

Church News Ireland

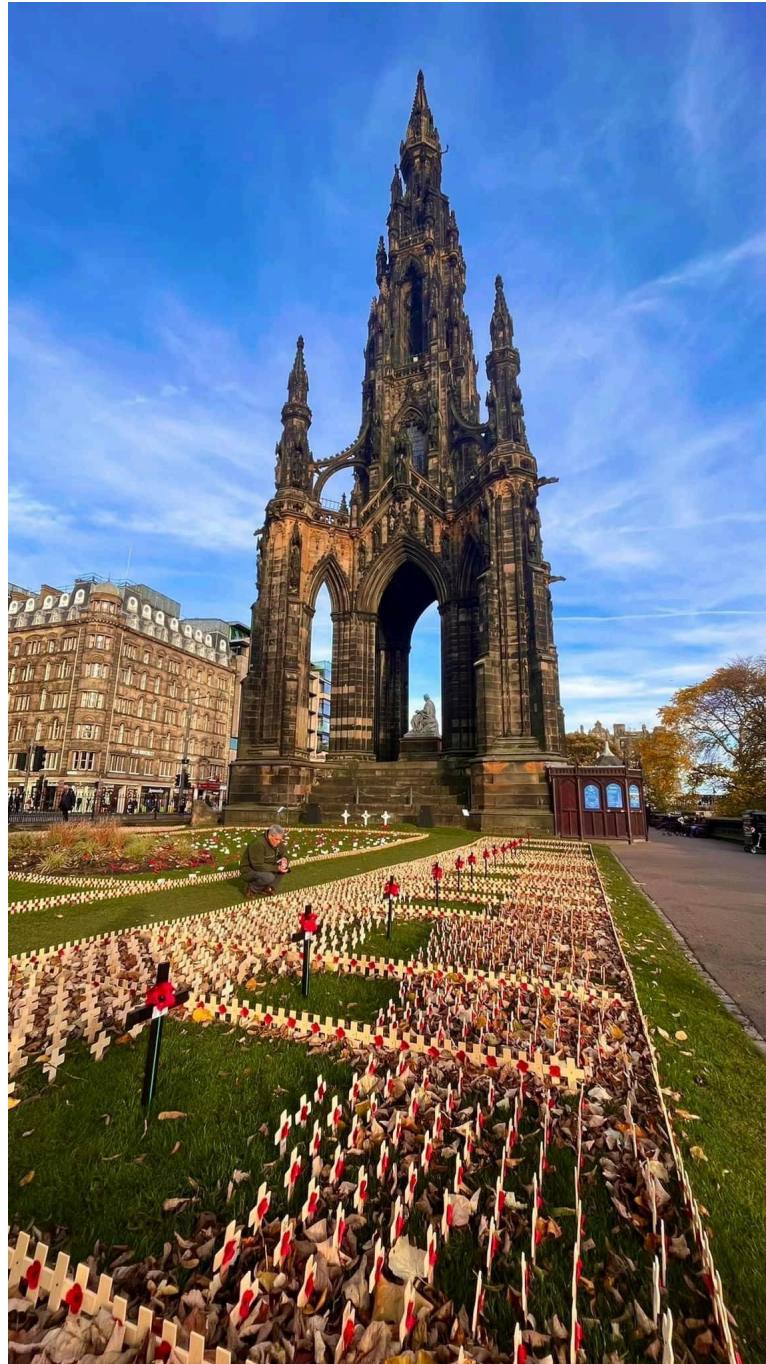


Image of the day – Scots Remembrance

November 8, 2023

Image of the day

Scots Remembrance

Remembrance poppies and crosses at Scott Monument in Edinburgh

People and places

Christ Church, Derry wins NI Church and Community Volunteer Award



Christ Church, Derry has won the Church and Community Volunteer Award for Northern Ireland at the National Churches' Trust's 2023 awards. The church, on

WINNER
Church & Community
Volunteer Awards

**Christ Church,
Londonderry**

MARSH
Charitable Trust

**NATIONAL
CHURCHES
TRUST**



Infirmary Road in Londonderry, was among seven from Northern Ireland submitted to this year's finals.

The award – which celebrates the “vital contribution volunteers make to both looking after and making the best use of churches to benefit local communities and people – was presented to Christ Church stalwart, Jim Kelley, at a ceremony at Mercers’ Hall in London, in front of HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

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Mr Kelley is one of the volunteers at Christ Church who have been heavily involved in its 'Open Door' initiative and its First Wednesday Lunchtime Recital series. The judges thought that Christ Church was very well resourced and using that very well. Its approach was "excellent" and the church was "very much a part of the community". They "loved" its partnership with St Eugene's Cathedral and "loved the feeling of hope and growth."

St Bestius Church of Ireland in Killeter, Co Tyrone was also nominated for the volunteering award. The Church of the Immaculate Conception, in Strabane, won the Northern Ireland category of the 'Open for Visitors' Awards.

Claire Walker, chief executive of the National Churches' Trust, said: "Churches have an amazing story to tell – from



their beautiful buildings to the faithful volunteers who keep them open and serving everyone in need.

"Through our research, we know that churches contribute £55bn towards economic and social good each year and, reading through the submissions, it was clear that churches are active across the UK in using their buildings to bring communities together and to help them to thrive."

Moderator's Remembrance engagements

This weekend, will see the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI), Right Reverend Dr Sam Mawhinney, undertake Remembrance engagements as part of his weeklong pastoral tour of the PCI's Presbytery of Omagh.

During the tour he will pay his respects at the Omagh Bomb Memorial and visit Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday itself. Having taken part in the Royal British Legion's Service of Remembrance at the town's cenotaph, he will preach in Enniskillen Presbyterian Church. "The community in the Presbytery of Omagh have suffered many deaths and trauma during The Troubles; it will be my privilege to stand with them, listen carefully to their stories and pray for God's grace, peace and presence.

"I will be joined throughout the week by my wife Karen, and I would ask you to pray for us as preparations are finalised, and as we travel and engage with as many people as we can in throughout next week," he said."

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Omagh Presbytery is one of 19 regional bodies that make up the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, overseeing the local churches in their area. The Presbytery takes in the geographical area of west Tyrone, and all of County Fermanagh, and is one of the most widespread presbyteries in PCI. Consisting of 40 congregations, it is largely rural, and takes in the towns of Castlederg, Newtownstewart, Omagh, Fintona, Ballygawley, Irvinestown, Enniskillen, Lisnaskea and Pettigo. A moderator last toured the presbytery in 2019.

Speaking before his tour, the Moderator commented, “I hope the ministers and congregations in the Presbytery of Omagh will be encouraged by my visit as they are reminded of their belonging to the General Assembly of PCI and that we value them highly. Throughout the visit I hope to have time to spend with ministers, their families and congregations,

Rico Tice
ANNUAL LECTURE

OPTIONAL

EVANGELISM?

2023 Annual Lecture
with Rico Tice

Tuesday 21st November
St. Nicholas Church
Belfast
7:30pm



Members of CK19

The Knights of Columbanus' council at Queen's University Belfast, are pictured with Bishop Ray Browne of Kerry during the lay association's annual gathering, held in Killarney. Pictured are Eamonn Russell, Adam McParland, Bishop Browne, Joseph McEvoy, Szymon Gorczynski and Cathal Hicke. - Irish Catholic Newspaper.

encouraging them to have 'Confidence in Christ,' as they serve their people and communities."

The tour is the second of four such tours that the Moderator will make during his year in office. This tour ends just four days before the start of his Overseas Tour to Kenya.

Collon Church reopens this Sunday

The historic Collon Church of Ireland building is set for a triumphant return to service.

The church had to close due to issues with the roof, but extensive and lengthy repairs have paved the way for its reopening.

Friends of Collon Church are delighted to announce the church will host services again this Sunday, November 12 and there will be a Christmas Carol concert on December 7.

There is a new roof and the plaster inside has been repaired and repainted. The inside again looks stunning.

The Ardee Baroque Festival will hold two concerts on Saturday evening, November 25 and Sunday afternoon November 26.

Friends of Collon Church will hold a Gala Concert of Christmas Carols and readings on Thursday, December 7.

Collon Church has been described as an elegant structure of hewn limestone, in the ancient style of English architecture and modelled on the plan of the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. Collon and its church are closely associated with the Foster family who arrived in County Louth in the 1600s. In 1764 the Fosters erected the first Church of Ireland church in Collon and a bible inscribed with this date still survives.



Christian Aid Ireland thanks - to the members of Causnagh Orange Lodge in County Armagh (part of Loughgall District Loyal Orange Lodge No. 3) who donated £400 recently to support our work. CAI's Head of Fundraising and Supporter Engagement Ruth Cooke picked up the cheque from (l-r) George Anderson, David Anderson, William Anderson and Mark Anderson. "Gentlemen, we're grateful for your donation to support our good 'caus-nagh'." In 1810 the Fosters decided to build anew on a site immediately to the south of the eighteenth-century church and, begun in 1811, the present church was ready to hold its first service in September 1815.

Friends of Collon Church was set up to help maintain and repair the historic building and have been assisted by grant aid as well as some incredible fundraising projects.



The Away Team - The organist, choir and Rector of Agherton Parish, Portstewart, who led the worship on the morning of Sunday 5th November and in the afternoon for Evensong in St. Columba's Cathedral, Londonderry. They were delighted to sing the Fields Setting (written by their organist Louis - left back) for the Eucharist.

C of I Youth Ministry officer moves to Durham

The Southern Region Youth Ministry Development Officer, Mr Steve Grasham, is departing for pastures new in England.

He will be greatly missed by so many who have worked closely with him over the past 7 years and he has done much to enrich youth ministry across Ireland.

The Diocese of Durham and Church Army, in a joint venture, have appointed Steve as Joint Lead Evangelists to the new Sunderland Centre of Mission. Steve will be part of a team heading up new mission initiatives assisting churches in their reaching out in word and action, sustained and empowered through prayer, to reach children, young people and adults with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Remembrance in Limerick

The annual RBL Kings Island British Military Cemetery commemoration and St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick Service of Remembrance took place last Saturday morning in the presence of The Mayor of Limerick City and County, Cllr Gerald Mitchell.

The Chairman of Limerick RBL Sqn Ldr Kevin Milligan and members are deeply appreciative of the support of the Dean and congregation and other supporters at this special time of remembering.

News reports



Archbishop's Climate Message to Global Summit

Archbishop urges world faith leaders to “lead by example” at Abu Dhabi climate summit.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged faith leaders from across the world to lead by example in the face of the current climate crisis.

Archbishop Welby delivered a video message to the Global Leaders Faith Summit being held in Abu Dhabi Monday and Tuesday this week. This is a meeting ahead of COP 28 which is in Dubai from 30th November to 12th December.

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His video message was delivered this morning (6th of November) to an audience which included the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, a representative from the Vatican, as well as a mix of leaders from many world religions. The Archbishop urged care for the planet and protection of the most vulnerable.

Archbishop Justin reflected on the injustice of climate change, stressing how it negatively impacts on those “who have done the least to cause the problem” and increases the suffering of those “who already live in poverty and insecurity”.

Drawing on some of his recent conversations around the world he said,

“Time and time again I heard stories of people whose lives have been devastated by flooding in Bangladesh, cyclones in North America, rising sea levels in the Pacific Islands, famine in Madagascar, drought in South Sudan.”

The Archbishop pushed for progress in three specific areas. He said,

“There is much more to be done, domestically and internationally. From commitment to phasing out fossil fuels and developing technology that can deliver clean energy, to delivering on the 100\$ billion climate finance promised, and agreeing on a Loss and Damage Fund.”

The Church of England has committed to carbon neutrality by 2030; completely de-investing in fossil fuels, and in 2022

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it held a landmark conference of Bishops from 165 countries to develop climate policy.

Christian Aid's humanitarian partners in Gaza caught up in the violence

As casualties and destruction mounts in Gaza, the international development charity Christian Aid reports the humanitarian efforts of local partners are being restricted by the violence.

Christian Aid has been working with local partners in the Middle East since the early 1950s. The humanitarian charity currently works with six local partners in Gaza, providing help and support for those most in need.

The agency has confirmed two volunteers working for one partner have been killed in airstrikes while one further staff member is in a critical condition. Another partner has reported two injured staff along with one who had a leg amputated. These numbers continue to rise.

As with other humanitarian workers, staff have lost family members, been displaced and their offices and equipment have been damaged in the blasts. The conditions are limiting their ability to move around and provide aid.

William Bell, Christian Aid's Head of Middle East Policy and Advocacy, said: "The violence is affecting everyone, civilians and humanitarians alike. Nobody is safe but still our partners in Gaza are doing extraordinary work in the most extreme conditions.

“With the local banking system still working, cash transfers via our partners are helping people displaced in Khan Younis and providing mobile medical and psychological care, including supporting a small group of Christians sheltering in Saint Porphyrius church.

"Soon the cash transfers will no longer be effective because, as one of our partners said, there's nothing left to buy locally. While our community-led response is proving more resilient than any large-scale logistical operations can deliver at present, we need to respond at a level that can only be achieved by unrestricted humanitarian access with fuel, water and electricity reconnected.”

William Bell added: “Only a full ceasefire, not a temporary pause, can ensure the safe and effective supply of humanitarian support, including fuel, at the scale required to help two million Palestinians.”

The UN has confirmed that 56 trucks entered Gaza on 31 October compared to an average of 500 truckloads entering Gaza every working day prior to the hostilities. 500 trucks is the very lowest number required to enable the population in Gaza to subsist.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated on 31 October that the “level of humanitarian assistance that has been allowed into Gaza up to this point is completely inadequate and not commensurate with the needs of people in Gaza, compounding the humanitarian tragedy.”

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Dr Hassan runs the chronic disease centre for Christian Aid's local partner Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) but since the start of the current crisis, he has also been working with PMRS' mobile health team, which delivers medicine and carries out home visits to change dressings for the wounded.

Speaking from Gaza, Dr Hassan explains: "I have lived through many wars in Gaza. But this war is not the same. We have lost a lot of doctors, nurses and hospital staff. Many healthcare workers have been killed by bombs and rockets hitting their homes.

"They are bombing crowded places, bakeries, hospitals and homes. They are bombing everywhere.

"If fuel totally runs out in Gaza it will be a catastrophe, especially those in intensive care units who are relying on ventilators, which will stop working without electricity. The hospitals will become a place where patients are only sent to the morgue."

In the media

Police insult the public by allowing these marches - Daily Telegraph

On the first page of a British passport, "His Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State requests and requires" that the bearer should be allowed "to pass freely without let

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Costs and 'six-figure' settlement for Dana in libel case
SEE PAGE 2



Healy ready to ring changes for Big Two battle in League Cup
SEE SPORT

Ireland 'just more anti-Israel under SF'

Warning if republicans get in power in Dublin

By Adam Kelly
@adamkelly

The former DUP deputy leader has said that Ireland already has a reputation as being the most anti-Israel state in Europe—reputation which will grow “ten times worse” if Sinn Féin ever takes the reins of government.

Lord Doolan was speaking after Sinn Féin declared at the weekend that the Israeli ambassador to Ireland, Dana Irlich, should lose her diplomatic status due to the “baseless and/or self-indulgent, self-serving posturing and the degrading lies of this” in Gaza.

This is a reversal of the position the party had maintained for

weeks, and prompted Lord Doolan to say that already “Israel regards the Irish Republic as one of its most loyal states, and I think this will get much, much worse” if Sinn Féin wins power.

Reacting to this change of heart, Lord Doolan also told the News Letter that the republican party voted against the Revolutionary Partnership Bill in the House of Lords, and that the “utterly shameful contradiction” at its heart, given its historic links to the IRA,

“is that it is just a standard situation that they appear to get away with this kind of thing, but perhaps the Middle East or else will demonstrate to people the double standards that’s at the heart, the core, of Sinn Féin philosophy”, he said.
* Turn to page 4.

Candice helped young disabled learn to ride



League Cup Candice Turk, showed off a road earlier near Coleraine at week, and’s beautiful girl who is helping other children experience horse riding, it has been revealed.
* See page 11

Why West must stand with Israel

RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS: PAGE 12



Leaders’ plea for flood help

The leaders of Northern Ireland’s main political parties have come together to plead for government help for businesses hit by flooding.

In response NI Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris said the government is “ready to support any possible assistance where possible”.

Areas of concern Down, Antrim and Armagh suffered flooding after heavy rain last week.

Mr Heaton-Harris said the floods have been “devastating for those affected”.

In their letter to Mr Heaton-Harris, the leaders of the DUP, Sinn Féin, Alliance and SDLP urged the government to request additional resources from the Treasury for an emergency relief scheme for businesses and local councils. They said there could be business closures and job losses without financial support.
* See page 11

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or hindrance” and be afforded “such assistance and protection as may be necessary”, Charles Moore writes.

That is what our Government asks of foreign countries. It seems to ask rather less of our domestic authorities. It is surely the right of British citizens to pass “without let or hindrance” through our streets, particularly through the public spaces of our capital city, and to be afforded protection in doing so.

This right is being denied. On Oct 7, roughly 1,400 Israeli citizens (and smaller numbers from other countries) were massacred by Hamas in Israel. Since then, the main British street response has been demonstrations by pro-Palestinian supporters who either back the massacres or who march as if they had never happened.

This is itself intimidating. Even if the marches themselves could technically be described as “peaceful” (which not all can), the fact that thousands have nothing to say against one of the most disgusting series of acts perpetrated against anyone, anywhere, since 1945 instils fear. Good people would not march that way, at this time, however much they feel for the plight of Gaza.

When such marches are not merely tolerated but protected, when protesters of other opinions are told to stay away, when streets are blocked, railway stations are occupied by those marching and railway carriages are sometimes jammed with chanting mobs, this amounts to a display of indifference by the police to the citizen.

And when the schedule of “rolling” marches lets the demonstrators own the streets for weekend after weekend and threatens to affect the regular, peaceful commemorations of the war dead which take place on the 11th day of the 11th month, what looked like indifference turns to insult.

The general “right to protest” is not unqualified. It is customary, for example, to reroute marches: the first of this lot was forbidden to approach the Israeli embassy. It is also a matter for discussion when a march takes place. It ought

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to be obvious to the police that there should be no political marches in central London on the Remembrance weekend – the one time in the calendar formally consecrated to silence, reflection and thanksgiving.

Marches can be stopped and have been. In 2011, the then home secretary, Theresa May, banned a march by the English Defence League in Tower Hamlets. The recent marches cause even more pain, since they relate not just to racial ill feeling but to anti-Semitic mass murder. Under Section 13 of the Public Order Act, it is for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to act by seeking the Home Secretary's consent to ban a march. His reason for doing so does not have to be fear of serious disorder. It could also be that "the persons organising it \[intend] the intimidation of others" (Section 12).

The Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, may be under the impression that the marches so far have been a success because they have not been riots. He is wrong: they have been much more far-ranging in their threat to Jews and to ordinary citizens than anything Oswald Mosley's thugs ever managed.

Musical history with Stanford in Belfast - News Letter

The Ulster Orchestra, the Belfast Philharmonic Choir and soloists Mary McCabe, Cicely He, Aaron O'Hare and Brendan Collins, made musical history on Sunday with their performance of the Belfast premiere of Stanford's

Requiem to mark the centenary of the Dublin-born composer's death, Alf McCreary writes.

When people herald something as a “hidden gem” I am immediately wary, but having listened to the combined ensemble under the direction of the Phil's relatively new and certainly eminent chorus director James Grossmith, this was an inspired choice for the season's opening concert by the 120-strong Phil, which itself will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2024-25.

The Ulster Hall's much-famed acoustics provided the perfect setting, and it was wonderful to hear the mighty Mulholland Organ, so rarely played now, in full throttle with the organist Tristan Russcher.

The Phil was in fine voice from the very start and right to the end in the Lux Aeterna which, in the words of James Grossmith, indeed gave us “a deep sense of the positive nature of Stanford's own faith”.

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford was one of the most distinguished composers and music teachers in the late 19th and early 20th century British musical scene, and was renowned for his choral music.

He was inter alia professor of music at Cambridge and director of the Royal College of Music, and his pupils included such luminaries as Holst and Vaughan Williams. Sadly, however, he was later eclipsed by a new kid on the block called Edward Elgar, and he took this badly.

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However, it is hard to understand why it took so long for his memorable Requiem to be performed in Belfast, and I hope that it will now become part of the Phil's regular repertoire.

Two dioceses back call for same-sex marriage rites for the Church of Ireland - Anglican Ink

The synod of the United Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe adopted a resolution calling upon the Church of Ireland to permit same-sex blessings, , George Conger writes in his blog Anglican Ink.

In his presidential address to synod meeting at the Hotel Woodstock in Ennis on 14 Oct 2023, the Rt. Rev. Michael Burrows expressed a belief that the diocesan synod was not truly representative of the different cultures and sexual orientations present in the diocese.

There was an “under representation of colour, LBGTQ+, traveller, those suffering from domestic abuse” among the synod delegates, he said, adding “the message for this synod should be to embrace people as they are ...”.

A private members motion was offered at the close of scheduled business which stated:

“This Synod, while acknowledging the Church's traditional teaching on marriage as set out in the Book of Common Prayer, believes that pastoral and liturgical provision should be made for those persons of the same sex, whose marriages have been previously recognised by law, and who

wish to have an appropriate service of prayer and dedication. This Synod therefore requests that the General Synod and House of Bishops allow some measure of Diocesan discretion in the provision of suitable prayers for use where such services are locally desired and acceptable and where no priest or minister would be required to act against their conscience.”

Debate followed, with instruction by the bishop that each speaker should be heard in silence followed by a period of reflection. The motion was approved by secret ballot by a “large majority” the diocesan newspaper reported.

Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe joins the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough in seeking a hearing on same-sex blessings at the 2024 meeting of General Synod. On 3 Oct 2023 the Dublin synod passed a motion requesting the authorization of for the blessing of same-sex marriages. Sources at the synod tell Anglican.Ink there were no voices raised in opposition to the motion, and that it passed overwhelmingly.

George Conger asserts - “While approved by strong margins in two dioceses, the motion is unlikely to be approved by Irish Synod. The Irish church has long been divided by more than a border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Dioceses in the Republic have long been advocates for progressive causes and liberal theology, while the North is largely conservative and Evangelical. Less than one third of the church’s members reside in the southern dioceses, and a motion backing same-sex blessings is unlikely to gain a two thirds majority in the three houses of synod – bishops, clergy and laity”.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

CNI Events review

A review of special services, art, music and drama on this site today

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

