

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Summer Madness

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Image of the day

Summer Madness

Thanks indeed to Colleen Webb for her drone shots of the Summer Madness festival which was underway in Portglenone.



When Colleen was there taking her photos she overheard someone saying “It’s like a christian Glastonbury”. (See next news item).

A hardy annual leader commented, “Rain and tents can only mean one thing it’s the annual trip to Summer Madness”.

Another said, “We are thrilled to be at Summer Madness this year again, looking at what it means to Live Life on Purpose. Hearing from the book of Ephesians and spending time lifting our voices in Praise to God, our King of Kings.”

A leader requested, “Please pray for our young people as they encounter God, spending time in Worship and engage with God’s Word”.

CNI thinks the young people on the cover page photo are from Ballyrashane and Killdollahagh parish.

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News

Iona at Glastonbury

What does community look like at the world's largest art festival?

Iona's team of volunteers offered sit-down space, warm fire and a quiet space at Glastonbury Festivals all weekend.

BBC Scotland on Sunday morning reported on the impact of their welcoming hospitality year after year.



Armagh Diocesan Singers at The Argory

The Armagh Diocesan Singers were ‘on tour’, representing the Cathedral at 200th anniversary celebrations of The Argory.

Thanks were expressed to all the dedicated musicians who keep choral and organ music alive in the cathedral and further afield.



Quakers Faith in Action at Dublin Pride

Quakers Dublin said - “Thank you to all who accompanied DAQC at Pride2024.



“Rain didn't dampen the spirits as Friends demonstrated our testimony to equality, confirming our commitment to offering a safe, welcoming and supportive space to all”.

New vision for ministry and outreach in St Patrick's, Ballymacarrett

At the Diocesan Synod on Thursday 20 June 2024, Bishop David McClay announced an initiative to breathe new life into the worshipping community of St Patrick's, Ballymacarrett.

With the support of Holy Trinity Brompton, Bishop McClay aims to establish a vibrant, Spirit-filled worshipping community on the lower Newtownards Road which will



serve the local community as well as seeking to have a wide impact across East Belfast. Holy Trinity Brompton, as a national resource church in the Church of England, has successfully planted new churches in England, Wales and Scotland. The experience, wisdom and hospitality of the existing congregation will also play a vital role in this new chapter by welcoming new members and integrating new initiatives.

The parish of Ballymacarrett was created in 1825 and its first church Christ Church was consecrated in 1827. As industrialisation in Belfast spread to the east of the Lagan, there was a rapid increase in the population in Ballymacarrett during the mid-19th century. A much larger new church was built in 1891 to accommodate a congregation of 1,500 parishioners and dedicated to St Patrick.

Although this 1891 church building was severely damaged during the Belfast Blitz of 1941, the church was reconstructed after the war and rededicated in 1952.

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Population shifts associated with the Troubles led to a considerable decline in the size of the worshipping community.

Bishop McClay's new vision for ministry and outreach in Ballymacarrett will see refurbishing and reordering work being carried out in St Patrick's and a new staff team appointed with the plan of opening a new chapter in St Patrick's ministry and outreach in September 2025.

C of E report suggests social media is making us 'stupid'

The Church of England has warned that social media could be making us “stupid”.

A new report from the denomination warns that our increased engagement with social media has made us “trigger happy” in posting hasty judgements of leaders online, without checking the accuracy of our information.

“The internet and social media give us the illusion of having access to reliable information,” the report on trust and trustworthiness within the Church of England reads.

“Whilst we are increasingly trigger happy in our amplification, pace and tone of judgement on our individual leaders, paradoxically we are becoming lax in our scrutiny of whether the very information or source we are accessing to underpin those judgements is accurate or reliable.”

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The study - which seeks to repair and promote trust within the Church of England – claims people have been “deluded” into thinking they are more informed “because of the ease of access to volumes of information.”

The overuse of social media puts us “in danger of becoming stupid in our judgement of where to place our trust,” it warns.

The preliminary report researches the experience of trust and distrust in wider society, and within the Church of England through interviews and conversions, as well as providing considerations for change. It also raised concerns that some priests were excessively critical of church leaders and operated with too much "autonomy" or "separatism" from church leadership.

It will be discussed at the Church’s General Synod this month.

Cardinal Fernández ordains first bishop for British ordinariate

The cardinal in charge of the Vatican’s doctrinal department has ordained the first bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, flew from Rome to London to ordain Bishop David Waller as the second ordinary of the organisation created for the corporate reception of Anglicans into the Catholic Church.

During a Mass at Westminster Cathedral, the Argentine Jesuit quoted a homily of St John Henry Newman on Christ the Good Shepherd, reminding the congregation of the saint's observation that "a shepherd leads from within".

He quoted the words of the Victorian cardinal and theologian, saying: "Blessed are they who resolve – come good, come evil, come sunshine, come tempest, come honour, come dishonour – that [Christ] shall be their Lord and Master, their King and God.

He explained that such words provided the new bishop with "encouragement and inspiration ... in caring for the flock entrusted to him"

Cardinal Fernández said: "This is, in fact, what Pope Francis insists we must all do: to announce to everyone the love of God, manifested in the open arms of Christ, who today is active in our lives."

The cardinal added: "For this mission today, Bishop-elect Waller receives the fire of the Holy Spirit: the only one capable of transforming our hearts [...] and filling us with His fervour and with true joy in love."

The ordinariate was established in 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI under the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus*.

It provides for the reception of Anglican parishes into the Catholic faith and in just a decade has compassed about 50 communities in Great Britain.

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Bishop Waller, a former Anglican minister, succeeds Mgr Keith Newton, a married father-of-three, as the leader of the ordinariate and, because he is celibate, will also serve as its first bishop.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, Bishop Stephen Lopes of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter in the United States and Canada, and Bishop Anthony Randazzo, the Apostolic Administrator of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia, were the other ordaining bishops.

homes, which operated from 1922 to 1998, have been

Cathedral Calls

Girls join St Paul's Cathedral choir in 900-year first

Girls have officially become full choristers at St Paul's Cathedral for the first time.

The children, who are only being named as Lila, 11, and Lois, 10, took part in the final preparations for Sunday's Choral Evensong service.

It will be the first time in its 900-year history that girls will officially be a full part of the St Paul's Cathedral Choir.

Lila and Lois are now being "made up" to full membership after having been probationers in training within the choir

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since September 2023. The pair were giddy with excitement as they tried on their surplices, which are the white gowns they wear atop their black cassocks, ahead of today's big event.

The move means the girl choristers are becoming permanent members of the cathedral choir and will play an equal part in the singing of services as well as at events of national importance.

Dame Sarah Mullally, the first female Bishop of London, attended the rehearsal.

The Bishop previously welcomed the decision to allow girls into the choir, saying: "The choir plays a key role in the worship not just of the Cathedral, but of the whole diocese. It will be wonderful to hear girls' voices contributing to this."

The announcement was made in May 2022 that girls were set to join the choir and that the Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral School would "undertake the practical arrangements needed to provide a truly equal offer for girl and boy choristers".

Plans included a fundraising campaign and to ensure the Cathedral's scholarship programme could be delivered equally to boys and girls. At the time the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Revd Dr David Ison, said: "It has been a long-held ambition to introduce girls' voices into the Cathedral Choir at St Paul's.

"Doing this will create an exceptional new music opportunity for young people and will further enhance the contribution of

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our highly valued and much-loved choir to the worship life of the Cathedral and the heritage of the nation.”



Final Choral Matins for Derry Cathedral Organist

Dr Derek Collins pictured at his final Choral Matins with The combined Cathedral Choirs of Derry Cathedral.

Derek will leave his post as Organist & Master of the Choristers, which he has held from 2017.

All at St Columb's Cathedral wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

Hereford Choir Chaperone Vacancy

“We have an exciting role for a confident and enthusiastic Choir Chaperone within our Music Department.

“Key duties will include responsibility for the choristers’ daily supervision and wellbeing, providing first aid and pastoral care for the choristers, assisting the choristers to prepare for services and concerts, liaising with cathedral staff, parents and schools.

Find out more here: www.herefordcathedral.org/news/choir-chaperone-vacancy

Clergy

Rectors for Belvoir and Bray

The Revd Emma Rutherford has been appointed as Incumbent of the **Parish of Belvoir** in the Diocese of Down. Emma is currently Rector of St Molua's, Parish of Stormont, also in Down Diocese. A date for the service of Institution will be announced in due course.

The Revd Dr Leonard Madden has been appointed as the new Rector of **Christ Church Bray** in the Diocese of Dublin. The appointment was announced in Bray and in Limerick, where he currently serves as Curate Assistant.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Archbishop McDowell reflects on D-Day anniversary

Reflecting on his experiences in Normandy where recollections of June 1944 framed last week's commemorations, Archbishop John McDowell has shared some personal insights and Irish connections to the momentous events of that time.

The Church of Ireland Primate jointly spoke with Archbishop Eamon Martin at the Royal Irish Regiment's Service of Remembrance at Ranville, near Sword Beach, on Friday (7th June). The full video interview is available on the Church of Ireland website and social media channels – @churchofireland – including at <https://vimeo.com/956543314>

Ballycastle ordinations

“We had a wonderful day as Shona and Cameron were Ordained as Priests in the Church of Ireland.” See photo next page.

You can view a recording of the Service by following the links below to [Parish of Ramoan and Culfeightrin](#)

<https://youtu.be/EWqHJm40h6Q?si=IxCmSqqCJo19C\ gF>



Book on history of Church of Ireland in Ramoan Parish is republished

North Antrim history buffs will welcome the news that Hugh Alexander Boyd's book *The History of the Church of Ireland in Ramoan Parish* has been republished.

The fascinating history, which was first published in 1930, takes readers through the sometimes turbulent history of the parish, including first-hand testimony related to the Irish Rebellion of 1641, the devastation of the Great Famine and the emergence of Ramoan's first Presbyterian Church.

The book is a rich source of local family history. It includes details of the vicars of Ramoan and their families, the wardens who supported the parish and the local gentry.

The transcription of the parish's memorial tablets and graveyard inscriptions give us invaluable details related to the major families of the area, as well as members of the



St Columb's Cathedral
Londonderry

Lunchtime
Organ
Recitals

July 2024

Thursdays 1.10pm - 1.50pm

4th Derek Collins

11th Nicky Morton

18th Jack Wilson

25th Stephen Hamill

 Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair
Oibre & Cheantar
an tSírtha Bliain
Derry City & Strabane District Council

ADMISSION FREE

congregation and those who suffered and died in the Great War.

Published by Clachan Publishing, Ballycastle, available at <https://www.clachanbooks.com> and D.J. McLister.

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Are you looking for a job with purpose and meaning? - Simon Community

Join Northern Ireland's leading homeless charity as we recruit for multiple roles throughout Northern Ireland.

Click the link to learn more about our current roles.

<https://ow.ly/Ysi850Smw8R>

In the media

Irish Times - Incest, bestiality, genital mutilation and infanticide? Ban the Bible now!

The Bible is pornographic under the definition set out in a 2022 Utah law, Patsy McGarry writes.

At last. And God Bless America. I've been saying it for years. The Bible is unfit for human consumption. The most widely read book in the world, it must also be among the most pornographic. Now available at any church and most hotel rooms near you. (Thank you, Mr Gideon.)

Yes. The Catholic Church had it right when it banned laity from reading the Bible. It was on its Index of forbidden books. All versions of the Bible, other than in Latin, were banned, as was Flaubert's Madame Bovary, Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Galileo's Dialogue on the Great World Systems. Such distinguished company.

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Then, in 1966, Pope Paul VI got rid of the Index. And look what has happened to the Catholic Church since. So, three cheers for Utah's Republican legislature, which in 2022 passed a law to weed out pornography from all school libraries.

And congratulations to the Davis School District in Utah, north of Salt Lake City, which this time last year used that law to remove the Bible from its schools, as it was full of "vulgarity and violence" while also being "one of the most sex-ridden books around", as one appalled parent put it.

It was argued that the Bible included incest, bestiality, genital mutilation, and infanticide, making it pornographic under the definition set out in that 2022 Utah law.

There is hardly need to go into details here?

Okay so, and as the Miami Herald helpfully explained, the Bible implies a debauched sexual scene with Noah in a drunken state with his youngest son, and that Lot, nephew of Abraham, was incestuously seduced by his daughters. Abraham and Jacob had children with mistresses, while the word "onanism" arose from God striking down Onan for "spilling his seed", which might, it was felt, inadvertently "inspire" teenage boys.

Judah, ancestor of Jesus, had sex with a prostitute who also happened to be his daughter-in-law, and there was sexual assault and murder involving King David and Bathsheba, and probable nonconsensual premarital sex. Then there was David's passionate claim that his love for Jonathan far exceeded his love of women.

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All of which means that, like King David, his ancestor according to Scripture, Jesus was descended from incest and rape, adultery and prostitution.

Ban it, I say. Now!

Bible from Greek biblion, for “scroll”.

inaword@irishtimes.com Patsy McGarry. 22/06/2024

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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Please commend to others...

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