

Church News Ireland



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January 27, 2025

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Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

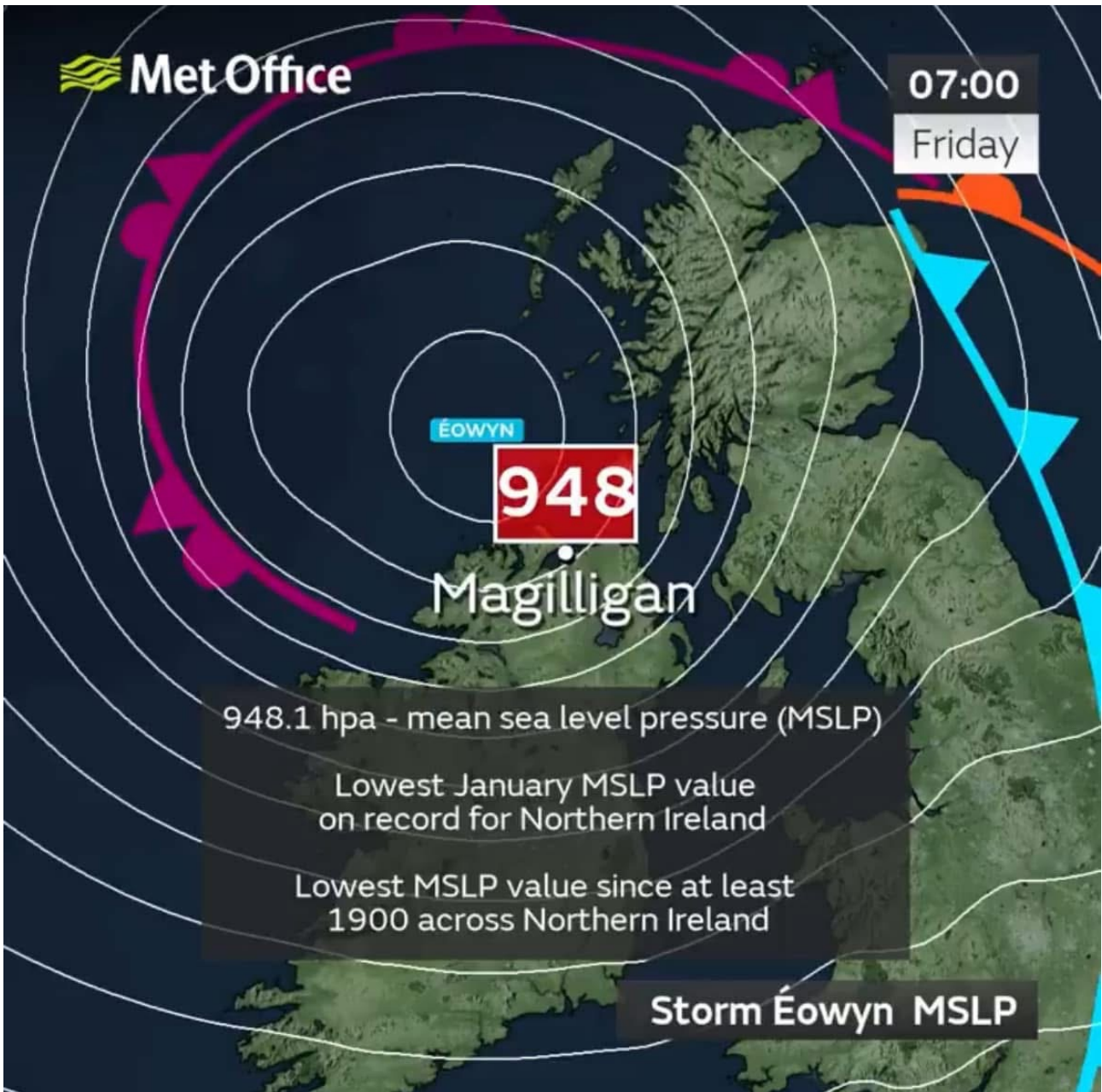
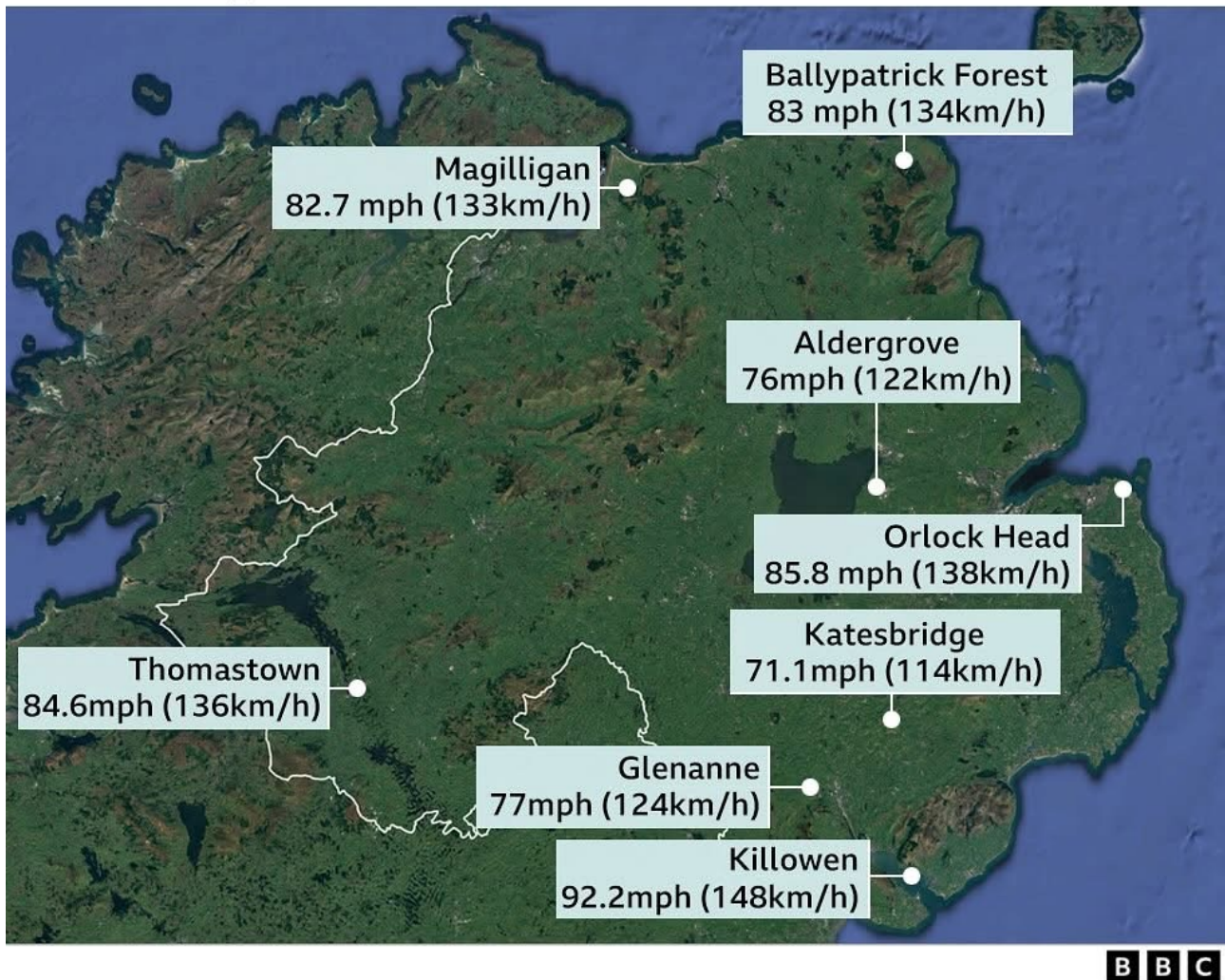


Image of the day – Storm Eoghwyn

Storm Eoghwyn affected most parts of Ireland. Slates off roofs and ridge tiles, trees uprooted, power lines ruptured, train lines to be checked for safety, and roads blocked. Airports mostly empty and flights cancelled.

Credit to the statutory agencies for their well announced closures on Friday. Few people travelled.

Gusts up until 11:00 GMT



Several churches were affected. The front page image on CNI today is of some of the majestic trees at Armagh Cathedral which were blown down.

A Church of Ireland parish group at Crossmolina, and Ballycastle posted on Facebook - Damage to our Churches in Storm Eoghwyn - We are sad to announce that some of our churches have suffered damage as a result of the wild winds experienced in storm Eoghwyn. As we are unsure of the extent of the damage we are advising that no service should take place in these churches, until we know more. We will have someone out early in the coming week to assess each church.



St Patrick's Parish Church in Boughshane provided community help

“It is very disappointing news and especially heartbreaking for Killanley who have only recently re-opened after a similar experience last year. As soon as we have an update we will inform you and we are hoping that things aren't as bad as we have expected”.

The Rector of Seagoe in Portadown said in a Facebook comment to a predecessor who was coping with the sun and the sea in Lanzarote - Enjoy the break. The storm in Seagoe was quite severe; we lost four ridge tiles, two major trees fell in the garden and two others were badly damaged, including one of the large chestnut trees in the side garden. The garden was otherwise strewn with branches from trees, and the driveway was impassable due to a large branch that fell across it. A huge tree fell from the High School across the road, blocking the road and downing the power lines. I think the tree is currently being removed, so hopefully the



Ahoghill and Connor Presbyterian Churches facilitated community support

road will be reopened and the power restored in a day or so”.

Churches and their congregations responded with help to

their local community. Connor Presbyterian Church: “It’s a very different morning in Connor from 48 hours ago when Storm Eowyn struck, but its impact is still being felt with many local homes remaining without power.



“Today you can make use of facilities at the church if you have no power at home. Bring your devices and cables and we

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will find a place for you to charge. There will be hot drinks served before the noon service (during Sunday School and Bible Class) and after the evening service, and hot water is available from the water boiler in the kitchen.

“The church will also be open from 3-4pm for anyone who needs devices charged or hot water.

“If we can provide any further help, leave us a message.”

1st Ahoghill Presbyterian Church posted : “We have heat and electric - if you have no electric or you know of someone with no electric, our church will be open from 9.30 this morning, where people can call in for hot water, electric to charge devices, or a hot shower, or just a cup of tea and a slice of toast. Pop in any time from 9.30am.”

News

Bookwell and St Mark's fundraiser for Scripture Union in East Belfast

The Book fair in St Mark's, organised by The Bookwell, Belmont Road, Belfast, on Saturday morning raised £1,140 for Scripture Union in East Belfast.

(May be some additional donations coming.) Thanks to all shoppers and volunteers..

This was the Book Well's 7th Second Hand Book Sale.

Two names are in the running to be the next Moderator of the Presbyterian Church

Rev Trevor Gribben, the Clerk of the General Assembly since 2014, and Rev Richard Kerr, minister of Templepatrick Presbyterian Church since 2005, feature on the shortlist.

The next Moderator will be announced early next month.

The church's 19 regional presbyteries will gather separately across Ireland to select one as Moderator-Designate.

Each of those meetings traditionally takes place on the first Tuesday in February, which this year is February 4, and whoever is selected will be formally elected and installed as Moderator during this year's General Assembly in June.

The church's current Moderator, Dr Richard Murray, will continue to serve in office until then.

Administering this process usually falls to the Clerk of the General Assembly.

As Mr Gribben, like Mr Kerr, is a nominee again this year, it will be overseen by deputy clerk, Rev Dr David Allen.

Dr Allen said: "While there was a large field of ministers to consider last year, when there were five names on the shortlist, over the last decade four names per election have

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been the average. Only once in that time, and that was 2023, have presbyteries considered just two names, so two isn't that unusual.

“Choosing a new Moderator, our most senior office bearer and chief public representative, is a relatively straightforward process, it is also an important part of the life of our church, a prayerful, open, and democratic, process that starts in late autumn.

“This is the time when members of presbytery begin to suggest names of ministers who they would like to see considered for the office. In the run up to Christmas, following the December presbytery meetings, I asked those on this ‘long list’ if they would be willing to have their names go forward, and this year two agreed.”

All ministers and the representative elder from each congregation within the Presbytery's bounds will vote for their preferred candidate.

Fantastic time at Newtownabbey Bible Week

“What a fantastic time we had at the Newtownabbey Bible Week this week!

“Bishop Andrew Forster was inspiring as he unpacked the book of Jonah for us and it was great to hear through

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various testimonies about how God is moving in our communities, especailly amongst young people. Different worship bands led us every evening and many of the local church leaders collaborated together in leading the evenings. It was great to see so many churches and Christians

coming together in unity. Thank you to everyone involved”.

East Belfast Mission New Year - New Challenge!

EBM says : New Year - New Challenge! Join us on Saturday 17th May for an unforgettable adventure! Walk along the stunning Causeway Coast Way.

Take in globally famous landmarks like the Giant's Causeway, and help us raise funds to end homelessness.

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Choose to walk 30 or 15 miles, every step makes a difference. Sign up today and be part of something truly great!

Archbishop calls Irish media North and South to share message of hope

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, today welcomed the annual World Day for Social Communications message of Pope

SANDY KELLY
An Evening Of Songs & Stories

Very Special Guest

MARC ROBERTS

08 FEBRUARY 2025
CHRIST CHURCH
CELBRIDGE
SANDYKELLYMUSIC.COM

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Francis, themed, 'Share with gentleness the hope that is in your heart.' See text below.

Archbishop Martin said:

"I welcome the 2025 communications day message published today by Pope Francis on the feast day of Saint Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. In his short but insightful reflection the Holy Father has specifically tailored his words to inform the mission of the media, as well as for anyone who communicates in the digital space

CONCERT FOR PEACE 

LED BY

*The Island Of Ireland
Peace Choir*

WITH MUSICAL DIRECTOR DR PHIL BRENNAN
CHRIST CHURCH CELBRIDGE
ON
SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2025
AT 7.30PM

 **SPECIAL GUEST**
DAVID CALDWELL
PIPER

Tickets €25



DOORS OPEN 6.30PM

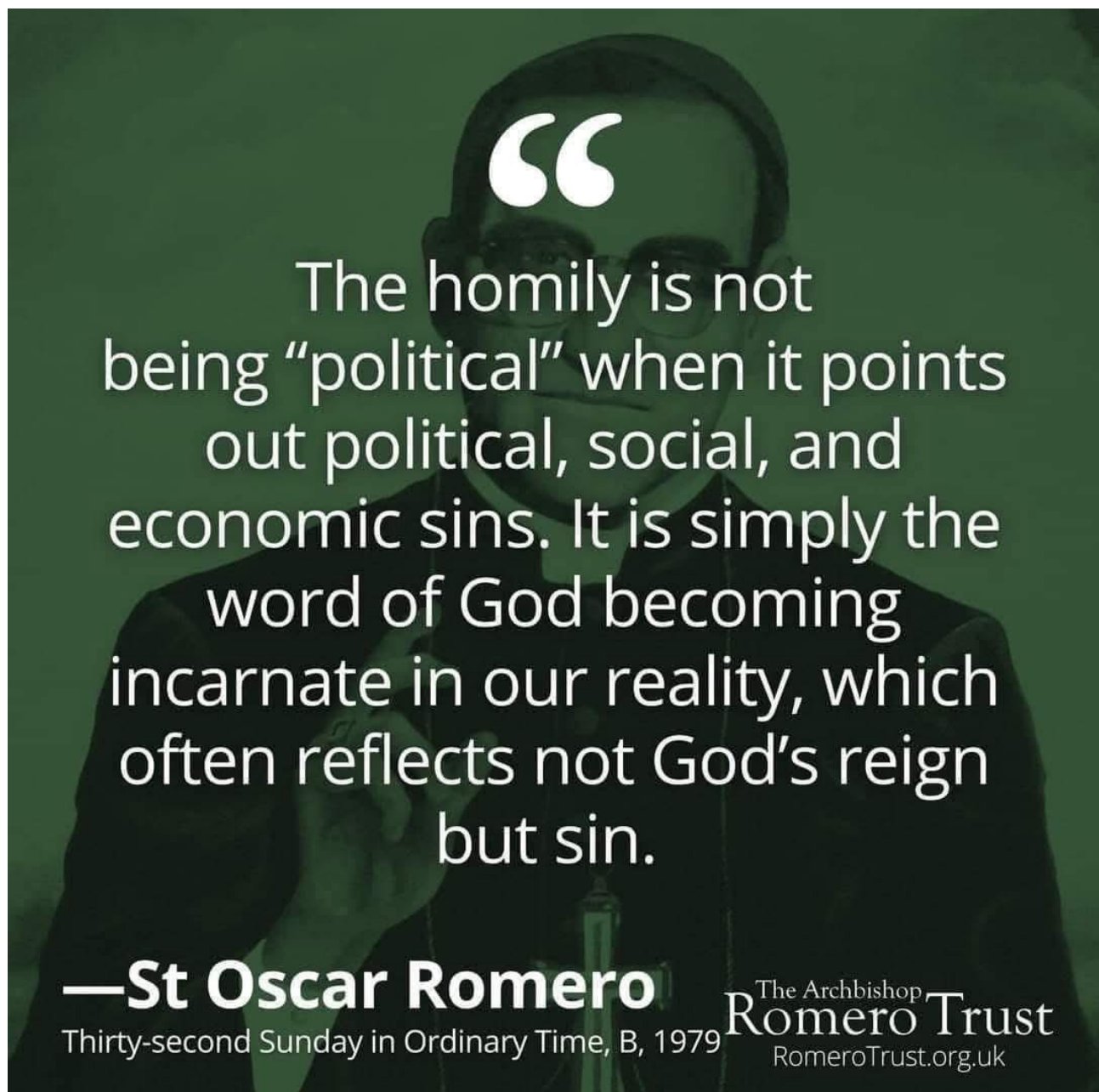
Tickets available 087 795 2271 or Eventbrite

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whether in a personal or professional capacity.

Underpinning his message is the importance of infusing 'hope' in communications, and this complements our role as pilgrims of hope during the Church's universal celebration of faith in this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025.

"In the context of Pope Francis' message, I encourage all working in media and journalism across Ireland to consider reporting and publishing opinion articles that offer hope and positivity to this island. There are so many of such stories



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around our country, North and South, where people bring joy and hope to others - and these acts exemplify the very best of humanity. Yet oftentimes people comment that news feeds only reflect a sense of despair and negativity. We all know that there are countless real-life stories that counterbalance such anguish and hopelessness. I invite reporters to seek out and give a platform to such uplifting stories during this Year of Hope."

CELEBRATE JUBILEE 2025

CAFOD's Little Book of Big Hope

A **free digital book** filled with prayers, reflections, and hope from around the world.



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development **CAFOD**

Archbishop Martin continued, "In today's message Pope Francis calls out the damaging effect of toxic commentary in the media which, far from being gentle, is 'characterized by disinformation and polarization ... Too often today, communication generates not hope, but fear and despair, prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred.' As an antidote, Pope Francis provides a clarion call for Christians to take risks for hope 'a hidden virtue, tenacious and patient', while not underestimating the effort involved. In doing so, we can collectively achieve the common good - a society filled with hope and that serves humanity to function as a better place for everyone, especially the vulnerable.

"Pope Francis reminds us that it is not an easy task to be a Christian communicator. However, we are assured that the Lord is with us at all times. Accordingly, we have a responsibility to speak up and explain 'the hope that is within us', and how we communicate 'should be steeped in gentleness and closeness', thus modelling 'the greatest communicator of all time, Jesus of Nazareth'."

Archbishop Eamon concluded, "Always sensitive to our emotional wellbeing and personal life experiences, Pope Francis reminds journalists in a fatherly, caring way, to be mindful not to neglect 'your heart, your interior life'; 'to be meek and never forget the faces of other people'; 'always spread hope even when it is difficult'; to communicate so as 'to heal the wounds of humanity'; to report the spirit of human perseverance when you see it in the most unlikely of places; to promote a 'culture of care, build bridges'; and, to 'tell stories steeped in hope, be concerned about our common destiny and strive to write together the history of our future'."

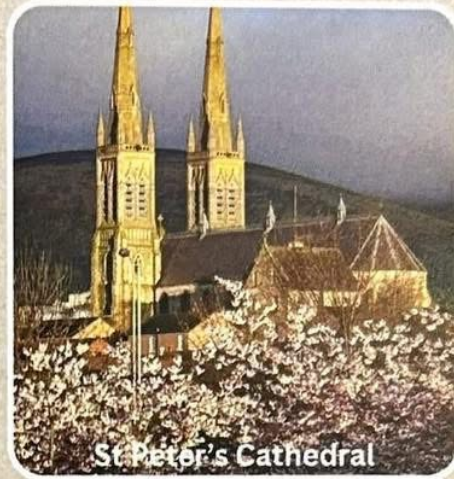
Cathedral Calls

“Matt Talbot A Saint for our Times”

Cause of the Canonisation of Venerable Matt Talbot



Ven. Matt Talbot
1856 - 1925



St. Peter's Cathedral

Matt Talbot Prayer Society Monthly Mass

St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast

February 3rd 2025 at 7.30pm

*The Relics of Ven. Matt Talbot shall be available for Veneration
from 5.00pm and after Mass concluding with
Night Prayer at 10.00pm*

The Order of the Knights of St. Columbanus are honoured, to have been appointed custodians of the Relics of Venerable Matt Talbot, as they journey to Cathedrals and Churches throughout the various Dioceses of Ireland that participate in the monthly Matt Talbot Prayer Society healing Mass. This Mass is offered monthly for those suffering from addiction and their families.



Matt Talbot Prayer Society

A Centenary Mass to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Venerable Matt Talbot's death will be celebrated in Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin on June 7th 2025. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin.

2025 - Venerable Matt Talbot Centenary Year

Clergy and ministry



Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome retiring

Retiring this month, the Most Reverend Ian Ernest has been the Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome (ACR) for five years.

The ACR is the permanent Anglican Communion presence in Rome, playing a key role in dialogue between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church.

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The ACR is also "the living reality of our Communion's commitment to the full visible unity of the Church, working collaboratively with all Christians for justice and peace in the world."

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Archbishop Ian spoke to the Anglican Communion News Service about highlights from his ministry. Full text at -

<https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2025/01/reflections-on-the-ministry-of-the-anglican-centre-in-rome-interview-with-archbishop-ian-ernest.aspx>

More than 100 young adults gather for Ministry Experience Scheme conference

A Church of England scheme that helps young people to explore their vocation has been described as a 'great hope' for the future, as more than 100 young people gathered for its annual conference.

Young adults aged between 18 and 30 years old with the Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) met for a day of learning, networking and worship at St Mary's in Marylebone, central London.

The event was led by participants from the Diocese of London, with speakers including the Bishop of Plymouth and his wife Dr Liz Grier, who is a recently ordained curate, and the Rev Dr Grace Bally-Balogun, Church Plant Enabler at The Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication

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The Rev Canon Nick McKee, Director of the Church of England's Ministry Development Team, who led a short commissioning service for the participants, said: "Over 900 young people from all backgrounds and traditions have explored God's call on their lives since the MES began over a decade ago.

"The energy, boldness and humility of this group is truly inspiring and offers the Church and the communities we serve across the country, a sign of great hope for the future.

"It was a joy to be able to commission the current cohort as they dedicate a year to God."

Speaking to participants, the Rev Helen Fraser, Head of Vocations and Deputy Director of the Church of England's Ministry Development Team, said: "The Church of England has always had need of faithful, hope-filled, gospel-centred people to serve and to lead its worshipping communities.

"That need is particularly profound at the moment and I and others pray regularly for more people, from all different backgrounds, to discern a call to ministry – lay and ordained, in all kinds of communities.

"We have prayed and continue to pray for you. I believe God continues to have good plans and purposes for his church."

For more than a decade, MES has provided a broad ministry experience for young adults.

Each person's year is formed around practical experience such as chaplaincy, social justice ministry, preaching and

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Sunday services, digital media, pastoral visiting, event organisation, evangelism and kids and youth work.

Participants described their favourite thing about the scheme so far. Hannah from Durham highlighted “the opportunity to actually serve the Church, to join in with a little bit of preaching and also get involved in some activities with the children.”

Speaking after the gathering, the Bishop of Plymouth, James Grier, said: “It was wonderful to meet so many young people who are actively exploring God’s calling on their lives whilst serving local churches of all shapes and sizes.

“It is fantastic that they have this opportunity to experience ministry in the context of a wider cohort of peers whilst also receiving such great local and national input. It is a brilliant way to foster and develop vocations across the church.”

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Bookings are coming in well for Armagh Youth "Big Overnight"

The event is on on 1st and 2nd March 2025.

There is space for some more - please get your booking in to David Brown (via email: doycarmagh@gmail.com) by Wed 29th January.

<https://www.facebook.com/266953909344778/posts/627899366583562>

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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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**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

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