

# Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Zion hits a century**

November 27, 2024

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## Image of the day



## Zion MU hits a century

**Zion Parish Mothers Union has celebrated their branch's centenary. It has been a channel of service and grace to countless families and good causes.**

## News

### St Nicholas Galway Christmas Fayre





“A huge thank you to all our volunteers who helped make



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the Christmas Fayre such a huge success. An enormous amount of work goes into preparation and it takes everyone lending a hand before, during, and after the big day.

“Not everyone who volunteered is pictured, but we are nonetheless grateful to each person and the way in which they gave something back to our community and to our church.”



## Carols with style and silver in Kilmore

Poyntzpass Silver Band were in St Aidan's Kilmore (Sunday, Nov 24) as the first carols of the season rang out as we approach Advent. A great night.

# Crilly Sunday School Flourish planting daffodil bulbs

The Sunday School children from Crilly Parish took part in the Armagh Diocesan Flourish Initiative by planting daffodil bulbs and an oak sapling.

They had so much fun and fellowship while carrying this out and at the same time learning about God's wonderful creation.

Where:  
**ST. GEORGE AND ST. THOMAS PARISH**  
Cathal Brugha St,  
Dublin 1, D01 E654



A community that values diversity, equality, and mutual respect.

Every Wednesday  
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

For more information:  
infocommunitycarehub@gmail.com

WELCOME

## COMMUNITY CARE HUB



Navigating government systems can often feel overwhelming and isolating, leaving many feeling like just a number in a sea of paperwork. That's why we've created a welcoming space where we recognize that everyone has unique needs and concerns that deserve to be heard.

**Our free services:**

- Form Assistance ✓
- Guidance on Complex Procedures ✓
- A Supportive Environment ✓
- Multilingual Support (English, Italian, Spanish, and Filipino) ✓

A project of:  **THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND**

## **Raphoe parish group defied Storm Bert**

**Storm Bert and flooding of almost biblical proportions failed to dampen the zeal and determination of the ladies of the Parish of Lower Badoney & Greenan in West Tyrone.**

The parish held a very social and worthwhile fundraising 'Tea & Treats' event on Saturday 23rd November in Lower Badoney Parish Hall.

The event - which ran from 11.30am-4.30pm, and concluded with a raffle - certainly lived up to its billing.

The Deacon Assistant in the Parish Group, Rev Sean McClafferty, paid tribute to the team of organisers and volunteers who made the event not just possible but a resounding success. He thanked them for all they do to enhance parish life.

## **Bray organist (15) raises almost €3,000 for UNICEF after solo recital**

**15-year-old organist, from Bray, has almost doubled his fundraising target of €1,500 for UNICEF, after his solo concert brought in €2,836 . . . and counting.**

Edward Harte began playing the organ when he was aged 10, in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, following his years as a chorister from the age of just seven.



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He quickly progressed through the ranks, being the first boy in his year to become a Junior Cassock Boy, before becoming a chorister in December 2017, aged nine.

During his time as a chorister, he has performed to President Michael D Higgins and performed the War Requiem with the National Symphony Orchestra. He also went on tour to Sweden and performed in Lund Cathedral. This year, Edward became the organist at Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church.

In 2023, Edward became aware of the current situation in South Sudan and began to study South Sudanese culture and the ways of life of the many different tribes. He decided that he should try and help.

He has spread awareness about the problems in the region, such as famines, violence and drought by giving talks to

**'LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS'**  
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024  
St. Mark's Church  
Parish of Ballymacash,  
Lisburn  
Friday 29th November 2-5 PM  
Saturday 30th November 10 AM-4 PM  
Sunday 1st December 2-5 PM  
Music & Light Refreshments  
Proceeds to Parish Funds  
ALL WELCOME

To unwrap Christmas Scan me!

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over 400 people in his school and in churches around Dublin. In October 2024, he launched a critically acclaimed fundraising organ recital series called Organ for Africa, which took him to his home parish and to the wonderful Christ Church, in Bray for a solo recital, on Saturday, November 16.

Donations to Edward's fundraiser are open until December 16, at: [donate.ie/fundraiser/EdwardHarte](https://donate.ie/fundraiser/EdwardHarte)

## **Police memorial tablet in Fintona Methodist Church**

**The Omagh Branch of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Association on Sunday 24th November at 3 p.m. dedicated a memorial tablet in Fintona Methodist Church to the Glory of God and in memory of all those who served in Fintona Police Station whether in the Royal Irish Constabulary, Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross or who continue to serve in the area as Police Service of Northern Ireland.**

The Branch said - "We were delighted to welcome His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Tyrone Mr Robert Scott OBE, Deputy Lieutenants Mr Gregory Parke, Dr Clive Russell, Dr Archie Fullerton, High Sheriff for County Tyrone Mr David Moore and T/ACC David Beck representing the Chief Constable.

"Our thanks to the Rev Eleanor Hayden for officiating supported by Mr Aylmer McKinney for part time Reserve

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Constable RUC and Lay Preacher of the Methodist Church and the Rev Edwin Frazer (Presbyterian) and Canon John Woods (Dromore Church of Ireland).”

## **Welcome for Military Chaplain as Trump's head of the Department of Veterans Affairs**

**The selection of a military chaplain as Donald Trump's head of the Department of Veterans Affairs is being welcomed by US military personnel and veterans.**

President-elect Trump has nominated Doug Collins, a former Southern Baptist pastor to take the role when he takes office in January.

Congressman Doug Collins has been serving as a Southern Baptist Chaplain in the Air Forces Reserves since 2002 and he was deployed to Iraq between 2008 and 2009.

Before joining the Air Force Reserves he served as a Navy chaplain for two years.

Alongside his military service, Collins was senior pastor of Chicopee Baptist Church from 1994 until 2005 and he also served as chaplain for Chattahoochee Baptist Association.

He was elected as a state representative in Georgia in 2006 and ran for - but lost - the US Senate in 2020.

Donald Trump said in a statement that Collins “will be a great advocate for our active duty Service members,

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veterans, and military families to ensure they have the support they need.”

His appointment is being welcomed by military personnel and veterans. The coalition Mission Roll Call said in a statement :

"We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with him, should his nomination be confirmed, to amplify the voices of

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CENTRE, CHURCH ROAD, MALAHIDE

**SATURDAY 30  
NOVEMBER 2024**  
10.30am - 2.30pm  
Free Entry

# Christmas Market

Stalls: Cakes,  
Deli, Toys,  
Books, Gifts  
Bric-A-Brac

Get lucky at the  
Bottle Stall  
Enjoy our  
Christmas Choir  
Santa arrives  
12.00

Market Café  
Mulled Wine &  
Mince Pies

**1st Prize  
€2000  
Cassidy  
Travel  
voucher**

## Christmas Raffle

€500 One4All Voucher - €250 Garden Centre Voucher -  
Sheridans Cheese Hamper - and prizes from McCabes  
Pharmacy, Tony Byrne, The Greenery, SuperValu, Lula Belle  
Boutique, Rooney's Hardware, The Toy Shop and Halfords

veterans and their families as he takes on this critical responsibility.

"The Secretary of Veterans Affairs leads the VA in its mission to serve those who have served our country.

"Doug Collins brings a wealth of experience to this position...with his ongoing service as a U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain, his understanding of veterans' needs and the challenges they face. We believe his background could be instrumental in driving positive change for the veteran community, pending his confirmation.

"We're eager to see how his potential leadership could advance initiatives that make a real impact."

Doug Collins is the holder of a Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and he and his wife Lisa are members of Lakewood Baptist Church in Gainesville.

## Cathedral Calls

### **C of I is not about to disappear - Dean of Limerick**

**In a recent feature on the Church of Ireland in the Irish Times from Patsy McGarry, The Dean of Limerick Niall Sloane says the Church of Ireland is not about to disappear.**

“My own experience is one of growth. I cover the whole of the city of Limerick which includes the cathedral, an urban church and one rural church out in Murroe.” Since 2013, “numbers have doubled”, he says.

“I don’t think the Church of Ireland is going to wipe itself out or anything like that. We’ve had a new bishop this past two years and in the short time he’s been here we’ve seen that all our parishes, by Advent Sunday, will be filled.”

The diocese is the largest geographically in Ireland, taking in most of the Wild Atlantic Way from Sligo to Cork. “People are drawn to the west.” During Covid, people “decided they don’t want to be in the rat race of living in a city, with all the expense and all that, so people are going west”, Sloane says.

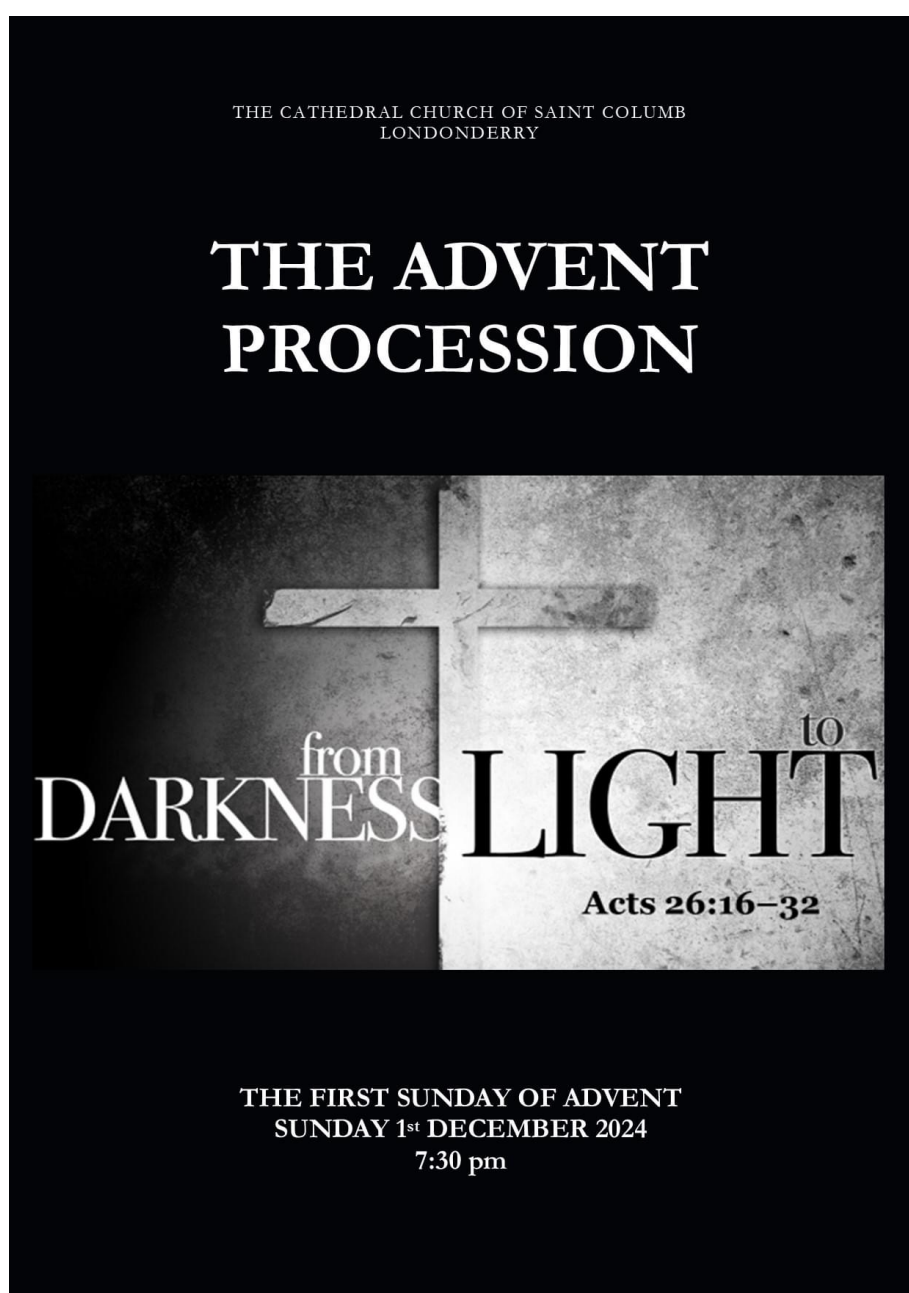
In the summer numbers “significantly grow, places like Spanish Point in Co Clare would have significant numbers,



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Roundstone in Galway, people holidaying, vacationing, with summer homes, et cetera”. Helping growth in Limerick, he felt, was a liturgy which “is carefully constructed, worship is at the heart of it all but it’s thoughtful, preaching is meaningful, pastoral care is careful”.

Other contributors were - Revd Rob Jones, Archdeacon Peter Thompson, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Canon Gillian Wharton, Hazel Corrigan, Simon Henry



## **Kilkenny's Red Book - A journey through time and page**

**An important local artefact, The Red Book holds the earliest recorded recipe for distilling Aqua Vitae, used for medicinal purposes as the Black Death ravaged Europe. The**

## 'water of life' is known as whiskey, today.

A letter from King Edward III is preserved along with an early provision of the Magna Carta and records of church state and law, theology, taxes and rents. Poems and songs composed by the good Bishop to replace the 'vile' secular songs of the townspeople.

It also set out several crimes that could lead to excommunication including, violence to the bishop, slander, tax avoidance and farming on church land.



The poster features a central oval photograph of a choir in white and red vestments. The background is a mix of yellow and maroon geometric shapes. Text is arranged in a clear hierarchy, starting with the church's name and logo, followed by a large recruitment headline, a photo of the choir, and details about rehearsals and a quote from Malcolm Arnold.

 CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL  
WATERFORD

# We are recruiting!



Do you love to sing?  
Join our family of choristers and discover  
a vast repertoire of choral music!

**Rehearsals: Monday 8 - 9:15 pm**

**Everyone is welcome!**

***"Music is the social act of communication among people,  
a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is."***

**-Malcolm Arnold**

Please email [simon@simonharden.com](mailto:simon@simonharden.com) for more details!



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The exhibition space will take visitors on a journey through the pages of the red book and look back at life in Ireland in the 14th century.

The exhibition features, Medieval Kilkenny, creating the book - why it was written, witchcraft, democracy and rights, poems and songs, aqua vitea - the water of life, The Magna Carta, King Edward's concern that the English in Ireland had gone native!

A hugely significant document that has survived the centuries and connects us with the past. Despite plagues, war, and the passing of time, The Red Book has survived the centuries.

Written in Latin, Old English and French, it was intended for well-educated church members. Today it is displayed for all to see.

"Any day we welcome the people through the door of the cathedral is a good day! The cathedral that gives Kilkenny its name - Church of Canice, Chill Chainnigh, Kilkenny.

The book is as true to Kilkenny as it gets. Ledrede is woven through all our stories. We look forward to welcoming visitors from every corner of the world to see this remarkable piece of living history," Dean Farrell.

On loan from the Representative Church Body Library, the book has returned 'home' and is on public display for the first time in history. Find out more here:

<https://www.stcanicescathedral.ie/red-book-of-ossory>

## Clergy and ministry

### Father John's 250th Parkrun

**Belfast man Father John Gribben posted - Hi everyone. Just sharing my 250th Parkrun jersey. I didn't think that I was going to make it.**



“And it isn't all over yet! On 22nd of February 2025 I hope to take part in the British Masters Athletics indoor track and field competition and I'm dedicating my training for it to the Tariro charity for young people in Zimbabwe. If you would like to sponsor me please follow the link

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/27360> - Love Joy Peace.

John CR

Father John, a contemporary and friend of Archbishop Richard Clark, was curate-assistant of St Colman's, Dunmurry before becoming a member of the Community of the Resurrection.

## Team for Spiritual Tourism & Pilgrimages

**Representatives from the TLK Team for Spiritual Tourism & Pilgrimages gathered with others from**



Liam O'Connor,  
Ven John Godfrey,  
Valerie Raitt, Rev  
Alistair Doyle &  
Rev Carole  
Reynolds (TLK)

L.The Rt Revd  
Ferran Glenfield

**across the Church of Ireland at the Cavan Crystal Hotel on Saturday to learn about the various Pioneer Ministry projects currently underway.**

With opening remarks from Bishops Glenfield and McClay, the day was led by the Revd Rob Jones and Michael Mitton.

# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## New BBNI Podcast

**On Friday last Season 3 Episode 7 of the BBNI podcast was released with Dave from Madlug.**

Go and Listen to hear more of what Dave was saying Lisa about how his personal experience inspired the formation of Madlug and his heart behind value and dignity, no matter of your background and his experience of giving away to receive a bigger gain.

The BBNI podcast season 3: Episode 7 with Dave Linton:

For the underdog is out now -

Watch & Subscribe on -

YouTube:

<https://lnkd.in/ehSM5cX6>

Listen & Subscribe on Spotify:

<https://lnkd.in/eDMWJwDE...>

Listen & Subscribe on Apple:

<https://lnkd.in/ehCMqpst>

## Killowen concert move

**“Due to high ticket demand, we are moving our concert from Killowen Church Hall to the Church, across the road.**



As a result, we are able to open the box office again for anyone wishing to secure some of the limited additional tickets”. Details are here:

[www.downshirebrass.com/box-office](http://www.downshirebrass.com/box-office)

## Have your say on Belfast Stories



**The Belfast Stories public consultation is now live and they want to hear from you.**

The £100 million project will create a new public



space, a visitor attraction and a creative hub in the heart of Belfast City Centre.

It is expected to open by 2030 at the Art Deco former Bank of Ireland building and the surrounding 5,000 square metre site on Royal Avenue.

Belfast Stories is a flagship project of the £1 billion Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) programme of investment.

Follow the link to the Your Say Belfast website in the comments to find out how you can get involved and give your feedback by 23 February 2025.

For overview go to -  
[<https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/>]

To go direct click on -

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[<https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfast-stories>]

## **Ballymoney, Finvoy & Rasharkin Christmas Fair**

**The United Parish of Ballymoney, Finvoy & Rasharkin  
are holding a Christmas Fair.**

Saturday, December 7 at 12 noon in the Parish Centre,  
Queen Street, Ballymoney.

Stalls include craft, cakes and tombola. Santa will be there!

## **In the media**

### **Down and Dromore Church of Ireland diocese focused on rejuvenation - Billy Kennedy writes in the News Letter**

**Down and Dromore Church of Ireland diocese held a  
parish evening in Lisburn recently, focusing on the  
importance of church growth. This report by Billy  
Kennedy was published on 23rd November 2024.**

Hundreds of worshippers from the 72 parishes which  
encompass Down and Dromore diocese – located in East  
Belfast, Co Down and Craigavon – packed the T3  
conference centre on the old Maze site for the gathering,  
which was billed as “an opportunity to be encouraged by

what God is doing in parish life and to think strategically together”.

Alongside its church planting initiative, Down and Dromore diocese, led by Bishop David McClay, is committed to seeing existing parishes thrive and enter a new season of “fruitfulness, especially where there has been stagnation or decline”.

Archdeacon Mark Harvey, who has special responsibility in this spiritual field, hosted the evening. He said parish rejuvenation begins with recognising there is a problem and being intentional in addressing decline. The archdeacon said the next steps involved reviewing the effectiveness of the Christian ministry and outreach alongside resources and their use. “Finally, a parish should put key elements in place,” he added.

The gathering heard from three church leaders who are going through this process in very different settings: Rev Andrew Frame, from Knocknagoney parish church at the edge of large social housing on the outskirts of Belfast; Denise Wilson, community pastor in Bangor Primacy, which is joined with the Methodist church; and Rev Karen Salmon, from Magherally and Annaclone, two small rural churches outside Banbridge.

All have faced challenges, but all have seen growth in their congregations over time and a younger overall age-profile.

Some common threads emerged, one of which was community engagement. Rev Andrew Frame, for example,



has connected extensively with the local primary school in Knocknagoney.

Another was accessible, context sensitive worship. Rev Karen Salmon shared how contemporary music is much less effective in her rural setting and so she has initiated a successful evening service with country gospel music. Each spoke of the importance of prayer which contends for revival and renewal.

Denise Wilson shared how she has gathered people together for early morning prayer zoom meetings. One of their prayers was for 40 new people in their 40th anniversary year, and she said God answered this call.

There are real challenges in church rejuvenation, including a lack of finances and personnel, and there was agreement that this was hard work.

When asked the most important priority for church growth, Bishop McClay said that as leaders they should “cry out to the Lord and get to the place where we do not settle for the way things are. We should also pray that this happens to our people”.

The bishop added: “We need to ask the Lord to raise up leaders for whom evangelism is a real priority.

“Let us ask God to break our hearts for people who do not know Jesus.

“This is the key, and we will find that everything else will fall into place.”

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# 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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# Church News Ireland

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

Link in Monday through Saturday from early morning

Please recommend to your friends