

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Wee Buns for Korea Jamboree

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Wee Buns for Korea Jamboree

In September 2021 these 36 young people from Scouts NI were selected to be participants of the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea with the UK Contingent. They adopted the title “The Wee Buns” - Northern Ireland.

This week with their four Leaders they embarked on the adventure of a lifetime; meeting new friends, experiencing new cultures, taking part in new adventures and gaining new skills for life.

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The four Leaders of the Wee Buns for the World Scout Jamboree in Korea.

People and places

Songs of Praise at Corrymeela

Claire McCollum visits the Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation.



Claire McCollum at the Corrymeela Community

She tours the site and discovers the story of its founder, Ray Davey, and his mission for a more peaceful Northern Ireland. She also meets students from California visiting Corrymeela for the first time, hearing what they've learned from their experience and what they'll take back to their own communities.

A renowned local artist explains how he created Hands of History, a piece of art capturing the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Claire speaks to the former archbishop of Armagh, Lord Robin Eames, and Methodist minister Harold Good, both of whom had their hands cast in bronze for their roles in the Good Friday Agreement.

Finally, Claire joins a group session at Corrymeela from the Shankill Women's Centre in Belfast, where she experiences some of the methods used to inspire and promote dialogue between Catholic and Protestant communities.

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Tune in this coming Sunday for the broadcast on BBC One at 13.15 local time.



Derry pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon

Bishop Donal McKeown and the Youth Ministry Team, Lizzie and Niamh are leading the Diocese of Derry pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

In social media the group said, “World youth day here we come. We would like to thank all Parishes who made donations. We hope to keep everyone updated with all we



do during our pilgrimage. If you have any prayer intentions please let us know”.

Celebrations for Mothers Union branch founding member

Derrybrusk Mothers' Union held birthday celebrations for

one of its founding members, Mrs Annie Carson, who is 90 years young this week.

The Branch wished Annie every blessing as she began a week of well deserved celebrations.



News reports

Greta Gerwig's 'Barbie' influenced by her Catholic school roots

American screenwriter and director Greta Gerwig has unveiled biblical metaphors in her latest blockbuster, 'Barbie'.

As the 39-year-old filmmaker told the Associated Press, the movie delves into a narrative where Barbie starts in a world free from ageing, death, pain, shame, and self-consciousness but then undergoes a transformation, becoming self-aware – a tale with ancient roots.

Gerwig draws a parallel between Barbie's journey and the Garden of Eden story from the Bible. Like the once-perfect paradise that was marred by the introduction of sin, Barbieland is portrayed as an untouched realm, only to be disrupted and it requires her to unravel the mystery behind this disorder.

"I think I always go back to those older story forms because I went to Catholic school, and I resonate with them," she continued.

Interestingly, the movie has stirred varied reactions from Christian viewers. Some critics have expressed strong opposition, deeming it the "devil's work." One of the points of contention centres around Ken's portrayal as seemingly effeminate, raising concerns about masculinity and gender



roles, while others have praised the inclusion of biblical themes as a conversation starter.

Asked whether Barbie is suitable for children to watch, Rev Simon Carver, a film critic, said parents should be fearless in taking their kids to the movie.

"I would say go take your kids to see it, you know, and, and if they've got questions about it, talk to them about it afterwards..."

"I like the idea that some Christian themes are coming through it. I mean, the movies are full of Christian themes. Sometimes they're buried deeper than other times, but you know, they're there. Just look out for them. Watch things with the eye of the spirit."

The release of Barbie and Oppenheimer led to the most successful weekend at the big screen for Britain since 2019.

The UK Cinema Association says the films generated almost 30 million pounds at the box office.

Pope urges countries to do more to stop climate change

Pope Francis said on Sunday that recent heat waves across many parts of the world and flooding in countries such as South Korea showed that more urgent action was needed to tackle climate change.

"Please, I renew my appeal to world leaders to do something more concrete to limit polluting emissions," the Pope said at the end of his Angelus message to crowds in St. Peter's Square.

"It is an urgent challenge, it cannot be postponed, it concerns everyone. Let us protect our common home," the pope added.

Francis has called on the world to rapidly ditch fossil fuels and made the protection of the environment a cornerstone of his pontificate. He noted in his landmark 2015 "Laudato Si" (Praised Be) encyclical that the planet was "beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth".

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On Sunday, the pope expressed solidarity with those who were suffering from the climate crisis and those helping them.

Parts of the southern United States have baked in a record-breaking heat wave, while extreme temperatures have also been recorded in China and southern Europe, including Italy and Greece.

A wildfire raging on the Greek island of Rhodes forced thousands of tourists and island residents to shelter in schools and indoor stadiums on Sunday after they were evacuated from coastal villages and resorts.

Christian Aid: Russia's weaponisation of food exports is an attack on world's poorest people

International development agency, Christian Aid, says the hail of Russian missiles and threats against Ukraine's Black Sea ports and grain storage facilities this week, is a devastating blow for poor countries and has urged all parties keep talking to find a way for grain to reach countries such as South Sudan.

Christian Aid's Global Crisis Context Lead, Elizabeth Hallinan, said: "This weaponisation of food exports by Russia is an attack on the world's poorest people. It looks now that Russia has no interest in finding a deal to keep food flowing across the Black Sea to countries in need.

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"With international wheat prices now surging as a result of this rapid escalation, more vulnerable people will now be plunged into hunger. It is more critical than ever that all parties keep talking to find a way for grain to reach countries such as South Sudan that are desperate to feed their people."

In the media



Experts say 40C heat becoming increasingly likely in UK ahead of climate report

IRISH NEWS - Experts have said extreme heat and temperatures of more than 40C are becoming increasingly likely in the UK due to climate change as the Met Office prepares to publish its annual report.

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The weather agency will release its State of the UK Climate report for 2022, which saw recorded temperatures of over 40C for the first time as well as numerous wildfires and a record number of heat-related deaths.

It comes as extreme heat sweeps across Europe, North America, North Africa and Asia just a year later, while June 2023 was the world's hottest month on record.

Climate experts have warned that the 40C heat seen last year would not be possible without climate change and that Britain is underprepared for increasingly likely extreme weather events.

https://www.irishnews.com/news/uknews/2023/07/25/news/experts_say_40c_heat_becoming_increasingly_likely_in_uk_ahead_of_climate_report-3465934/

Windsor Framework will make the Irish Sea border worse than it has been under the Northern Ireland Protocol with grace periods, says House of Lords



NEWS LETTER - Owen Polley writes: A House of Lords committee has concluded major problems still remain with the Irish Sea border under the Windsor Framework, and the new arrangements will be worse than the status quo for many companies.

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In a 133-page report on Rishi Sunak's Brexit deal, published today, peers urged the government to "answer outstanding concerns highlighted by businesses and retailers". The issues it raised include worries about labelling, veterinary medicines, the effects of regulatory divergence, the movement of livestock and an apparent lack of clarity on how trade arrangements will operate in practice.

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/windsor-framework-will-make-the-irish-sea-border-worse-than-it-has-been-under-the-northern-ireland-protocol-with-grace-periods-says-house-of-lords-4230568>

Lord's Windsor Framework Report

IRISH AGREEMENT - Lord's Northern Ireland Protocol Subcommittee Windsor Framework Report contains 80 paragraphs of Conclusions and Recommendations which are very detailed and pick out the gaps in the UK government information on and overselling of the Windsor Framework

<https://twitter.com/irishagreement>

Thanks to the EU, Northern Ireland is now a foreign country

BREXIT FACTS 4EU - Kate Hoey : "Thanks to the EU, Northern Ireland is now a foreign country, they do things differently there." Baroness calls out Rishi Sunak's disastrous 'Windsor Framework' for what it is. Your #Brexit summary is here :

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https://facts4eu.org/news/2023_jul_hoey_on_northern_ireland



Secretary of State refuses to retract inaccurate sea border claim after misleading the public

BELFAST TELEGRAPH - Chris Heaton-Harris refuses to apologise after saying movement of plants would be simple. The Secretary of State has refused to clarify or retract claims he made about the transportation of plants

Rishi Sunak should have stuck with Boris Johnson's EU deal and not the Windsor Framework

EXPRESS - A new report suggests that hardline Remainers and Brexiteers both agree that Boris Johnson's Brexit deal with the EU was better than Rishi Sunak's Windsor Framework.

A damning new report by the House of Lords has concluded that Boris Johnson's interim Brexit deal on a crucial issue with the EU was better than the one struck by Rishi Sunak.

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The committee, which has Brexiteer DUP peer Lord Dodds and arch Rejoiner Labour peer Lord Haine on it, has unanimously agreed that Mr Sunak should not have signed the Windsor Framework and just stuck with the deal Mr Johnson agreed in the first place.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1794706/rishi-sunak-boris-johnson-brexit-windsor-framework>



Dublin's most segregated district

IRISH TIMES - Vast public resources have been used to reshape Dublin's north inner city – just not in the interests of its traditional inhabitants, writes Fintan O'Toole. The poorest part of inner-city Dublin is the triangle formed by the Custom's House, the Royal Canal and the Liffey.

Infertility: Cabinet set to approve publicly-funded IVF and IUI fertility treatments

IRISH EXAMINER - Publicly funded fertility treatments are due to be approved by Cabinet on Tuesday.

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Health Minister Stephen Donnelly will bring forward a memo on State funding for in-utero fertilisation (IVF) and intrauterine insemination treatment (IUI), with the scheme due to begin rolling out in September.

<https://www.irisht Examiner.com/news/arid-41190529.html>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

FINDING FREE EVENTS for the holidays

If you head to Eventbrite's website you can search events across Ireland and you can click the "Free" button to show all the free events, concerts etc across the country. If your church is running a free event this is another way to let people know about by registering the details on their website: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/>

Church's Ministry of Healing - The Mount

We resume our weekly Healing Services in St. Anne's Cathedral again this Friday 28th July at 1pm in the Cathedral Hall. Our speaker this week will be Mr. Norman Sleator. All welcome.

CFM news: The wait is over!

Finally we have our Summer Newsletter ready for your reading pleasure! With ideas of ways to stay connected with Children and Families through the holidays and a Back to

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School Intergenerational pack for you early planners. Click here to view online:

<https://bit.ly/3roOVPj> or here to download the PDF:

<https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/summer-newsletter-2023/>

A Steinway can take nearly a year to make

Witness the handcrafted process, from the raw wood to rim bending, to the action and soundboard, on our free virtual tour of the New York Steinway Factory

<https://fal.cn/3zRGI>

Perspective

IRA victim: Until we deal with the legacy of terrorism, we have little hope of reconciliation

A letter from the Canon Alan Irwin:

The voices and pleas of innocent victims and survivors have been ignored again, so what's new? ('MPs vote down Lords on legacy amnesty clause,' July 19, see link below)

Though I must add that many of the non victim/survivor dissenting voices to this bill may be nothing more than smoke and mirrors, publicly opposed but privately delighted. The decision taken by the government to forge on with its

‘Legacy and “Reconciliation” bill’ with some tinkering, and its insistence to keep the immunity clause isn’t surprising.

Is it a possibility that the government would be in a precarious position otherwise, given that terrorists were not only appeased with the Belfast Agreement of 1998, but given legitimacy on the world stage? There has been little appetite to hold them and their apologists accountable for the last quarter of a century, this latest legacy policy is but a continuum of existing policy.

There appears to be no appetite on the part of government to recalibrate society, to build on more solid foundations. The state presided over letting terrorists out of prison, on the run letters were dished out like confetti, royal prerogatives of mercy were granted and the dirty weaponry which held the ballistics and evidence to the crimes committed were permitted to be put beyond use, whilst terrorists bagged concessions into the bargain.

There was no accountability for wrongdoing, no genuine repentance, no denunciation of terrorist violence from the perpetrators. Could it be that the last 25 years has shown the then naivety of government to believe that such concessions to terrorists at the expense of the innocent victims and survivors, would bring an end to their reign of terror, whether physically and/or psychologically?

We have all witnessed the insatiable revisionist narrative, the shifting of blame towards the ‘state’, the constant retraumatising of innocent victims and survivors, the general acceptance of such by many now within society.

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Next to no rebuke of the same, no demands of the Republic of Ireland state to deliver for innocent victims and survivors, or of others who were equally culpable.

It pains me to think that the present government would have bought into that narrative and is now by this 'Legacy and "Reconciliation"' bill giving credence to the same.

That this it believes is its' best course of action, dispensing with justice and diminishing the rule of law. Until we deal with the legacy of terrorism, for that is what it is and deliver true justice then we have little hope of being reconciled. The legacy of terrorism will remain our present, and sadly will be our future, and the generations to come. And my family will continue to be failed, along with so many others.

Canon Alan Irwin, Lack, Fermanagh (his father Thomas and uncle Frederick were both murdered by the IRA)

MPs overturn attempts to remove immunity clause from Troubles legacy Bill as Shadow Secretary for Northern Ireland Peter Kyle labels it as 'a flaw'

[\[https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/mps-overturn-attempts-to-remove-immunity-clause-from-troubles-legacy-bill-as-shadow-secretary-for-northern-ireland-peter-kyle-labels-it-as-a-flaw-4223476\]](https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/mps-overturn-attempts-to-remove-immunity-clause-from-troubles-legacy-bill-as-shadow-secretary-for-northern-ireland-peter-kyle-labels-it-as-a-flaw-4223476)

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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