

Church News Ireland



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Image of the day



Cadets help float War Memorial

Foyle College Air Training Cadets attended the launch of a poignant floating memorial for three gallant aircrewmen - Sub Lt Dobbie (20), Sub Lt Oxby (19) and

LAC Mew (19) who sadly died on 29th August 1944 when the plane they were flying back to base - a Baraccuda, DP872 - crashed in Enagh Lough.

The Foyle College Cadets proudly anchored the floating memorial they designed and which was constructed by

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former pupil, Jonny McNee (Aviation Archaeologist). They were joined by friends from the Royal Navy, a producer from eBritish Service Broadcasting Service, the site's landowner Mr Butler and former pupil who is a university reserve Cadet officer.



Canon Hoey from St Canice's Church in Eglinton where the

men are buried, led the service at Enagh, with psalms and poems read by the Foyle pupils and Jonny McNee - Son of Canon Bill and Mrs Averil McNee.

News

Hosting the ECI Climate Justice Candle

Would your church or faith community like to host the ECI Climate Justice Candle?

You can use the candle in worship and to raise awareness of climate justice and caring for our common home. Just drop a line to info@ecocongregationireland.com and ECI will arrange to get the candle to you.

Mothers Union Diocesan President- Elect for Connor

Alison Skillen is the Diocesan President-Elect for Connor. Following a thorough ballot count and independent verification, Alison will take up her role and responsibilities.



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She will serve from January 1, 2025, through the upcoming Triennium (2025-2027). She has the full support and consent of the Bishop of Connor.

Alison is well-prepared for this role, bringing a wealth of experience from her longstanding commitment to the Mothers' Union. Her extensive service includes leadership roles in her local Branch, significant contributions within Connor Diocese, and active participation at All-Ireland level.

Mothers' Union members in Connor Diocese have extended their heartfelt congratulations and are offering prayers for God's abundant blessings upon Alison as she embarks on this important leadership journey within the Mothers' Union.



Moderator visits South Belfast

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The PCI Moderator, Rev Richard Murray visited the church's South Belfast Friendship House to see its work and to meet the people of Sandy Row.

Ellen Hillen (Presbyterian Women's President) was also present. She said later, "I really enjoyed being at SBFH today. It was so good to hear all about the various programmes that take place in the House each week. Please pray for the staff team and for PCI's SBFH Management Panel who oversee the work and witness in this place".



SBFH's Louise even managed to get a wee selfie!

Curry in a Hurry in Cork

'Curry in a Hurry' Mothers' Union Cookbook was distributed to 1st Years at the National Maritime College.



On Monday, 4th November the Church of Ireland chaplain to the National Maritime College of Ireland in Ringaskiddy, the Rev. Canon Elaine Murray, together with Hilary Dring, the Mothers' Union Diocesan President, distributed the useful MU 'Curry in a MU 'Curry in a Hurry' cookbooks to all the 1st years in the college.

On Facebook, the NMCI wrote:

“A very warm thank you to Revd Canon Elaine Murray, Church of Ireland Chaplain to NMCI, and Hilary Dring, Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union, for their thoughtful visit to NMCI today. They gifted our 1st-year students with eighty Curry in a Hurry cookbooks, packed with easy-to-follow recipes using wholesome ingredients— perfect for students living away from home. This practical

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resource will undoubtedly be a valuable addition to their kitchens, helping them cook with confidence (...).

“Our thanks to Revd Canon Elaine and Hilary for their support and kindness towards our students today.

Students’ achievements recognised at St Patrick’s, Maynooth

It was an exciting evening on campus at the annual student prizegiving ceremony with the opportunity to recognise the students’ achievements this past academic year.



Baroness Nuala O’Loan delivered the keynote address in which she told the students that the skills they pick up when studying Philosophy and Theology will allow them to make a difference in a complex world.

To speak the truth, to call out misrepresentations and work out the objective truth.



She also said students will have the capacity to do great things and put what they've learned in to practice to ultimately make the world the better place.

Next up was graduation day welcoming all the new graduates, their families and friends.

Another successful Kilbroney weekend



The annual autumn weekend at Kilbroney for Down & Dromore youth was a huge hit with 50 young people and 19 leaders descending on the Kilbroney Centre for a weekend of fun, activity, bible teaching and not a lot of sleep!

“It was a privilege and joy to be able to spend 48 hours with some of the young people and leaders from across the diocese”.

Following everyone’s safe arrival on Friday evening participants were introduced to Matthew Winning (Logos Ministries International) who spoke over the weekend on the book of Ruth. That night there were some activities in the forest with everyone enjoying the fantastic setting of Kilbroney Park.

The fun continued on-site on Saturday with paint balling, the climbing wall, team challenges and some craft. The leaders and young people enjoyed getting to spend time together having fun and connecting over some of what Matthew had been sharing from the front.

Over the weekend their worship was led by an excellent team of musicians coordinated by Eva Cheshire. In their last session together Matthew landed everything perfectly helping us to see how Jesus is the redeemer and king that we all need in our lives to restore order to an often chaotic world.

There are further opportunities coming up to connect with one another in the coming months, including a Christmas

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Youth Night at St
Brendan's on Friday
13 December and a
Castlewellan
Weekend on 4 - 6
April 2025

If you want to find out
more about youth
activities or events
please contact Josh
Thornbury, Diocesan
Youth Development
Officer at:



josh@downanddromore.org or call 07842910954.

Cathedral Calls

St. Willibrord features in St. Laserian's Cathedral lecture

A wonderful evening is reported from St. Laserian's Cathedral as Dr. Immo Warntjes from Dept. of History in Trinity College Dublin delivered the Biennial St. Willibrord Public Lecture on 'Rath Melsigi and Politics in the late seventh century in the time St. Willibrord was here'.



Also present were Her Excellency, Florence Eusch Ambassador of Luxembourg to Ireland, Bishop Denis Nulty, Dermot Mulligan from Carlow County Museum as well as many from the parish and wider community at this event.

Westminster Cathedral Stamp

London's Westminster Cathedral is to be featured on a Christmas stamp issued by the UK's Royal Mail.

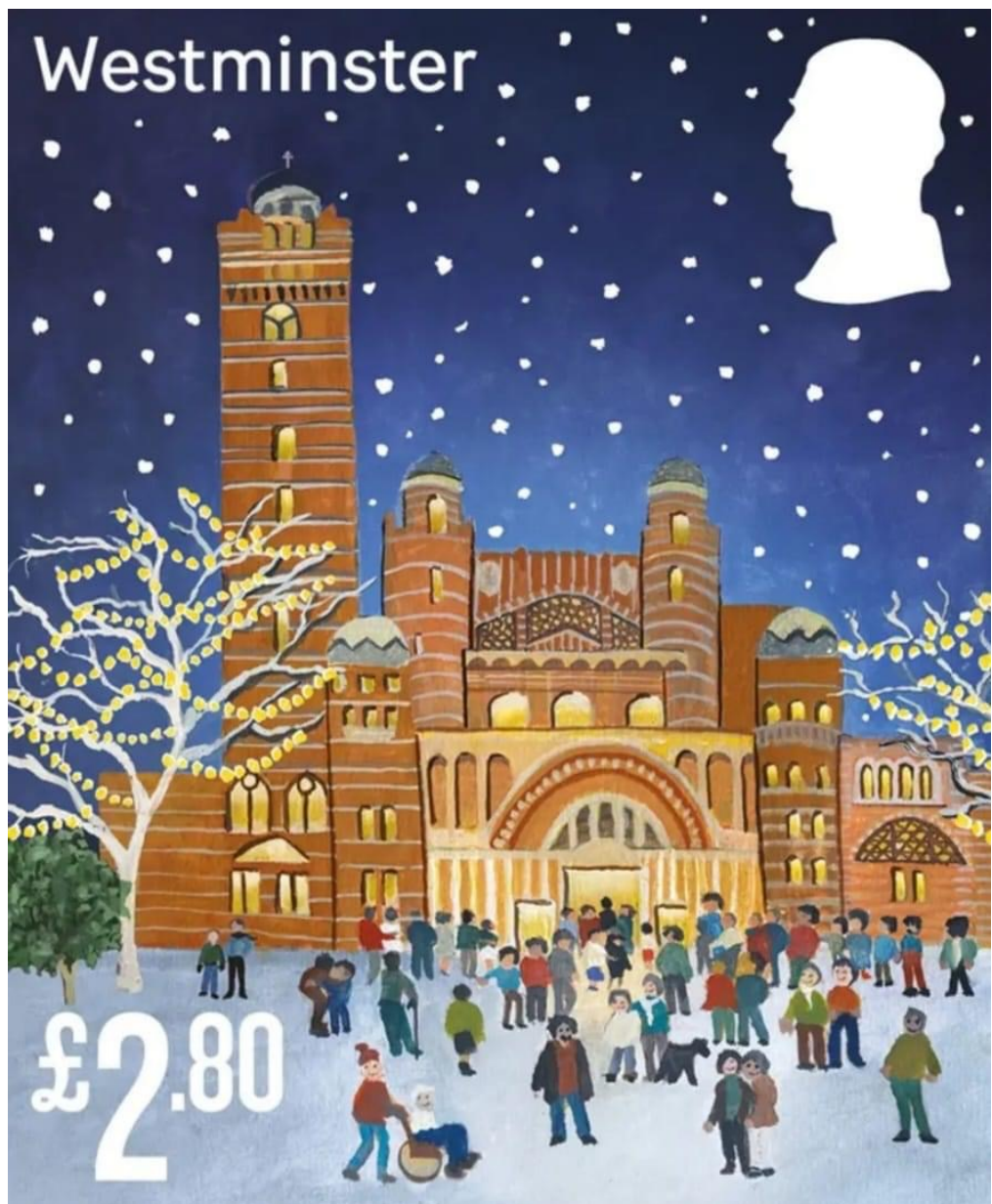
The mother church of Catholics in England and Wales, situated in the Diocese of Westminster, is the only Catholic representative in a series of five stamps featuring cathedrals in the United Kingdom. The other stamps will show the Anglican cathedrals in Edinburgh, Liverpool, Armagh and Bangor.

“We’re so proud because it means that the image will be seen by many, many people,” said Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster.

“I hope that seeing the image, they’ll understand that a church is a place where God dwells and where that sense of God’s presence is intense, comforting and consoling,” he said.

Westminster Cathedral is officially called the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and is the largest Catholic church in England and Wales.

“The presence of a church points directly to the birth of Jesus, because



that is the way in which God comes into our world in flesh and blood,” Nichols said.

“In order to honour and praise him, we create buildings of beauty – places of prayer – and Westminster Cathedral is an outstanding example of that.”

The archbishop of Westminster said the Westminster Cathedral is a wonderful site for Christmas.

“If you’re in London over the Christmas period, come down Victoria Street and visit the Cathedral,” Nichols said.

“It’s always open. There are thousands of visitors every day, and you’d be most welcome. Once inside, you’ll be touched by something of the beauty of God and of his delicate, humble, compassionate presence among us,” the cardinal added.

The cathedral was designed in a neo-Byzantine style by John Francis Bentley, a Catholic convert. He began working on the church in 1895, and it was completed in 1903.

David Gold, the Royal Mail’s Director of External Affairs and Policy, explained why the organisation chose to dedicate the Christmas stamps to cathedrals.

“Cathedrals are a hugely significant part of our cultural heritage and play an important role in local communities,” he said. They also offer space for peaceful reflection and a bit of an escape from the challenges of daily life, which can be especially important at Christmas,” Gold added.



Light of the World Kildare

This Advent and Christmas, the Cathedral Parish will be involved in an ecumenical church project which covers the county of Kildare, called, 'Light of the World Kildare'.

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The goal of our churches coming together is for every heart and home in Co. Kildare to experience God's hope, peace, and love in a new and meaningful way.

Local churches and faith communities have come together to offer a variety of free Christmas events for families. These gatherings provide a space to create lasting memories and reflect on the true message of Christmas.

There are programmes and services for children, youth, adults and families to attend. Everyone is warmly invited to be part of these special moments as we celebrate the light and love of Christ together this Christmas.

For more information please see - www.lightofkildare.ie

**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**



Starting Strong

Do you see children engaged and coming to faith in your congregation, but then lose them as they move into adulthood? What can we do as church leaders, volunteers and parents to make a difference?

A whole church approach to family ministry is one way to help children to come to faith and keep that faith into adulthood. Empowering parents, creating intergenerational relationships and giving children a place to belong and serve are all ways to help their faith to not only grow but to thrive.

Andy Frost, director of Share Jesus International, head of the Mission Collective in London and well-known author and speaker, is coming to 'Starting Strong: Building faith in our children' to help us think through how, as parents, leaders and volunteers, we can make a difference to the faith of children, to disciple them well and to see their faith grow as they serve within our church family.

STARTING STRONG

Thursday 14th November 2024. 7:45-9:15pm. High Street Hollywood Presbyterian Church. FREE EVENT BUT YOU NEED A TICKET

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/startingstrong>

Connor Christmas incoming

Join us with your parish youth group on Friday 6th December 7pm-9pm @ The Church of The Good



Shepherd, Monkstown for an evening of Worship, Food & Games for young people across Connor Diocese.

A great opportunity to meet your friends from Connor Takes The Castle again!

Let your youth leader know you're coming!

In the media

Alice's father: elevated above the vulgar herd

The father of Alice (in Wonderland) was Henry George Liddell (1811-98), a skyrocket of a Victorian public figure who headed Christ Church, Oxford, at its most eminent and consorted with prime ministers and the Queen herself. Fundamentally he rose because he succeeded as a schoolmaster - Christopher Howse writes in the Daily Telegraph

In a new biography, *Alice's Father* by John Witheridge, the fact that most impressed me is that Liddell built a stone house, with soaring chimneys and a Gothic tower, by the sea at Llandudno, with the profits of the Greek lexicon he compiled with Robert Scott. Liddell & Scott also paid for a new staircase in the huge Deanery at Christ Church, where Liddell took control of the cathedral and the college attached to it. He was appointed Dean by Lord Palmerston as Prime Minister, in 1855, with the intervention of Queen Victoria, within days of the death of Thomas Gaisford, Dean since 1831.

It was Gaisford who in a Christmas sermon had urged "the study of Greek literature, which not only elevates above the vulgar herd, but leads not infrequently to positions of considerable emolument." Liddell seemed to embody that.

Unbendingly he pushed for modernisation in Oxford, as he had at Westminster School (1846-1855). In the late 1850s at Christ Church, Liddell contended with conservative canons

such as Frederick Barnes, aged 88, who had come up to the college in 1790.

Liddell had already taken on astonishingly primitive conditions at Westminster School, where numbers had dwindled to 67 in 1841. The dormitory counterpanes had not been washed for 11 years, though the floor was cleaned once a year. There, where the boys cooked, the walls were smoked black.

As a clergyman-educator, Liddell allied himself with liberals and reformers. To the Oxford Movement, he responded: “Most of us knew (thank God for it) what we ought to believe.” In 1845, he had been appointed the Whitehall Preacher (at £300 a year, not bad for an occasional duty). Of his preaching at the Banqueting House, Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister, commented: “One of the most remarkable sermons I have ever heard.”

John Witheridge, also a biographer of Dean Stanley of Westminster, brings in a scruple about the worldly success of clergymen from Charles Reding, the hero of Newman’s novel *Loss and Gain*, who regrets heads of colleges as “ministers of Christ, living in finely furnished houses, with wives and families and stately butlers and servants in livery”.

This way of life better pleased Lorina, Mrs Liddell (who, as a rhyme put into her husband’s mouth “plays first, I, the second fiddle”). Reputed to favour “tufts” (nobleman and gentleman commoners), she delighted in the Prince of Wales’s attachment to Christ Church in his undergraduate career.

She feared the risk of her daughter Alice marrying a simple lecturer like C L Dodgson, who liked taking photographs of her. (Tennyson called his picture of Alice aged six the most beautiful photograph he had ever seen.). Today we assume the worst about Dodgson; she certainly burnt his letters to her daughter and banned him from the Deanery.

Meanwhile Henry continued, every inch a Dean, resenting small talk and, in the words of Max Müller, even seeming to “repay it by a kind of contemptuous silence”.

By deep knowledge of the world he describes and sound judgment in what to omit, John Witheridge gives a memorable portrait in 160 pages. I enjoyed it during that very Victorian experience, a long railway journey.

Poem for today

A Soldier's Grave

by Francis Ledwidge

Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms
Lifted him slowly down the slopes of death
Lest he should hear again the mad alarms
Of battle, dying moans, and painful breath.

And where the earth was soft for flowers we made
A grave for him that he might better rest.
So, Spring shall come and leave it sweet arrayed,
And there the lark shall turn her dewy nest

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Francis Edward Ledwidge was an Irish war poet from Slane in County Meath. Sometimes known as the "poet of the blackbirds", he was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele in July 1917.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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Church News Ireland

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Posted early Monday to Saturday

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