

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh

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St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh

The Cathedral Church of St Colman (Irish: Ardeaglais Naomh Colmán), usually known as Cobh Cathedral, or previously Queenstown Cathedral, is a single-spire cathedral in Cobh, Ireland.

It is a Roman Catholic cathedral and was completed in 1919. Built on Cathedral Place, it overlooks Cork harbour from a prominent position, and is dedicated to Colmán of Cloyne, patron saint of the Diocese of Cloyne. It serves as the cathedral church of the diocese.

Construction began in 1868 and was not completed until over half a century later due to increases in costs and revisions of the original plans. With the steeple being 91.4 metres tall (300 ft), the cathedral is the tallest church in Ireland. It was considered to be the second-tallest, behind St John's Cathedral in Limerick which was believed to be 94 metres tall; newer measurements have shown that the St John's spire is in fact 81 metres tall and therefore only the fourth tallest church in Ireland.

[\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\ Colman%27s\ Cathedral,\ Cobh\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\ Colman%27s\ Cathedral,\ Cobh)

[\[https://cobhcathedralparish.ie/\]](https://cobhcathedralparish.ie/)

People and places



Three Ordinary Men Who Changed The World

Three Ordinary Men Who Changed The World is a brand-new musical drama presented by Dungannon Methodist Church.

Due to be staged in the Marketplace Theatre in Armagh in October, it tells the story of three ordinary men who showed remarkable courage and faith in God, and who made a difference, changing the world for good. The cast is largely made up of actors from Dungannon Methodist along with a number from other local churches and rehearsals are

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currently underway for this colourful extravaganza of music, drama and dance. It will also feature the Jenny Chambers School of dance and drama and guest singers include Niamh Lavery and Tracy Wilson.

One of the characters to be featured in the drama is the American evangelist and preacher, D L Moody with the part being played by the Rev William Newell, minister of Dungannon Methodist.

The fifth musical to be produced by the Dungannon church

This is the fifth such musical to be produced by the Dungannon church, and as always, it is intended that the event will not only provide top quality entertainment, but also bring encouragement, inspiration, and challenge to all who attend the event and to those who take part.

The musical will have a strong gospel message and organisers stress that it is an ideal opportunity for Christians to invite their non-Christian friends as well as those who may feel more at home in a theatre than in a church or mission hall. One of the aims of the production is to show what a difference God can make in a person's life, no matter who they are, if they are willing to place their lives into God's hand.

The event will take place on Friday 6 October and tickets can be obtained from the Marketplace Theatre in Armagh or online using the theatre website at -

[\[https://visitarmagh.com/2023-10-06t2000000100/\]](https://visitarmagh.com/2023-10-06t2000000100/)

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Acts of Remembrance in Armagh

The annual Op Banner church service will take place in The Mall Presbyterian Church on Sunday 30 July 2023 at 3pm to honour the sacrifice made by members of the Security Forces.

County Armagh Phoenix Group extend a warm welcome to all. Medals may be worn. Refreshments will be served after the service...



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... On Monday 31 July 2003 at 11am an Act of Remembrance will take place at the County Armagh Memorial Wall.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone

There will be a wreath laying ceremony and all associations are invited to participate. Medals may be worn



TOUR^{de} foyle

2023

CHARITY 80K CYCLE

SATURDAY 26th AUGUST 2023
Start Line: Ebrington Carpark, Derry/Londonderry

Register now by visiting our facebook page which you can do directly by scanning the QR Code below.

Alternatively, you can follow our registration Link:
<https://nwmm.co.uk/tour-de-foyle-registration-page/>

REGISTRATION COST:

£30.00 with cycling club insurance

£35.00 without cycling club insurance

TOUR^{de} foyle

2023 

 **NORTH WEST METHODIST MISSION**
PUTTING LIVES BACK ON TRACK





A thriving garden in Magheralin

With the help of a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award, Magheralin parish, outside Lurgan, Co. Down, has created a beautiful garden in its church grounds. The Garden of Reflection, which was officially opened last November, is a



space to be shared and enjoyed by pollinators and people alike. It's a place for the whole community, a place of beauty to be still and enjoy Creation.

‘As parish communities we can take actions to address the impact of the current climate crisis’ - Bishop Hayes

Bishop Martin Hayes of Kilmore, Episcopal Coordinator for Laudato Si’, has encouraged parishes to take part the Season of Creation 2023.

Bishop Hayes said, “Recently, Met Éireann released statistics to say that the past month of June was the warmest June in 83 years. This Met Éireann data highlights



that we are being impacted by global warming which is having a particular effect on Europe.

“We may feel overwhelmed by these scientific facts and that we can do nothing to reverse this global trend of rising temperatures.”

Drawing attention to the Season of Creation 2023 resources for parishes that were prepared by the Laudato Si’ Working Group, the Bishop of Kilmore emphasised, “as individual Christians and as parish communities we can take actions to address the impact of the current climate crisis. The Laudato Si’ Working Group and Animators have prepared two sets of resources; firstly, to return 30% of our parish grounds to nature and secondly, those for the 2023 Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct) in accord with the theme of ‘let justice and peace flow’.

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Bishop Hayes said in conclusion, “In his message for the 2023 Season of Creation, Pope Francis highlights our interconnectedness with God, with each other, with ourselves and with all of creation. These resources offer the opportunity for parishes to pray, discuss and take practical actions to address global warming at a local level. Our little actions together can have a global impact for the future of our Common Home.”



Look who's hanging around in Newtownards

This little red was seen close to the North Road in Ards on Tuesday evening.

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This is the third sighting in Ards recently. There have been other sightings in the vicinity of Cairnwood and Kiltonga so keep your eyes peeled folks.

Please report any sightings using this link.

<http://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/uw-squirrel-monitoring>

Please also use that link to report any sightings of pesky grey squirrels as well. Photo credit to Jon Lees for this fantastic shot



Visit the Northern Ireland War Memorial this summer for FREE family fun!

“We’re open Monday - Friday from 10am to 4:30pm and EVERY Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Free admission, no booking necessary. Find us at: 21 Talbot Street, Belfast, BT1 2LD.”



Grant award will help Annahilt Parish address road safety concern

Annahilt Parish have received an offer of a grant of £10,000 from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Community Facilities Fund towards the re-location of the vehicular entrance to their Parochial Hall.

This will help to resolve an urgent safety concern that the parish has been seeking to address with the Roads Service, their local council, councillors, and MP for the last 30 years.

The church and the church hall are situated on opposite sides of the very busy main road between Lisburn and Dromara with both existing entrances in the middle of a double or 'S' bend. As parking is very limited beside the church building, most people when attending Sunday services, weddings, funerals or other events at the church need to park beside the hall and cross the road.

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The hall itself is well used for both parish and community activities. There is also a constant flow of visitors into and out of the extensive graveyard.

This unfortunately puts pedestrians at serious risk as they are crossing the road with minimal to no line of sight. Drivers and their passengers are also at risk when they enter or exit the car park beside the hall via the existing access as they need to cross oncoming traffic either as they enter or exit the car park without an adequate line of sight.

As the 'S' bend will not be modified, the main advice from the Roads Service was that the church should seek to move the vehicle entrance for one or both properties. Up until recently it has not been possible to take this forward as the surrounding land was either unsuitable for a new access point or not available.

Planning permission has been granted for the relocation of access to both the church and church hall. The parish is, however, prioritising work on the entranceway to the car park beside the church hall as it is larger and used more frequently.

Patricia Halliday, Hon Treasurer of Annahilt Parish said:

“The Select Vestry are grateful to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council for the funding towards this project which will be a major step forward in improving safety for parishioners, the many local groups that use the premises and also the large volume of traffic passing daily. This grant is especially welcome as the costs will be considerably higher than was previously estimated.”

News reports

Churches and charities slam 'senselessly cruel' Migration Bill

Christian churches and charities say the government's Illegal Migration Bill is 'senselessly cruel' and will have a 'devastating impact' on lives. Almost 300 civil society groups and charities have signed a statement expressing concern over the Bill which will now be passed into law after ministers saw off a series of challenges in the House of Lords.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Church are among the signatories to the statement about the impact of the Bill on people seeking asylum in the UK.

The Illegal Migration Bill will make claiming asylum in the UK via irregular routes illegal and pushes forward with the controversial plan to deport asylum seekers to safe third countries, including the planned partnership with Rwanda.

The statement, which was also signed by the Baptist Union and United Reformed Church among others, reads:

“We all deserve to live safe from harm. But this senselessly cruel Act will have a devastating impact on people's lives. It turns our country's back on people seeking safety, blocking them from protection, support, and justice at a time they need it most.



“In abandoning the UK’s moral and legal obligations, the Act risks breaching multiple international human rights treaties including the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights while shielding the Government from accountability. The UK Government has admitted that it cannot confirm if the Act is compatible with the UK’s obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

“The Act will force people into situations that threaten their lives – whether by placing children in detention or sending people off to countries where their lives might be at grave risk.

“Moreover, the Act attacks the very core of human rights, which is the principle that we all have them regardless of who we are or where we are from. In stripping the most

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basic rights from people seeking safety and a better life, the Act dismantles human rights protections for all of us.

“Either all of us have human rights, or none of us do. While the UK Government’s plans will harm those seeking safety the most, this is an attack on all of us and the values we hold dear.

“The government has rushed through this law despite broad and deep opposition. But our fight is not over. As caring people, we will continue to fight for the right for people to seek safety and a better life without being forced to take dangerous journeys and without being punished for how they enter the UK. We will keep holding those in power to account for upholding the UK’s international obligations. We will strive for an asylum and immigration system that treats everyone with dignity and respect. We will stand in solidarity with and fight alongside everyone who makes the UK their home and build a society that treats everyone with compassion.”

In April, over 1,450 church leaders wrote to the Prime Minister opposing the Bill, arguing that it would “foster discrimination and distrust” and cause “immeasurable harm”.

Hannah Fremont-Brown from the Joint Public Issues Team said there were also concerns about laws being overturned by this new legislation :

“Unfortunately laws which have been in place for a few years now to restrict child detention have been overturned by the Bill which means that children under 18 will be able to

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be detained under this new legislation which was something which was very hard fought against by churches and other campaigners which is a real disappointment.”

Ravers flock to medieval cathedral's silent disco

Ely Cathedral opened its doors to 800 ravers last week as it hosted its first silent disco in an attempt to lure in younger worshippers.

The sell-out 1990s-themed event at the medieval site is part of a raft of measures to welcome a younger crowd and to boost the cathedral's finances.

The Very Rev Mark Bonney, 35th Dean of Ely, told The Sunday Times: “This is not my cathedral. It's the cathedral for the people who live here. I'm not naïve enough to think that everyone at the disco will then come to worship the next day. But bridging the gap is a very gentle, slow process, inching towards each other.”

The annual building maintenance bill at Ely, which was built between 1083 and 1375, is more than £1 million, and the cathedral relies on income from visitor tours, donations and fees from renting space for events.

Future funding-raising events at Ely include Fleetwood Mac by Candlelight in October.

The Dean said: “Ultimately, it's a place of worship, that is its main role. We're in the process of refining how many events


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it is right for us to have, so we don't wear the building or ourselves out.

“The building touches something that's bigger than we are.

“And we might not be able to articulate what that's about, but it makes us think about things in a different sort of way. And that's the start of a spiritual journey.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



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The Lambeth Conference 2022 Report God's Church for God's World

Offers a detailed record of the conference, and full outlines of the major addresses and departmental reports. Pre-order your copy:

<https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/97803340>

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The July edition of CTe-News

Including stories on: - Celebrating Windrush75 - Welcoming the CTE Fourth President - Aid for Artsakh and Blackpool Tower prayers

<https://mailchi.mp/cte/ctenewsjuly2023>

Working towards an Eco Church award...

and maintaining momentum [online] - A Rocha UK <https://buff.ly/3pOsrqC> Sept 19: 12:00 - 1:00 pm For people in



churches who have registered for Eco Church, but need a little help to get things going and work towards their Bronze or Silver award.

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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