

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Ballycastle 175th Anniversary

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Image of the day



175th Anniversary of St James Parish Church, Ballycastle

St James Parish Church is one of two Churches in the Parish of Ballycastle.

It is a parish with a record of vicars, chancellors and rectors going back to 1450. It has been grouped with other parishes from time to time including Armoy and Culfeightrin. It was united to Ballycastle in 1921.

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The Bishop of Connor The Right Reverend George Davidson consecrated an extension to the graveyard at St James Church.

The Bishop also preached at the service which commemorated the laying of the foundation stone of St James 150 years ago.

Present at the service and reception was Councillor Steven Callaghan, The Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, and Mr Robin Swann MLA. (Photo above - photos by Sandra Hunter).

The Rector is the Reverend David Ferguson.

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People and places



Causeway Methodists unite

Congregations united met on Sunday past for “a wonderful worship service followed by a great lunch” in Portstewart Methodist Church.

Gratitude was expressed to the Portstewart people involved from making the food, serving, cleaning and clearing up.

And there was icing on the cake with the presence of the MCI President Rev. David Turtle, Lay Leader Tom Wilson and their families joining in the occasion.



Bishop Ned hits ninety not out

Congratulations to the Right Reverend Edward Darling on his recent 90th birthday celebrations...

...and to the family team which produced this unique birthday cake.

Some consolation for a washed out test match.

Laying up Colours in Ballymena

The 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment will lay-up its old Colours at St Patrick's Church, Ballymena in a service commencing at 12:00 on Saturday 2 September 2023.

The Service will be preceded by the Regiment exercising its Freedom of the town.

Guards will be formed from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the regimental associations and our affiliated cadet battalions and detachments. The parade will be supported by the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment and the Bugles, Pipes and Drums of both battalions. The parade will form up at St Patrick's Church and step off at 11:00. The salute will be taken by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant on Wellington Street.

New Lord Mayor of Dublin Visits St Ann's

Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste (centre) with Archbishop Michael Jackson and Canon Paul Arbuthnot in St Ann's Church.

The recently elected Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste paid a courtesy call to St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, yesterday afternoon (Tuesday July 18). The Lord Mayor was welcomed to the church, which is almost next door to the Mansion House, by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson and the Vicar of St Ann's, Canon Paul Arbuthnot.



Lord Mayor of Dublin Daithí de Róiste (centre) with Archbishop Michael Jackson and Canon Paul Arbuthnot in St Ann's Church.

Amid a steady flow of visitors from all over the world, Lord Mayor de Róiste was given a tour of the historic church which celebrates its 300th anniversary this year. The anniversary will be marked with a special service in St Ann's on Sunday October 29 which the Lord Mayor, who has a keen interest in history, has been invited to attend along with a large number of other special guests who will join the regular congregation.

The Lord Mayor outlined his priorities for his term of office and spoke of his desire to build a 'city of kindness'. Both the Archbishop and the Vicar said that this mission could be complemented by the Church.

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Archbishop Jackson outlined his role and the reach of his dioceses which extend from Balbriggan in north County Dublin to Inch in the south on the Wicklow/Wexford border and west into Leixlip and Athy in County Kildare. He also spoke about members of the Church of Ireland in the dioceses.

Canon Arbuthnot highlighted a number of items of historical interest in St Ann's including the stained glass windows and the Bread Shelf which, since 1723 has contained loaves of bread for the poor of Dublin City by bequest of Lord Newtown of Newtown Butler. Today the tradition is a symbol of the church's ministry to all. He also spoke of the congregation of St Ann's and its sister church, St Stephen's.

After the visit, Archbishop Jackson said: "I have been delighted to meet the Lord Mayor on a number of occasions since he has taken up office. It was a special pleasure to welcome him along with Canon Arbuthnot to St Ann's and to let him see first hand the diocese's city centre church and to outline to him both what it does and what it hopes to do. The 300th anniversary provides the perfect launching pad for development and change. The Lord Mayor's sense of social realism was a great encouragement to us as the new vision for St Ann's is progressed".

Canon Arbuthnot added: "It was a delight to welcome our next door neighbour, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, to St Ann's. At St Ann's we have always had a good relationship with Dublin's Lord Mayors. We look forward to working positively with him as he seeks to build a 'city of kindness' during his term of office. At St Ann's we continue to hold the Lord Mayor in our prayers at every celebration of the Eucharist

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and we wish him every success and blessing for his term of office”.

Canon Noble Hamilton

Ulster rugby’s oldest season ticket holder has passed away a few weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Church of Ireland clergyman Noble Hamilton had lived in Waringstown and more recently had resided at Iveagh House care home in Banbridge, Graeme Cousins writes in the Belfast Newsletter.

Ulster Rugby said: “We’re deeply saddened by the passing of Noble Hamilton.

“As our oldest Season Ticket Holder, Noble was a proud Ulster supporter for many years, and we were honoured to recently celebrate his 100th birthday with him.

“Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends at this sad time.”

Scrum-half John Cooney had visited Noble at the beginning of the month in Banbridge and gave him a framed photo signed by all of the Ulster Rugby squad.

And during the Covid pandemic Cooney had a video call with Noble to check up on him as he recovered at home in Waringstown following a burst appendix.



Noble, who received a telegram from the King and Queen and the President of Ireland for his 100th birthday, was a fine rugby player in his youth and was proud to have been in attendance at Aviva Stadium in March for Ireland's Grand Slam celebrations.

He has five daughters, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

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His family has updated a Justgiving appeal set up for his 100th birthday, informing people that donations to UNICEF would be most welcome in lieu of flowers.

They said: “In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to UNICEF in order to give those around the world a chance of living life to the full, as he has done over the past one hundred years.”

Paying tribute to Noble under Ulster Rugby’s post on Facebook, Ian McMurray said: “Extremely sad to hear this news.

“One of life’s true gentlemen, honest, straightforward, intelligent, loyal and principled but above all he understood the meaning of life and how to live it. Will be sadly missed by anyone who knew him. God bless.”

Helen Cocks wrote: “He was a true gentleman and our family has very many happy memories of nights and events with Noble and his late wife Pat. Sincere condolences to all.”

Rachael Sloan said: “Such sad news, lovely seeing the recent video from his 100th birthday celebrations, he looked so well.”

A service of thanksgiving for Noble’s life takes place on Wednesday at 12.30pm in the Holy Trinity Parish Church, Banbridge followed by cremation in Roselawn on Thursday at 10am.

News reports

Russia destroys Odesa cathedral

One killed and dozens hurt as missiles strike World Heritage Site in string of attacks on Black Sea ports

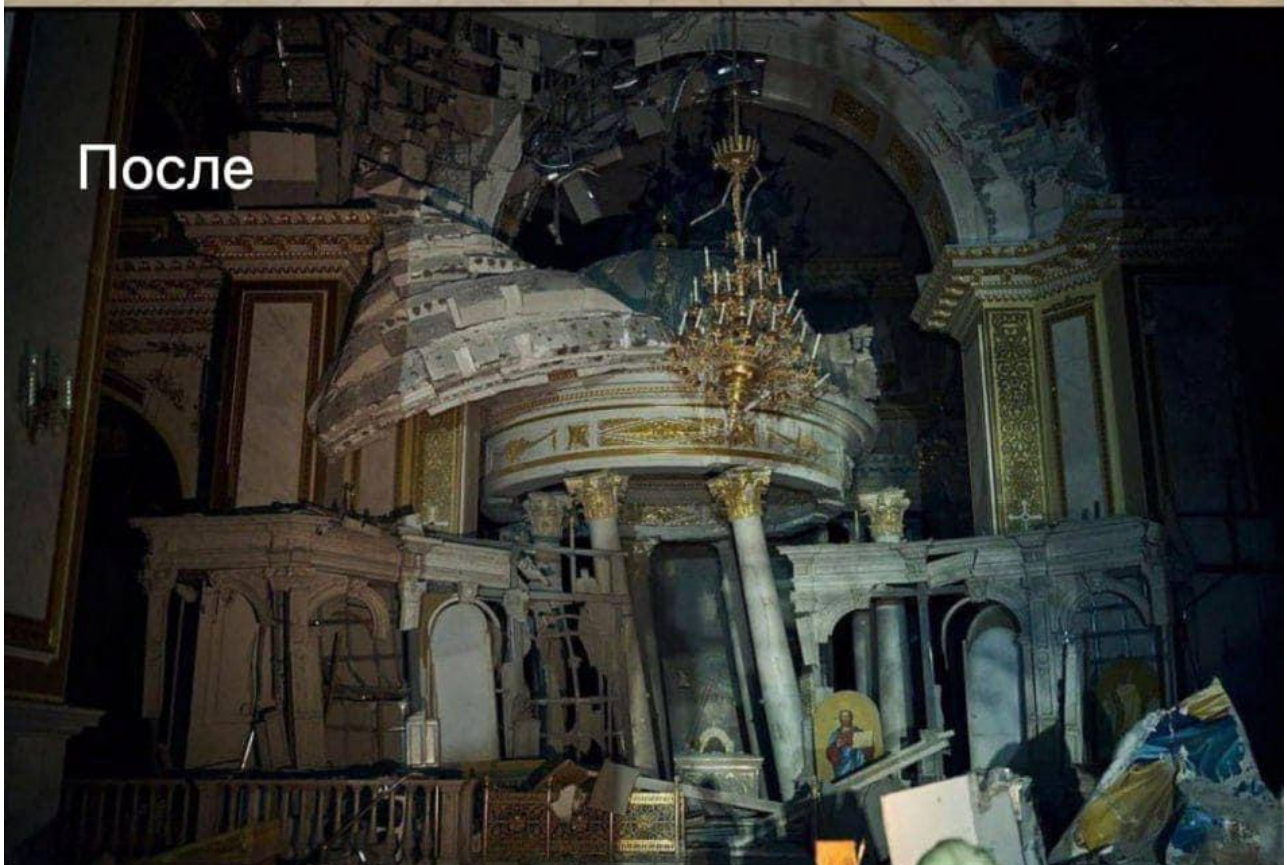
A Russian missile strike broke a hole through the roof of the largest cathedral in Odesa in a bombardment of the Ukrainian coastal city that left one person dead and dozens injured.

Oleh Kiper, the regional governor, said 25 historic buildings were damaged in Odesa's old city, which was earlier this year designated a World Heritage Site by Unesco, the UN's cultural agency, by the overnight bombardment yesterday.

The blaze in the Transfiguration Cathedral melted gold decorations from the walls and burnt paintings, a video and photos showed.

Firemen rescued icons and a priest knelt and prayed by steps littered with rubble. He had his face covered with his right hand and gripped a post with his left hand. "The Transfiguration Cathedral in Odesa is no more. That's it," said the man filming the video inside the cathedral shortly after the attack. "The altar has gone and there are three fires."

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A cathedral roof collapsed, cracks sliced through its thick walls and many of the neoclassical columns broke.

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Later, Oleksiy Goncharenko, a Ukrainian MP from Odesa, filmed people clearing pieces of stonework, broken glass and strips of burnt paintings from the cathedral.

He said: “This morning, there should be Mass here but now instead you can see that it is destroyed.”

Chanting priests later held mass on the steps of the cathedral next to a gaping hole in its cracked walls.

Hundreds of people lined up to place lit candles on golden stands that were rescued from the fires.

The cathedral was founded in 1794 during the reign of Catherine the Great. It was demolished by the Soviets in 1936 and rebuilt in 1999. It falls under the diocese of the branch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church that is closely linked to the Russian Patriarchate, a major supporter of Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine.

Hours after the strike in Odesa, Putin, the Russian president, toured a cathedral in St Petersburg with - Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarus leader. Putin, who likes to burnish a reputation for piety, lit a candle and crossed himself as he stood opposite an Orthodox icon.

Odesa city centre was also badly damaged in the missile attack. Cars lay mangled, piles of debris covered roads, the roofs of Tsarist-era houses were missing and the balconies of Soviet-era apartment blocks were crumpled.

Ukrainian officials said Russian forces fired 19 missiles at Odesa and that nine were shot down. By yesterday

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afternoon one person was confirmed killed and more than 22 injured, including three children.

‘This morning there should be mass here but now instead you can see that it is destroyed’

Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine’s president, pledged to avenge the attack which he described as “evil”. He said: “Missiles struck a peaceful city, against residential buildings and a cathedral. There will definitely be a retaliation for Russian terrorism in Odesa.”

The strike proved Ukraine’s need for a “fully-fledged air shield” that covered all the nation’s territory, he said.

Russia’s defence ministry said yesterday it attacked sites in Odesa “where terrorist acts against the Russian Federation were being prepared”.

It later denied hitting the cathedral, blaming its destruction on “the fall of a Ukrainian anti-aircraft guided missile”. Russia has targeted Odesa and other southern ports since last Monday, when the Kremlin pulled out of a deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain.

Several strikes have targeted the Odesa’s grain terminals, destroying hundreds of tons of food.

The attacks on Black Sea ports came as Ukrainian forces started using US cluster munitions in an attempt to re-invigorated a stalled counter-offensive.

Late Queen to have memorial

A national memorial to Queen Elizabeth II will be commissioned by a new committee.

The Royal household and the Government are understood to have been working “hand in hand” on the project and the membership of the committee will be announced before the anniversary of her death on Sept 8.

The Cabinet Office has warned that the late Queen’s name will also be “closely protected” and that applications from those wishing to mark her reign with a park, garden or street using her full title will only be granted to those with strong royal connections.

Buildings, pubs or businesses cannot be named after her without permission and will only be allowed only if they are “dignified and appropriate”.

The government guidance says: “Careful consideration will be given in due course to the commissioning of an official national memorial to Queen Elizabeth II.” The Queen unveiled a memorial to her father, George VI, in 1955, three years after his death.

The bronze statue, on The Mall depicts him dressed in naval uniform.

The latest Cabinet Office guidance, published on July 4, says: “Permission to use the title ‘Royal’, or the names and titles of members of the Royal Family, including the name of

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the late Queen, and other protected Royal titles is a mark of favour granted by the Sovereign, acting on the advice of his Ministers. The protected Royal titles are sparingly granted and strict standards are applied.”

It adds that communities, organisations and individuals who wish to mark the passing of Elizabeth II and commemorate her “extraordinary reign” through the use of her name and title, should make an official application.

In the media

NI young carers face stress and loneliness over summer

BBC News

[<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66268121>]

Harry Clarke Museum an ambition for Dublin City Council

RTE.ie

[<https://www.rte.ie/culture/2023/0719/1395397-harry-clarke-museum/>]

Theatre company takes Sanctuary in notorious interface

Sunday Life - Belfast theatre company has announced a £2.6m plan to make a permanent home for itself at an interface in the east of the city. The Bright Umbrella group believes the 150-seat Sanctuary Theatre and aptly named Little Theatre, both under the same roof, will improve cross-community relations.

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The arts centre, an old church that dates back to 1875, stands between the mainly unionist Castlereagh Street and Albertbridge Road area and the nationalist Short Strand.

It is a short distance from the peace line in Cluan Place where rioting between Protestants and Catholics was once a nightly feature and where Ian Ogle was murdered by a loyalist gang in 2019. Bright Umbrella aims to refurbish and future-proof the historic Mountpottinger Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, which is still used once a month by a handful of older worshippers.

Youth worker at Christian group 'abused girls in Belfast & Michigan'

Sunday Life - A youth worker who helped run a Northern Ireland kids' charity with a convicted paedophile is at the centre of a police investigation into child abuse here and in America. Ed Conlin is the subject of a US civil action taken by women who claim he molested them as teenagers.

He is also being investigated by the PSNI over historic abuse allegations in Northern Ireland and by detectives in Michigan. Among the civil litigants are two Belfast women, one of whom is Aisling Kennedy. She waived her right to anonymity to allege Conlin abused her during the 1990s while he was a senior member of staff at Youth Initiatives NI, which is part of the Servants of the Word and Sword of Spirit international Christian community.

Jamie Treadwell, the co-founder of the west Belfast-based charity and a close friend of Conlin, was recently jailed in the US for sexually assaulting a child.

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In her statement to the US courts, Aisling said: “I was groomed by Ed Conlin throughout the 1990s, and the grooming progressed to sexual contact in 1997.”



Family of British soldier killed by IRA 50 years ago 'miss him every day'

News Letter - A 50th anniversary service for two British soldiers killed in the Troubles is to be held in Co Tyrone on Sunday.

A remembrance service for Corporal Bryan Criddle and Lance Corporal Harry Gillespie will be held at the Clogher branch of the Royal British Legion.

The South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF) victims and survivors group said that Cpl Criddle died 50 years ago, four

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days after he was injured in a Provisional IRA bombing in Clogher. He was married and had three children.

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/people/family-of-british-soldier-killed-by-ira-50-years-ago-miss-him-every-day-4228803>

Dublin's anti-social behaviour problem is a 'real issue', Lord Mayor says

Irish Times - More gardaí needed to help with perception of safety for locals and tourists, says Daithí De Róiste

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Daithí de Róiste, has said there is a “real issue” in terms of what is happening on the streets of Dublin which requires all agencies, including the gardaí, to do a lot more.

“I believe Dublin is a safe city in the main and we’re always going to have instances. But there is a perception of Dublin that it’s unsafe at the moment, that we do have a lot of antisocial behaviour on the streets,” he told RTÉ radio’s Morning Ireland.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/dublin/2023/07/24/dublins-anti-social-behaviour-problem-is-a-real-issue-lord-mayor-says/?>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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