

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day



Andrew's Gibraltar

The welcome and installation of The Rt. Rev. Andrew Norman at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar on 2 March 2025. He was consecrated as Suffragan Bishop in Europe by the Archbishop of York at Canterbury Cathedral on 27 February 2025.

The Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, known simply as the Diocese in Europe, was established in 1842. It is geographically the largest diocese in the Anglican Communion with its jurisdiction including 30 countries in

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continental Europe, as well as Morocco and Turkey. Its 250 congregations are divided into 140 chaplaincies in seven archdeaconries.

A beautiful service welcomed our new Suffragan Bishop in Europe, and he was installed in his own stall which very fittingly is dedicated to St Andrew!

News

Bishops' Spring 2025 General Meeting concludes in Maynooth

This week members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference gathered in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, for their Spring 2025 General Meeting.

The President of the Conference is Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, and the Vice-President is Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin. During their meeting bishops' concelebrated Mass in Saint Mary's Oratory, with seminarians, lay and clergy staff in attendance. Bishops prayed for the improving health and recovery of the Holy Father Pope Francis, for peace in the Holy Land, and for a successful outcome to peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

Themes discussed by the bishops during their meeting included

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The main issues discussed by bishops during their Spring General Meeting include World peace to be prayed for at Mass on Saint Patrick's Day

Lent 2025 and preparation for Holy Week and Easter
Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative reports on the effects of vapes

Invitation to young people to become charity volunteers to help the vulnerable

Trócaire's Lenten campaign supporting the people of Guatemala

Child safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Ireland

Local and national pilgrimages during Jubilee Year 2025

Discerning a vocation to the Priesthood

Update on the Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland

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Election of officers of the Bishops' Conference

Restructuring administrative apparatus of the Bishops' Conference

In Memoriam

To read the Bishops' Spring General Meeting full statement visit -

[\[https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2025/03/12/statement-of-the-spring-2025-general-meeting-of-the-irish-catholic-bishops-conference/\]](https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2025/03/12/statement-of-the-spring-2025-general-meeting-of-the-irish-catholic-bishops-conference/)

World Council of Churches urges dialogue and unity, not revenge in Syria

World Council of Churches general secretary the Rev. Jerry Pillay expressed deep sorrow and grave concern over the recent tragic developments in Syria, where, according to some sources, more than 1,000 civilians, primarily from the Alawite community, have been massacred.

“We underscore the joint statement issued by the Heads of Churches in Syria on Dec. 29, 2024, which expressed a vision for a new Syria based on reconciliation, dialogue, partnership, and hope,” Pillay said on March 10. “Their call for a culture of dialogue and national unity remains more urgent than ever in the face of the ongoing violence and suffering.”

He reaffirmed that violence only begets more violence and called on all Syrians to break free from this destructive cycle and work toward a future rooted in justice, healing, and peace. “Syria’s tragic history reminds us that repeating past

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atrocities will only perpetuate suffering and division,” Pillay said. “Instead, we must strive for a reconciled society where the dignity of all is upheld.”

Read the entire article here.

[\[https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-urges-dialogue-and-unity-not-revenge-in-syria\]](https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-urges-dialogue-and-unity-not-revenge-in-syria)



St Mary's in Castro Church at Dover Castle

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The Roman Pharos at Dover Castle is one of the oldest and most significant ancient structures in Britain.

The Romans built an octagonal tower-like lighthouse (pharos) on Castle Hill around the same time, with another on the opposite hill, the Western Heights. These lighthouses supported fire beacons to act as navigation lights for ships approaching the narrow river mouth, enabling them to find a quayside outside the fort. Dover Castle, Dover, England

First international ‘Catholic Grandparents & Elderly’ conference

As part of the Jubilee Year celebrations of the Catholic Church, the first ever Catholic Grandparents and Elderly International Conference will be held from 25 to 28 May at Villa Palazzola, Rome, just before the Jubilee for Families, Grandparents and the Elderly, on 30 May to 1 June.

The Catholic Grandparents’ Association was officially launched during its third Grandparents’ Pilgrimage to Knock in September 2009 – led by **Cardinal Séan Brady** the then Archbishop of Armagh. Ms Catherine Wiley: Marilyn Henry National International Coordinator of CGA; Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Montemayor; Catherine Wiley, founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association; and former Eurovision Song Contest winner and MEP **Dana Rosemary Scallon** at the 2024 annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage in Knock – became the Founder of the Association and today



Archbishop Francis Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam, is the Patron.

Commenting on the upcoming conference in Rome, Ms Wiley said, “As we celebrate our 25th Jubilee, we reflect on the incredible journey of the Catholic Grandparents Association over the past 25 years. What began as a small pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Ireland, has grown into a global mission to help Grandparents pass on

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the faith and to keep prayer at the heart of family life. We have been blessed beyond measure by the unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement of the Bishops of Ireland, for which we remain profoundly grateful.

“Through the grace of God, we have had the privilege of pioneering, expediting, and establishing the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in the Universal Church. This year’s theme, Blessed are those who have not lost hope (cf. Sir 14:2), reminds us of the perseverance of Grandparents, who never give up hope.”

Ms Wiley concluded, “We grandparents have never given up hope, we asked Pope Benedict XVI to write a Prayer for Grandparents, and he did. We asked our Holy Father Pope Francis to proclaim a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and he did. This is our legacy to the Church for our grandchildren and future generations. It is a never-ending search for ways and means to pass on our faith.”

For more information on this conference please visit catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/ or email ministries@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Education

Ballyholme Primary winner in largest school choir competition in the UK

Huge congratulations to Ballyholme Primary School who were named 'Junior Popular Category' Winner at



the recent Barnardo's National Choir Competition - the largest school choir competition in the UK.

Ballyholme Primary was one of 32 schools from across the UK who performed at Birmingham Symphony Hall this week, in front of an enthusiastic audience of over 800 people, with their rendition of 'I Can't Help Falling in Love with You'.

Wallace online safety fortnight

As part of our Wallace Online Safety Fortnight, which coincided with Safer Internet Day, Year 9 attended a workshop on digital footprints.

This reinforced and built upon our school's e-safety and digital literacy education within the PD curriculum. It was led

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by the Made for More organisation, who delivered a fun, engaging, and successful session with excellent advice and key takeaways.

Parents, check out our latest ICT update for advice on scams and a reminder of our mobile devices policy.

YMCA Childcare through five centres

**Did you know
that together,
YMCA
Childcare
provides 538
registered
places,
supported by
131 dedicated
staff through 5
local YMCAs?**

More than just a service, our childcare model ensures families have access to quality, affordable care that strengthens communities and supports brighter futures.



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Learn how our shared social enterprise model benefits your community.

Contact your local YMCA today!
Belfast YMCA
YMCA Dublin
Larne YMCA
Londonderry
YMCA
YMCA North Down

**Affordable
childcare that
makes a meaningful
community impact.**

Did you know that YMCA Childcare operates as a social enterprise model for the benefit of the wider community?

YMCA Childcare

Belfast • Dublin • Larne • Londonderry • North Down

White Ribbon NI ‘Listen, Learn and Lead’ programme at Campbell

At Campbell, we believe it is important for our pastoral curriculum to prepare pupils to be good citizens, both in the way they live their lives and the positive contribution they make to society.

As an all boys’ school, it's crucial to educate our young men about the prevalence of violence against women and girls in Northern Ireland and encourage positive attitudes and relationships.

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We invited White Ribbon NI to deliver their ‘Listen, Learn and Lead’ programme through workshops for Year 10 boys. The first session, coinciding with International Women's Day, covered gender-based violence, myths surrounding abuse, and how young people can take action.

Delivered by Tahnee McCorry, CEO of White Ribbon NI, the boys were commended for their engagement and maturity. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3FjAvXN>



St Mary's UC at Belfast in Nashville

Traditional musicians from St Mary's University College will take part in the “Belfast in Nashville” St Patrick's Day celebrations that will also mark a three decade sister city partnership.

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The five-strong group will play a part promoting the cultural and educational links between Belfast and Nashville, a centre of country music in the state of Tennessee, during the visit organised in partnership with Sister Cities of Nashville.

Clergy and ministry

For Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Breastplate - Trinity Church Wall Street

Taken from an old Irish melody, St. Patrick's Breastplate is one of our all-time favourite hymns thanks in part to its adaptation and harmonization by two Anglican titans: Charles Villiers Stanford and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

We invite you to sing along to today's processional, led by the Choir of Trinity Wall Street .

[<https://youtu.be/6unaPRHYPvs>]

Stanford's "I bind unto myself today"- St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin 1982

From a BBC radio broadcast from St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin on St Patrick's Day 17 March 1982, with the cathedral choir under the direction of John Dexter. Organ Scholar: David Adams. 29.8K subscribers

[<https://youtu.be/dWdZ13cH5IU?si=-yG5p-jMFjfyI1I4>]

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Events

Free concert St Patrick's C of I Cathedral, Armagh

19th March at 7:30 PM a fabulous FREE concert by Hamilton College and The Royal School, Armagh Chamber Choir. reserve your seat Eventbrite or email us performancesbooking@gmail.com

Epilepsy Action Family Support Service Wellbeing Retreat

Parents of children with epilepsy, take a break and join us for the Epilepsy Action Family Support Service Wellbeing Retreat on March 22, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Navigation House, Lisburn.

Enjoy gentle yoga, an aromatherapy workshop, and lunch. Connect with other parents and learn techniques to manage stress.

Free to attend, but booking is essential.

For more info, contact familysupportni@epilepsy.org.uk or call 02890184016.

Suicide - Families Voices Forum

Join us on March 25th when we will bring together stories, resources, and support for those impacted by suicide.

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The importance of connection when bereaved by suicide cannot be understated, so come along to hear how Families Voices Forum and other organisations strive to make our communities suicide safer.

Book now through the link here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/families-voices-forum-building-hope-in-the-west-tickets-1261287969269?aff=social>



SAINT PATRICK'S TIDE MARCH 2025

Saturday 15th, 10.30am: Morning Prayer
Monday 17th, 10.30am: Morning Prayer
Tuesday 18th, 10.30am: Morning Prayer
Tuesday 18th, 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert

Monday 17th, Opening Hours: 11am-3pm



www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org

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Galgorm Group - Churches Open Day programme

On Thursday 20 March at 7 Corbally Rd, Ballymena BT42 1JQ. The event runs from 10.00 am - 3.00 pm. (Admission: Free)

Paul Scott, Event Organiser writes - On arrival, you will receive a brochure outlining some fabulous bargains on Tables, Chairs, Catering Equipment, Kitchen Prep - Storage - Disposal Needs, Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies, Entrance Mats and Washroom Supplies.

This is the programme for the day:

10.00 EVENT OPEN

10.00 - 11.00 Browse Showroom and enjoy tea/coffee etc. Meet members of staff if you require help / advice.

11.00 - 11.30 Presentation: The Lifesaving Importance of Having Defibrillators in Public Places
(Defibrillators can be life savers - and your Church buildings are a focal point in your community. It makes sense to consider installing a defibrillator on your premises.)

11.30 - 12.15 Browse Showroom

12.15 - 12.45 Presentation: How to Smarten Up Your Church Washrooms
(When you consider the number of organisations, clubs, meetings etc which take place in your Church buildings, you

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will realise the importance of maintaining a high level of hygiene in these facilities. Do you need help / advice on making improvements in these areas?)

1.00 Lunchtime light refreshments

1.30 - 3.00 Browse Showroom - engage with staff as required.

3.00 EVENT CLOSE

This is an excellent opportunity to stock up on your hospitality and hygiene needs for over the Easter period and into summer.

Also, if you are considering refurbishing / upgrading your kitchen or washroom facilities, the experienced design staff of the Galgorm Group will be available to talk through your plans and ideas.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day - and we would be delighted to welcome you plus interested leaders, committee personnel and lay members of your congregation.

RSVP

To assist us with catering arrangements, please reply to this email if you are interested in attending the Open Day. We simply need to know how many will be attending in your group - and please provide at least one contact name and number.

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Best wishes

Paul Scott, Event Organiser, on behalf of Galgorm Group
m: 07990780453

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

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Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning

Please recommend to your friends

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