

Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Final flight of
Missionary Aviation Fellowship co-founder**

February 1, 2025

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site



Image of the day

Final flight of Missionary Aviation Fellowship co-founder

MAF writes - It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our beloved MAF co-founder Jack Hemmings AFC who died peacefully in his sleep on Friday 24 January, at the age of 103.

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The former RAF squadron leader and pilot achieved much in his lifetime including fighting for his country during WW2, helping to launch MAF in 1945 which has become the world's largest humanitarian airline, and piloting the first ever humanitarian survey across central Africa in 1948. He was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1946 and is believed to be the oldest British pilot to perform aerobatics and take control of a Spitfire at the age of 102. Jack is survived by his wife Kate, son Adrian and three grandchildren. Kate says:

'When I think of my lovely husband and all the things he did way into his eighties - he earned a 'flying cross' before the age of 24, he joined MAF and ran a youth group in midlife. When he was 78, he went off to Bangladesh to help build a hospital ship. At 80+ he took on the role of Chair of ARRC in Rye - a charity helping people with disabilities. Oh my lovely Jack, this world will be very strange without you, but you've left it a better place for having lavished 103 years of love into it.'

News

4 Corners Festival events

Introducing Naming Belfast 7:30pm on Monday 3 February. Learning about street names in the four corners of Belfast at The Duncairn.

Belfast has a deep history and legacy that spans many centuries.

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Dr Paul Tempan, Fr Martin Magill, Linda Ervine along with singer songwriter Brian Houston will take a journey down the years to explore the rich tapestry woven throughout the city by our streets, their stories and their names.

Join us at 7:30pm on Monday 3 February for an interesting evening where you're guaranteed to learn something new.

Get your tickets and find out more -

<https://www.4cornersfestival.com/.../naming-belfast.../>

Thursday February 6th

Introducing Can We Bring Reconciliation Home? At St Mary's College.

Host Will Leitch will be joined by panellists Davy Adams, Nicola Brady, Monica McWilliams and Spike Murray to discuss questions around these topics.

A specially adapted version of John Paul Lederach's drama based on Psalm 85 will be performed by a group of local actors as a prelude to the panel discussion.

Join us on Thursday February 6th at 7:30pm.

Get your tickets and find out more 📌 <https://>

www.4cornersfestival.com/festival-events/can-we-bring-reconciliation-home/

4 Corners Festival is supported by The Executive Office's Central Good Relations Fund, The Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund, Linen Quarter Bid and Belfast City Council Good Relations Fund.

Clogher churches offer community hubs following Storm Eowyn



Plenty of tea and coffee being prepared at Trory schoolhouse

Storm Eowyn has caused destruction of property including buildings and trees and hardship to many people through loss of electricity and vital services.

But the storm has also brought out the best qualities in people.



Adults and children availing of a homework hub and some refreshments at Trory Schoolhouse.

At St. Michael's Parish Church, Trory, which is part of a group alongside Killadeas, the Rector Revd Mark Gallagher discovered that the Trory church sitting prominently on top of a hill overlooking St. Angelo Airport and his adjacent Schoolhouse used as a hall, had miraculously not suffered any loss of electricity unlike most other homes and buildings in the area.

So he decided to offer it as a community hub where parishioners and members of the public could come and enjoy a warm cup of tea or coffee and hot soup as well as charging their phones and devices.

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He did this in conjunction with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, the Airport Café, Irvinestown Primary School, local Orange Lodges and Ballinamallard Scouts.

Then as schools returned again this week, the Schoolhouse was used as a homework hub.

Revd Mark said; “I’m sure there are loads of people in a situation like mine where up to 50 per cent of the parish is still without electricity and the churches are co-ordinating the local effort to try and bring some form of normality.

On Wednesday afternoon around two dozen people availed of the Trory Schoolhouse and the church for some heat and refreshments. It will be operating again on Thursday and Friday of this week between 3pm and 7pm.

The Courthouse Café, an outreach facility with links to Ardess Parish Church, was open each evening from Monday to Wednesday this week to help people to charge phones and provide a warm space for a tea and coffee and refill flasks. Showering facilities were also offered at the nearby Fountain Centre.

The kindness of people during times of adversity was manifested in many different ways. Such as when a parishioner in Clogher Diocese went to buy a vital connecting lead for a mobile generator and was proving difficult to source. An electrician who was in the area heard of his plight, generously donated a cable to allow a household enjoy some of their home comforts again and help prevent freezers from thawing out.

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That lead and generator has gone on to supply others with temporary power until the mains electricity has been restored.

A number of churches and church halls throughout Clogher Diocese suffered some damage to roofs and with the loss of electricity over the weekend, many of them were unable to open for Sunday worship.

Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Lambeth Palace

Bishop John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, and James Holland, Coordinator of Westminster Interfaith, were among the guests invited to a Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Lambeth Palace, on Monday organised by the Council of Christians and Jews. The day marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

After an introduction from the Lord Archbishop of York, those gathered listened to the survivor testimony of Martin Stern MBE, who was just two years old when the Nazis invaded the Netherlands. Having been successfully hidden for a few years, by a Christian family, Martin eventually found himself in Theresienstadt, a concentration camp north of Prague.

Here, he and his sister, aged just one, was cared for by a Catholic prisoner, who was transported to the camp for being married to a Jewish man. In 1945, the camp was liberated by the Soviet army and Martin is counted among a small group of people who survived the Holocaust. He has



Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 group photo: Council of Christians and Jews

dedicated his life to sharing his story and, for all those gathered, it was an honour to listen to his testimony.

There was also the testimony of a second-generation Roma survivor, whose story was a reminder that the Nazis sought to exterminate not just Jewish people, but Sinti and Roma people too, amongst many others. Daniela Abraham, founder of the Sinti Roma Holocaust Memorial Trust, spoke about the trauma her family members endured during Nazi occupation.

Throughout the commemoration, scripture was shared in both Hebrew and English, recognising the role sacred scripture played, and continues to play, in the lives of

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Christians and Jews. Alongside Rabbi Josh Levy, Co-Lead of Progressive Judaism, Bishop John Sherrington read Psalm 23, The Lord is My Shepherd.

James Holland, Coordinator of Westminster Interfaith, said: "It was a great honour to be present at this commemoration, and yet, listening to the stories of survivors is harrowing. It is a hideous reminder of the evil humankind is capable of. For all participating in Holocaust Memorial Day, it reinforces what we all know - that the future is far from certain. Each of us must recommit ourselves to building a better future together and working for a peaceful world for all."

LINKS

Westminster Interfaith: <https://rcdow.org.uk/interfaith/>
Council of Christians and Jews. <https://ccj.org.uk/>

ONLINE LESSON Deportations of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz

The main phase of the deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz lasted from May 14 to 9 July 1944.

In 142 trains some 420,000 people were deported & some 330,000 of them were murdered immediately in gas chambers after arrival selections.

See the lesson:

http://lekcja.auschwitz.org/en_6_dep_zydow/

Education



Inst drama visit The Lyric Theatre

KS4 & KS5 drama pupils celebrated the success of their recent production with a trip to see “A Christmas Carol” adapted by Marie Jones at The Lyric Theatre.

“We were lucky enough to meet film and stage actor Dan Gordon who played Scrooge. Dan kindly gave the boys a post show talk and tour of the set which was very much enjoyed by all the drama team.

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Dan (Ebenezer Scrooge) also had his picture taken with RBAI pupils Ronan Devlin and Carter ...



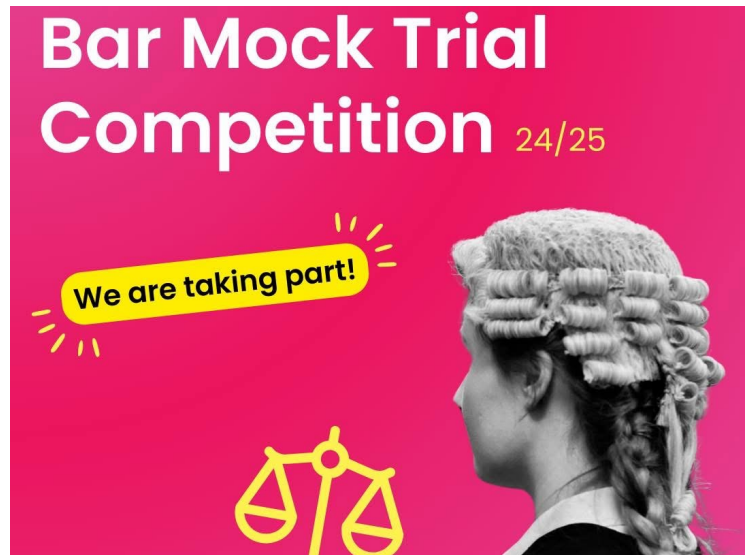
Kingsberry who played Ebenezer Scrooge and Young Scrooge in our production.

“Thanks for Dan and all at The Lyric for making this an extra special visit.”

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Campbell mock trial competitors

After weeks of preparation, Campbell College Y11 team have won a place in the National Final of the Young Citizens Bar Mock Trial Competition!



The final will take place in March, at the Royal Courts of Justice in London. The competition aims to give young people an unparalleled insight into the judicial system, its venues and the work of senior legal professionals.



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The competition aims to give young people an unparalleled insight into the judicial system, its venues and the work of senior legal professionals.

Best of luck to all 15 boys, a tremendous achievement given their young age. This will be an exciting and inspiring event.

Wrightbus Apprentice Insight Day

Are you ready to take the first steps towards a career in engineering and manufacturing? Don't miss the Wrightbus Apprentice Insight Day.

Wednesday 5th February || 9.30am-2.30pm || Open to anyone aged 16+

Meet our experienced engineers who are leading the way in zero emission technologies, helping to decarbonise public transport. Explore our state-of-the-art factory to get a feel for the entire bus build process and learn about the role you could play through one of our exciting apprenticeship opportunities.

What to expect:

- +Meet and chat with our team, including managers, engineers and our performance and development team.
- +Hear about the company, what we do and why we are so passionate about it.
- +Take a guided tour of our factory.
- +Ask any questions you may have about a beginning your career at Wrightbus.
- +Discover more about our apprenticeship programmes.

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+Lunch with the team.

We are delighted to have an additional 60 places for apprentices this year - Level Three Manufacturing Engineering, Level Three Mechanical Engineering, specialising in areas such as VIE, Fabrication Welding, Coachbuilding, Driveline Operatives, Spray painting, Electrical, Logistics, Purchasing and Administration. We are excited about the huge and valuable contribution we know they will make to the Wrightbus team.

If you are nearing the end of this stage of your formal education and thinking about the next steps – this event is for you!

Register via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1214744847539?aff=oddtcreator>

Or email pd@wrightbus.com

Northern Regional College Transport Training Services

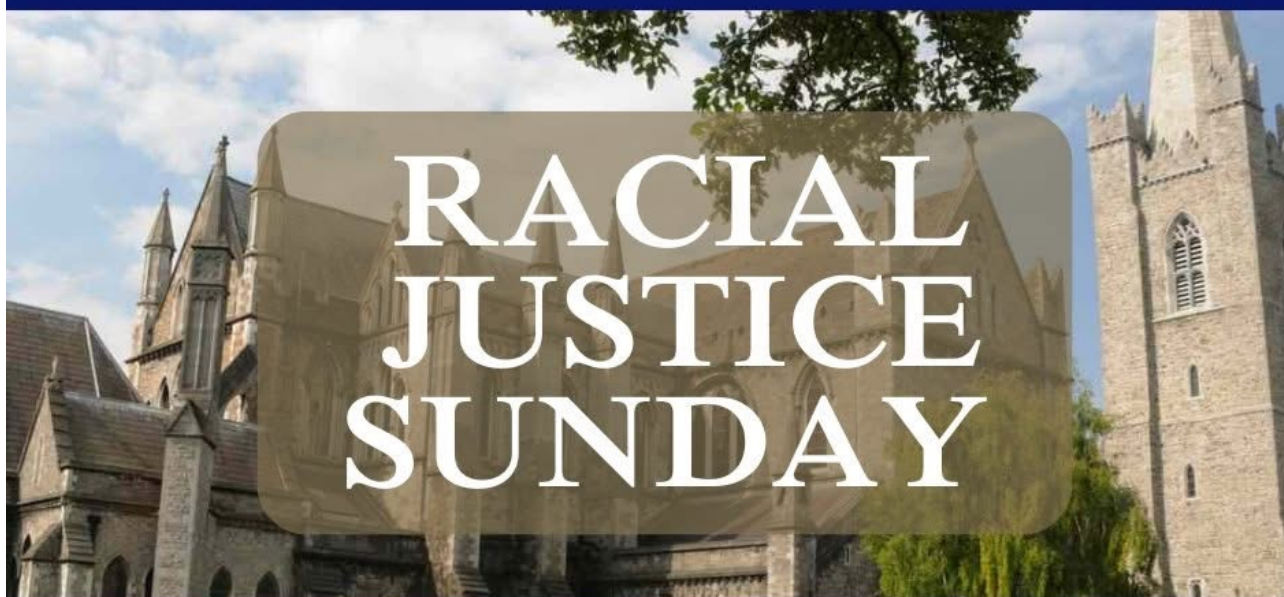
Cathedral Calls

Racial Justice Sunday Service in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

On Sunday February 9 at 3.15pm, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell and members of his Reference Group on Ethnic Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice invite you to join them for Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin to mark Racial Justice Sunday.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
TO MARK



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL DUBLIN
SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2025
3.15PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

Racial Justice Sunday is an initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, of which the Church of Ireland is a co-founding member.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday, which was established by the Methodist Church in 1995 following the tragic racist murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence in southeast London in April 1993.

The theme of this year's Racial Justice Sunday is, 'Coat of Many Colours', reflecting the increasing diversity that exists in churches in Ireland.

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In 2023, the governing body of the Church of Ireland, the General Synod, approved a resolution in support of refugees and other migrants. The resolution committed the Church of Ireland to, “counter the language of anti–refugee and migrant hatred at the local level and communicate a strong message of Christian welcome to all”.

By marking Racial Justice Sunday in the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland, it is hoped that other parishes and churches throughout the island will draw on the resources produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, to address racism in local communities.

The service in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin will feature a sermon by the Revd Kevin Ronné, Rector of Raheny and Coolock, with Scripture readings and prayers led by members of the group. Music will be provided by the Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Stuart Nicholson.

The service resources have been devised by a range of ecumenical contributors, including the Revd Dr Maithrie White–Dundas, an ordained Church of Ireland minister based in Belfast.

A film will also be recorded in the cathedral before and after the service, to mark the Church of Ireland’s commitment to racial justice.

All are welcome to join in prayer and reflection, both online and in person.

View online: Choral Evensong to observe Racial Justice Sunday

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Storm : Armagh Cathedral thanks for clean-up help

The parish posted - Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and services over the weekend for the clean-up operation following the damage caused by Fridays storm.

As you know our Parish was badly impacted by the storm and works to restore will take some time. Thanks to Mayor Sarah Duffy for her help and support & to all who called offering help.

Storm Éowyn left its mark on St Flannan's

Storm Éowyn left its mark on Killaloe's Cathedral, particularly the north transept.

As Leonard Cohen said "There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in", here's hoping our funding application to reslate the north transept





roof will be successful!

Homelessness theme of Christ Church lunchtime lectures on Dublin charities and homelessness

A new series of free lunchtime lectures on Tuesdays in

February at 1.10pm entitled ‘No homes to go to: Dublin charities and homelessness,

1790–2025’, will explore historical and current themes of homelessness over more than two centuries in Dublin. Lectures will focus on the charities that have sought to care for and empower homeless people from the late 18th century to the present day, along with an examination of the economic causes of the persistence of homelessness in the 21st century.

The first talk entitled ‘Serving the poor of Dublin since 1790: The Sick & Indigent Roomkeepers Society’, whose original building still stands north–east of Dublin castle, will

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be given on Tuesday 4 February by the well-known historian, Felix Larkin, who was chairman of the society from 2012–16. The following week on Tuesday 11 February, a talk titled ‘The poor you will always have with you? A brief history of Dublin’s Mendicity Institution’ will be given by the historian, Eimhin Walsh, who was a director of the institution from 2015–19 and co-wrote its bicentennial history with Audrey Woods in 2018: *Dublin Outsiders: A history of the Mendicity Institution 1818–2018*.

In 1985, four decades ago this year, Sister Stanislaus Kennedy founded Focus Ireland, and the third lecture in the series will be given on Tuesday 18 February by its current CEO, Pat Dennigan, entitled ‘Challenging homeless, changing lives: Focus Ireland & 40 years of homelessness’. The series will conclude with a talk on ‘Ireland’s housing crisis: What now? What next?’ on Tuesday 25 February given by Ronan Lyons, an internationally recognised expert on housing markets and housing price indices, and both director of Trinity Research in Social Sciences and associate professor in Economics at Trinity College, Dublin.

Admission is free and all are most welcome.

The lectures take place in the chapter house building upstairs in the music or Henry Roe room, and is at present only accessible by stairs.

Thanks are particularly due to the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin for their generous support of the lecture series and to the dean, CEO and director of music for allowing the use of the space.

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The lectures follow in a long line of lunchtime series running since 1997, as well as a memorial series to former dean's verger, Joe Coady (1987–2003), and a much older annual St Stephen's day lectures begun by cathedral architect, Sir Thomas Drew, which ran from 1891 until at least the 1960s. For further information on this series, email the cathedral research advisor, Dr Stuart Kinsella at archives@christchurch.ie.

Clergy and ministry

Down & Connor Parish Leadership training continues

The Parish Leadership training continues its journey around the diocese. Two training sessions took place.

One in Co Down for the Down 3 Family of Parishes facilitated by Aishling Steen and Fr Paul Byrne. The second in Belfast in St Teresa's Parish Centre for the Belfast 20 Family of Parishes. Facilitated by Jim Deeds and supported by Gareth Hughes and Philip O'Hara members of the Pathways to The Future Steering Committee.

Over 120 people attended the training evening and were fully engaged from the beginning. On a wet winters night thank you for your time, commitment and enthusiasm. We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Sincere thanks to Fr Gabriel Lyon's and Canon John Murray for your warm welcome and hospitality.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Cancer Focus. NI - Enniskillen Volunteer Information Event

**Join us to explore exciting volunteer opportunities at
our Enniskillen Cancer Support Centre opening 2025.**

 17 Thursday 27 February*  17 Thursday 27 March

 12.00pm to 2:00pm

*Also, 6.00pm to 7.00pm on Thursday 27 February

 Fermanagh House, BT74 7HR

To attend, please contact Tom
E: tommorton@cancerfocusni.org
T: 028 9066 3281

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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends