

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Cork St Patrick's tradition

March 20, 2025

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News -

NI Programme for Government a 'significant achievement'-

Church of Ireland

Greetings from Ballycastle

Ballyclare High School Spring Concert

St Patrick's appearance at Inchmarlo

Castlerock and Tuam visit Shyogwe diocese

Royal Irish Regiment's Royal house call

Archbishop Martin's StPatrick's Day New York message

ECl Climate Justice Candle visits Dunboyne Parishes

Education -

Campbell taking part in ShoutOutForGerman campaign

Methody duo in Oxbridge Varsity Match

Cathedral Calls -

Archbishop McDowell's sermon at Washington National

Cathedral on You Tube

Battle of Britain pilot was Chorister of St Patrick's Cathedral

Clergy and ministry -

Learning more about Māori Anglicanism and ministry

Events

Shine Out Choir and Orchestra at St Molua's

Sperrin Choir in Portstewart Presbyterian Church

An Afternoon of Ulster Scots Poetry with Anne McMaster
and Robert Campbell

Haydn: Seven Last Words. Dublin

A Rangers Journey - Historical Talk in Carrickfergus

Speaking to the soul -

Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

March 20, 2025

Image of the day

Cork St Patrick's tradition



The Civic Service and Festival Eucharist at St Fin Barre's Cathedral as well as the traditional Reception at the Bishop's Palace to celebrate St Patrick's Day took place again this year.

For many decades now the Bishop of Cork welcomes representatives of civic and community life in Cork City and County to the Bishop's Palace to celebrate St Patrick's Day. The Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton and Mrs Susan Colton invited nearly 300 people again this year into their home to enjoy refreshments and celebrate the Irish National Holiday.



The civic attendance was led by Cork's first citizen, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Dan Boyle, who was joined by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Mal Mutton, and the Lady Mayoress Margaret Mutton. Also in attendance were An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Senator Laura Harmon, as well as Councillors, former Lords Mayor of Cork, and representatives of the City Council. Also represented were the Defence Forces, the Naval Service, and An Garda Síochána.

March 20, 2025

The scouts of 2nd Cork, St Fin Barre's, Scout Group were present again this year to oversee the parking and to do the washing up.

News

NI Programme for Government a 'significant achievement'- Church of Ireland Cork St Patrick's tradition

The approved Northern Ireland Executive Programme for Government 2024-27 is a "significant achievement" — but would have benefited from a clearer timetable and targets, the Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission has stated.



Friday 21st March

7.30pm

Ramoan Parish Centre
The Diamond
Ballycastle.

The speaker for the evening is:

Malachy McMichael

"Greetings from Ballycastle! – a history of the town through Old Postcards."

Light refreshments will be served after.

Admission is: free for Society members

£3 for visitors

The Glens of Antrim Historical Society

March 20, 2025

In 2021, the Northern Ireland (NI) Assembly and Executive was mandated to improve the social, economic, and political landscape.

A draft programme was published in September after a public consultation. This was later welcomed by the Anglican and Roman Catholic Archbishops of Armagh — the Most Revd John McDowell and the Most Revd Eamon Martin — for “daring to dream” of opportunity, hope, and



Ballyclare High School

Spring Concert

Wednesday 26th March 2025

The Montgomery Hall

7.30pm

Tickets are £10 and available
at the school office.

March 20, 2025

partnership, underpinned by a “cross-cutting commitment to peace”.

The programme has since been approved by the NI Assembly and officially published earlier this month. It sets out a plan to grow the economy, deliver affordable homes and early years childcare, cut health waiting times, end violence against women and girls, support SEND children, protect the environment, and transform public services.



*A St Patrick's appearance at Inchmarlo,
prep department of RBAI*

March 20, 2025

In its official response, published on Friday, the Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission said that it appreciated the "tight financial position" in which the Executive was operating. "In this context, the Programme for Government is a significant achievement."

It was the first programme for Government in ten years and represented "another step in the task of restoring confidence in our political institutions" for the "common good". Plans to cut waiting lists were welcome, it said, but it asked for "additional information" on timelines "before a considered assessment can be made".

Other commitments, including to start building 5850 new homes by 2027, were also welcomed. The Commission also welcomed SEND provision, but concern was expressed that "there is no mention of the many other issues currently causing strain and friction across the full education landscape."

"Childcare intervention is urgently required," the Commission said, "but this must be implemented at speed. Too many parents are having to opt out of work because of the prohibitive cost of childcare. This drastic step by talented people not only denies them the right to use their skills but is a barrier to economic growth."

The Commission was also "disappointed" by the absence of police funding. "Officer numbers are historically and dangerously low and reinvestment in equipment is urgently required."

March 20, 2025

It concluded: “There is much to do, and this Programme for Government is but a start, a positive first step. We believe that it would have benefitted from clearer targets and more specific detail on delivery times. We now wait to see what is contained in the Northern Ireland Budget.”

The Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly visited Washington last week to “champion the case” for Northern Ireland in the US. Archbishop McDowell also visited for a series of engagements, which included preaching in Washington National Cathedral on Sunday, the day before St Patrick’s Day, during which he gave a history of the saint’s “character and discipleship”.



Castlerock and Tuam visit Shyogwe diocese

Pray for the CMSI Shyogwe Team in Rwanda - Sara Cunningham-Bell, Rachel Kenny, Chris Mac Bruithin and Diane Matchett - who flew out to Kigali this week to join Martin Cuppage who is already visiting.

March 20, 2025

Gillian from CMSI was able to make her way to St Mary's Parish, Cong, and St Mary's Cathedral in Tuam to preach and commission Dean Diane Matchett and Diocesan Reader, Rachel Kenny, as they prepared to head out to Shyogwe Diocese. Pray their time in Rwanda will be a blessing and for God's protection over the whole team.



Royal Irish Regiment's Royal house call

On the occasion of St. Patrick's Day, The Royal Irish Regiment presented their Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh, with shamrock at Bagshot Park.

Archbishop Martin's Saint Patrick's Day message from New York

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland writes:

I am sending my Saint Patrick's Day message for the Jubilee Year 2025 from Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York where I have travelled on a "pilgrimage of hope".

Our patron, Saint Patrick, lived his life as a "pilgrim of hope". Despite being trafficked into slavery in Ireland as a young teenager, with all the pain, loneliness and isolation that that brought, Patrick dared to hope in God.

Later in life he heard the "voice of the Irish" calling him back to the land of his captivity, and he answered by returning to our shores as a missionary disciple of hope in the Risen Lord.

During my Pilgrimage for Hope here in New York, I have met hundreds of Irish-American families, including many in the parish community of Saint Barnabas in the Bronx. The people who came here in the 1800s not only constructed railroads and bridges, but they also built a strongly connected community which remains proud to this day of its strong Irish links.

Yesterday I prayed at the Irish hunger memorial, a famine-time cottage which has been shipped over from Mayo to Manhattan and reconstructed brick by brick within sight of Ellis island. It is a poignant reminder of the countless Irish

[March 20, 2025](#)

people who left their homeland during that awful time. Although many left with little more than the clothes on their backs, still, in their hearts, they carried the priceless treasures of faith and hope.

The hope the Irish carried was much more than human optimism. It was a hope forged in adversity and rooted in the same strong faith which centuries beforehand had inspired Saint Patrick to keep going, trusting in God.

Their Hope was not just a feeling. It was Christian Hope, which is a way of living, being and acting that looks beyond personal challenges, trusting in God. Christian Hope confronts the difficulties of this life with belief in the resurrection and with eyes fixed on eternal life in our heavenly homeland. Hope is a challenge to action for peace, justice and solidarity with others who are struggling, especially the poor and the marginalised.

No wonder so many Irish people, and their descendants, helped to build the great city of New York, as leaders in their parishes and communities, in business, education, healthcare, law and emergency services. All ten of the Archbishops of New York since 1850 were either born in Ireland, or had Irish parents or grandparents.

A very moving and prayerful moment in my pilgrimage of hope has been my visit with young people from Saint Paul's High School, Bessbrook, to the "Ground Zero" 9/11 memorial. I was also deeply moved to pray at the station of New York City Fire Department Rescue 3 remembering the many firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11, including many who were Irish-American.

The theme of peace has been forefront in my mind during this pilgrimage of hope, and I was honoured to be given a tour of the Disarmament exhibition at the United Nations building. I also travelled to the Capitol Hill building in Washington DC to reflect on the unfinished work of peace and reconciliation in Ireland with my good friend Archbishop John McDowell, the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh.

As sons and daughters of Saint Patrick, somewhere deep inside all of us, the voice of God challenges us to be pilgrims of hope in this troubled world. Like Saint Patrick we are to make a difference: to be fearless ambassadors of Hope and charity; energetic peacemakers; compassionate carers for the sick and the lonely; faithful stewards of God's creation; generous helpers of the poor and the marginalised, and welcoming friends for those who, like Patrick and so many of our Irish ancestors, are forcibly displaced from their homeland.

Peace, reconciliation and hope are central to the message of Saint Patrick for us all in this Jubilee Year.

Guím idirghuí Naomh Pádraig ar ár lucht imirce scaite ar fud na cruinne. Ba dheoraí Naomh Pádraig é féin tráth. Tuigeann sé ar n'uaigneas agus ar m'briseadh chroí. Guím beannacht, ráth agus séan ár bPatrúin oraibh uilig, inniu agus i gcónaí.

Watch the message here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcSluHmDu4Q



ECI Climate Justice Candle Visits Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Parishes, Co Kildare

The candle visited St Seachnall's Church, Dunshaughlin, where there is an

active and dynamic Eco-Congregation Group.

The candle also visited the other churches in the Parish: Agher Church, St Peter's, Dunboyne and St Mary's Maynooth.

Education

Campbell taking part in ShoutOutForGerman campaign

This week, we are excited to participate in the German Embassy's ShoutOutForGerman campaign, celebrating all things German in schools.

March 20, 2025

As part of this initiative, we welcomed 20 German exchange students and two teachers from the Humboldt Gymnasium in Ulm, Baden-Württemberg on Monday. In October, our Year 11 students stayed with the families of the German students in Ulm, and this week, they will stay with the host families of our Campbell pupils. On Monday morning, the students attended some classes and were given a tour of the college by our sixth form pupils. In the afternoon, they visited Stormont and its grounds. Their week is packed with activities, including a trip to the North Coast and a visit to the Titanic Museum. On Saturday, they will spend some time with their host families before returning to Germany on Sunday. Let's hope the sun keeps shining!

Methody duo in Oxbridge Varsity Match

Congratulations to past pupils James (DPhil Material Science) and Harry Pratt (Medicine) who both played for Oxford University Rugby Football Club in the Varsity Match at the StoneX.

James is the 7th player to win a blue for both Oxford and Cambridge. for Oxford University Rugby Football Club in the Varsity Match at the StoneX.



March 20, 2025

Cathedral Calls



Archbishop McDowell's sermon at Washington National Cathedral on YouTube

“We were honored to welcome the Most Rev. John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan, Church of Ireland to the Cathedral yesterday.

“On this St. Patrick's Day, we invite you to listen to his sermon on our YouTube” channel.

<https://bit.ly/3XXEsHY>

Last surviving Battle of Britain pilot was Chorister of St Patrick's Cathedral

St Patrick's Cathedral said - We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Jack Hemingway. In his younger days, he was a chorister at our choir school and visited the cathedral on several occasions. His remarkable legacy as the last surviving Battle of Britain pilot is a testament to his bravery and dedication.

We remember him not only for his courage but also for his connection to our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this time. May he rest in peace.

John Hemingway, the last known Battle of Britain pilot, has died aged 105. In 2023, he visited St. Andrew's College in Dublin, where he graduated from in 1937.

Read more: <https://www.irishtimes.com/history/2025/03/17/last-known-battle-of-britain-pilot-irishman-john-hemingway-dies-aged-105/>

Clergy and ministry

Learning more about Māori Anglicanism and ministry

The Most Reverend Dr Don Tamihere (Archbishop and Primate of Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia) has hosted the



Secretary-General and members of the Compass Rose on a pilgrimage to deepen ties between Māori and Pasefika communities and enable international friends to learn more about Māori Anglicanism and ministry.

Speaking of the visit, Archbishop Don said:

“The whole purpose of the visit was to strengthen relationships... to find ways to help one another as a global Anglican family. Everyone has powerful stories to tell. Collectively the group have seen the reality of the context in which we live and work and minister. I give thanks for our Anglican sisters and brothers for pilgrimaging with us and for our global Anglican family.”

Read more about the visit here: <https://bit.ly/4ixp3Gu>

Events



Shine Out Choir and Orchestra at St Molua's

The Shine Out Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Judith Watson, will be leading worship at Café Church on Sunday 23 March at 6.30pm in St Molua's Parish Hall.

The Shine Out Music Project was set up eleven years ago; they are a wonderful group of people who love to share their faith through the gift of music.

The choir and orchestra members are not auditioned, they simply come along and make music together, perhaps you know someone who might be interested in getting involved?

Over the years they have led worship at many services, held workshops and raised money for local charities.



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Doors open 7:00pm / Concert 7:30pm

***Tickets from Church Office 028 7083 4529 (10:00am - 1:00pm Wed-Fri)
or phone Cathy on 077 4375 1478***

Subscription: £10

Proceeds in aid of Church funds. Reg. N.I. Charity No. 105562

March 20, 2025

An Afternoon of Ulster Scots Poetry with Anne McMaster and Robert Campbell

As part of the European Highland Dance Championships & Ulster Scots Festival 2025 that is taking place in Belfast 3-5 April, The Linen Hall, in partnership with Bready Ulster Scots, is delighted to host an afternoon of Ulster Scots poetry.

Join award-winning poet Anne McMaster and poet and spoken word performer, Robert Campbell, for a lively celebration of the hamely tongue.

3rd April – 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Free

Please visit our site for more information:

<https://linenhall.com/event/an-afternoon-of-ulster-scots-poetry-with-anne-mcmaster-and-robert-campbell/>

Haydn: Seven Last Words

A celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Our Lady's Choral Society. Saturday, 12 April 2025, 4.00pm Adam & Eve's Church, Merchant's Quay, Dublin

Featuring - Our Lady's Choral Society. RTÉ Concert Orchestra. Proinnsias Ó Duinn, conductor. Katy Kelly, soprano. Raphaela Mangan, alto. Andrew Gavin, tenor. John Molloy, bass

Every Lent, the tradition in the Spanish Cathedral in Cádiz was for the Bishop to deliver from the pulpit, a discourse on

March 20, 2025

each of the Seven Last Words of Our Saviour. After each discourse, music was performed to allow meditation.

In 1786 Fr. José Sáenz de Santa Maria, who had reconditioned the Oratorio de la Santa Cueva, invited Haydn to compose music for the service. The challenge for Haydn was to compose seven suitable, contrasting, slow movements while holding the attention of the listener. He was so successful that the priest sent him a cake as payment. Inside the cake, however, were gold coins.

Some eight years later, on his way to London for the second time, Haydn heard a revised version of his work made by the Music Director in Passau, Joseph Friebert. He included a chorus. The composer was much impressed but decided to improve on it, preparing his own choral version. Apart from the seven meditations, or sonatas, there are three orchestral movements— an introduction, an Interlude (between Numbers four and five) and a final movement II Terromoto, representing the earthquake that happened when Christ died.

[<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/haydns-the-seven-last-words-of-our-saviour-on-the-cross-tickets-1270252341949?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>]

A Rangers Journey - Historical Talk in Carrickfergus

Join Adrian Hack from 'Lead the Way Tours' as he delivers 'A Rangers Journey' as part of our historical talks programme.

[March 20, 2025](#)

The 1st Battalion US Rangers was activated in Carrickfergus on 19 June 1942. Exactly two months later, some of them became the first US troops to see active service on mainland Europe.

This talk will share the story of one of those Rangers, a Corporal who made military history.

Booking is essential as places are limited, light refreshments will be served.

Andrew Jackson Cottage & US Rangers Museum, 2 Boneybefore, Carrickfergus, County Antrim,

For further information please contact:
Carrickfergus Castle Visitor Information Centre
T: +44 (0) 28 9335 8262
E: visitorinfo@midandeantrim.gov.uk

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

March 20, 2025

Church News Ireland

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

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