

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – The Ardagh Chalice

Image of the day



The Ardagh Chalice

The Ardagh Chalice, widely regarded as one of the finest examples of Celtic art, is part of the larger Ardagh Hoard, a collection of metalwork discovered in 1868 in a hoard in the ringfort of Reerasta, near Ardagh, County Limerick, Ireland.

Unearthed by two local boys this hoard offers a glimpse into the religious and artistic traditions of early medieval Ireland. The chalice, along with a number of other artifacts, was found buried in a small stone-lined pit.



The Ardagh Chalice is a breathtaking example of early medieval Irish metalwork artistry, dating back to the 8th century AD. Crafted primarily from silver and adorned with gold, bronze, and intricate enamel work, this ecclesiastical vessel displays a harmonious blend of Celtic motifs and Christian symbolism.

The chalice stands on a footed base, which is elaborately decorated with intricate patterns of interlacing animals and geometric shapes. Around the bowl's circumference are panels of fine filigree work, featuring delicate knot patterns and minute animal figures. The underside of the base contains polished rock crystal.

The chalice also boasts twelve beautifully detailed apostle figures and four intricate circular brooches, each embedded with colored enamel and a band of gold filigree. These decorations, besides adding to its visual appeal, also hold



spiritual significance, with each apostle representing one of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

The inner bowl is crafted from beaten silver, while the outer is embellished with over 350 individual pieces, demonstrating the extraordinary craftsmanship and attention to detail of its creators.

One of its standout features is the cast bronze wirework, presenting a cross nestled within a circle, symbolizing the blend of Celtic and Christian traditions. The chalice's handles are particularly striking, showcasing a magnificent level of detail with opulent gold filigree panels, shimmering glass studs, and intricate carvings of both animal and human heads.

March 20, 2024

The base of the chalice is adorned with additional gold work, crowned with a lustrous rock crystal at its center. This gem cleverly conceals the edge of the copper stem, serving both a functional and aesthetic purpose.

The chalice is 18 cm high, 19.5 cm in diameter at the rim, and weighs 1,5 kg. Text National Museum of Ireland.

Photographs by Merike Joosep

News



25th tree planted by Cork bishop

Watched by Susan Colton and the CEO of Cork City Council Ann Doherty, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr

March 20, 2024

Kieran McCarthy joined Bishop Paul Colton, on St Patrick's Day, in planting an Irish oak tree in the bishop's garden to mark his 25 years as bishop.

Bishop Colton commented, "It's the 25th tree we've planted in the garden during our time here. The oak tree, growing well, behind Susan was planted by us to mark the Millennium".

Boys' Brigade Battalion parade at Mountjoy

Boys' Brigade members who attended the Battalion annual parade and church service at Mountjoy, Omagh on Sunday 3rd March.

Credit to the Boys who attended, to the Leaders and to all who helped with the transport

GFS TLK Diocesan Service and Prizegiving

Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe Girls' Friendly Society 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.

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Prizes were presented by Bishop Michael Burrows and All Ireland president Alison for Bible Study and Crafts respectively. Well done to all the prizewinners and participants.

Meet Esther Mugisa Sabiti, a member of the MU savings group, Baraka

Thanks to the savings group set up by her Mothers Union, she has been able to buy a smartphone.

Lūmināre Kiran Young Wimberly & The McGraths

Celtic psalms

Candlelight Concert

Special Guest
Eilidh Patterson

Mon 25th March
St Augustines Church
Palace St Derry

Tue 26th March
Fitzroy Presbyterian Church
University St Belfast

Tickets £15+ BF
Doors 6.45pm
Show Starts 7.30pm

Tickets available from www.musiccapital.org

MUSIC CAPITAL

Esther's tailoring business is now thriving as she can advertise her designs, stay connected with clients and attract more customers, expanding her reach and impact.



She's growing her very own business and the result? She's lifting herself out of poverty.

This is happening across Mothers' Union programmes in Burundi, South Sudan, Ethiopia and DRC – so we know that these programmes work, and crucially, they are making a difference for women like Esther.

Not only that, these new-found skills have enabled the participants to engage in sending and receiving money safely, allowing women to take ownership of their own savings and build an income for the future.

Together, we are building a future where everyone thrives.

Appreciation of MU's community collaboration by Letterkenny agencies

“Today, we had the pleasure of welcoming Anne Smith, Mother's Union, and Jacqui Armstrong, Diocesan President of Mothers' Union Derry & Raphoe at our Letterkenny office.

“We were delighted to receive these incredibly beautiful hand-knitted teddy bear packs crafted by the talented members of the Mother's Union.



Carrick Parish Church *Nearly New Sale*

Shop through a range of nearly new clothes for men, women and children, toys, books, homeware and more!

at

**Christ Church Hall,
Main Street, Limavady**

for the week commencing

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th April

between

10am and 4pm

All proceeds towards Carrick Parish Church Building Projects

See you there!

*Bag a bargain and support your local community!
FREE ENTRY*

March 20, 2024

These heartwarming welcome packs will soon find their way into the arms of Ukrainian refugee families across the county, thanks to the support of Mary Walker Callaghan and team at Lifestart Service CLG.

“A massive thanks to the Mother's Union for their thoughtful contribution”

Cathedral call

Corrymeela at Coventry

Alexander Wimberley writes - “I left for Coventry on Saturday sad and exhausted. I returned today elated (and exhausted).

“I am very grateful to the saints of Coventry Cathedral (and Birmingham University's chaplaincy) who hosted me so graciously -- and for those who listened to a sermon in the cathedral and a lecture afterwards. In both instances I arrived as an added responsibility for folks dealing with more important aspects of life -- and at every moment I was met with grace and generosity.

“Life is good. People are good.”

The cathedral has added both the sermon and the lecture to their website. You can find them here - scroll down to sermons and date: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services>

March 20, 2024

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Sanctuary at Holywood Parish Church

Fast follow on the concert on Saturday 16th March last - the parish will also be hosting "Sanctuary", a concert with the Holywood Sinfonietta and their very own parish choir on Saturday 20th April.

The programme for the night will include:
Albinoni - Adagio for organ and strings
Vivaldi - Gloria

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Elgar - Serenade for Strings
Fauré - Cantique de Jean Racine

Tickets priced £15.00 are available now through the parish office or online at:

<https://holywood-parish-church.sumupstore.com/>



**HOLY WEEK
IN SEAHILL**

**HOLY TRINITY
GLENCRAIG**

**THE TABLE
THE TREE &
THE EMPTY TOMB.**

**Palm Sunday 24th March, 11.00am
COME AND SEE**


**Monday 25th March, 6.30 - 7.30pm
MESSY EASTER,**
For all children, parents and carers.

**Tuesday 26th March, 7.30pm
JOURNEY WITH JESUS**

**Wednesday 27th March, 10.30am
HOLY COMMUNION**

**Maundy Thursday 28th March, 7.30pm
HOLY COMMUNION**

**Good Friday 29th March, 12noon
AN HOUR AT THE CROSS**

www.holytrinityglencraig.org  



The poster features a teal-to-brown gradient background. At the top left, the word "Creative" is written in a large, white, cursive font, with "SOUL" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. In the top right corner is the "NEW IRISH ARTS" logo, which includes a stylized white bass clef symbol. The central part of the poster is a collage of four images: a person painting on a canvas, a woman playing a piano, a man and woman singing into a microphone, and a person playing a keyboard. A red octagonal badge with the text "NEW FOR 2024" is overlaid on the bottom left of the collage. Below the collage, the text "A Residential Weekend for Adults 7-9 June 2024 Drumalis Retreat Centre" is displayed. To the right, a paragraph describes the initiative, followed by a bulleted list of activities. At the bottom right, there is a call to action to "Find out more and book at" with a link to www.newirisharts.com/creative-soul enclosed in a white-bordered box.

NEW FOR 2024

Creative SOUL

NEW IRISH ARTS

A Residential Weekend for Adults
7-9 June 2024
Drumalis Retreat Centre

Creative Soul is a brand-new initiative for 2024, providing an opportunity for adults to come together for a residential weekend to participate in different creative activities, spend time in the Bible and in worship together, and enjoy fellowship and friendship with each other, in the stunning coastal setting of Drumalis.

- Experience new artistic expressions
- Explore our relationship with our Creator God
- Enjoy the company of other participants
- Escape the daily routine

Find out more and book at
www.newirisharts.com/creative-soul

Creative Soul

A Residential Weekend for Adults with New Irish Arts

7-9 June 2024 | Drumalis Retreat Centre

Find out more and book in now at
newirisharts.com/creative-soul

Donegal Easter Sunday Dawn Service

Set your alarms for the return of the Sunrise Service!

Easter Day (31st March 2024) at 6.30am at the Old Abbey, Donegal Town, followed by breakfast at the Rectory next door. With special guests Tír Chonail Youth Choir.

Apply now for the Yale Organ Academy

This is a unique and enriching educational opportunity for advanced undergraduate organ students to work with some of the nation's top artists/teachers on the Yale University campus.

For one week, receive daily lessons, participate in workshops on topics related to organ literature and church music, study on notable organs at Yale, and in New Haven and its environs, and hear performances by faculty and each other in evening events. Students will encounter organ playing and teaching of the highest caliber and will meet their peers in other organ departments from around the country.

June 23-28 at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music in New Haven, CT. Application deadline is March 31. Details at: <https://ism.yale.edu/events/yale-organ-academy-2024>

Royal School Chaplaincy Vacancy

The Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, seeks applications for the dual roles of Church of Ireland

March 20, 2024

Chaplain at The Royal School, Cavan, and Diocesan Youth and Children's Coordinator for the Diocese of Kilmore.

This is a full-time position serving both the youth and children of the diocese and the students and staff of The [...] https://www.dkea.ie/royal-school-chaplaincy-vacancy/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook



Handel's Messiah
...In a Day

SING in the CHOIR or ATTEND the CONCERT

Saturday 23rd March 2024

**Lowe Memorial Church, Finaghy,
Belfast, BT10 0LL**

TO SING	CONCERT
PLEASE REGISTER NOW	7pm
www.lowe.church/InADay	followed by refreshments

For group bookings please contact: JamesC@Lowe.Church
For a paper registration form please phone: 02890 626561

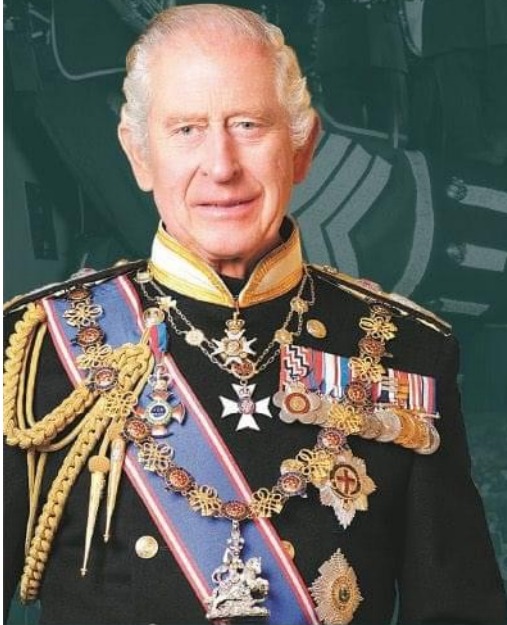
CHOIR	CONCERT	DONATION
10am coffee & registration	7pm	Singers & audience
10:30am-12:30pm rehearsal	followed by refreshments	suggested minimum
12:45pm-2:45pm free time*		donation £15 .
3.00pm-5.00pm rehearsal		Profits in aid of
5.15pm-6.45pm free time*		Love For Life &
7pm performance		Parkinsons UK

*There are lots of local food options available however please feel free to bring your own. Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day.

soprano **CHARLOTTE O'HARE** | alto **MARCELLA ROBINSON** | tenor **GLENN TWEEDIE**
bass **RYAN GARNHAM** | organ **PHILLIP ELLIOTT** | Conductor **DEREK COLLINS**

**Army
Benevolent
Fund**

ALL THE KING'S MEN



Matthew Forsythe



Gary Wilson



Clara Wilson



Diana Culbertson



Sophie French



Rock Choir
Ballyhackamore & Hollywood



Ballroom Blitz NI



Hosted by
Paul Clark MBE

Belfast Waterfront, Sat 6th April 2024 at 7.45pm

**Featuring The Band, Bugles, Pipes & Drums of
THE ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT**



Tickets £23 - £33

Box Office: www.waterfront.co.uk or 02890 334455 (after 12pm)

To find out more about events near you, contact your local Army Benevolent Fund office:

Army Benevolent Fund NI
Building 115, Thiepval Barracks
Lisburn BT28 3NP

T: 02892 678 112
E: ni@armybenevolentfund.org

[armybenevolentfund.org
/northern-ireland/](http://armybenevolentfund.org/northern-ireland/)



For Soldiers. For Life.

Army Benevolent Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (SC039189) and registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609).

Perspective

Please join us in continuing to pray without ceasing for the Holy Land

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Prayer by Archbishop Hosam Naoum, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

In the media

Daily Telegraph - Churches in crisis as a quarter of parishes are without wardens

Up to a quarter of Church of England parishes do not have wardens, new figures show, Gabriella Sterling writes

The voluntary role is responsible for a number of duties, including the maintenance of church buildings, supporting the parish priest, and administrative tasks. But a survey of the Church's 42 dioceses has revealed the extent of the staffing crisis faced by the institution amid warnings that volunteers have been "taken for granted for too long".

Of the dioceses that replied to questions, 40 per cent of parishes had only one churchwarden, while between five and 21 per cent had none. Furthermore, one diocese reported that 22 per cent of its parishes were missing one or more people in key positions this January, according to the survey conducted by The Church Times.

The Rev Marcus Walker, chairman of the Save the Parish campaign group, said: "The national church loves to put paperwork on to the backs of clergy and volunteers, and then turns around and acts surprised when people find other things to do." The reverend, who is also Rector at St Bartholomew the Great in the City of London and a member of the General Synod, added: "Step one to saving the Church at the local level is to stop \[making] volunteering in a Church so hard to do. Volunteers have been taken for granted for too long; now it's time to value them properly." Last year, a Telegraph analysis found that between 2016 and 2021, 278 parishes disappeared and were either reorganised or merged as the figures dropped from 12,510 to 12,232.

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According to ecclesiastical law, parishes that do not have any churchwardens, a secretary or treasurer, “may no longer be quorate and are at risk of compliance failure”.

Retired Adml Sir James Burnell-Nugent who is a churchwarden at St Peter and St Paul Church, Ermington, in Devon, said: “We need more volunteers for all the essential chores that make the church a warm and happy place to worship.”

Andrew Rumsey, the Bishop of Ramsbury, said the challenge in recruiting volunteers is widespread across the charity sector.

Daily Telegraph 19/03/2024

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
