

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Flames of faith**



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## Image of the day

### Flames of faith

From a beacon lit by the Bishop of Down and Dromore beacons were taken to churches throughout the diocese and each parish and congregation took part over March 17 and 18.



The front page photograph is of the beacon at the Church of St Philip and St James in Holywood. The photograph above is of James with the beacon he received at Downpatrick Cathedral and which he brought to his home parish of Holy Trinity, Ballylesson/Drumbo.

On the following page are photographs from the Parish of Aghalee. The weather on the pilgrimage from Saul to





Downpatrick and for many of the Parishes witnessing to their faith was far from convivial.





Aspects of the service at Down Cathedral on Saturday.



## News

### **Lay leader's forty years of service to diocese**

**Wilfred Baker has represented the Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross on the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.**

Bishop Paul Colton of Cork, Cloyne and Ross commented, "Recently he attended his last meeting on our behalf. I pay tribute to him and thank him. This has been truly remarkable, faithful and generous voluntary service.

"More than that he participated in and led many working groups and sub-committees in the course of that generation of service. Thank you, Wilfred."

### **Another Lord Lieutenant's Cadet from RSA CCF**

Royal School Armagh says it is honoured to have another Lord Lieutenant's Cadet from the school CCF - Combined Cadet Force. Congratulations to Cadet Sergeant Tom McWilliams. He will assist the Lord Lieutenant for County Armagh, The Earl of Caledon, KCVO in his official duties. Tom was invited to a special reception with his family at





Hillsborough Castle to be presented with his certificate. “Well done Tom, we know that you will excel in your official duties”.

## **GFS Diocesan Service and Prizegiving**

**Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe GFS Diocesan Service and Prizegiving took place in Nenagh on Saturday March 9th.**

Girls and leaders from Birr, Borrisokane, Cloughjordan, Nenagh and Roscrea attended and participated in the service.

Prizes were presented by Bishop Michael Burrows and All Ireland president Alison for Bible Study and Crafts

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respectively. Well done to all the prizewinners and participants.

## **Bushmills rector and wife train for London Landmarks Half Marathon challenge**

**The Rev Brian Harper, rector of Dunluce Parish, Bushmills, and his wife Heather are currently in training for the prestigious London Landmarks Half Marathon.**

Wending its way along the streets of Westminster, passing many of London's iconic sights, 17,000 runners took part in last year's challenge with a similar number expected to start on April 7.

Parkrun veterans, Brian and Heather are both raising funds for charity. Brian was successful in applying for a ballot place in the run and will be running for Alzheimer's Research UK while Heather secured her place through Dementia UK and will be fundraising for the charity.

Brian moved to Dunluce last August from Magheracross Parish, Ballinamallard, where he had been rector since 2012. It was in Ballinamallard he first discovered a passion for running 10 years ago after hearing about the Enniskillen Parkrun on the radio.

"I had been doing a bit of jogging, so I did it once and realised there were people taking part who had the same level of fitness as me although others did it much faster," Brian said.



The Rev Brian Harper, rector of Dunluce Parish, Bushmills, and his wife Heather are training for the London Landmarks Half Marathon in April.

Now the 5k Parkrun is a weekly fixture and to date he has completed 238 Parkruns! Quite an achievement!

Brian and Heather also volunteer with Parkrun – marshalling, scanning barcodes, timekeeping etc. It was through volunteering that Heather also picked up the running bug.

“I started volunteering in 2015. I have arthritis, and had not been able to run, but my medication changed in 2016, and I saw all these other people out running so I did a ‘Couch to 5K’ training programme and completed my first Parkrun in 2016,” Heather said.



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The London Landmarks event will be her first half marathon. “I plan to run and walk – they call it ‘Jeffing’ – a lot of people do runs that way,” Heather said.

The couple will start together but won’t stick together along the route as Brian is not planning on ‘Jeffing!’ “I find walking just as exhausting as running,” he commented.

This won’t be Brian’s first half marathon as he completed the Liverpool race in 2016 in a time of 2hrs 25 mins.

The Covid-19 pandemic interrupted their running schedule as Parkruns had to be called off, but Brian continued to pound the roads, and in fact did a ‘Covid London Landmarks Half Marathon’ on his own in Ballinamallard.

“It was a lot harder and also a lot slower. I had asked people to put different landmarks in their gardens, so the kids enjoyed doing that and I found a landmark on a garden on every street. I was fundraising for Prostate Cancer UK,” he said.

Both are now back in training. Heather is raising funds for Dementia UK in memory of her mother Sadie Hewitt who suffered from dementia for several years before her death in 2017.

Brian said that his choice of charity was also inspired by Heather’s mum. He added: “In ministry, I have encountered the impact of this condition on so many families. ARUK will be able to fund the research required to either prevent or alleviate the mental and physical distress that this dementia can cause.”

The couple are looking forward to the atmosphere in London on race day. “As far as running a half marathon can be, it’s supposed to be a fun event, with music, cheer stations at the different landmarks and lots of people in fancy dress,” Heather said.

The Harpers themselves will not be wearing fancy dress, but will be cheered on by family members and grandchildren who will travel to London to support them.

If you would like to encourage Brian and Heather by donating to their chosen charities, you can do so online via Justgiving Brian or Justgiving Heather. Links at - [\[https://connor.anglican.org/2024/03/07/london-landmarks-half-marathon-challenge-for-brian-and-heather/\]](https://connor.anglican.org/2024/03/07/london-landmarks-half-marathon-challenge-for-brian-and-heather/)

## **Old Campbellian to head Cambridge College**

### **Congratulations to Professor Chris Young on his recent election as Master of St Edmund’s College, Cambridge**

His fellow Old Campbellians are well pleased - “We take immense pride in celebrating the achievements of our OCs, and Professor Young's success is a shining example of the exceptional talent within our ranks”.

The very first OC to gain entry to Cambridge was George R Thompson (197). He obtained first place in a Mathematical Exhibition for Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge in 1897. He attended the college from its inception in 1894 and was



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awarded a leaving scholarship by the college of £30 per year for three years (which according to google equates to just under £5,000). He went on to teach at Campbell, Harrow and was a Housemaster at Holt between 1920-36. A letter which he wrote to the then college magazine, The Touchstone, in his first year at Cambridge is held on the records of Sydney Sussex see -

<https://www.oldcampbellians.co.uk/news/of-interest/1138/1138-Master-of-St-Edmunds-College-Cambridge>

## Jubilee celebrations at St Patrick's Church, Clonleigh



**Looking down from on high at St Patrick's Church and its grounds at Murlog, Parish of Clonleigh, as the parish commences a year of Jubilee celebrations - sixty years**

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since the opening of this lovely church and fifty years as an independent parish (formerly Camus & Clonleigh).

Welcome to everyone as we start our Jubilee celebrations of sixty years since the opening of our beautiful church and fifty years as an independent parish. Photo courtesy of Gareth Wray Photography.

<https://clonleighparish.com/2024/03/15/celebrating-60-years/>

## **Tribute to Dr David Lawrence by Bishop Michael Burrows**

**Bishop Michael Burrows has paid tribute to the late Dr David Lawrence who in a project spanning almost a quarter of a century from 1991 to 2017 photographed and researched some 3,000 windows throughout the Church of Ireland, and devised the Gloine database (published online at [www.gloine.ie](http://www.gloine.ie)) which will stand for future generations.**

Bishop Burrows writes:

‘Dr David Lawrence, news of whose sudden death has brought sadness to many across the Church of Ireland, was a man of many talents. He was scholar, an aesthete, a skilled photographer who for over a quarter of a century from 1991 was a visitor literally to every Church of Ireland church on this island where stained glass was to be found. He came among us already possessed of a mine of information concerning stained glass artists and



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manufacturers, along with a deep knowledge of their styles of work and iconographic aims.

Caption: Dr David Lawrence hard at work photographing just one of those many windows. Shared with kind permission by the Lawrence family.



David became the embodiment of a remarkable project, perhaps unique in the world, partnered by the Heritage Council and the RCB, to photograph, assess and describe every single stained glass window in the Church of Ireland. For him it was an exacting labour of love, and its marvellous outworking in the form of gloine.ie will long remain an outstanding resource for researchers, and a lasting tribute to his tenacity and affection for his subject.

I crossed paths with David on many occasions, most notably during my years as Dean of Cork when he was working ... a major task in itself ... on the extraordinary glass of St Fin

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Barre's Cathedral. I will always recall the high standards he set for himself, his attention to detail, his own artist's eye. On June mornings he would rise to be in the cathedral at a very early hour, catching the rising summer sun as it bathed the glass with what he always called God's light. He taught me that the same window never looks the same on any two days of the year.

David was a true and courteous gentleman, a gracious host over a good meal in a restaurant by the Lee, a person of profound spirituality who himself always worked to advance the glory of God. He could be finicky as well as fun, indignant as well as indulgent and at times he could be as delicate as the glass he loved to study. But he opened the eyes of many to the beauty that is all around them, and shone wondrous light among some of the greatest yet least known treasures of the Church of Ireland. The muse of history will be eternally grateful to him: a myriad of friends and admirers will never behold the like of him in our midst again.'

The Gloine database is published online at [www.gloine.ie](http://www.gloine.ie).

## Cathedral call

### **ANÚNA in St Patrick's concert at Belfast Cathedral**

**St Patrick's Day weekend got off to a great start with ANÚNA in concert.**

They are a vocal ensemble formed in Ireland in 1987 by Irish composer Michael McGlynn. The group has recorded



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18 albums and achieved a high level of international success, including a significant role in Riverdance from 1994 to 1996.

Now considered, Ireland's national choir, under the musical guidance of McGlynn, ANÚNA feature constructions of medieval song from Ireland and traditional arrangements as showcased in their most recent album *Otherworld*, a startlingly beautiful record that promises much for the future of the group.

It took place in the hauntingly beautiful setting of Belfast Cathedral, an experience like no other, leaving us awestruck by the sights and sounds of this incredible vocal spectacle.

## **Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph ecumenical canon at Christ Church, Dublin**

**Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph was born in Romania. He was ordained in 1994 at the monastery of the Cathedral of Alba Iulia.**

He went to France in the summer of 1994 to study at the Saint-Sergius Institute of Orthodox Theology in Paris. Since arriving in France he provided the liturgical and spiritual service of the monastery of monastics Notre-Dame-de-Toute-Protection in Bussy-en-Othe, in Yonne. He was elected Archbishop in November 1997 by the Assembly of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of Western and Central Europe. Speaking of his new position on the Cathedral Chapter, Metropolitan Archbishop Joseph said he

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was honoured to be invited to become an Ecumenical Canon. “It is an honour to be an Ecumenical Canon in Christ Church Cathedral. I am glad to know the Anglican tradition and hope to reenforce our relationship between our two Churches.

The Orthodox community is received in Anglican churches Dublin and we hope to honour that presence and to open our tradition to Dublin,” he commented adding that the Romanian Orthodox community is the largest Orthodox community in Ireland.

23 MAR	Palm Sunday Vigil 5:30 PM
24 MAR	Palm Sunday 11:00 AM
27 MAR	Mass of Chrisim 11:00 AM
28 MAR	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30PM
29 MAR	Good Friday 3:00 PM
30 MAR	Easter Vigil 9:00 PM
31 MAR	Easter Sunday 11:00 AM

St Peters Cathedral Musical Services

St Peter's  
Catholic Cathedral, Belfast

# EASTER EVENTS





**THURSDAY 21ST MARCH @ 7PM IN THE BELFAST JESUIT CENTRE**  
EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT  
**THE CAMINO**

*Join us for an enlightening Camino talk tailored for first-time walkers! If you have questions about embarking on this transformative journey, we've got you covered.*



Our experienced guides, **Brendan McManus SJ** and **Susanne Bradley**, will share insights, tips, and practical advice to ensure your Camino experience is unforgettable.

From what to pack to navigating the trail, we'll address all your concerns and provide valuable guidance every step of the way.



Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, adventure, or are simply curious about the Camino, this talk is perfect for you.

Belfast Jesuit Centre,  
193 - 195 Donegall Street,  
Belfast BT1 2FL  
[belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk](http://belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk)  
[belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com](mailto:belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com)

Don't miss out on this opportunity to prepare for your Camino pilgrimage and embark on the journey of a lifetime. Come along and start your Camino adventure on the right foot!

To register, email [belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com](mailto:belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com)

# HOLY WEEK

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**PALM SUNDAY 24 MARCH**  
**THE BETRAYAL // JOHN 18:1-14**

Knockbreda 6:30pm  
Special Guests: The Templemore Band

**MONDAY 25 MARCH**  
**THE DENIAL // JOHN 18:15-27**

St Jude's 7:30pm

**TUESDAY 26 MARCH**  
**THE TRIAL // JOHN 18:28-40**

Knockbreda 7:30pm

**WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH**  
**THE SENTENCE // JOHN 19:1-16**

St Jude's 7:30pm

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 28 MARCH**  
**THE CRUCIFIXION // JOHN 19:16-27**

Knockbreda 7:30pm  
+ The Lord's Supper





# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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