

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Clonalis

February 22, 2025

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Image of the day



Clonalis home of the High Kings

Step into history at Clonalis House in County Roscommon, the ancestral home of the O’Conor Don family - direct descendants of King Cathal Crobhdearg Ua Conchobair, one of Ireland’s last High Kings.





More than just a grand estate, this remarkable house is a living museum of Irish heritage, filled with 13th-century manuscripts, medieval relics, and the stories of a family that shaped Ireland's past.

Located about two hours from Dublin by car or easily reached by train via Athlone, Clonalis House is a journey back in time - one well worth taking. Who would you bring for a royal tour of Clonalis House, County Roscommon?

News

Co Down volunteer (95) meets King after helping to raise £1.8m for charity

A 95-year-old woman who helped raise almost £2m by setting up a charity shop met the King at a celebration

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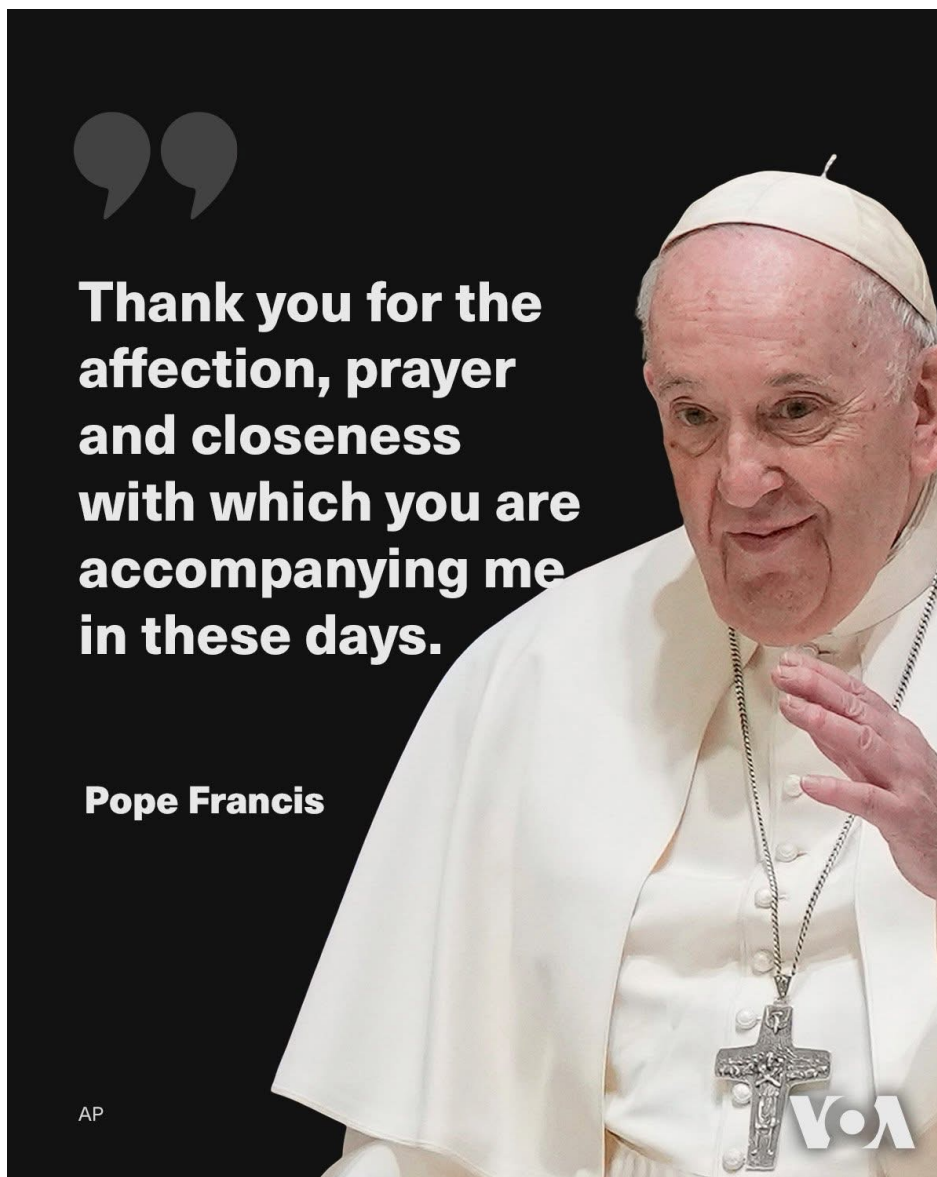
for the heroes of humanitarian causes, Helen William reports in the Belfast Telegraph

Concern Worldwide volunteer Nellie Hill, of Newcastle, Co Down, opened the shop in 1992 in response to the Concern Emergency Appeal for the humanitarian crisis in Somalia.

Mrs Hill said she wanted to help because “she felt it was her duty” and the shop has since raised £1.83m for Concern.

Yesterday, at a reception at Buckingham Palace where she met Charles and Camilla, she said: “It is a lovely thank you

to come here and say hello, although I did not think it was anything special to do then (when she opened the shop) — I just thought it was my duty at the time.”



Charles and Camilla were joined by the Princess Royal and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester at

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the reception to celebrate exceptional individuals and organisations which contribute towards humanitarian efforts across the globe.

It also marked the anniversaries of four global charities: International Health Partners, ShelterBox, Islamic Relief and Christian Aid.

Mrs Hill, a mother-of-three and an eight-time grandmother, said, “there are a lot of people doing it and volunteering”.

She added: “I started the work because I saw there was a need for it as at that particular time there was an awful lot on the television and radio asking for help for Somalia. The pictures were frightening and sickening and I felt I could do something.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of International Health Partners (IHP), the 25th anniversary of ShelterBox, the 40th anniversary of Islamic Relief Worldwide and the 80th

MULLABRACK & KILCLUNEY
Parishes

BB CAPTAIN AND CHAPLAIN WALK FOR UGANDA

ABA VNY

**NAVAN CENTRE
ARMAGH**

**ST PATRICK'S WAY
THE PILGRIM
WALK**

**89 MILES
4 DAYS
5-8 APRIL**

**DOWN
CATHEDRAL**

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2025 MISSION AND BUILDING PROJECTS IN UGANDA (CHARITY NO. NI 104086)

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anniversary of Christian Aid. Displays at the reception showing the work of the four humanitarian organisations provided a chance for the guests to catch up on the latest efforts of the charities and to also hear stories from volunteers.

There was also a collection of images from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) sent to the King for World Humanitarian Day in August 2024.

There were 15 images, one from each of DEC's member charities, which covered the work from recent appeals including for Afghanistan, Ukraine, Pakistan and Turkey-Syria.



Antrim Castle gardens

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Images for Sudan as well as Gaza, where the DEC is closely monitoring the situation, were also part of the collection.

Also present at the celebration were actresses Liz Carr and Ruth Wilson, and presenters Fern Britton and Myleene Klass, who have also worked with a number of charities.

US faith organisations file lawsuit to stop ICE raids on places of worship

More than two dozen Christian and Jewish organisations, representing millions of Americans, have filed a lawsuit to stop the Trump administration's policy of allowing ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement) raids at places of worship.

Faithful America state: "This is the biggest legal action yet in an ongoing battle to defend religious liberty from Trump's Christian nationalist power grab. The Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the African Methodist Episcopal Church - the oldest predominantly Black denomination in the country - have all signed on, as have religious institutions of many faiths.

"At a time when too many public figures are failing to take a stand against Trump and his racist billionaire buddies, it's powerful to see so many Christian denominations and organizations taking real action to defend our right to worship and minister to our migrant neighbours safely."

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Faithful America has also organised a petition in support of the lawsuit, which states:

Our churches are sacred spaces where all people should be able to gather, worship, and care for one another without government intrusion or the threat of deportation.

I stand in solidarity with the denominations and other faith-based organizations who are suing the Trump administration to prevent immigration raids from happening at churches and other houses of worship. The imperative to welcome the stranger is a core teaching of the Gospel and a central part of my Christian faith. Allowing immigration enforcement officers to interfere with church-based worship or charity is a clear infringement on our religious freedom.

Ulster Farmers Union County Antrim dinner raises £6,000+ for Motor Neurone Disease Association NI

The Ulster Farmers Union (UFU) County Antrim Dinner, held at the Rose Park Hotel on Friday, 31st January 2025, proved to be a resounding success, bringing together members, supporters, and local businesses for an evening of good food, entertainment, and generosity.

Following a sumptuous meal, guests enjoyed music provided by Sam Stewart. The UFU County Antrim Branch extends heartfelt thanks to the team at the Ross Park Hotel, to all attendees, and to the many businesses that generously donated auction items, raffle prizes, and contributions. Special thanks also go to Scott Edmondson, who did a fantastic job as the auctioneer.



Stephen Thompson, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Board of the Motor Neurone Disease Association accepts a cheque from, Hilary Maybin, Group Manager of the Ulster Farmers Union, and Harry Millar, UFU County Antrim Chairman. Photo - Kevin McAuley of McAuley Multimedia

This year, the chosen charity was the Motor Neurone Disease Association Northern Ireland, and an outstanding total of £6,237.30 was raised on the evening. These funds will go towards supporting those affected by this debilitating disease and their families.

The UFU County Antrim Branch would like to express sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed in any way to making the event such a success.

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Education and opportunities

Foyle College Ski Trip 2025 to Claviere

The students on the Foyle College ski trip enjoyed their sessions on the mountain.

87 students travelled to Claviere, part of the famous 'Milky Way'

series of ski resorts. Having been ably ski-fitted the various groups demonstrated fabulous energy and determination in their different groups, impressing their ski instructors with their ability to pick up new skills.

#thefutureisfoyle

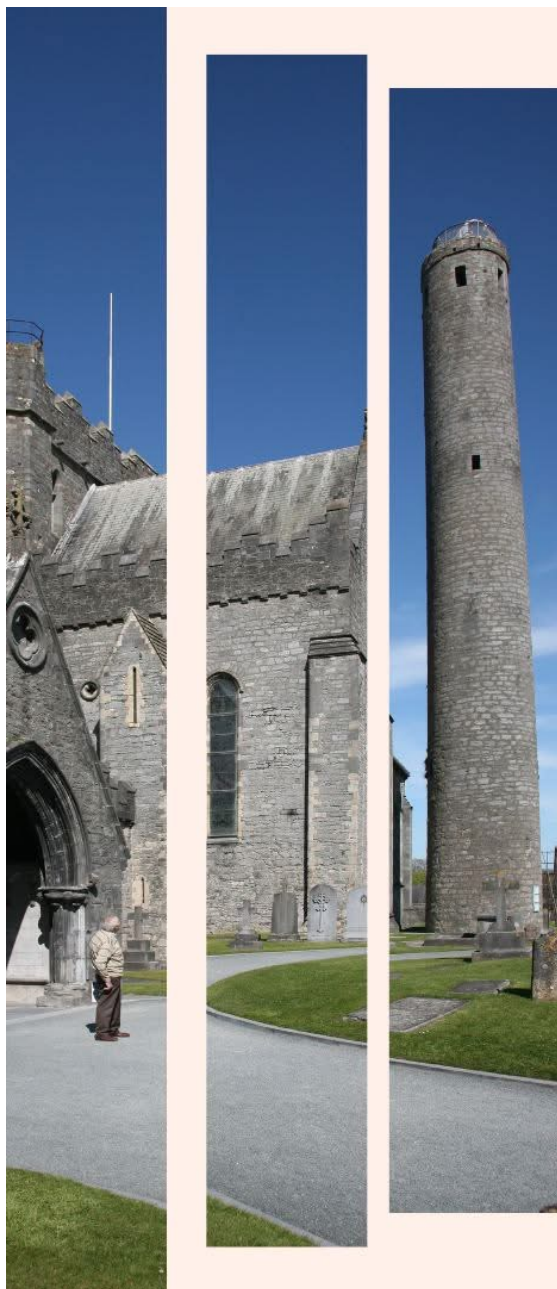


Translink Apprenticeship event

Location: Belfast Grand Central Station. Join us for an exciting opportunity to discover the unique 2025 Apprenticeship opportunities available at Translink

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See this event and others throughout Ireland when you secure your place now via <http://spkl.io/6003fYHMH>



**ST. CANICE'S
CATHEDRAL**
— AND ROUND TOWER —

We are hiring!

**CATHEDRAL
OPERATIONS
SUPERVISOR-
TOURISM**

- Monday-Sunday
- 25-30 hours
- Occasional evenings
- Job Description available

**SEND CV TO
MANAGER@STCANICESCATHEDRAL.COM**

Teaching vacancy in Seagoe Primary School

Seagoe Primary School, Portadown seeks to employ a teacher for Key Stage 1 (initially Primary Four). This is a full-time permanent post.

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About Seagoe PS

Seagoe PS is a Church of Ireland Maintained School. This unique relationship is reflected in its strong links with the Parish of Seagoe, which established it.

The school is open to all children and believes that diversity in the school community enhances the educational experience for our children.

For details and downloads -

[\[https://www.nijobfinder.co.uk/job/1114214/teacher-key-stage-1-initially-primary-four/\]](https://www.nijobfinder.co.uk/job/1114214/teacher-key-stage-1-initially-primary-four/)

Closing date for the submission of applications: Thursday 6 March 2025

PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland Charity is hiring

Want to make a difference? We're expanding our team and looking for passionate individuals who are ready to help save lives and support those in need. If you're committed to making a positive impact, we want to hear from you.

★ We're currently recruiting for 3 key roles:

◆ **Fundraising Manager** – Drive impactful campaigns to secure crucial funds and support our mission.

🔗 Apply here: <https://lnkd.in/eaRMtVJ9>

◆ **Clinical Care Team Manager** – Lead our dedicated team in delivering essential mental health support.

🔗 Apply here: <https://lnkd.in/e7fUiZkU>

◆ **Assistant Care Team Manager** – Assist our care team in providing compassionate and effective care to those in need.

🔗 Apply here: <https://lnkd.in/eq-HaAkX>

✨ **Why Join Us?**

At PIPS Charity, you'll be part of a passionate community focused on hope, support, and saving lives. Your work will truly matter. Plus, you'll gain access to a range of benefits, such as:

- **Competitive Salary**
- **Enhanced Sickness Policy**
- **28 Days Annual Leave**
- **11 Paid Bank & Public Holidays**
- **Carryover of 5 Annual Leave Days**
- **TOIL (Time Off in Lieu)**
- **Compassionate & Bereavement Leave**
- **Occupational Health Service**
- **Employer Pension Contributions**
- **Private Health Care**
- **Flexible Working Hours**

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- **Comprehensive Induction & Support**
- **On The Job Learning**
- **Car Mileage Scheme**
- **Family Friendly Policies**
- **Free External Counselling Service**
- **Learning and Development Opportunities**
- **External Paid Training**

Apply now -

Deadline: 28th February 2025

Cathedral Calls



Crinken parishioners enjoy Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral

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Each week in Christ Church Cathedral, prayers are said for a different parish in the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

This is done to highlight and celebrate the connection between the parishes and the Mother Church of the dioceses.

Parishes are notified when they will be prayed for in advance and invited to come along and join Choral Evensong on their designated Sunday afternoon.

Last Sunday it was the turn of St James's Church, Crinken, and their Minister, Canon Tom O'Brien and a large group of parishioners took the opportunity to gather in the cathedral for the celebration of Evensong.

Clergy and ministry

519 trees planted in Cork in anniversary response to Anglican Communion Forest programme

During the course of Bishop Paul Colton's 25th anniversary year in 2024 as Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, a total of 29 trees were planted by him in an initiative inspired by the Communion Forest programme of the Anglican Communion.



So far, a total of 519 trees have been planted by the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross inspired by the Communion Forest initiative. 490 of these trees have been planted by the Bishop in partnership with the Irish charity ReforestNation – one for each young person confirmed in the Diocese since 2023. In the case of 190 of those trees planted in Ireland, a matching tree was planted by the charity in Madagascar or in Kenya.

The Bishop's 25th anniversary visitations brought him on 128 visits to all parishes and schools in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. As part of these visits a combined number of 29 trees were planted across diocesan schools, churches, nursing homes, and recreational spaces. He had hoped to plant 25 trees – one for each year – but then he lost count and 29 were planted!

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The tree plantings were brought in by Bishop Paul's personal concern with sustainability and the safeguarding of creating, but they also are part of further implementing the Communion Forest initiative in the Diocese.

Bishop Colton said, "I think my love of and fascination with trees goes back to childhood days of going to camp on Fota Island in Cork Harbour with the cubs and scouts – of enjoying the woodlands and hearing the sound of the wind, birds and wildlife. It was a particular joy, therefore, to be invited by the Scouts to return to Fota to plant a tree at the Scout Centre there. Each year of living at The See House in Cork, over the last 26 years now, we have planted at least one tree a year also".



The Communion Forest was first conceived in late 2019 and was eventually inaugurated at the Lambeth Conference 2022 at Lambeth Palace, by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Parish Masses across Ireland to pray for Jubilee of Deacons

Father Edward McGee, National Director for the Permanent Diaconate in Ireland, has invited parishes around the country to avail of dedicated liturgical resources – including some Prayers of the Faithful – to be offered at Masses to celebrate the upcoming ‘Jubilee of Deacons’ in Rome. This particular Jubilee Year celebration takes place this weekend, 22 to 23 February.

A Jubilee Year is celebrated every twenty-five years by the worldwide Church during which Catholics come together to rejoice in the faith, and the theme for 2025 is Pilgrims of Hope. Over the Jubilee Year, we are encouraged to show mercy, forgive past wrongs, relieve debt, to spiritually rejuvenate, and be offered an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence. In addition, many different groups throughout the Church: clergy, religious various ministries and lay apostolates, will celebrate specific jubilee occasions in Rome and at home throughout 2025.

Father McGee said, “In the context of this weekend of prayer for Deacons, dioceses and parishes have been furnished with a special prayer for Deacons; concise information explaining the Ministry of the Diaconate and on the role and responsibilities of a Deacon; and, suggested short Prayers of the Faithful that can be offered at Mass.”

The Down and Connor priest continued, “This weekend is also an opportunity for Dioceses, that already have



6,000 pilgrims arrive in Rome for Jubilee of Deacons -The fourth major event of the Jubilee of Hope is dedicated to deacons: from February 21 to 23, 4,000 of them are in Rome to pass through the Holy Door and participate in a series of meetings. The Jubilee will conclude with Mass presided over by the pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, on Sunday February 23 in St Peter's Basilica.

introduced the permanent diaconate, to encourage those who are discerning a vocation to the permanent diaconate to make contact with their local Diocesan Director of Vocations / Diocesan Director for the Permanent Diaconate.”

Wholehearted Monthly for Methodist leaders

Gather with other Methodist leaders on line every month to get inspired, equipped and organised for mission.



wholehearted monthly

Think community organising rally meets Methodist band meeting meets Holy Spirit revival!

The Wholehearted Conference sold out its 250 places in just a few days. We don't want anyone to miss out on the energy, so we're running a holy experiment in the seasons after the Wholehearted Conference.

Wholehearted monthly aims to digitally connect up diverse leaders doing mission across the Connexion in different ways and contexts for inspiration, equipping and networking for the sake of transformation in the world God loves.

Together we'll open to the Holy Spirit, learn from a different renowned guest speaker each month, and break into groups for wisdom-sharing and equipping for mission with others who share our particular focus.

We're praying, learning, and acting in commitment to being, by God's grace, a growing, inclusive, evangelistic, and justice-seeking Church!

We are delighted to announce our first three speakers:
Nadia Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints. (Tuesday 11 March)

Rowan Williams is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian. (Tuesday 8 April)

Chine McDonald is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank.

(Tuesday 13 [May])(https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082365166349?aff=evangelismgrowth&fbclid=IwY2xjawla1vRleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUOIW0Ab4_hVP7a6zDLWTLby8WbRVH45ZHzi6Mpfoy2osriuN72yXBOnoQ&utm_source=120217016774570346&utm_medium=Meta+&utm_campaign=WholeheartedNadia)

Tributes to Bishop Willie Walsh

Bishop Willie Walsh, the retired Bishop of Killaloe has died at the age of 90

Bishop Michael Burrows, the C of I Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Limerick writes :-

“I was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Bishop Willie, albeit full of years. Fellow Christians of other Christian traditions always found him to be the most

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generous of friends. With attentiveness and gentleness he always seemed able 'to think outside the box' and his courageous thoughts and actions were always motivated by true pastoral compassion. In a rapidly changing Ireland his was a prophetic Christian voice the integrity and value of which continued to command universal esteem."



Our sympathy to the community of Killaloe at this time of passing.

Fr Martin Browne writes -

I am very very sad this morning, as news circulates of the death on Wednesday night of Bishop Willie Walsh, the emeritus bishop of my home diocese of Killaloe. He was 90 years old and would have marked the 66th anniversary of priestly ordination this Friday.

Bishop Willie was quite simply the most wonderful, humble and inspiring of priests. His motto 'Cineáltas Chríost' (the gentle-kindness of Christ) was not just an ideal, but a description. A down-to-earth and unassuming Tipperary man who spent all his ministry in County Clare, he led the

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diocese at one of the most challenging periods in the history of the church in Ireland and his patent goodness and integrity made him a credible voice nationally as well as in the diocese when such voices were scarce. He had 15 years of active retirement, living across the road from the school where he taught for many years. Despite being a shy man, Bishop Willie had a great capacity for friendship and his circles of friends both among those engaged in church life and beyond it were extensive. Like me, they will be sad today, but grateful too for the life, ministry and friendship of this wonderful man. Among many memories, I cherish the fact that Bishop Willie was able to attend and participate in my own ordination to the priesthood 10 years ago.



Go raibh leaba i measc na Naomh aige.

Canon Stephen Neill of the C of I writes -

Very sad news - Met Bishop Willie often during my Killaloe days - He was an extraordinarily warm and generous human being - He would literally give you the shirt off his back - I had experience of witnessing his pastoral care and he truly was one of the most empathetic and loving human beings I have met - May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Events

Today and tomorrow - Grace Webb's Transport Timeline at NISF25!

Does your little one love machines, gadgets, and gizmos? Then they'll adore meeting Grace Webb, star of the award-winning CBeebies show Grace's Amazing Machines! At the Northern Ireland Science Festival...



Date: Sat 22 & Sun 23 Feb



Location: Ulster Transport Museum

See web site here for other venues and dates



nisciencefestival.com

Join Grace as she takes families on an exciting journey through time, exploring the incredible machines on display and discovering how vintage vehicles shaped the amazing gadgets we use today. From engineering marvels of the past to modern-day machines, this is an adventure not to be missed.

Perfect for families, budding engineers, and curious minds of all ages!

Invitation to Churches Open Day - Galgorm Group, Ballymena

You and your church friends are warmly invited to attend the Galgorm Group 'Churches Open Day' on

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**Thursday 20 March at 7 Corbally Rd, Ballymena BT42
1JQ. The event runs from 10.00 am - 3.00 pm.
(Admission: Free)**

(Galgorm Group have over 50 years of experience in meeting the catering, hospitality and hygiene needs of Churches across Ireland and the UK.)

At this special day for Churches, you will be able to browse a wide range of products and pick up some great offers on:

Catering Supplies including disposables
Folding Tables and Stacking Chairs
Crockery and Kitchen needs
Washroom / Hygiene consumables

This is an excellent opportunity to stock up on your hospitality and hygiene needs for over the Easter period and into summer.

Also, if you are considering refurbishing / upgrading your kitchen or washroom facilities, the experienced design staff of the Galgorm Group will be available to talk through your plans and ideas.

Light refreshments will be available throughout the day - and we would be delighted to welcome you plus interested leaders, committee personnel and lay members of your congregation.

RSVP

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To assist us with catering arrangements, please reply to this email if you are interested in attending the Open Day. We simply need to know how many will be attending in your group - and please provide at least one contact name and number.

Best wishes from Paul Scott, Event Organiser on behalf of Galgorm Group

Mobile: 07990780453

E mail (vexpo@live.co.uk)

Going the Distance

Could your relationship be on autopilot?

Drifting apart is one of the biggest reasons why many couples decide to call it quits. But there are simple ways to prioritise each other and stop just going through the motions.

Going the Distance is a brand-new event from Care for the Family, which explores practical ideas of how to communicate well, deepen connection with each other and intentionally set the course for your relationship.

There are two dates: Lurgan (25 March) and Ballymena (26 March).

Find out more and book your tickets:
cff.org.uk/goingthedistance

Heritage



Sir Robert Hart, Portadown and China

Sir Robert Hart, the Ulster-Scot who became a renowned diplomat and Chinese Qing Dynasty Government official, was born on this week in 1835 in Portadown, County Armagh.

Hart was a keen modern languages scholar who set sail for China aged 19 at the behest of the British Foreign Office to help develop their efforts there.

By 1859, he had begun to work for the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, become the Deputy Commissioner of Canton. Four years later, he was promoted to Inspector-General of the CIMC.

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A renowned diplomat, Hart went on to be instrumental in preventing a war between China and Britain in 1876, and producing a tolerable settlement for China at the end of the Boxer Rebellion.

Hart was regarded as one of the key figures in the transformation of the Chinese economy, and as a result he received four hereditary titles, fifteen orders of knighthood (of the first class) and many other honorary academic and civic awards.

Among his legacy, Hart has a Primary School in Portadown, a street in Hong Kong, and a species of Chinese legless lizard named after him.

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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Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

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

Please recommend to your friends