

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Hillsborough Castle**

November 5, 2024

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

## Image of the day

### Hillsborough Castle by Gaz Drone

**Hillsborough Castle is a Georgian country house in Northern Ireland, serving as the official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and a royal residence.**

It's located in the village of Royal Hillsborough, about 20 minutes from Belfast. The house is not a true castle, but it's called a castle because it was built on the site of an earlier fortified home.

The castle is surrounded by 100 acres of beautiful gardens, which are open to the public. The gardens include a variety of features, including ornamental lawns, woodlands, and a lake.

Hillsborough Castle is a popular tourist destination and is open to the public for tours. The castle is also used for a variety of events, including state dinners and receptions.

## News

### Watch a gun salute to celebrate His Majesty The King's Birthday

On Thursday 14 November, the 206 (Ulster) Battery, part of the 105th Regiment Royal Artillery, will fire a 21-round gun salute in the castle gardens.



**Thursday 14 November 2024. 12:00pm**

The gun salute will be open to the public with a Gardens ticket. More info and order at - <https://brnw.ch/21wOmku>



## **BBC Remembrance Sunday Service with Archbishops of Armagh**

**Archbishop John McDowell and Archbishop Eamon Martin will share reflections on the lives and service of two wartime military chaplains on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship programme for Remembrance Sunday (10th November).**

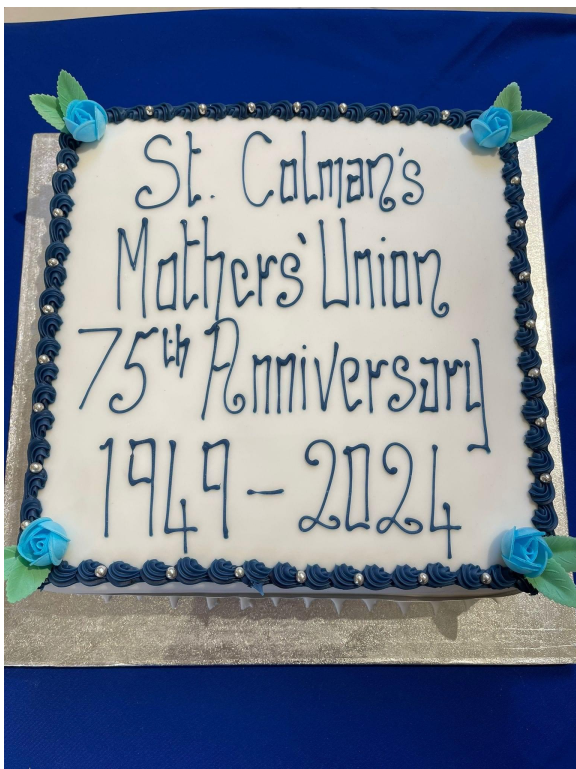
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The service, on theme of devotion and duty, will be broadcast from 8.10am, and led by the Revd Dr Lesley Carroll.

The Archbishops of Armagh will speak on the experiences of the Revd James McMurray–Taylor and Fr John Patrick O’Brien SSC, who both served as chaplains to the Royal Ulster Rifles and landed in Normandy on D–Day.

Readings will be from Wisdom 3:1–9 and Romans 8:31–39 and worship will include the hymns ‘Be thou my vision’ and ‘Guide me O thou great Jehovah’, Psalm 121 (in a setting by Walford Davies), Karl Jenkins’ Kyrie Eleison, and ‘Dona nobis Pacem’ by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Sunday Worship for Remembrance Sunday will also be available over the next month from the BBC website at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0024vy9>



## 75th Anniversary of Dunmurry Parish Mothers Union

**On Sunday morning in St Colman’s Church Dunmurry the service recognised the work and witness of the Mothers Union over the past 75 years.**

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**Representatives from Connor Diocesan MU office-bearers with leaders of Dunmurry branch.**





Logs of timber presented for a walk of remembrance at Tuvuren, east of Brussels, and close to where Ulstermen enabled the retreat to the coast in WW2

## **Church failure to curb society's egotism partially to blame for wars - Archbishop to Royal Irish Regiment**

**Wars are caused not just by failures of diplomacy, but by the church failing to be ‘a curb and a cure for society’s boundless egotism’, Iain Gray reports in the Belfast Newsletter**





That's according to Church of Ireland Archbishop John McDowell, as he addressed the Royal Irish Regiment's annual service of remembrance in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Sunday.

Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, he said that the failures of diplomats, states and the church all contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War.

But, he said, due to Christ's sacrifice Allied soldiers in that war, including those who landed in Normandy on D-Day exactly 80 years ago, carried with them the knowledge that evil cannot triumph.

The Cross is a tragedy greater than any war," he said.



“In the Cross, God went deeper into innocent suffering than has ever happened in war or in peace.

“On the Cross, human folly and evil lost its chief servant, death, which now became the minister for eternal life.

“And, whether consciously articulated or not by those young men who waded from landing crafts onto Sword Beach or who landed in gliders in fields which Rommel had flooded, we know that in the end evil cannot triumph, because it failed to do so on the one occasion when it could – on the Cross of the Son of God.”

Recalling his childhood growing up on an East Belfast housing estate built for ex-servicemen, the archbishop

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spoke of a specific terrace that housed seriously wounded veterans of the Royal Engineers who had lost limbs.

“They were great men, fully involved in the life of church and community, and certainly weren’t going to let the trauma of severe injuries prevent them from making their mark,” he said. “We owe those men, and the many who didn’t come back.

“Perhaps we owe them also something else – to ask and answer the question, what kind of civilisation carried this war in its womb and gave birth to it in 1939?

“And we ask the question to make sure that we do all that we can to make sure that it never happens again.”



# Cathedral Calls



## **Cancer Fund for Children Twilight Concert in Belfast's St Anne's Cathedral**

**Cancer Fund for Children is hosting a special Twilight Concert in Belfast's St Anne's Cathedral later this month to raise money for vital services.**

The evening of music and connection, sponsored by Power NI and Causeway Securities, will include performances by the ARCO String Quarter, Ardú and the charity's own Care Free Choir made up of families supported by the charity, staff and volunteers.



The event on November 21 will be hosted by broadcaster Holly Hamilton.

William Steele, managing director of Power NI, said: “Power NI are delighted to be supporting Cancer Fund for Children's Twilight Concert for a second year in a row.

“Cancer Fund for Children does tremendously valuable work across Northern Ireland for those young people diagnosed with cancer, their families and their communities.

“We look forward to November 21 and what promises to be a wonderful night for a great cause.”

After experiencing their own childhood cancer diagnosis, the McMillan family was supported by Cancer Fund for Children

and will be performing at the event as part of the Care Free Choir.

Speaking on their involvement, they said: “Choir gives us a chance to come together with other families that have been through similar situations.

“It allows us to support each other as a group through laughter and music and to celebrate our successes and process our tougher moments together as a choir family.”

Each week in Northern Ireland approximately three children and young people are diagnosed with cancer.

Purchasing tickets for the event will help fund Cancer Fund for Children's vital services so they can be there for families when they need them most.

Tickets can be purchased on the charity's website where you can also find out more about the organisation and how you can support it. Visit <https://cancerfundforchildren.com/event/twilight-concert/>.

## **St Canice's Cathedral Choir library**

**Every Sunday we sing a minimum of 10 individual choral pieces. A lot of these pieces will be known to the choir already, but we also learn plenty of new pieces as we go.**

As a result, today we've added 75 new boxes to our library to house the new repertoire built up over the last 3 years or so. A satisfying and rewarding way to spend a morning!

## Clergy and ministry



### Abbot of Glenstal Abbey

**On Friday 1 November, Solemnity of All Saints, Fr Columba McCann OSB was solemnly blessed as Abbot of Glenstal Abbey by the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly.**

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It was an important and joyful day for the community, and they were joined by many friends and co-workers for the occasion. (Thanks to Miriam Power for the photos)



## Pathways of The Future Leadership in Down and Connor



**The fourth session of Facilitation Skills training took place today in Holy Rosary Parish Centre. This is one of the Pathways of The Future Leadership initiatives being**



## **rolled out across the diocese.**

The group was made up of 24 participants representing 10 parishes from across the diocese. The training was facilitated by Jim Deeds.

It was a day made up of moments of prayer, personal reflection, curious questioning, upskilling and the sharing of ideas.

Thank you to all the participants who gave so generously of their time and energy today in service of their parish and the diocese. Final words of thanks to Jim for sharing his skills, talents and wisdom with us. It was a great day. God is good.

## **Uganda Mission Trip 2025 Meet the Team** **We are Team Giffin – David, Lisa and Sarah**

**Liisa writes - David is a lifelong member of Mullabrack Church and a past Boy's Brigade Leader. He has always been keen to do some mission work and was the first in our family to jump at the opportunity to go out to Uganda with Abaana and Mullabrack and Kilcluney Parish Group.**

I joined Mullabrack after marrying David 21 years ago and soon became involved in church life. I am a GFS leader and help out with Sunday School. I was encouraged to join the group after seeing the Abaana New Life Choir in February and hearing their stories.



David and I have two wonderful children, Christopher and Sarah, who keep us both busy. As a family we enjoy walks, eating out and family games nights.

Sarah is joining us on the trip and is looking forward to meeting and helping the children in Uganda 🇺🇬 and seeing how they live. She knows it will be an experience that will be very different from how teenagers in NI live.

David and I both have full-time jobs, while Sarah is a pupil at Markethill High School, a GFS member and a Drum Major with Mavemacullen Accordion Band.

We are thankful and privileged to have been selected to join this amazing group of hard-working people coming together to bring hope to the children in Africa. We look forward to

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engaging with the children through the Street Reach and in supporting their future through the building project.

We appreciate all the support and prayers from our family, friends and the wider community as we embark on this exciting adventure.

## **Please pray for the chaplaincies in:**

**Leuven:** Chaplain: Sarah Jane King. We pray for our new Chaplain and for her family: Rutger, Max and Bram. Pray that they may be rooted and grounded in Christ as they seek to serve him in Leuven, and for wisdom to discern his leading. We also welcome prayers for the finding of a permanent home for our community here in Leuven and for the setting up of a charity to support the work of our chaplaincy.

**Liège:** Chaplain: Guy Diakiese. Pray for our attendance at the three day Christian Forum here in Liege for all churches in Wallonia.

**Mons International Chapel Centre** at SHAPE: Chaplain to the Forces: Brian Phipps.

Lord God you sent your Son to save the world, and your Spirit to guide the church; we pray for this chaplaincy and their own sense of being sent into their world. We pray for their homes and streets, their places of work and leisure, and ask that each might shine as a light set upon a hill, for the glory of Jesus Christ.

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## Abide In His Love women's conference

**The Abide In His Love women's conference is a major Catholic event taking place in Bundoran in November.**

The conference will celebrate the beauty and dignity of women in the Church and the world today. It offers a wonderful opportunity to come together, form new friendships, be uplifted by powerful talks, and experience the transformative presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

To register, visit [eventbrite.ie](https://eventbrite.ie) and search for “Abide in His Love.”

## Thank You, Mister Dickens!

**Larne Drama Circle will return to the McNeill Theatre, Larne Leisure Centre from the 20th - 22nd November 2024 at 7:30pm with the light-hearted and highly entertaining comedy - ‘Thank You, Mister Dickens!’ by Jane Hilliard.**

It’s Christmas Eve and the ladies of a down-at-heel London bordello are not looking forward to the festive season. Business is slow, they are behind with their rent, have no coal for the fire, no food, and they have run out of gin!

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The arrival of Charles Dickens appears to offer them some hope. Mr Dickens is not there to sample the ladies' delights but has brought with him a purse of gold coins to exchange for some inspiration for his new novel.

Naturally, where money is involved, the ladies are happy to provide as much information as he wants - using all their imagination and a lot of over- exaggeration!

Could he be the answer to their prayers? Not before family secrets have been exposed and true identities revealed with hilarious consequences.

Will Mr Dickens leave with a best seller and do the ladies get the Christmas they have dreamed of?

You'll just have to come along and see!

Tickets (£10, Cash only please) are on sale from our Box Office at Larne Leisure Centre on Wednesday 13th, Friday 15th & Saturday 16th November 10am - 12noon & 2pm - 4pm and pre-performance Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd November from 6:30pm.

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# 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](mailto:houstonmckelvey@mac.com)

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