

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Downpatrick the heartland

News

Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough thanks generous and heartfelt support of Gaza hospital

Archbishop Michael Jackson writes - On behalf of everyone involved in our Diocesan Shine a Light appeal for the Diocese of Jerusalem's Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, I want to thank all who have donated for your generous and heartfelt support.

You have been constant in your giving since the early days of Advent 2023 until now. Once again, thank you for your donations which, to date, have amounted to in excess of €210,000.

It is not possible for me to correspond with each of you individually. I hope that you will accept this thank you as a genuine expression of our gratitude as we remember the plight of those in Gaza, in Israel, in the West Bank and throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem in these days.

We continue to call for peace. We continue to pray for peace. We cry out that mercy be shown to those deprived of shelter, water, food and personal dignity.

We condemn all violence and war. And we stand with those worldwide who call for hostilities to cease and for a lasting and just solution to issues that have lain unresolved.



Confirmations underway in Down and Dromore

Down and Dromore's 2024 schedule of Confirmations is underway with 30 candidates confirmed at services in Magheralin and Seapatrick, Banbridge.

This year's theme is The Shepherd King. Bishop David will be preaching on Psalm 23 and the New Testament reading is John 10:1–15

Where possible, the bishop meets with the candidates, their families and sponsors beforehand and during the service we hear some personal testimony from at least one candidate.

Josh Thornbury will be on hand, supporting the parishes as they celebrate this milestone in the lives of their young people. The confirmees will all receive gift bags and afterwards, the whole congregation is invited for desserts (supplied by the parish). DDYC will bring a donut wall, popcorn machine and a pick and mix station to the party!



This Stained Glass Window of the Women going to the Tomb can be found inside St. Teresa of Avila Church in Brooklyn, NY. First of three photos today.

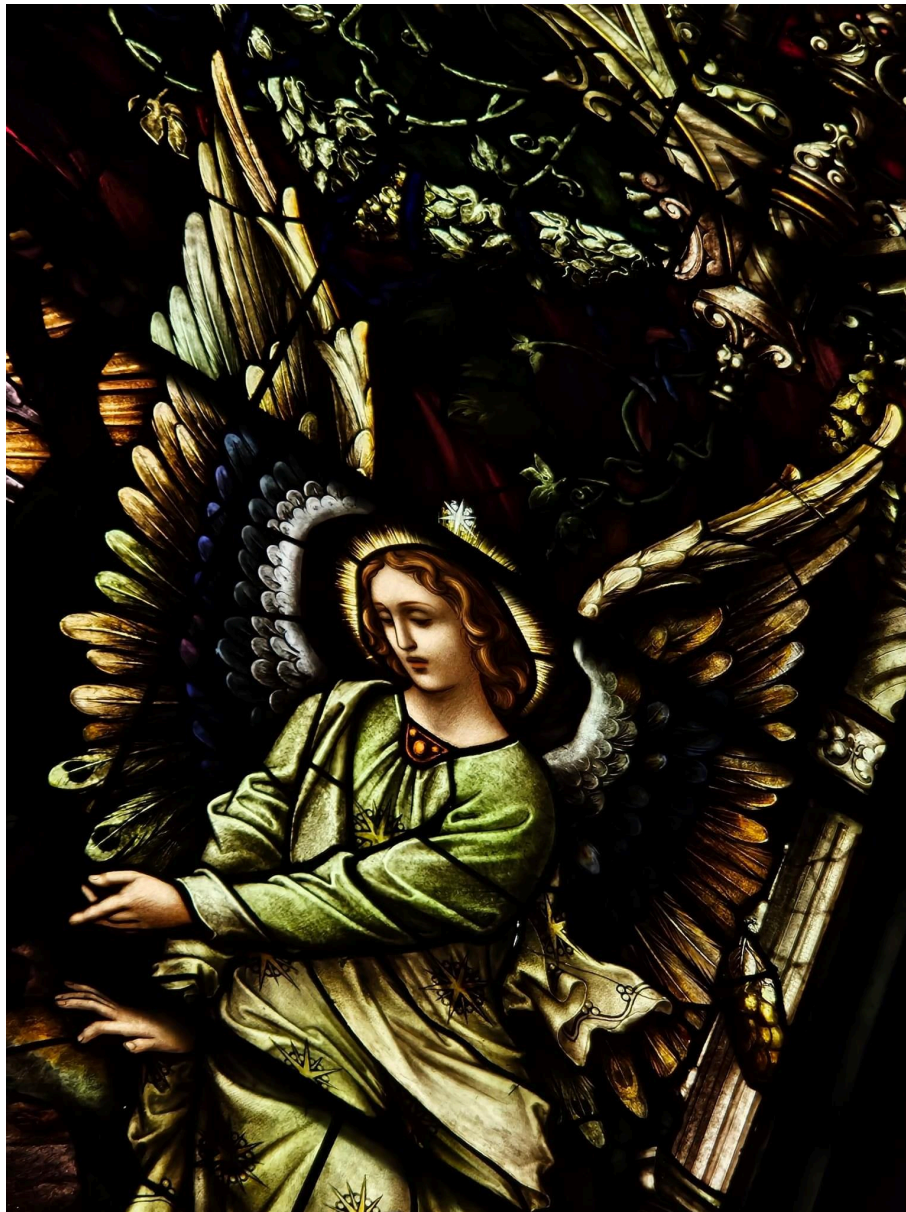
Offerings collected at Confirmation Services go to the Diocesan Bishop's Ministry Fund and are used to support the faith development of young people in our churches through Confirmation.



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The next confirmation service will be hosted by St Columba's, Knock on Sunday 19 May at 3.00pm and the season will last until Sunday 24 November.

Please pray for all those who have been or will be confirmed this year.



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Derry music in May Day sunshine

Soprano Susan Wilson made the May Day sunshine feel even brighter this afternoon when she delivered the latest in the CCCMSP Group's First Wednesday Lunchtime Recitals series at Christ Church Derry.

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Susan – a regular performer with Londonderry Musical Society and double nominee for an Outstanding Performance

Award with the National Operatic and Dramatic Association – performed an enchanting variety of soprano classics.

Her repertoire included Caccini's 'Ave Maria'; Mozart's 'Voice, Che Sapete' (from the Marriage of Figaro); 'The Sun Whose Rays' from the Mikado, by Gilbert and Sullivan; and

HOLY COMFORTER CHOIR

NORTH CAROLINA, USA

Director: Patrick Pope

Organist: Joby Bell

singing Choral Evensong at

ST MARK'S CHURCH DUNDELA

Wednesday 15 May, 3.45pm

ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL

Thursday 16 May, 5.30pm



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'Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again', from the Phantom of the Opera, by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Susan was accompanied by – and paid tribute to – Ben McGonigle, who began the recital on the church organ before switching to piano. Among those in the audience were her teacher, Marcella Wright, and mentor Jim Goodman.

Hymns from Home

Aghanloo joint choir will be presenting 'Hymns from Home' in Aghanloo Parish Church on Sunday 19th May at 7pm.

The choir from the Derry & Raphoe parish have gathered together a number of well-known hymns written by – or linked to – composers and writers from Northern Ireland. The Rector, Rev Rhys Jones, invites you to join them as they come together "to sing hymns from 'Our Wee Country' to celebrate our great big God".

All funds raised will go towards a commemorative plaque for serving and former members of the military and the police. Everyone is welcome.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby endorses Rome Call for AI ethics

The Archbishop of Canterbury endorses the "Rome Call" effort for ethical development of artificial intelligence, saying “Let us all work to ensure that the



dignity of every human being, created by God, not for profit or productivity, is central to all we do.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has joined other illustrious leaders, ethicists, and university professors in signing the "Rome Call" for the ethical development of artificial intelligence. Archbishop Welby, leader of the Anglican Communion, endorsed the initiative on 30 April at a ceremony in Rome at the headquarters of the Pontifical Academy for Life, according to a note from the Academy and its RenAIssance Foundation.

The Call for AI Ethics is a document that “aims to foster a shared sense of responsibility for human dignity amid rapid technological advancements.”

Working for human dignity

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“I am delighted to support the Rome AI Call, which emphasises the dignity of every human being amid technological change,” Archbishop Welby said when signing the document on behalf of the Church of England.

“While we can't predict the future, we do know that there will continue to be rapid developments in science and technology and we need to be prepared,” he noted. While recognizing the enormous potential AI can offer “in improving human capability,” he emphasised that we must also strive “to protect, preserve and cherish the dignity of the human person.” The enormous advances made in AI, therefore, “cannot be the sole property of its developers, or any single part of the human race,” but benefit all in serving the common good, safeguarding climate, and aiming at sustainable development.

"So much of how we understand Artificial Intelligence," Archbishop Welby concluded, "comes down to how we understand the nature of being human" and our working together "to ensure that the dignity of every human being, created by God, not for profit or productivity, is central to all we do."

Pope Francis to participate in G7 session on AI

Looking to the common good

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life and the Renaissance Foundation expressed his satisfaction with the “inclusion” of our

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Anglican brothers and sisters and thus the “further step of growth” of the Rome Call.

“When reflection and dialogue on issues of technological development meet in a spirit of fraternity,” he writes, “it is possible to find shared paths and effective solutions to build peace and the common good.”

Fr. Paolo Benanti, Extraordinary Professor of Ethics of Technology at the Pontifical Gregorian University and



scientific director of the RenAIssance Foundation, also enthusiastically welcomed this event, stating, “With this new growth of the Rome Call we can look with renewed confidence to algorethics, that is, to the positive contribution of the ethical approach to artificial intelligence. It is never merely a matter of innovation. Rather, it is about transforming the latter into human development. It is also very important that the heritage of human wisdom represented by religions speaks to the whole of humanity, enhancing what is shared in order to address contemporary challenges.”

Since the launch of the Rome Call in February 2020, many stakeholders have signed the document including representatives from the Abrahamic religions and the Italian government, and companies such as Microsoft, IBM, and Cisco.

The Rome Call for AI Ethics

The Rome Call for AI Ethics is a document conceived and promoted by the Pontifical Academy for Life, as well as the RenAIssance Foundation, established by Pope Francis in 2021 with the aim to promote its call for an ethical approach to artificial intelligence. The idea is to foster a sense of shared responsibility among international organizations, governments, institutions and the private sector as part of efforts to create a future in which every individual can benefit from advances in technology, and so that technological progress ensures that the dignity of every individual and our common home is respected. By investing in a new algoretic, signatories commit to follow what the

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Rome Call principles cite in terms of transparency, inclusion, accountability, impartiality, reliability, security and privacy.

RenAissance Foundation

The non-profit RenAissance Foundation promoted by the Pontifical Academy for Life aims to support anthropological and ethical reflection on new technologies and their influence on human life. In promoting the Rome Call for AI Ethics, the RenAissance Foundation supports scientific initiatives and collaboration with international organizations, nations, universities, research centers, private and public companies that develop activities, services and studies in the field of artificial intelligence.

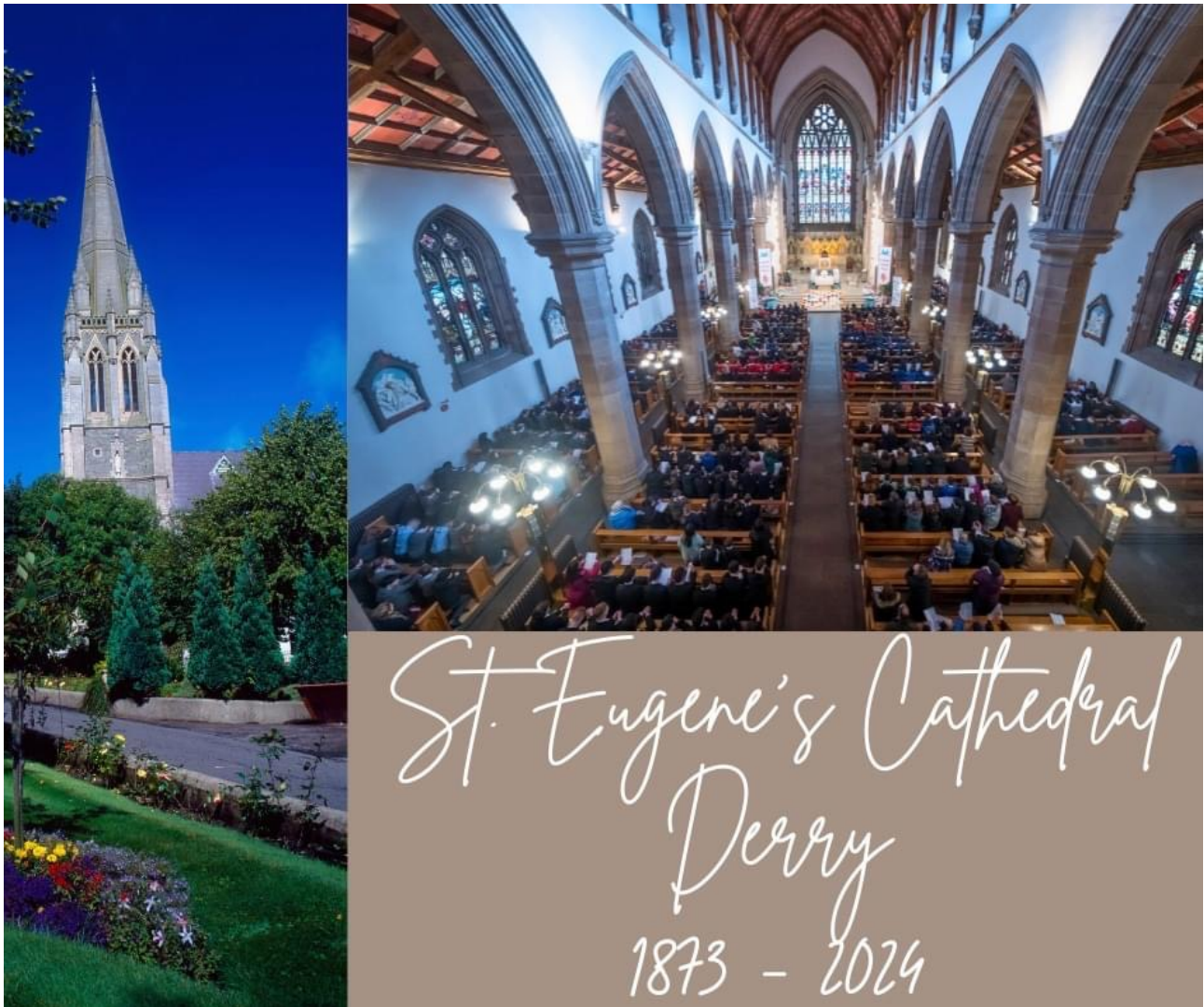
Cathedral Call

151st Anniversary of St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry

The very first Mass was celebrated on the morning of 4th May 1873. Over the next 151 years many generations of people have celebrated their faith in the Cathedral.

St Eugene's is also the parish Church of Templemore. It has been where so many significant moments in people's lives have been celebrated and where many people come every day to pray.

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D-Day 80 Community Service in St. Macartin's Enniskillen

D-Day 80 Commemorative Community Service is taking place in St. Macartin's Cathedral Enniskillen on Thurs 6 June.

The service will be followed by the D-Day 80 National Beacon Lighting Ceremony & Piper's Tribute.

Hosted by the RAF Association - Fermanagh Branch & all welcome.



Plan your tour of York Minster

Ready to elevate your visit to York?

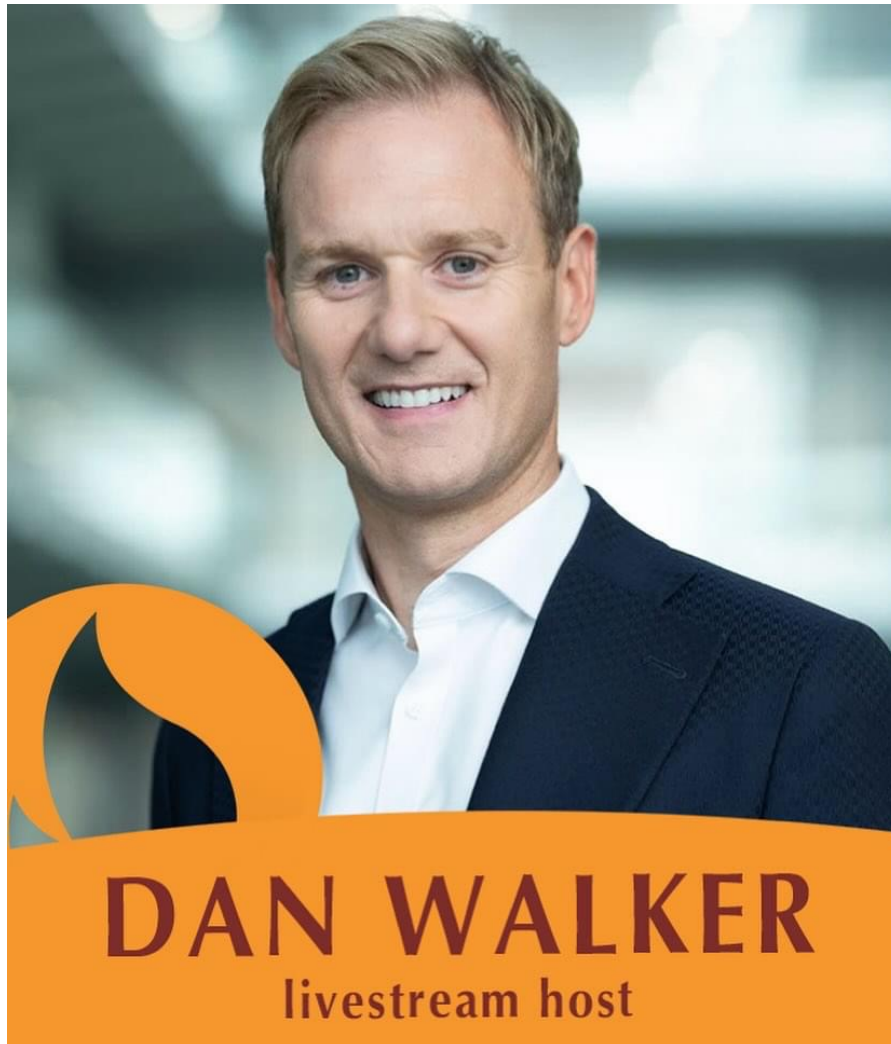
Rise above the hustle and bustle as you climb the 275 steps to the top of the Minster's Central Tower.

Take your time enjoying the spectacular views stretching out in front of you and find a moment of calm high above our historic city.

Plan your next visit today:
yorkminster.org/visit/plan-your-visit/

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Prom Praise: Chariots of Fire from London's Royal Albert Hall

**All Souls Music at the Royal Albert Hall is now on You
Tube**

Dan Walker is an award winning journalist, broadcaster, and author. He is currently the anchor of Channel 5's evening news programme and hosts the breakfast show on Classic

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FM. He previously presented BBC Breakfast for 6 years and Football Focus for 12 years.

Prom Praise: Chariots of Fire is proud to present Dan Walker as our Livestream Host. Visit the All Souls Music website or YouTube channel to stream the live event at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday May the 4th! Coverage begins at 7:15pm BST

All Souls Music: <https://www.allsoulsmusic.org/>

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/PRcNopU6hLM?si=VB-Zi-GLI1DmALsK>



Sexuality – A series of Interactive Bible Studies from Methodist Church

These studies have been designed for use by people with a wide range of views, experiences, ages, contexts, Biblical knowledge and learning preferences.

The purpose of these Bible studies is to resource local churches and others to engage positively with the topic of sexuality in the Bible, to enable the Church to have a more Biblically-resourced conversation about sexuality, including at Conference, and to model approaches to scripture and good conversations, including good disagreement.

→ Learn more at: bit.ly/4b9Xu21

BRF's New online Parenting Teens course for church groups

Have an exploration of the Bible Reading Fellowship's brand new online Parenting Teens course for church groups of parents and carers of tweens and teens! The course explores:

★ God's plan for teens – An overview of how teens differ from children, the role of parents and carers and 'creating windows' – a simple tool to help teens see the power of a relationship with God.

★ Tying together truth and experience – As we frame all sorts of experiences for our teens, we can help them make sense of who God is and answer their questions.

★ Connecting to God – prayer – Communication is at the heart of every authentic relationship so our teens need to

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discover their own voice as they communicate with God and learn to catch his communication too.

★ Unknotting wrong views of God – Teens have multiple voices telling them who God is and, like all of us, they may develop wrong views that affect their relationship with him. We can help them spot and unknot wrong views.

★ Teenagers and church – Getting our teens to engage with church is not just about Sundays. We can show them the fullness of church and help them to engage with it whatever their situation.



Healing Service
"Today is the Day of your Miracle"

7.30pm Tuesday 30th April

St. Finnian's Parish Church
Cregagh Park
Belfast

Valerie Murray

Prayer Ministry and Anointing with Oil



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★ A godly core of confidence – Teens often struggle with confidence because they are hearing the wrong messages about where confidence comes from. We can proactively help them grow a godly confidence that will set them up for life.

BRF says - Sign your church up now for this six week course starting on 4 June. Find out more here -

<https://www.brfonline.org.uk/.../parenting-teens-online...>

Poem for today



Twice Shy

By Seamus Heaney

Her scarf a la Bardot,

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In suede flats for the walk,
She came with me one evening
For air and friendly talk.
We crossed the quiet river,
Took the embankment walk.

Traffic holding its breath,
Sky a tense diaphragm:
Dusk hung like a backcloth
That shook where a swan swam,
Tremulous as a hawk
Hanging deadly, calm.

A vacuum of need
Collapsed each hunting heart
But tremulously we held
As hawk and prey apart,
Preserved classic decorum,
Deployed our talk with art.

Our Juvenilia
Had taught us both to wait,
Not to publish feeling
And regret it all too late -
Mushroom loves already
Had puffed and burst in hate.

So, chary and excited,
As a thrush linked on a hawk,
We thrilled to the March twilight
With nervous childish talk:
Still waters running deep
Along the embankment.

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
