

Church News Ireland



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'has family link to Hitler'

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

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Image of the day

Sunday school Panto time

The Sunday School at St Michael's Castlecaufield and St Patrick's Donaghmore had a great day out at the panto thanks to the teachers who worked so hard organising the trip



News

RE students from RSD visit Queens Film Theatre

A Level RE pupils from the Royal School, Dungannon, enjoyed a trip to the Queens Film

Theatre in Belfast to view 'Small Things Like These'.



Ballynafeigh Methodist Church isn't just an Ormeau Road landmark and one of Belfast's most memorable buildings, it's a place of worship that's also become a community hub for the diverse and welcoming community around the church. First of four photos in this issue.

Pupils and staff enjoyed the unique and immersive learning environment. The film helps students better understand complex religious and ethical concepts by seeing them portrayed in a narrative format. The trip was followed by a

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meal in Belfast full of discussion and analysis and an opportunity to share interpretations and insights.

Irish Jewish community hits back after Taoiseach's comment on alleged war crimes in Gaza

Irish Jewish community hits back after Taoiseach Simon Harris said he would arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over alleged war crimes in Gaza, the News Letter reports -

The Irish government is "oversimplifying" the Middle East situation by saying they would arrest Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he arrived in the republic, a member of the Belfast Jewish Community has said.

Ballynafeigh Methodist Church - second of four photos in this issue.



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Michael Black, Deputy Chair of the Belfast Jewish Community, was speaking after Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said that Gardai would arrest Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he arrived in the Republic.

The Taoiseach's comments come after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued warrants for Mr Netanyahu and former Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant over alleged war crimes in Gaza. Report by Philip Bradfield

Ballynafeigh Methodist Church





“Ballynafeigh Methodist Church isn't just an Ormeau Road landmark and one of Belfast's most memorable buildings, it's a place of worship that's also become a community hub for the diverse and welcoming community around the church.

“I was thrilled to get a look inside yesterday and discuss plans for preserving and developing the church in the years to come.”

Matthew O'Toole MLA

Kenya's Catholic church rejects gov \$40,000 donation

Kenya's Catholic Church has rejected a \$40,000 (£32,000) donation from President William Ruto, intended for building a priest's house, a choir gift, and a parish bus.

Catholic Archbishop of Nairobi, Most Rev Philip Anyolo, cited "ethical concerns" and the church's policy against political self-promotion. He added that such donations breach both church directives and Kenyan law. A smaller donation from Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja was also returned.

"The Catholic Church strongly discourages the use of church events such as fundraisers and gatherings as platforms for political self-promotion," Archbishop Anyolo said in a statement.

C of I Church treasurer admits further fraud

The former director and treasurer of Shankill Parish Church Lurgan, who has already admitted swindling more than £600,000 from the church, has admitted a further fraud offence, Paul Higgins writes in Sunday Life.

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Two weeks ago at Craigavon Crown Court Godfrey Ellis entered guilty pleas to two of the four charges against him, namely fraud by abuse of position and forgery.

In court on Friday with some of the congregation watching from the public gallery, defence counsel Seamus Lannon asked for the 54-year-old to be re-arraigned on a further fraud charge.

Foyle U3A Choir
Invites you to
1st Wednesday Lunchtime Recital Series
In Christ Church

Wednesday 4th December 2024
at 1pm
Admission Free
All Welcome!
Musical Director: Jim Goodman BEM

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Standing in the dock wearing a navy suit and a blue shirt and tie, Ellis entered a guilty plea to a further charge of fraud by abuse of position in that between August 18, 2015 and January 7, 2020, he used £102,313 of parish funds to pay his credit cards.

Following the admission, prosecuting counsel Ian Tannahill asked for the final charge of fraud, alleging that Ellis misrepresented the church's bank balance by claiming it was “£30,482 in credit when in fact the account was £38,847 in overdraft,” to be marked as left on the books.

**POUNDBRIDGE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
DRUMBO AREA ACTION**

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12 NOON UNTIL 4PM**

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A fortnight ago Ellis, from Clanconnell Gardens in Waringstown, admitted that between July 26, 2011 and February 9, 2020, he abused his position of trust within Shankill Parish Church in Lurgan to transfer £643,637.31 from the church's bank account to accounts under his control and he also admitted a charge of forging a cheque on

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February 9, 2020.

“This is a substantial amount of money,” said Judge Patrick McGurgan, querying whether there was any issue over bail given the guilty pleas.

Mr Tannahill confirmed there were no such issues and Mr Lannon urged the judge to free the fraudster pending the completion of a probation report.

The judge agreed and he urged Ellis to “fully cooperate” with probation as the pre-sentence report would be in his best



**1st Ards
Scout Group
Christmas Market**

**First Sunday of December at 1st Ards
Scout Group hall on the Circular Road**

Sellers from 9am, buyers from 10am
Fresh mulled wine & mince pies!

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 07568007580

interests. Adjourning the plea and sentence to January 24, Judge McGurgan freed Ellis on bail but warned him “under no circumstances take that as any indication what the sentence will be”.

Pope says Vatican's pension fund faces 'serious imbalance'

Pope Francis said on Thursday the Vatican's pension fund is facing a "serious imbalance" that may require changes to its operating structure, and appointed a senior cardinal to take over the fund's administration.

In an unusual letter sent to all the world's cardinals and to the leaders of the Vatican's various offices, the pope did not quantify the scope of the issue.

He said the changes would include "making difficult decisions that will require particular sensitivity, generosity, and willingness to sacrifice on the part of everyone".

Francis appointed Cardinal Kevin Farrell, an Irish-American prelate who has led the Vatican's office for family issues since 2016, to take over as the fund's administrator.

The pope has expressed uncommon concern about the Vatican's budget several times in recent months. In October, he ordered the third reduction in three years for the pay packages of the cardinals who lead the Vatican. He has also asked them to pursue a "zero deficit" agenda.

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The Vatican has not released a full budget statement in several years but is known to be facing a serious budget deficit. The Vatican's finance czar estimated in 2022 that the net liability of the pension fund for post-employment benefits amounted to some 631 million euros (\$664 million).

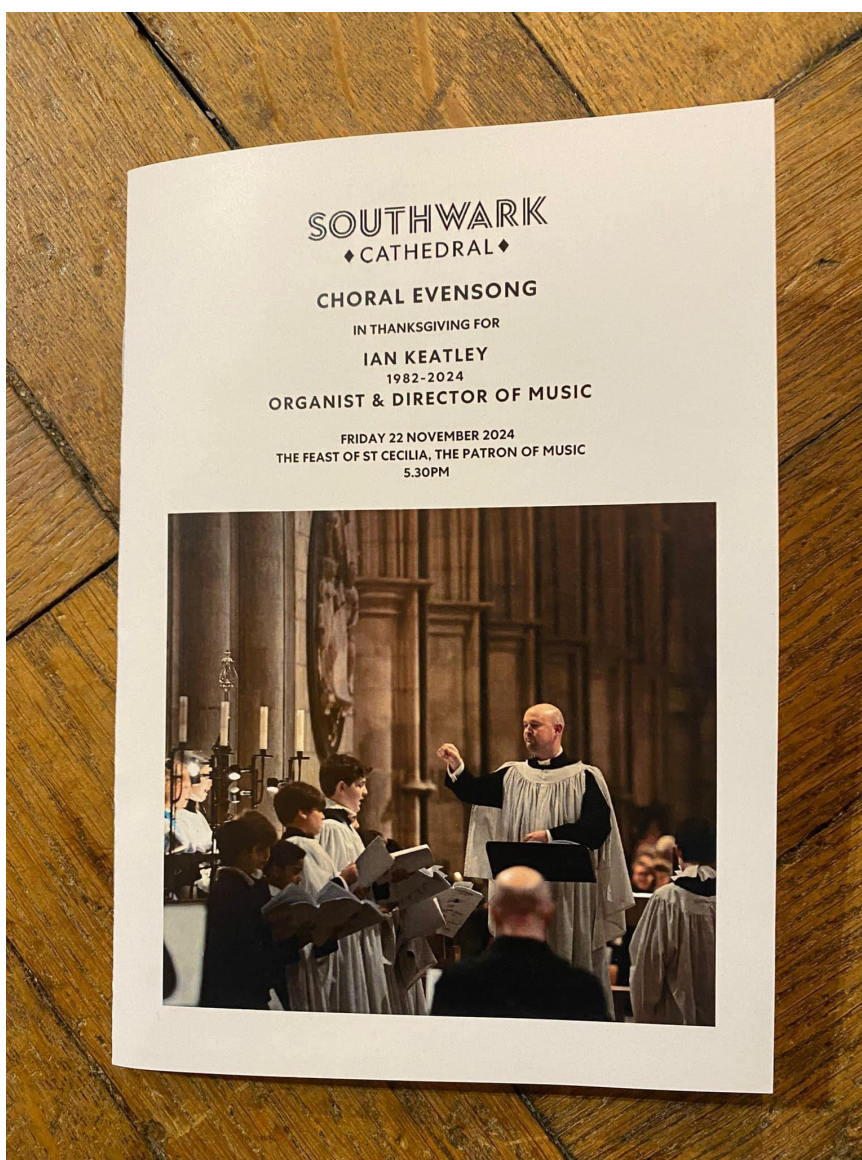
The headquarters of the Catholic Church comprises two entities: the internationally recognised sovereign entity of the Holy See and the Vatican, a 108-acre city-state within Rome. They maintain separate budgets, and Vatican City income, including from the popular Vatican Museums, has often been used to plug the Holy See's deficit, which according to Italian media stood at around 83 million euros (\$87 million) last year.

Cathedral Calls

Memorial Fund for Southwark's Irish director of music

**Richard Yarr
MBE DL,
Chairman of the
Charles Wood**

[Church News Ireland](#)





summer school (Right above) and Artistic Director, David Hill MBE (Left), were pleased to attend a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Ian Keatley, founding Director of the Summer School’s Girls’ Choir, at Southwark Cathedral last Friday night.

They said, “It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all of Ian’s achievements and reflect on everything he meant to so many people.

“With the establishment of the Ian Keatley Music Fund, Ian’s work and legacy will live on:

<https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/support-us/ian-keatley-music-fund/>

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Illuminated Orchestra at Belfast Cathedral

An immersive tribute to Hans Zimmer and cinema's most iconic music with a live chamber orchestra illuminated by light.

The Best of Hans Zimmer & Film Favourites Illuminated: Belfast Cathedral.

Incl the music of Harry Potter, Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Gladiator, James Bond, E.T. + More.

Thursday February 13

Early Concert 🖱️ <https://tinyurl.com/wd6cvb2p>

Late Concert 🖱️ <https://tinyurl.com/5t2ua6bj>

Clergy and ministry

‘Night Fever’ special at QUB Catholic Chaplaincy

This year’s ‘Night Fever’ was very special. “We welcomed Vocations Director for Down and Connor Diocese, Fr Conor McGrath, who brought with him a monstrance for Eucharistic Adoration that had been blessed by Pope St John Paul”.

During his meditation, Fr Conor reminded us that we are made for greatness.



“As well as prayer, song and quiet in Chapel, we had food and social time in Mosaic Cafe, with lots of street outreach on campus.

“We love to connect with new students to let them know we’re there for them”

Rector for Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy & Eglis (Drumsallan)

After the process of a Board of Nomination, the Archbishop of Armagh is very pleased to announce that the **Rev’d Andy Moore**, currently Curate Assistant of the Parishes of Ballymena (Kilconriola) and Ballyclug, in the Diocese of Connor, has been appointed to become Rector of the



Parishes of Clonfeacle, Derrygortreavy & Eglis
(Drumsallan)

The date of Mr Moore's Institution Service has yet to be confirmed and will take place following Easter. In the meantime, may we remember Andy and Laura, as well as their children Jacob, Sophia and Charlotte in our prayers.

Incumbent of the Lecale Area Mission Partnership

The **Revd Henry Blair** has been appointed as Incumbent of the Lecale Area Mission Partnership in the Diocese of Down. Henry is the Ireland National Director for Sharing of Ministry Abroad (SOMA), prior to which he was Incumbent of the Parish of Tullanisken and Clonoe in the Diocese of Armagh. He will be instituted in Spring 2025.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Three Tenors to hold special Christmas concert in Wicklow town

The Three Tenors perform in St Patrick's Church, Wicklow town on Friday, November 29, from 8pm.

Ireland's 'The Three Tenors' are coming to St. Patrick's Church in Wicklow town for a special Christmas concert.

Celtic flavoured with a blend of popular favourites and lots of fun, the concert will showcase a mix of inspiring songs, sung with real passion by singers Paul Feery, Conor Gibbons and Philip Klubicka.

The trio will perform everything from The Dubliners to Andrea Bocelli, including such gems as Caledonia, Christmas 1915, Silent Night, Somewhere Only We Know, The Parting Glass, Save the Last Dance, Nessun Dorma and O Holy Night.

The Three Tenors have been performing for fifteen years in major venues such as the National Concert Hall Dublin, Cork Opera House, Dublin Castle, and Belfast Lyric Theatre. In October 2021, a sold-out performance took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. The trio were also selected by

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the Irish Government to headline a 1916 Centenary state reception in Dublin Castle on Easter Sunday in March of 2016.

Their Christmas concert takes place in St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow town, on Friday, November 29, from 8pm. A local children's choir will also be the special guests on the night. Tickets cost €30 and can be purchased from Earl's Newsagent, from the Parish Office on 0404 61699 or parishofficewicklow@gmail.com, or online through eventbrite.ie.

In the media

Irish cleric who preached that Israel has Nazi-style policies 'has family link to Hitler'

Anglican cleric reportedly told a service his mother-in-law was Hitler's goddaughter - The Jewish Chronicle

An Irish preacher accused of "hijacking" this year's Remembrance Sunday service in Dublin Cathedral with an anti-Israel sermon reportedly disclosed his family's link to Adolf Hitler at the same service in 2019, Jane Prinsley reports.

Canon David Oxley, who accused Israel of deploying a "master race" theory in a speech to senior Irish politicians at St Patrick's Cathedral last week, was said to have admitted that his wife's family were Nazis during the Second World War in his address at the same event five years ago.

According to a report of the 2019 service in the Irish Independent, he told the cathedral that the mother of his wife, Amalia Oxley, was German, and he had relatives who fought for the Third Reich.

He also said, according to the article: “It’s not everyone who can boast that their mother-in-law had Adolf Hitler as a godfather. It’s not everyone who would want to.”

Later, the minister said that the service “was commemorating the sacrifice of many individual Irish men and women who did take sides and volunteered to oppose Nazism in arms”.

Both services – the one this year and in 2019 – were attended by Irish President Michael D Higgins and first lady Sabina Higgins, as well as other Irish dignitaries.

In his 2019 address, the Anglican cleric went on to preach about the “cynical disregard of truth” and “the deliberate manipulation of information” that he said had become “endemic at the highest levels and has proved corrosive and destructive” to our society.

“In the conflict between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, neutrality is not an option,” Oxley added.

He also referred to Ireland’s neutrality during the Second World War. “There is no room for neutrality in the conflict between truth and falsehood,” he said.

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The report about Oxley surfaced in the wake of his comments at a Remembrance Sunday service at Ireland's national cathedral last week, when he accused Israel of committing the "horrible blasphemy of the master race in action... The elimination of others follows as a matter of course because they don't count."

Israel's envoy to Ireland accused Oxley of a "libel against the state of Israel" and "hijacking" the solemn memorial service with his diatribe.

The church leader reaffirmed his comments when approached by the JC, stating: "I am prepared to stand over my remarks.

"There was no hatred in my sermon, except a hatred of all theories that make one group of people more valuable than another, so that some become expendable. And a hatred of merciless cruelty, regardless of who is doing it.

"In delivering my sermon, I speak only for myself. I do not speak on behalf of the Church of Ireland, or of St Patrick's Cathedral. As our church does not believe in infallibility, it is quite conceivable that I am mistaken. No one is obliged to agree with me."

Oxley did not respond to a request for comment about his 2019 sermon.

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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

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