

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – York sunshine

March 13, 2025

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News

FRANCE – IRLANDE Concert in Paris to celebrate St Patrick's weekend

France and Ireland are joining forces in Paris to celebrate St Patrick's weekend with a concert of a cappella choral music!

The concert FRANCE – IRLANDE will be held in the historic Church of Notre-Dame des Blancs Manteaux (Paris 4) on Saturday 15th March at 8pm. The renowned Choir of Chœur & Orchestre Sorbonne Université and its distinguished Musical Director Frédéric Pineau will be joined by Cappella Caeciliana (a leading choir from Belfast) conducted by Matthew Quinn (who is also Chorus Director at English National Opera).

The programme features Irish classics such as Mo Ghile Mear (video below) and The Lark in the Clear Air, and French favourites such as Le Jardin extraordinaire and L'aigle noir. Some beautiful recently-composed music is also included. It promises to be an atmospheric, uplifting and memorable evening.

Get your tickets (€20) now at www.caeciliana.org/paris. For students and people aged under 25 tickets cost only €10!



Want to be part of the change...??

The Shape of The Dock Café is Changing – and it needs our help

The Dock Café has been a beloved part of the Titanic Quarter since 2013—a unique, donation-based coffee shop that thrives on community spirit, generosity, and connection.

It's more than just a café; it's a place where everyone is welcome, where stories are shared, and where Belfast comes together.

“Now, we're facing a major challenge. Due to upcoming changes, we need to move a large part of the café into an

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adjoining unit and carry out a full refit—including essential mechanical and electrical work. As a charity, the cost of this transformation is beyond our means, and we urgently need your support to make it happen”.

How can you help?

Donate – Every little helps to fund the refit and keep The Dock Café thriving.

Spread the word – Share this post and let others know about our mission!

Visit & support – Enjoy a cuppa, leave a donation, and be part of something special.

The Dock Café is the beating heart of the Titanic Quarter, a space for connection, inclusivity, and community. With your help, we can ensure it remains a warm and welcoming refuge for years to come.

The Dock Café, Belfast

Tag your friends & let's rally together!

<https://gofund.me/d3e0ded9>

Pope thanks volunteers for 'miracle of tenderness' as he recovers

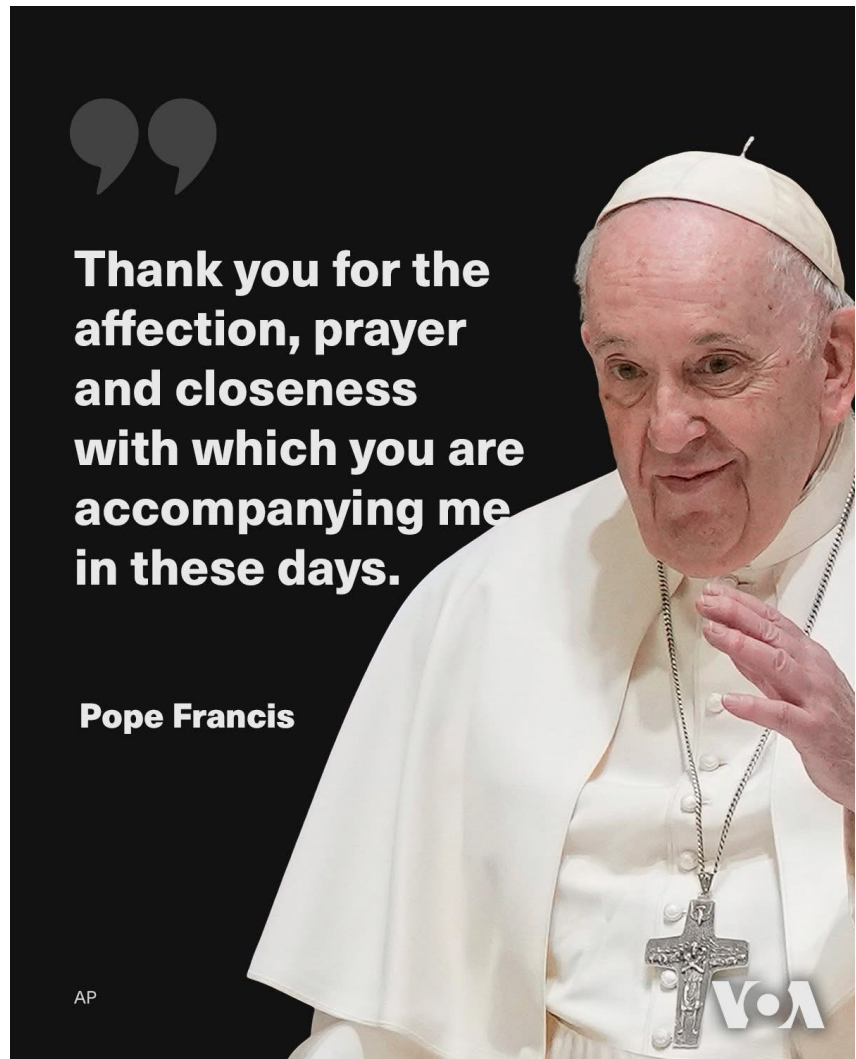
Pope Francis issued a message on Sunday thanking volunteers for the “miracle of tenderness” they offer the sick, as he continued his recovery from double pneumonia and doctors reported some positive news.

After more than three weeks in the hospital, the 88-year-old Pope is responding well to treatment and has shown a

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“gradual, slight improvement” in recent days.

For the fourth Sunday in a row, Pope Francis didn't appear for his weekly noon blessing, but the Vatican distributed the text he would have delivered if he were well enough. In it, the Argentine thanked all those who were caring for him and others who are sick and experiencing a “night of pain”.



“Brothers and sisters, during my prolonged hospitalisation here, I too experience the thoughtfulness of service and the tenderness of care, in particular from the doctors and health care workers, whom I thank from the bottom of my heart,” read the message from Gemelli Hospital.

“And while I am here, I think of the many people who, in various ways, are close to the sick, and who are, for them, a sign of the Lord's presence. We need this, the 'miracle of tenderness', which accompanies those who are in adversity, bringing a little light into the night of pain,” he wrote.

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The Pope, who has chronic lung disease and had part of one lung removed as a young man, has remained in a stable condition, with no fever and good oxygen levels in his blood for several days, doctors reported in a Vatican statement on Saturday. The doctors said that such stability “as a consequence testifies to a good response to therapy”.

It was the first time the doctors had reported that Francis was responding positively to the treatment for the complex lung infection that was diagnosed after he was admitted to hospital on February 14. But they kept his prognosis as “guarded”, meaning he's not out of danger.

Anglican Church Secretary General visits Australian Moore Theological College

As part of his visit to the Anglican Church in Australia, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, The Right Reverend Anthony Poggo, visited Moore Theological College, a centre of theological education since its founding in 1856.

He joined students for their Tuesday chapel service, sharing in worship and fellowship.

During his visit, Bishop Anthony toured the college library and viewed several historical texts, including a copy of St Augustine’s City of God. Originally published in 426 AD, this edition, produced in 1473, remains in its original binding and stands as the oldest book in the collection.



The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Right Revd Anthony Poggo, stands with the Most Revd Philip Freier and his wife, Joy, on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

Reflecting on his visit, Bishop Anthony remarked:

"It was a privilege to witness the dedication of students preparing for ministry and to see them engaging with the rich theological tradition of the Church. The enduring legacy of St Augustine's writings reminds us of the profound and lasting influence of Christian thought in shaping faith and society."

Bishop Anthony expressed his appreciation to The Revd Canon Dr Mark Thompson, Principal of Moore College, for his hospitality and for the opportunity to engage with students and faculty.

Education

Laureate's Library Tour

Year 13 English Literature students at RBAI availed of a very special invitation on Tuesday to be part of a small audience hearing Poet Laureate Simon Armitage and award-winning local poet Leontia Flynn reading from their work at The Linen Hall Library.

As part of the Laureate's Library Tour, Armitage was scheduled to visit Belfast in March 2020 but was curtailed by lockdown. It was a privilege for us to receive an invitation to today's reading and worth the five year wait to hear both poets read and have the opportunity to speak with them afterwards.

Thank you to everyone at The Linen Hall Library and to both poets for giving us such a unique and memorable experience. It has already inspired our own fledgling poets.

Oxbridge offers to MCB pupils

Congratulations to the following MCB pupils for receiving an offer from the University of Oxford or University of Cambridge. MCB is rightly proud of all your achievements.

University of Oxford:

Cait Kremenstein - Wadham College, Classics and English



Rowan Ross - Exeter College, Law

University of Cambridge:

Sinead Quah - St. Catharine's College, Engineering

Joseph Creasy - Homerton College, English

Henry McDowell - Corpus Christi College, Medicine

Eve Woods – Downing College, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology



Campbellians attend Prime Minister's Questions

Last month, CCB Politics students made another

whistle stop tour to the Palace of Westminster.



All 20 students attended Prime Minister's Questions and we thank Alex Easton's office for helping to secure many of these

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tickets. A variety of other NI MPs also supported the boys in their visit, a Q and A with the Rt Hon Gavin Robinson at Portcullis House and a quick meet with Robin Swann. It was interesting to attend the Public Bill Committee working on the Assisted Dying Bill and see the CMS Select Committee interviewing witnesses on school sport. A huge thank you to all involved.

Patron's Day brings primary school representatives together



Organisers and speakers at Patron's Day – Jennie Kirwin, David Ruddy, Dr Mary Nihill, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Andrea Black, Dr Jacqui Wilkinson and the Revd David White.

Principals and chairpersons of boards of management of primary schools from across Dublin and Glendalough gathered at the annual Patron's Day event in the Clayton



Principals and Chairpersons of Boards of Management at Patron's Day.

Hotel, Liffey Valley on Friday last (March 7). The primary schools are all under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin and their principals and chairpersons enjoyed a day of learning about developments in the primary sector as well as reconnecting with each other.

The event was opened by Archbishop Michael Jackson who welcomed all in attendance and thanked the committee for organising the day. Dr Mary Nihill, Director of Leadership with OIDE, the support service of teachers and school leaders, then spoke about educational leadership.

The focus turned to developments in educational law with a contribution by Mr David Ruddy, Education Executive with the CPSMA (Catholic Primary Schools Management Association). This was followed by an update on the Church of Ireland's Follow Me Religious Education Programme by Dr Jacqui Wilkinson of the Church of Ireland Centre at DCU.

The Revd Colin McConaghie then urged schools to sign up for Dublin and Glendalough's 2025 Prayer Movement which seeks to build a community of prayer of 2,025 people this year as the dioceses plan for the future.

Proceedings drew to a close with lunch and time to chat with colleagues.

Cathedral Calls

Museum of the Moon comes to St Canice's Cathedral

On Monday, the Museum of the Moon came to St Canice's Cathedral, an art installation comprising a 7 metre diameter detailed replica of the moon.

It is hanging from the centre ceiling of the cathedral, under the bell tower, allowing a close view of this most familiar, yet intriguing, of celestial bodies. It will stay with us for three weeks.

To mark the occasion, the Cathedral held the office of Compline at 8pm at the Cathedral.

Compline is perhaps the most intimate of the services of the Divine Office or the Liturgy of the Hours, a set of prayers said at specific hours of the day reaching back to the early Church.



Compline is the last of these Hours, marking the end of the day and looking to safe passage through the coming night. As such, it is most apt for marking this visitation of the Moon.

Fecit lunam in tempora; sol cognovit occasum suum. Ps. 104:19.

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Events

An evening of music with the legendary Dana

This special event will showcase Dana's beautiful voice and captivating melodies, as

she reflects on the highlights of her remarkable career and life.

For more info and to book see link below 🙌

<https://www.visitmournemountains.co.uk/whats-on/a-musical-evening-with-dana-p945571>



St Patrick's Day at the Ulster American Folk Park

Plans for St Patrick's Day yet? Come along to the Ulster American Folk Park for traditional celebrations on Sunday 16th & Monday 17th March!

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Watch Irish dance performances, get hands-on with St Patrick's themed crafts and see traditional craft demonstrations. Listen to traditional music and see a special performance from Cool Hand String Band on Sunday 16th March.

Book St Patrick's Day tickets <https://bit.ly/4hyqVi5>

St Patrick Ulster's Scottish Saint

As part of a St Patrick's Open Day at Draperstown Presbyterian Church (11am-3pm) on 17 March, a talk on St Patrick and his connections with Ulster will be held at 12.30pm.



St. Patrick's Open Day
Monday 17th March 2025
Draperstown Presbyterian Church
11am - 3pm



Mr Nelson McCausland presents:



**Patrick
Ulster's Scottish Saint**

Talk to commence 12:30pm
ALL WELCOME

Irish Stew and Light Refreshments Served All Day

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This will be a very informative talk and will look at Patrick's story, the places he left behind here, and the rich traditions associated with Ulster's Scottish Saint.

Find your dream job in the charity sector

Looking for a rewarding career where you can make a real difference?

Join us at the 2025 Northern Ireland Charity Careers & Volunteer Job Fair and connect with 20+ top charities hiring for paid roles right now!

Date: 27th March 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Venue: Assembly Buildings Conference Centre, 2-10
Fisherwick Place, Belfast, BT1 6DW, United Kingdom

Why Attend?

Discover new job opportunities in the charity sector

Meet hiring managers from charities like NSPCC, Praxis
Care & Extern

Get career advice & network with sector professionals

FREE entry – but tickets are limited!

Secure your FREE ticket today! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-northern-ireland-charity-careers-volunteer-job-fair-tickets-1111470892359>

WORLDS OF LIGHT

Featuring Fauré Requiem

CAPPELLA CAECILIANA and CAECILIANA PLAYERS

conducted by Matthew Quinn

Pre-concert talk, 4:30pm, for GCSE/A-Level students
featuring world-class soloists and instrumentalists

Clonard Monastery
Sunday 6th April, 5.30pm

Tickets £20

from **caeciliana.org**

also at Clonard reception &
Matchetts, Wellington Place

Students and under 25s free



ST JOHN'S MALONE, BELFAST

Sunday 6th April 6:30pm

A meditation on the sacred passion of the Holy Redeemer; an oratorio by Sir John Stainer.

Guest Conductor Dr. Barry Rose OBE

**Soloists Charlie Hughes (Tenor)
& Ryan Garnham (Bass)**

Organist Richard Campbell



CRUCIFIXION

Admission is free of charge. There will be a retiring collection in aid of St John's Music Fund.

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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

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning

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