirmed twenty young people in St Canice's Cathedral,

Kilkenny. This was the last thing to happen under Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon. Please pray for these young people in their journey of faith in a complex world.

Derry organists start early



Congrats to two of St Columb's Cathedral Boy Choristers, Ben and David, who played the organ for Evening Prayer on Sunday afternoon.



BBC Broadcast - Southwell Minster Evensong, Wednesday of Holy Week

The Minster is delighted to be broadcasting Evensong live on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 16 April, almost exactly 91 years since its first broadcast of Evensong.

Wednesday of Holy Week, or "Spy Wednesday" as it is sometimes known, is in the midst of the most special time in the church year, and we have some equally special music to sing at this service. Tune in live at 3pm, or listen again on BBC Sounds.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0029ptl>

Musician Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

His works included operas, choral music and symphonies, and he is well known for his Anglican cathedral music.



He also published collections of Irish folk songs and was conductor of the London Bach Choir.

He died this month in 1924 and was buried in Westminster Abbey, close to the graves of other great musicians including Herbert Howells and Ralph Vaughan Williams, both of whom he taught.

Clergy and ministry

Presbyterian Minister in new BBC film about road racing and faith

Portrush biking Minister John Kirkpatrick to feature in new BBC film about road racing and faith

A new BBC programme examining the role of faith in the lives of motorcycle road racers is to feature Portrush's biking Presbyterian minister, Rev John Kirkpatrick.

Ride or Die explores how faith, grief and the risk of fatality push a diverse cast of racers to the limit in the weeks leading up to one of the world's fastest road races – the North West 200.

"Do you really understand what living is if you never put your life at any risk?" asks North West 200 Race Chaplain, Reverend John Kirkpatrick.

The makers of Ride or Die say: "To outsiders, racing on closed public roads at speeds in excess of 200mph might be hard to understand. For many of those who do it, it's an all-consuming passion – providing a sense of purpose, community and fulfilment.

"For some religious faith plays an important, but often hidden, role in the lives of many of those involved. But for others faith in themselves, an undying love for the sport, and

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a belief in plain good luck is what fuels them. Courtesy The News Letter.



Kilwarlin welcomes Revd Elaine Pentland

Revd Elaine Pentland has received a warm welcome on becoming Priest-in-charge of the Grouped Parishes of Kilwarlin, Upper and Lower. It is Elaine's first charge, and she has moved to her new parish from the curacy of Willowfield.

Bishop David McClay of Down & Dromore introduced Elaine at a service in St John's Church on Friday 28 March and the Rector of Willowfield, the Revd Clive Atkinson, gave the address.

Speaking of her forthcoming ministry in Kilwarlin, Elaine said:

"I am looking forward to being Priest-in-charge in the beautiful country setting of Upper and Lower Kilwarlin. As I have been praying for what lies ahead, by Word and Spirit, I

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have been drawn to a verse in Paul's letter to the Colossians. It is my heart's desire that as we grow our 'hearts will be encouraged and united in love so to have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.'

Meet Elaine

I grew up in Crossgar where both sides of my family have lived and worked many generations. One Granny ran the village shop and Post Office into her 80's the other was a primary school Headmistress. Surrounded by such a loving family, and nurturing church family, including both my home parishes of Kilmore and Inch and the local Presbyterian church, mine was a very happy upbringing.

Family life pretty much revolved around what was going on at church. I first saw Sydney at the local BB display when I was 12 and we married 25 years ago. In between I studied history at Queens and then went on to study and work as a nurse. We have 3 children aged 24, 22 and 13.

I never knew a time when I did not understand that Jesus loved me and died for me. I grew up and into my faith and remember at 13 taking my confirmation vows very seriously. The Lord Jesus and his church are the great passion of my life, and it was this that drew me into ministry. As my heart was being stirred, and an unsettledness was taking hold as I worked in the health service, I remember drinking a cup of coffee while looking out the office window towards the hospital building, thinking, "In the twinkling of an eye someday there will be no more sick people, I need to give all

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my energies to that which will last forever.” And so, the journey to ordination began.

I entered the Theological Institute in Dublin in 2019 and was ordained deacon in August 2021 for an intern year in Willowfield Church. I remained in Willowfield as curate and got a taste of city life and ministry. It was a busy and blessed time. If they say it takes a village to grow a child, it definitely takes a congregation to grow a curate.

It continues to be a delight that what was birthed in a Sunday school class and weekly church attendance has led me to this vocation, as I seek to live and teach the truth of Psalm 138, “For you have exalted your name and your word above everything.”

Events

Play The Organ Year Event

The Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters, in association with the Royal College of Organists, invites musicians of all ages with some keyboard experience to a Play the Organ Year 2025 (PTOY) event on Saturday 12 April, from 2pm – 4.30pm.

This is for people of all ages and backgrounds: in each county in Northern Ireland, a number of interesting organs have been selected for anyone wishing to give the ‘King of Instruments’ a try. Just bring along one or two pieces of

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PLAY THE ORGAN YEARS

familiar music to try on the instrument. Experienced organists will be on hand to guide each player, ensuring that the experience is fun and enjoyable. There is no need to book – just turn up!

BELFAST: Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, BT9 5DJ

BELFAST: St Peter's Cathedral, BT12 4BU (Roman Catholic)

COUNTY ANTRIM: St Patrick's Church, Ballymena, BT43 7BT (Church of Ireland)

COUNTY ARMAGH: First Presbyterian Church, Armagh, BT61 9AP

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COUNTY DOWN: Down Cathedral, Downpatrick, BT30 6AB
(Church of Ireland)

COUNTY FERMANAGH: St Michael's Church, Enniskillen,
BT74 7EW (Roman Catholic)

COUNTY LONDONDERRY/DERRY: St Augustine's Church,
Londonderry, BT48 6PP (Church of Ireland)

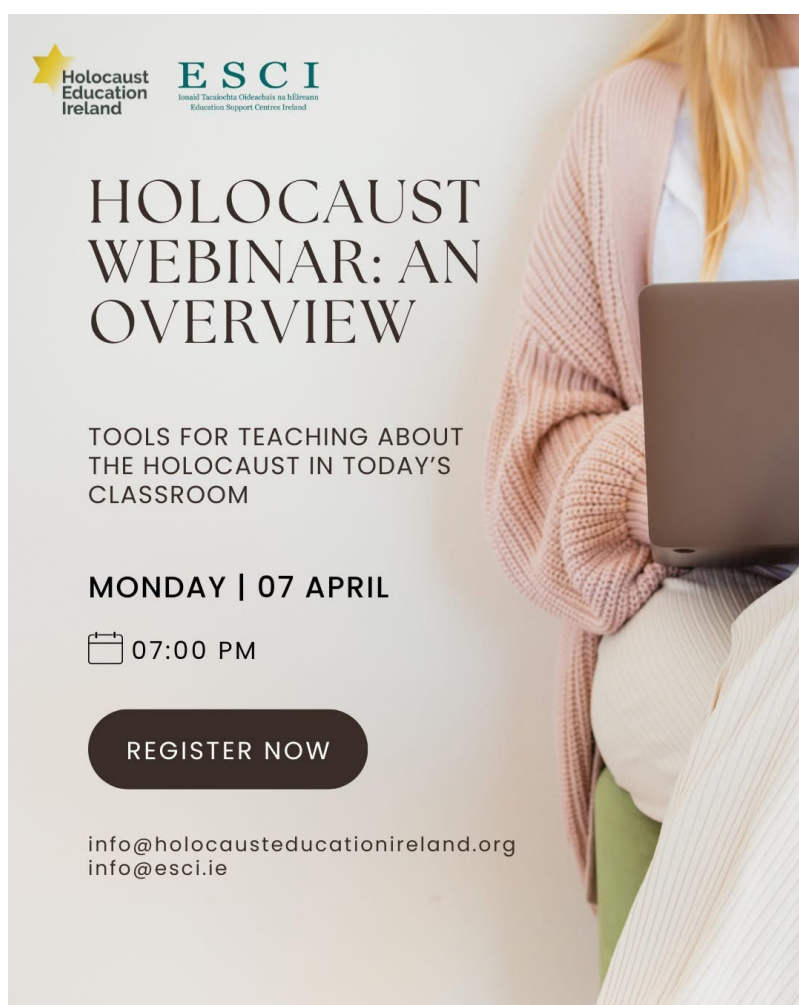
COUNTY TYRONE: St Columba's Church, Omagh, BT78
1DG (Church of Ireland)

For further information, please email
president.usoc@gmail.com

Holocaust Education Ireland webinar

Our next Holocaust webinar will be taking place on 07 April! Extensive guidance will be provided tailored specifically for teachers, equipping them with the tools and resources needed to effectively teach this critical subject in their classrooms.

Register here:



Holocaust Education Ireland

ESCI
Ionaid Tacúobta Oideachais na hÉireann
Education Support Centres Ireland

HOLOCAUST
WEBINAR: AN
OVERVIEW

TOOLS FOR TEACHING ABOUT
THE HOLOCAUST IN TODAY'S
CLASSROOM

MONDAY | 07 APRIL

📅 07:00 PM

REGISTER NOW

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info@esci.ie

In the media

Holocaust should not be reduced to generalisations about intolerance and racism, says Lord Williams

Former Archbishop of Canterbury was delivering a lecture in memory of Rabbi Lord Sacks

The Holocaust and the attempt to destroy Jewish witness represent a “revolt against something of unique spiritual importance”, and should not be reduced to generalities about intolerance and racism, the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Williams told a gathering at King’s College, London, this month.

Delivering the second annual lecture in memory of Rabbi Lord Sacks, Lord Williams acknowledged concerns that “the current culture of Holocaust education and the developing culture around Holocaust Memorial Day are at risk of being swallowed up by a set of generalisations about the evils of general intolerance, racism, and exclusivism.”

He recalled how a group of sixth-formers who had joined a visit to Auschwitz had spoken in generalities about their experience: “Hardly any had much sense of how the Shoah relates to the entire history of Jewish identity in Europe. It

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had become an instance of something: intolerance and prejudice. Shocking and terrible of course, but detached from everything that makes the persecution of Jews a distinctive thing.”

Such a response reflected a lack of awareness of the distinctive contribution that Judaism had made to the moral imagination of society, he suggested. “Jewish particularism is a sign of human action and interaction pervaded by a sense of conscious awe, by the expectation of finding significant life in every moment. It is a sign of what shared human life might look like in a world where transaction did not have the last word. . .

“This means that the mass slaughter of Jews is historically something distinct from genocide in a general sense or the killing of other minorities — which is most definitely not to say that other mass slaughters are somehow less serious or less in need of understanding against the specifics of their background, quite the contrary. . . The paradoxical twist in affirming Jewish particularity is precisely that it affirms the absolute commitment of God to every life in its unique location and ecosystem, and indeed every material element of the creation.”

He warned: “The particular attempt to destroy Jewish witness is a kind of revolt against something of unique spiritual importance, a revolt against the possibility of something more than contract in our dealings with one another.”

Lord Williams took as his title “Covenant, Solidarity, and Building Together: From cohesion to community”. Reflecting

on frameworks for statecraft, he began with transactionalism as an approach based on contract: agreeing to “watch one another’s backs . . . We don’t do much to allow diverse accounts of the good to interact and modify or challenge each other and we have low expectations of anything new emerging.”

Cohesion, meanwhile, meant “agreeing certain values as representing what we all want to protect in a situation of shared jeopardy”. But covenant was, in Rabbi Sacks’s words, “transformative”: a framework “in which, because it takes for granted that each life, each situation entails the divine demand for attention and expectancy, human agents are enabled to discover in relation with their neighbour possibilities for action and understanding that they could not have imagined alone”.

Much of his lecture was devoted to exploring the gift of Jewish particularism, and the need for Jewish identity to be “affirmed and defended in its distinctiveness, not reduced to an abstract universalism”.

He observed: “The notions of covenanted chosenness that define Jewish identity are not a way of implicitly affirming that Jewish human life is intrinsically more worth while than any other kind of human life. . . The point is that the ritualised, normalised attentiveness of compliance with the commandment is a dramatic sign of the immeasurable significance that lies under the surface of any and all phenomena in the world; so, any and all human life. It’s a sign . . . that the world is worth committing to. . . And the presence of such a sign, in the covenanted community, such

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a visible society within yet not contained by the family of nations, is not a luxury for the human future.”

In Christian history there had been a failure to understand such covenantal living, he suggested, which had produced a “simplistic contrast between gospel and law. Christianity was to recover in various ways something of the Jewish vision of acting in awareness and expectation in all things. Some aspects of monastic practice, for example, bring this back into focus, but there is a constant slippage away from any serious attempt to make theological sense of the continuity of God’s covenant with the Jewish people as an unbroken vocation.”

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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