

# Church News Ireland

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March 7, 2025

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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## Image of the day



### **Aimee-Leigh abseils for Abaana**

**Well done to Aimee-Leigh of Rainey Endowed School on her charity abseil! Aimee-Leigh is a member of the school's Abaana 2025 team.**

Rainey Endowed writes - "At the weekend Aimee-Leigh (& her mum!) abseiled down the Europa in Belfast to raise money for our building project at Rainey Summit View Primary School in Uganda.

"This is just one of a number of fundraising events our team are involved in to raise money for our building project this

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Summer. Thank you to all those in the community who have supported the coffee mornings, table quizzes, gym sessions & other sponsored events. We really appreciate your generosity.”

## News

### Capella Caeciliani to sing St Patrick's Day Mass in Paris



*Matthew Quinn, musical director*

**“We're honoured to be providing the music at the St Patrick's Day Mass for the Irish community in Paris” say the 25 strong choir based in Northern Ireland.**

The Mass will be celebrated in the fabulous Church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont (completed in 1624), which contains the tomb of St Genevieve, patron saint of the City of Paris.

The church also has a fine musical pedigree across the centuries. The composer Maurice Duruflé was its organist from 1929 to 1986 and we will sing his setting of "Uni Caritas" at Mass in his honour.

## **London: Third anniversary of war on Ukraine marked with prayers and rally**

**A moving Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine took place at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London, to commemorate the third anniversary of Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine.**

The cathedral was decked out in sunflowers - Ukraine's national flower. Many members of the congregation wore sunflower badges, while some were draped in the yellow and blue flag.

The packed service began with a procession of workers and volunteers from the Ukrainian Welcome Centre who lit three remembrance candles in front of the altar, while the cathedral choir sang the hymn Under Your Grace. Among the congregation was Shadow Foreign Secretary, Dame Priti Patel, Migration and Citizenship minister Seema Malhotra and the Mayor of Westminster Cllr Robert Rigby.

After the St Mary's Ukrainian school choir sang the hymn 'Peace is What We Want' Fr Taras Mykhalchuk, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul's Garrison Church in Lviv, in western



Ukraine, gave a powerful testimony of his experiences in an area ravaged by the war. He said that since 2015, his church often conducts funerals, marriage ceremonies and baptisms of Ukrainian military personnel all in one morning. Fr Mykhalchuk thanked the British public for their support, adding: "We really feel your friendly shoulder."

**The Vivo Quartet and String Trio Modus** gave a beautiful performance of Sontse Nyzeko (The Sun is Setting).

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**Faith leaders:** the Anglican Bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally, Sr Masorti Rabbi Wittenberg, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Loullias, Coptic Archbishop Angaelos and Catholic Bishop Jim Curry then offered prayers for peace.

**The Ukrainian ambassador to the UK,** General Valerii Zaluzhnyi gave a short speech saying: "For three years, our people have been fighting for not just our land, but for our freedom and justice... He said Ukraine was "deeply grateful" to the UK, adding, "Your support gives us strength and hope."

The service ended with choirs leading singing of the spiritual anthem of Ukraine and God Save The King.

## **Scottish Episcopal Church hosts welcome day for new clergy, leaders, diocesan staff**

**Newcomers to the Scottish Episcopal Church and members of staff from the General Synod Office got together this month at Provincial Welcome Day in Edinburgh, to learn more about the church and how it operates, and to make useful contacts with others.**

Each year, invitations are extended to the newly ordained; those newly authorized as lay readers, clergy or lay readers who have come to the province from outside Scotland; and new members of staff at diocesan offices. Among them this year was the Rev. Nicholas Bundock, the new bishop-elect in the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway.

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This year's attendees were welcomed by the new secretary general, Dee Bird, who was also enjoying her first experience of Welcome Day.

After opening worship led by the Rev. Elizabeth Thomson, the gathering heard an overview of the history of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and its place in contemporary Scottish society, from Primus Mark Strange. The morning session also included sessions on provincial governance and the General Synod Office, the Scottish Episcopal Institute, the church's Net Zero strategy, and safeguarding.

In the afternoon, Bishop Ian Paton guided the group through the history and development of Scottish Episcopal Church liturgies, then Claire Benton Evans, the provincial youth coordinator, gave a presentation on youth work, reminding everyone that young people are not the church of tomorrow but the church of today.

A networking opportunity then took place, to get to know others in similar positions in the church or to talk with GSO staff and establish provincial links, before the Rev. Anna-Claire Thomasson-Rosingh of the Scottish Episcopal Institute brought the day to an end with closing worship.

## **Ukrainian church in Oklahoma says Trump has 'teamed up with Putin'**

**A Ukrainian American church has said it is “infuriated” that US President Donald Trump seems to have “teamed up with Putin”, after a disastrous Oval Office**



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## **meeting between Presidents Trump and Zelensky last Friday.**

Pastor Raphael Moore told Koco 5 News that he watched the press conference with a feeling of despair.

“I was so angry I had steam coming out of my ears,” he said.

The meeting between the two leaders – along with Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio – went rapidly downhill, as the Vice President accused Zelensky of not being grateful for US military funding.

The US President appeared irritated several times and repeatedly talked over his Ukrainian counterpart.

Brian Glenn, White House correspondent for the right-wing leaning outlet Real America’s Voice, asked Zelensky why he did not wear a suit, to which JD could be seen chuckling. The Ukrainian President has said before that his clothing – reminiscent of a military uniform – is to symbolise the fighting gear worn by those on his country’s frontlines.

"I will wear a costume when this war is finished," the Ukrainian leader responded. "Maybe something like yours. Maybe something better. Maybe something cheaper."

Whilst some have criticised the Ukrainian leader's choice of words, others have pointed out that he was speaking in his third language. The Ukrainian word for suit is "kostium" - pronounced "costume".

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Pastor Moore said he believed the President and Vice President had “tag teamed” Zelensky, setting him up for an awkward encounter.

“He has teamed up, as it were, with Putin,” Pastor Moore added. “I would like to see him back in Ukraine. I would like to see him team up with the good guys.”

## **EU Catholic bishops call for European unity and solidarity with Ukraine**

**In the context of increasing complexity and geopolitical uncertainty surrounding peace in Ukraine, the Presidency of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) issued a statement on Tuesday, 4 March 2025, expressing strong support for Ukraine. COMECE: "Ukraine's struggle for peace will also be decisive for the fate of Europe and the world".**

The statement emphasises that "Ukraine's struggle for peace and the defence of its territorial integrity is not only a fight for its own future. Its outcome will also be decisive for the fate of the entire European continent and of a free and democratic world."

In a geopolitical landscape that the EU bishops describe as "complex" and marked by "the unpredictability of actions taken by some members of the international community", the Presidency of COMECE calls on the European Union and its Member States to remain united in their commitment to supporting Ukraine and its people.

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"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a blatant violation of international law. The use of force to alter national borders and the atrocious acts committed against the civilian population are not only unjustifiable but demand a consequent pursuit of justice and accountability," the statement reads.

The EU bishops affirm that a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine can only be achieved through negotiations, which should be backed by strong transatlantic and global solidarity and must involve Ukraine. "In order to be sustainable and just - state the EU bishops - a future peace accord must fully respect international law and be underpinned by effective security guarantees to prevent the conflict from re-erupting."

COMECE urges the international community to "continue to assist Ukraine in the reconstruction of the destroyed infrastructure" and specifies that Russia "must adequately participate in this effort." The Presidency of COMECE emphasises that Ukraine is the victim in this war and Russia the aggressor, stressing that any attempts to distort the reality of this aggression must be firmly rejected.

Regarding Ukraine's request to join the European Union and the internal reforms undertaken to achieve this goal, the EU bishops call on the EU "to advance with the enlargement process in a timely and fair manner alongside other candidate countries."

The statement concludes by expressing hope that the European Union "will remain faithful to its vocation to be a promise of peace and an anchor of stability to its

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neighbourhood and to the world", particularly at a time when the contours of a new global security architecture are being redrawn.

The declaration follows the recent interview with HE Mgr Mariano Crociata, released last week to mark the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In the interview, the President of COMECE not only underscored the need for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine but also warned against "a disgraceful spectacle" that falsely portrays the victim as the aggressor.

## Education

### MCB visits Vatican

Yesterday (Monday March 3!) "our pupils who are visiting Rome had the opportunity to visit the Vatican and explore its rich history and beautiful architecture whilst enjoying a bit of sunshine.

"From ancient ruins to a vibrant city, our



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pupils are having an amazing time visiting Rome on the RE Trip.

“They have visited the iconic Colosseum and the Mamertine Prison, a significant site where the Apostle Paul was held, which will support their learning for their A Level Studies”.

## Rector with Guinness at Killtallagh National School

Reverend Mark visited us, and he brought along his



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wonderful friend, Guinness!

Guinness is a big, beautiful black dog, and everyone was delighted to meet him.

Reverend Mark had a lovely chat with both classes, and we really enjoyed his visit. Thank you, Reverend Mark—we hope to see you and Guinness again soon!

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## Shape the future with a Master's from QUB in Climate Change

**Join the upcoming webinar to explore how MSc Climate Change can equip you with the skills, knowledge, and expertise to drive real impact.**

Meet the teaching team, hear from current students and learn about career opportunities in the UK and globally.

Date: 20th March. Time: 12pm (UK Time GMT). Online—  
Register now

(<https://www.qub.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-taught/climate-change-msc/>)

## Holocaust Education Ireland Study Visit to Berlin 2025

**We invite teachers, professors, students, and anyone passionate about history to join us on an unforgettable study visit to Berlin, 21-24 April 2025**

This incredible opportunity will take you to Holocaust memorial sites that hold powerful stories and memories. You will have the chance to visit historically significant memorials, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and speak directly with Holocaust survivors, gaining unique insights that can't be found in a textbook.

Don't miss the chance to witness history in person and gain a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and its lasting

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impact. This is more than just a trip – it's an experience that will stay with you forever.

Total cost of study visit: €790 (includes flights and transfers, accommodation, tickets for guided tours and entry to museums)

NB: 50% deposit required to secure your place on the study visit.

If you have any questions, please contact [info@holocausteducationireland.org](mailto:info@holocausteducationireland.org)

Register here: <https://ow.ly/Zf7950V9fZM>

## Cathedral Calls



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## Armagh receives the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue

**What a beautiful celebration as Archbishop Eamon received the Statue of the Sacred Heart and consecrated the Parish of Armagh to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

The Parish invites, “Please do drop into the Cathedral to pray at the statue and to consecrate your heart to the Heart of Jesus”.

Armagh Parish has four churches; St Patrick’s Cathedral, St Malachy’s, Knockaconey and Tullysaran.



# Clergy and ministry

## Wilfred Young, OBE, MA, Dip Ed

**Saddened to learn of the passing of Mr Wilfred Young, OBE, Headmaster at Cookstown High School (1971 – 1990) and a Lay Canon of St Patrick’s Cathedral Armagh**

An erudite, warm, and kind gentleman, Wilfred had a great affection of the local area and dedication to Cookstown High School and the progress of students.

With a deep love for Latin, classical literature and ancient history, it can be said of Mr Young that he continued to read and learn: ‘ancora imparo’.

During his time at The High School, he oversaw the amalgamation of the former Grammar School and Secondary School; a major building and renovation programme, the introduction of GCSE and other new developments in the school curriculum.

Mr Young played a significant role in the School’s history, and many will remember his approachable nature, readiness to listen and advise, and steadfast support. He is a great loss to the school community; whose heartfelt and deepest sympathies are extended to Mr Young’s family.

A classics scholar. An old boy of Foyle College, a Fellow of TCD, and former teacher of English & Classics at The Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt.

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He was a committed member of the Church of Ireland and shared his service and talents with parish, diocese, the General Synod and boards who appreciated his insights and the manner of his communication. This was recognised when he was appointed a Lay Canon of Armagh Cathedral.

## Events

### Portadown Male Voice Choir to perform in Enniskillen

**The Portadown Male Voice Choir, which has more than 40 members from Northern Ireland, will take to the stage at the Enniskillen Methodist Church on March 15 at 7.30pm.**

The choir, which was founded in 1926, has been sharing music for almost 100 years.

They have received numerous awards for their performances across the UK and Ireland, including the **Cork International Choral Festival**, which they have won more times than any other group in the history of the competition.

The choir was also awarded the **International Peace Award** by the organising committee of the Cork Festival for their efforts in promoting reconciliation and building cross-border relationships.

Throughout the years, the choir has shared the stage with many renowned artists.

In 1995, they were invited by Phil Coulter to perform with him at RTE Studios Dublin for the launch of the now-famous rugby anthem, Ireland's Call.

The choir has also had the honour of performing at various prestigious events, including a live performance at the BBC NI studios in Belfast and a garden party at **Aras an Uachtarain for President Mary McAleese.**

**The Elliott family and friends will also be performing at the event.**

The Elliott family began singing together during the 2020/21 lockdown, recording hymns that were used online by St Mark's Aghadrumsee.

In January 2023, they joined forces with the Morrisons from Maguiresbridge to form the 'Elliott family and friends.'

Since then, they have been joined by other family members and friends, including their grandfather, Dean Raymond Ferguson.

Over the last two years, they have performed at various church services and concerts across the island of Ireland, with Christmas events being the highlight.

The group enjoys singing traditional hymns in four-part harmony, usually unaccompanied.

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Their performance at the Enniskillen Methodist Church this March promises to be an unforgettable evening of music and song.

The choir invites everyone to join them for this special event, and tickets are available now by contacting 07768 531919. Report courtesy The Impartial Reporter.

## **Church's Ministry of Healing Dublin and Glendalough Quiet Day**

**The Church's Ministry of Healing Dublin and Glendalough Annual Quiet Day 2025 will take place on Saturday 22 March, in Newcastle Parish Centre (Church Lane, Newcastle, Greystones, Co Wicklow A63 X782).**

The facilitator will be Lydia Monds, Ministry Leader with the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland. It promises to be a time of renewed connection with God, leaning upon His strength, provision, and promises, as we navigate the hills and valleys of life. Sessions will include contemplative story-telling, where the Psalm will be shared on sand, and a deeper look at different phrases in the Psalm that might prompt us to view it with fresh eyes. There will also be times of facilitated meditative prayer, as well as time and space to respond to what you have heart through personal prayer or art spaces. We will be leaning into the gift of silence, and allowing Love to speak, as we are supported to be still before God.

This is intended a day of resting in God's unfailing love and turning towards ourselves with compassion. The CMH Quiet Day was extremely popular last year, and attendees

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experienced it as a source of encouragement, creativity and peace, as we gathered in the presence of the Lord, our Healer. If you would like to join us for this special day, please email Jeanne at [healing.dgdc@gmail.com](mailto:healing.dgdc@gmail.com)

Those who are interested in the Ministry of Healing ought to read Archdeacon Ross Styles' article in the current issue of the Church of Ireland journal, Search. Details at [www.searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org)

## Northern Ireland Trombone Day 2025

**Nathan Moore and Will McLean are hosting the Northern Ireland Trombone Day 2025 at Bann House, Portadown on Sunday 23rd March. This is a joint event between the British Trombone Society and Education Authority.**

These events have been great fun in previous years with an afternoon of playing, listening and good craic. If you know of any trombone students that would be interested please spread the word! Open to trombonists to all levels (tenor or bass trombones, bass or treble clef) and spectators.

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

**Please recommend to your friends**

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