

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Dalkey Eire 7

February 24, 2025

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Image of the day

Dalkey Eire 7

At Hawk Cliff, hiding in plain view, it hits you, breaking the natural landscape of cliff and sea in its gleaming white statement: “ÉIRE.” Above it is a huge number “7”.

Lying flat on the rough ground facing the sea are four capital letters, each as long as a medium-sized back garden, spelling out the official name of the Irish State. The letters are made of small irregular granite stones, held firmly in mortar, and painted brilliant white. It is enormous – about 30m wide and 12m from top to bottom.

One of 83 such Irish neutrality markers, co-located with the lookout posts which dotted the Irish coastline, its loving restoration is down to our own tidy towns hard work & dedication.

Come & discover more of Dalkey's history, past & present: <https://dalkeycastle>.

News

CMH Quiet Day

The Church’s Ministry of Healing Dublin and Glendalough Annual Quiet Day 2025 will take place on Saturday 22 March, in Newcastle Parish Centre (Church Lane, Newcastle, Greystones, Co Wicklow A63 X782).

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The facilitator will be Lydia Monds, Ministry Leader with the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland. It promises to be a time of renewed connection with God, leaning upon His strength, provision, and promises, as we navigate the hills and valleys of life. Sessions will include contemplative story-telling, where the Psalm will be shared on sand, and a deeper look at different phrases in the Psalm that might prompt us to view it with fresh eyes. There will also be times of facilitated meditative prayer, as well as time and space to respond to what you have heart through personal prayer or art spaces. We will be leaning into the gift of silence, and allowing Love to speak, as we are supported to be still before God.



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This is intended a day of resting in God's unfailing love and turning towards ourselves with compassion. The CMH Quiet Day was extremely popular last year, and attendees experienced it as a source of encouragement, creativity and peace, as we gathered in the presence of the Lord, our Healer. If you would like to join us for this special day, please email Jeanne at healing.dgdc@gmail.com

Those who are interested in the Ministry of Healing ought to read Archdeacon Ross Styles' article in the current issue of the Church of Ireland journal, Search. Details at www.searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org

Man jailed for six years for fire damage to remains in crypt

A man who set a fire in the crypt of St Michan's Church in Dublin, which caused damage to mummified remains, has been jailed for six years.

Archdeacon David Pierpoint described the fire in the church's crypt as "an act of desecration and sacrilege" in a victim impact statement during the sentencing hearing of 39-year-old Cristian Topiter, who had pleaded guilty to arson.

Topiter appeared via video link at Dublin Central Criminal Court.

The court heard that the St Michan's Church crypt holds mummified remains, including 'the Crusader', which dates back 800 years.



The fire caused damage to mummified remains at St Michan's Church in Dublin

These remains were described to the court by prosecuting counsel Diana Stuart BL as "irreplaceable" and "priceless". Topiter came forward on signed guilty pleas from the District Court to a charge of arson on 11 June last.

Archdeacon Pierpoint said the mummified remains had been preserved for hundreds of years by natural means and many tourists visited the church, providing annual revenues of between €75,000 to €100,000.

He said there have been no tours since the fire, which has resulted in a "financial crisis" for the parish as the funds go to maintain the church, which was built in 1192.

Comprehensive report by RTE News at - <https://www.rte.ie/news/dublin/2025/0220/1497898-st-michans-sentence/>



Wexford's Rowe Street Church choir wins two trophies at Ennis Choral Festival

Wexford's Rowe Street Church Choir has returned home from a competition in Co Clare with two trophies after a successful weekend of performances.

The Sacred Music Competition at Ennis Choral Festival, sponsored by the Diocese of Killaloe, saw the Wexford choir win both the Sacred Music Cup and the Ernest De Regge Perpetual Cup which was presented by his daughter Ghislaine De Regge.

Rowe Street Church Choir also sang the St Michael Mass in the Ennis Cathedral later on Saturday evening with soloist Helen Houlihan and organist Ray O'Donnell from Galway Cathedral. The choir were "surprised and delighted" that

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Clare-native the Bishop of Ferns Ger Nash celebrated the Mass. The Mass was last performed over 75 years ago for the installation of the organ with soloist Eva Meehan.

The choir wished to extend its congratulations to Carmel Honan and all the organising committee on hosting the choral festival in Ennis. Courtesy the Irish Independent

Anglican Church of Canada announces process and date for election of its next primate

The General Synod will meet June 23–29 in London, Ontario, and a major item of business will be the election on June 26 of a new primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Canon III requires the Order of Bishops to meet prior to the General Synod meeting to choose three or more nominees — and this meeting must occur between 30 and 120 days prior to the date of the election. This will take place during the meeting of the House of Bishops scheduled for March 31–April 4.

On April 2, the Order of Bishops will prayerfully discern the names of the nominees in a balloting process as set out in the regulations of Canon III as determined by the Council of the General Synod. These names will be posted on the General Synod website at 9 a.m. Eastern time on April 3.

The General Secretary is required to collect and disseminate biographical information about the nominees. In

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order to give time for the nominees to provide this information and for General Synod staff to assemble it in a uniform style for dissemination, this information will be posted on the website at 9 a.m. Eastern on April 11.

The nominees also will be asked a series of questions and given the opportunity to have their answers recorded on video. Once these videos are edited and ready to be posted, they will be added to the website at 9 a.m. Eastern on April 22.

During the meeting of the General Synod, the Orders of Clergy and Laity will gather at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario, for the election of the new primate on June 26. Once that process is complete, the acting primate will announce the election of the new primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

"Whether they admit it or not, it was Jesus, not an Episcopal Bishop, who offended them. It should be said that anyone who was offended by Bishop Budde's two-minute homily will be even more offended by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount."

- Shane Claiborne





BRA successses in physics Olympiad

Congratulations to the seventeen GCSE and A2 pupils from Belfast Royal Academy who entered the British Physics Olympiad competitions recently.

A total of two Gold, seven Silver and eight Bronze Awards were achieved. Very well done to all participants!

The Beaverbrook Vimy Prize

Are you ready for an unforgettable experience? Apply now for the Beaverbrook Vimy Prize!

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This 10-day fully paid program is your chance to explore the First and Second World Wars like never before. Join students aged 15 to 17 from Canada, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Germany as you visit historic battlefields, museums, cemeteries, and memorials in Belgium and France.

Applications are open until March 12, 2025—don't miss out! Learn more: <https://vimyfoundation.ca/programs/beaverbrook-vimy-prize>

Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies

Submission for the Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies is closing soon....

Teachers can nominate students, or students are welcome to submit their own work.

Enter here: <https://ow.ly/hXIM50UR3zj>



Cathedral Calls

Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey

Since 1972, an annual service to mark Commonwealth Day has been held at Westminster Abbey on the second Monday in March.

It is attended by members of the Royal Family, who join 2,000 people in the congregation for a commemoration which is broadcast worldwide.

In the service itself, flags of all the Commonwealth nations are processed through the Abbey. Readings and musical performances showcase the people and cultures of the Commonwealth, and the Abbey's Choir and musicians from around the world fill the church with music.

As we celebrate the rich diversity of the Commonwealth, representatives across many churches and faith communities offer words of blessing alongside Christian prayers, and all are invited to join in an affirmation of shared values across the Commonwealth; values which mirror many of the teachings of the Christian Church and other religious traditions. The dignity of each person is upheld, and we recommit to good stewardship of the earth. Justice and peace are key within the common life of the Commonwealth, built on diversity, mutual respect, and cooperation.



Choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, are currently visiting Madrid singing services.

The theme for Commonwealth Day 2025 is 'Together We Thrive', which celebrates the resilient and interconnected communities across the Commonwealth that empower individual members to work towards a better world. The service will be broadcast on BBC One live from Westminster Abbey at 3:00pm GMT, and will be available on iPlayer.

As we anticipate this annual gathering of representatives from across the Commonwealth, you are invited to join us in prayer for this ongoing work of justice and peace:

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for every nation represented among the Commonwealth; for their leaders

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and peoples; that we might care for our common home, celebrate our diversity, and live together in unity, fellowship, and peace; that the work of generations may be blessed in its continuance. Amen.

Christ Church lecture on Dublin charities and homelessness

The series of lunchtime lectures, 'No homes to go to: Dublin charities and homelessness, 1790–2025', concludes in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, on Tuesday at 1.10pm.

Professor Ronan Lyons, Associate Professor of Economics in TCD, will speak on 'Ireland's Housing Crisis. What now? What next?'

Lunchtime concert Limerick

In St Mary's cathedral, Limerick on Tuesday

A lunchtime concert at 1.10pm, with cellist Alona Kliuchka accompanied by Irina Dernova.



MULLAVILLY PARISH CHURCH
AND REV ELIZABETH

INVITES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO A.....

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2025
10AM - 12PM

NO CHARGE - BUT DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

PROCEEDS FROM THIS COFFEE MORNING
WILL GO TOWARDS MULLAVILLY PARISH
NEW MISSION PARTNERSHIP VISIT WITH
CMSI AND THE CHURCH IN BURUNDI
THE REV ELIZABETH WILL BE
TRAVELLING TO BURUNDI FROM
18TH-30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Clergy and ministry

Belfast's St Paul & St Barnabas partnership with St Peter's

Over the last three years, we as a Church family have been blessed by our partnership with St Peter's Parish Church, Belfast.

They have supported us in prayerful and practical ways as we have sought to reach North Belfast with the Good News of Jesus. It has been great to join in their celebrations this year as they mark 125 years! Yesterday, we lent them our minister Andrew to preach!

St Peter's posted - The Revd Andrew Iwin was with us this morning as we continue our series of invited preachers to mark the 125th anniversary year of St Peter's. Andrew is the Curate-in-Charge of our neighbouring parish of St Paul & St Barnabas, and is also our Associate Minister, often on call whenever the Rector is away. In his sermon, Andrew reminded us of the centrality of the fact of Jesus' resurrection in the life of individual Christians and in the work and witness of the Church.

Worship at St Peter's

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY Sunday 23rd February 2025
10:30am Choral Matins



Praise, prayers, and fellowship with one another.

Youtube channel at

<http://www.youtube.com/@stpeterbelfast>

Events

Lunchtime lecture on architecture of former Synod Hall

On Thursday at 1.10pm in Dublinia there will be the first of a short series of lunchtime lectures marking 150 years of the Synod Hall.

The architectural historian, Dr Michael O'Neill, will speak on 'The background to and architecture of the former Synod Hall at Dublinia'. Admission free, but booking required at

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Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/dublinia-spring-lecture-series-tickets-1220751824569>

Belfast St Patrick's celebrations

The City Council says they have exciting plans for this year's BelfastStPats celebrations, with a packed programme of free family fun from 1-17 March. 🍀

The **St Patrick's Music Festival with Belfast TradFest** will see four days of concerts, céilís, displays taster sessions and workshops in venues across the city centre from 14-17 March.

Ticketed highlights include **set and céilí dancing** with Blackwater Céilí Band on 14 March, Afro Celt Sound System on 15 March, a celebration of traditional Irish music featuring Máirtín O'Connor and others on 16 March, plus Cara Dillon and special guests on 17 March.

Féile an Phobail will bring the city to life with world-class **Irish traditional music and workshops** in venues across the city from 10-17 March. The Féile Trad Trail will include over 100 sessions.

On St Patrick's Day itself, our popular annual parade will bring a dazzling display of costume, music, dance and much more to the city's streets, starting at City Hall from 1.30pm.

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Also on Monday 17 March, there'll be an afternoon of family fun at the **St Patrick's Festival Village in Cathedral**



Gardens and St Anne's Square from 1pm-5pm.

Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia - **an international festival celebrating Irish language and culture** - will take place from 1-17 March.

Spraoi Cois Lao – an Irish language fun day will take place at Custom House Square on 8 March from 1pm-4pm. Organised by Conradh na Gaeilge and Féile an Phobail, it will include music, stage performers, climbing walls.

Belfast Children's Festival, 6 -15 March

Don't miss out the 27th Belfast Children's Festival, 6-15 March, featuring incredible events and performances from local, national and international artists. Fun for everyone young at young at heart!


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Join the 24-7 Movement of Prayer Across Ireland


Are you running prayer rooms, facilitating the 24-7 Prayer Course, or practicing rhythms of prayer in your community?

Or perhaps you're eager to dive deeper and inspire others to pray?

We're inviting you to our Volunteer Training—a chance to connect, be equipped, and join the growing wave of prayer across Ireland.

 24th March | 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

 31st March | 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

 7th April | 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Online on Zoom. Register now!

<https://247prayerireland.charitysuite.com/events/p4qiev19>

Digital Animation workshop

Animate your imagination! Join #Cinemagic on 23rd March at the Ulster Museum, Belfast for a hands-on Digital Animation workshop.

Using iPads and animation software WheelWorks artists will guide young people through the basics of creating animated images.

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Reserve your spot now:

<https://wegottickets.com/event/649329>

On the Pulse Short Film Festival is supported by
Department for Communities through Northern Ireland
Screen

In the media

Jews, Ireland, stereotyping and Israel

Malachi O'Doherty - Here's a piece I did recently for The Irish Post -

I don't know why, when we were children, we told jokes about Jews but we did.

We didn't know any Jews. I had no sense that I lived in a toxically anti semitic culture.

But clearly the culture in which this humour circulated was amenable to making space for hateful people.

The jokes we told didn't deal in any tropes that might have required a familiarity with big global or cultural concerns, like whether Jews ran the world media or ate babies. They were just about obsessive miserliness.

How do you know you are living next door to a Jew? That sort of thing.

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I had to grow a bit older to know something of history and even of the then fairly recent global war in which six million Jews had been slaughtered. That reality sank in one night when I was watching a television documentary with my mother and saw images from Belsen of scrawny naked bodies being flung into a burial pit.

During that war, Ireland had remained neutral. Jews who lived here were among the safest in Europe but in the Republic there was precious little shelter for Jews fleeing Europe.

Neil Belton's novel *A Game With Sharpened Knives*, (Weidenfield and Nicholson) is based on physicist Erwin Schrödinger's stay in Dublin for the war years and illustrates the unwillingness of the Irish government to provide shelter for refugees.

Northern Ireland was more open.

A new book by Noel Russell tells the story of how Jews in Austria discovered a scheme for bringing skilled workers into Northern Ireland. *The Saved and The Spurned* (New Island) says that scheme wasn't devised with refugees in mind but when some in Vienna discovered it they saw it as an escape route from Nazi oppression. Russell's book details their experiences and the often cold officialdom which dealt with them.

There were still other routes for bringing people to safety here. Jewish children were brought to a camp in Millisle. Camps were opened for displaced people, including some

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that took in the whole civilian population of Gibraltar into Northern Ireland, 250 Jews among them.

In a recent article in the Irish Times, Amy Chosick asks if Jews are safe in Ireland today.

She was appalled that after the slaughter of innocents on Oct 7 2023 many in Ireland leapt to defending the Palestinian cause.

She says she and her Irish husband 'watched aghast from abroad as some of the kindest people we know sympathised not with the 1,200 people slaughtered by Hamas - but with the terrorists'.

Can that be right, that kind people sympathised with Hamas?

Well she is the one who knows these people and describes them as kind so we have to take her word for it. What I saw was an awakening sense of urgency about resolving an historic problem and a conviction that this atrocity had a context.

And perhaps the precedent of our own peace process had orientated our thinking in that direction for we had accepted that grotesque sectarian atrocities here had also had an historic context and that political agreements might open the way for former terrorists to sit in government.

Chosick says, 'Ireland has been called "the most anti semitic place in Europe" - not exactly a title to own alongside all those Eurovision wins'.

This is stereotyping too. You don't get to call someone out on their prejudices by deploying your own.

Like Howard Jacobson in a recent Guardian article, she says that critics of Israel are deploying the myth of the 'blood libel' that Jews are child killers.

But Israel has actually been slaughtering children with abandon, by the thousand. It's a bit weird to be touchier about the criticism - and even the racist tones you hear in it - than about that carnage itself.

There is undoubtedly prejudice against Jews in Ireland on some scale that I can't assess. I'll take her word for it. There is also another prejudice here which regards them as innately superior.

I was aware of that too in my youth, after the Six Day War, when Israel seemed to embody courage and intelligence in an exceptional way and many of my generation - that didn't go off to join ashrams - joined kibbutzim. It was the cool thing to do.

I've heard the term 'philosemitic' by people who are proud to be prejudiced in favour of Jews; once even by a senior advisor to a political party here. Mary Kenny, a prominent writer, attacking those who criticised West Bank settlers - surely among the most deserving of our derision - writes on X/ twitter 'When you think of what the Jews have given to civilisation, to philosophy, music, culture...'

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Really? The hoodlums who drive Palestinian farmers from their land are to get the credit for Einstein and Spinoza? That's racism too. I don't want anyone to feel uncomfortable for being a Jew, but I don't want the charge of anti semitism to be a distraction from Israel's appalling behaviour.

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

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