

Church News Ireland



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March 17, 2025

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Image of the day



St Flannan's Cathedral

St Flannan's site is shared with an even older building - the 12th century St Flannan's Oratory, estimated to have been built circa 1100.

The cathedral is surrounded by the graveyard, a very peaceful place of rest. The earliest marked graves are those of Bishop Roan 1692 and Elisabeth Brown 1719.

The iconic and historic St Flannan's Cathedral is the primary cultural attraction in the twin towns of Killaloe Ballina; an important gateway to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and a key access point to the River Shannon and the beautiful Lough Derg and its environs.

As well as being a calm place for spiritual reflection, the Cathedral seeks to provide an interesting and rewarding

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tourism experience for visitors to the area, a unique venue for performance and creative arts and an important centre for medieval learning.

By housing a wide range of events that include concerts, recitals, talks, exhibitions and a world-class annual music festival, the Cathedral is an important community asset for Killaloe-Ballina and the wider East Clare and North Tipperary areas.

[<https://stflannanscathedral.ie/about-st-flannans/>]

News

Diocese of Raphoe Hospice Appeal

The C of I Chaplain to Letterkenny University Hospital and the Donegal Hospice, Rev Sean McClafferty, has launched the 2025 Church of Ireland Diocese of Raphoe Hospice Appeal Sunday.

This year, parishes in the Diocese are invited to select a Sunday during the year and designate it their 'Hospice Sunday', and perhaps lift a free will offering to support the outstanding work of Donegal Hospice.

"The Donegal Hospice provides much needed palliative care services to the people of Donegal," Rev McClafferty said, "and, although the nursing staff are provided by the HSE, it does not receive any other government funding"



Rev McClafferty (pictured with Isobel Doherty of Donegal Hospice) will be in touch with each parish in the Diocese in order to ensure a smooth and effective response to this year's appeal.

New defibrillators installed at Seapatrick Parish halls

External defibrillators have been installed at both of Seapatrick Parish's church halls - Holy Trinity and St. Patrick's.

Both defibrillators are registered with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service.

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These defibrillators, for use by the community, were generously funded by the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland.

Irish bishop blesses road after spate of deaths

A bishop in Ireland has blessed a road ahead of St Patrick's day weekend, after an increased spate of fatalities.

The Bishop of Killaloe, Fintan Monahan, has walked a road in Ennis, praying safety over it as more than 42 people lost their lives on it this year alone.

Bishop Monahan said: "We know from experience that long-weekends are high risk periods for road safety, with speed being a significant factor. Road safety is not just about following the rules, it's about being mindful of the risks and taking responsibility for our own actions.

"As people of goodwill we ought to be mindful of the stranger that we meet on the road, and the parable of the Good Samaritan is our model.

"This weekend, I ask all road users – whether driving, cycling, or walking – to remain vigilant and make safety their priority. We each have a duty to protect ourselves, and others, by being aware of the potential dangers and to make wise choices on the road. Sadly for some there will be no second chance."

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On St Patrick's Day, Monday 17th, Bishop Monahan will lead a special 'Blessing of the Roads' service., prior to the St Patrick's Day parade.

Anglicans join in United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Anglicans are joining global discussions at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), advocating for gender justice, equality, and the empowerment of women and girls.

This group of leaders represents different provinces and ministries within the Anglican Communion, working together to ensure faith-based perspectives contribute to shaping policies that promote dignity, justice, and inclusion.

- ◆ Larissa Minniecon – Truth-Telling Advisor and Reconciliation Missioner, Anglican Board of Mission Australia
- ◆ The Revd Laura-Marie Piotrowicz – Anglican Co-Chair of Ecumenical Women, Anglican Church of Canada
- ◆ The Revd Lizzi Green – Vice Chair of the International Anglican Women's Network
- ◆ Mandy Marshall – Anglican Communion Director of Gender Justice
- ◆ Lulama Ntuta – Provincial Youth Leader, Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- ◆ Martha Jarvis – Anglican Communion's Permanent Representative to the United Nations



As CSW69 focuses on reviewing progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, these Anglican advocates are raising their voices on issues including domestic violence, climate justice, and the role of faith communities in advancing women's rights.

Learn more about UNCSW here: <https://bit.ly/3Dx6WkS>

Burkes ejected from the Ireland Funds gala dinner in Washington

Members of the Burke family were ejected from the Ireland Funds gala dinner in Washington DC on Thursday night, after they interrupted the event to

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protest about the jailing of teacher Enoch Burke for contempt of court.

The black tie event was attended by Taoiseach Micheál Martin and several members of the United States Congress.

Mr Burke's mother Martina, his sister Ammi and brother Isaac had gained entry to the National Building Museum in central Washington DC towards the end of the formal proceedings, after speeches by the Taoiseach and two members of the House of Representatives.

Mr Burke has been imprisoned a number of times for failing to obey an injunction granted last year that ordered him to stay away from Wilson's Hospital School in Co Westmeath.

He was sacked from the school in January 2023. The High Court ordered his release from Mountjoy in December 2024. Courtesy RTE News

Education

St Malachy's Spring Concert

You are cordially invited to the Spring Concert on Tuesday 8 April at 7.30pm in the College Hall.

The concert will feature all of our major ensembles and several senior students will be performing movements from



well-known concerti. It will be a fantastic evening, not to be missed! Free entry, retiring collection.

Ballyclare High School celebrates British Science Week

Last week, BHS STEM Ambassadors have been leading fun competitions and activities for their Junior pupils around the theme “Change and Adapt”.

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From observing frogspawn and caterpillars transform each day to experimenting with natural indicators and colour changes using household materials, it's been an exciting week of discovery!

“We can't wait to see our new frogs in the pond and watch the caterpillars complete their transformation just in time for Easter! “



MCB debaters

Congratulations to Rory Press-Worth, L6S, Seamus O'Hara, L6V, Emer Allen, 5R, and Tilly McCall, L6P, who won their debates in Round One of this year's Literific Debating Competition.

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The competition was organised by the Literary and Scientific Society at Queen's University Belfast.

The motions included: 'This House Would Grant an Amnesty to Just Stop Oil' and 'This House Regrets Brexit'. They will proceed to the final in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Friday 11 April where they will compete against St. Columb's College and Portadown College.

Ballyclare impact at Edgar Graham Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Isabelle, Year 14, and Alanna, Year 12, Ballyclare High School, for their outstanding performances at the Edgar Graham Public Speaking Competition at Stormont on Tuesday 11th March.



Isabelle was awarded a Highly Commendable certificate for her thought-provoking speech, 'AI – Artificial Insanity?', while Alanna impressed the audience with her passionate

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presentation, 'There is no me in the media.' Well done to both girls on this fantastic achievement!



The Hub at QUB Open Day

Thinking of studying in Belfast next year? Would you like to live in Christian community during your studies?

We'd love to invite you to our Open Day on Saturday 5th April, from 10.30am-1.30pm.

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You'll meet staff, students, hear about life at The Hub and get a tour of our facilities!

Deadline Extended: Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies

Great news! The deadline to apply for the Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies has been extended to the end of the Easter holidays.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to be recognised for your work in Holocaust studies. Submit your entry now!

<https://ow.ly/Pz1p50V9ow3>

Cathedral Calls

Armagh Cathedrals' Partnership celebrate life, work and witness of St Patrick

The Armagh Cathedrals' Partnership held a wonderful evening in the Market Place Theatre, Armagh on 11th March 2025 entitled "A celebration of the life, work and witness of St Patrick".

The audience were entertained with high quality musical pieces from St Catherine's College Armagh and the Royal School Armagh.

A panel discussion was chaired by the Very Revd Shane Forster & Very Revd Barry Matthews with special guests -

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Alf McCreary (award-winning author and journalist), Ghilian Campbell (ABC Council Destination Sales Officer) and Sister Mary Rowe (Congregation of the Sacred Heart)



Clergy and ministry

From Cloyne to Douglas

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Bishop Paul Colton of Cork, Cloyne & Ross writes - “I’m very grateful (as I know we all are) to the Reverend Anne Skuse, for her service in Cloyne Union of parishes in recent months.

“I’m delighted that she has now accepted my appointment to help out in coming months in Douglas Union of Parishes with Frankfield. Thank you Anne for your readiness to help where there is need.”

Youth ministry scouting

We all know that Scout camps are amazing, but preparing to go is a massive undertaking.

Getting some more helpers can make a world of difference, so here’s 10 ways to easily get parents and carers involved:
<https://bit.ly/4bFbaUb>

St. Andrew's Church Lahore, Pakistan

The First Sunday of March at St. Andrew's Church was a special occasion as we had a blessed service just before entering the Lenten Season.

The Rev. Irshad John (Vicar St. Andrew's Church Lahore, Pakistan) welcomed Rev. Marven from the Church of England to be with us for the service. It was a blessed and meaningful time of worship as we prepared to enter the season of Lent and a journey that leads us towards His salvation.

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Rev. Marven delivered an inspiring message, preaching the Word of God and drawing from biblical context to guide our hearts and minds. His sermon was thoughtful and thought-provoking, helping to set the tone for the Lenten journey ahead.



The congregation felt a deep sense of reverence and anticipation as we joined together in prayer, song, and reflection. It was a time to humble ourselves before God and seek His wisdom and strength for the days to come.

As we left the church that morning, there was a palpable air of spiritual

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renewal and a renewed commitment to drawing closer to the Lord. The service at St. Andrew's had been a precious time of preparation, equipping us to enter Lent with intention and purpose. ~SolomonIrshadJohn

Events



**New Irish Arts
in concert at
Drumglass
Parish**

An evening with musicians from New
Irish Choir and Orchestra

Saturday 29th March at 7:30PM

Tickets £20, available by scanning the QR
code. www.drumglassparish.org



**DRUMGLASS
PARISH**

Disciples who delight in Jesus,
who display Jesus,
and declare Jesus.



New Irish Arts at St. Anne's, Dungannon

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New Irish Arts musicians will be at St. Anne's on Saturday, 29th March at 7:30pm. With just two weeks to go, have you got your ticket yet?

How to Purchase:

Cash purchases – Available at the office (£20 per ticket).

Office hours: 9am–2pm, Tuesday to Thursday.

Online purchases via Eventbrite

Don't miss this incredible evening of music and worship!



**MUSIC
IN THE
CHAMBER**

Aisling Agnew and Richard Allen
Bangor Castle | Thursday 3 April | 8pm

Tickets £15 | Booking at: www.andculture.org.uk/whats-on

Ards and North Down
Borough Council

Moving On Music at Bangor Castle

Moving On Music is presenting two of Northern Ireland's finest classical musicians for a rare duo outing, flautist Aisling Agnew and harpist Richard Allen.

Aisling and Richard will present a beautiful programme of music from the vast flute and harp repertoire including music by well-known composers such as Hamilton Harty and Rossini, alongside a new arrangement of a piece by local composer Greg Caffrey.

The duo are in great demand as soloists, chamber musicians and are regularly seen playing with the Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, Opera North, RTE Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra and BBC Philharmonic to name a few.

Don't miss this evening of exquisite and rarely heard music by two virtuoso musicians, as they bring you on a journey of music from the 18th century to present day.

Bangor Castle, Thursday 3 April. 8pm £15

Book at: <https://andculture.org.uk/whats-on/music-chamber-aisling-agnew-and-richard-allen>

St Matthew Passion - Kilkenny Cathedral and St Patrick's Dublin

The Irish Baroque Orchestra and Choir invite you to join them in the collective act of listening, as they present Bach's astonishing St Matthew Passion. Kilkenny Cathedral April 10 and St Patrick's Dublin April 11

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Sung in German, with a translation provided, this rendering of the passion story during Lent provides an all-encompassing experience which moves the heart and nourishes the soul.

“Quite simply the most moving and high-level performance of Bach’s St Matthew Passion I’ve ever heard” David Nice (2024)

Book now via <https://www.irishbaroqueorchestra.com>. Student and Unwaged tickets are available in Dublin for €10 - book in the Nave and apply the code STUDENT10 or UNWAGED10. Student ID is required.

Presented in partnership with Music in Kilkenny Concert Series. The Irish Baroque Orchestra is proudly funded by The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Heritage

Charles Frederick Allison, Ulster-Scots Canadian

Charles Frederick Allison, the famous Ulster-Scots Canadian merchant, philanthropist and college administrator, was born on Burns Night in 1795.

Allison was born into a family of Ulster-Scots heritage, his grandfather Joseph emigrating from Ulster to Canada in the late 18th Century due to unfortunately impressing a taxman with silver spoons at dinner.

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The taxman thought if the family could afford silver spoons they could certainly afford more taxes, and so they promptly left Ireland.

Allison initially was a store clerk before joining an expanding mercantile firm run by his cousin William Crane, soon becoming partner. The business exported timber to Liverpool as well as trading in imported commodities and agricultural produce.

In the mid 1830s, Allison converted from his Anglican faith to the Methodist denomination, joining a congregation that had aims to open an educational institution but lacked the appropriate funding. In 1839, Allison solved this problem by purchasing land in Sackville, New Brunswick, and donating £100 per year for ten years to fund its operation.

Subsequently, the college was named after him. Mount Allison University, as it is now known, was the first university in the British Empire to award a baccalaureate to a woman, and the first in Canada to award a Bachelor of Arts to a woman.

Allison is buried at the Lower Sackville Methodist Cemetery where a fitting memorial stands in honour of his time and effort to furthering education in New Brunswick.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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

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