

Church News Ireland



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Remembrance VC

Five days ago Bishop Paul Colton had a wonderful visit to Nohoval in the [Church of Ireland in Cork, Cloyne and Ross](#). It was the last of his parish visits in the course of his Episcopal Visitation 2024 over the last 10 months.

In the churchyard is a memorial to Boatswain Mate John Sullivan which records his award of the Victoria Cross during the Crimea War. John died on 28th June 1884 in Nohoval parish.

The metal used in each Victoria Cross is from artillery pieces which were used during the Crimea War.



South Sudan focus of Mothers' Union in Coleraine

Linda from CMSI was delighted to meet St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's Mothers' Union in Coleraine recently.

There was a great turn out from the parish to hear from and pray for Andrew and Joanne Quill and the work of Ibba Diocese, South Sudan.

News briefing from Britain and Ireland



King Charles III and Queen Camilla hope to meet Pope Francis during their first major tour of 2025, which begins with a visit to Italy. The King last met the Pope in 2019.

Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia Mark O’Toole led a ceremony to mark the start of work on a Catholic school in Merthyr Tydfil

named after **Blessed Carlo Acutis**.

The latest financial statement for the Archdiocese of Dublin reports “significant” financial gains of €8.6 million made last year from the sale of parochial houses.

The pastoral council of LGBT+ Catholics Westminster has welcomed the final report of the 2024 Synod on Synodality. It said that the report recognised that people “continued to experience the pain of feeling excluded or judged because of their marital situation, identity or sexuality”.



The **Archbishops of Armagh** will reflect on the lives of two wartime military chaplains on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship programme for Remembrance Sunday.

Armistice Day: Next Monday there will be an Act of Remembrance at 11am in **Christ Church C of I, Bray**. All are welcome.

The first Labour budget for 14 years delivered £40billion in tax rises, a hike in employers' national insurance

contributions and more money for the NHS and education.
Reaction from faith groups:

Bishop of Newcastle, said the budget should be considered from the perspective of the most vulnerable.

Christians Against Poverty said “the new measures provide light at the end of the tunnel but it’s still a long, dark tunnel for millions in poverty”.

The **Just Money Movement**, a Christian organisation, called for further taxes on wealth.

The **Catholic aid agency CAFOD** was disappointed there was no reference to Overseas Development Aid.

The **Holocaust Education Trust** welcomed the Chancellor’s decision to allocate £2m for holocaust education.

Presbyterian Church's problem with gay members
leaves love and understanding behind - **Belfast Telegraph**

Fionnula Meredith writes -Just what is the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's problem with homosexuality?

What is it about two men who love one another that is so threatening?

It's starting to look like a very unholy obsession.

In the latest skirmish, a female Presbyterian minister has been censured and rebuked for taking part in a Pride church service which was shown by RTÉ in 2023. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) investigated after complaints were made by three ministers about the Reverend Dr Katherine Meyer's participation in the service.

Perv teacher was 'devout' Christian as pupil, recalls old classmate - Belfast Telegraph

Pervert teacher Judith Evans spoke of her dreams of teaching in a year book from Belfast Royal Academy (BRA), where former friends say she was a “devout” Christian. The 33-year-old, who has confessed ...writes Aliison Morris

The 33-year-old, who has confessed to nine offences against a teenage boy, is facing jail when she is sentenced next month.

Evans was said to have exchanged more than 10,000 messages with the boy.

A year book from BRA shows that the then-pupil Judith Spence, when asked “Where are you going to be in 10 years?”, answered: “Back in BRA teaching biology... helping with Duke of Edinburgh and music or singing around Europe.”

The Methodist Church in Ireland has warned that a Westminster bill which aims to legalise euthanasia risks creating "a duty to die" on elderly and disabled people who feel a burden on their families. **News Letter**

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/the-terminally-ill-adults-end-of-life-bill-methodist-church-in-ireland-warns-assisted-dying-bill-will-create-a-duty-to-die-on-elderly-and-disabled-people/content.html>

Remembrance Sunday: In break with tradition Taoiseach Simon Harris will not attend Enniskillen service. News Letter

Simon Harris will not travel to the annual Remembrance Sunday commemoration at Enniskillen, in a notable break with the tradition of the sitting taoiseach attending.

<https://app.newsletter.co.uk/story/remembrance-sunday-in-break-with-tradition-taoiseach-simon-harris-will-not-attend-enniskillen-service/content.html>

Frontline police officers overwhelmed by the number of mental health incidents - BBC News

Frontline police officers have become overwhelmed by the number of mental health incidents they are having to deal with on a daily basis, according to a senior officer.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj4vwvk07k5o>

Vatican's new mascot for Evangelisation

The Vatican has introduced a new mascot, named Luce, to celebrate the upcoming 2025 Jubilee, designed with the look of an anime character.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, who heads the Church's jubilee planning, shared that Luce was created "to step into the world of pop culture, so beloved by our youth".

Luce, meaning 'light' in Latin, was crafted by Simone Legno, co-founder of the Italian brand Tokidoki, which draws inspiration from Japanese culture.

Luce's design is rooted in the idea of a pilgrim, with 'shining eyes' and a symbol of hope, embodying Christian themes alongside Japanese pop culture elements.



Luce's 'pilgrim friends'-Fe, Xin, and Sky were also designed by Legno.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation will introduce 'Luce and friends' at the Lucca Comics and Games convention in Italy, a first for the Church.

According to the Vatican, this event aims to engage younger generations around the theme of hope, central to the Church's message.

Luce's unveiling has drawn mixed reactions online.

One X user posted in support of the mascot, saying: "Luce is the best Evangelization strategy the Vatican has ever came up with. Its just amazing," while another wasn't sold on the idea, saying: "This feels weird to me".

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Luce will also be featured as the Vatican's mascot at Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, where the Holy See will present a collaborative pavilion with Italy.

Prominent Christians respond after Donald Trump secured historic victory

A number of prominent Christians have been responding after Donald Trump secured a historic victory in the 2024 US presidential election.

Trump dominated the crucial swing states, including the all-important Pennsylvania and hotly contested Wisconsin.

Trump will become the 47th President of the United States.

Evangelist **Rev Franklin Graham** was early to send his well-wishes.

"Congratulations to @realDonaldTrump on being elected the 47th president of the United States of America!" he wrote on X.

"I pray that you will look to God every day for His guidance and wisdom."

Christian broadcaster **Eric Metaxas**, who is a staunch supporter of Trump, called the victory an "outrageous gift from God".

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"God knew. Praise Jesus. We don't deserve this," he wrote on X. "It is an outrageous gift from God -- so let us use it to His glory! Hallelujah! AMEN."



Evangelist Rev Franklin Graham

Christian broadcaster **Eric Metaxas**, who is a staunch Not everyone was in such jubilant spirits.

Theos director **Chine McDonald** shared her thoughts in the wake of the result:

"That feeling when you have dreaded something happening for so long, and then it happens and you feel... Nothing. Numb. But also a feeling almost verging on relief. A release from the tension and the anxiety."

Author and activist **Shane Claiborne** tweeted during the vote that "America is in cardiac arrest".

"Even if we survive this heart attack, we probably gonna be on life support a little while," he added.

In a lengthy post on X, California pastor **Greg Laurie** said America "needs restoration" and urged people to pray for the President-elect.

"America needs restoration. President Trump could have died so easily in the assassination attempts on his life, but God did indeed spare him," he wrote.

"When President Ronald Reagan was shot early in his presidency, he too felt God had spared his life. The night Reagan returned to the White House he confided in his diary, "Whatever happens now I owe my life to God and will serve Him every way I can." Ronald Reagan went on have one of the greatest presidencies in American history.

"Let's pray now for President Trump that he will be surrounded by godly and competent people who will give him good counsel in the days ahead. God bless President Trump and God bless the United States of America!"

Christian author **Rod Dreher** tweeted about a recent meeting he had with Trump's running mate, JD Vance.

"Many months ago, I drank beer with my friend, in Munich, and asked if he thought there was any chance Trump would ask him to be his running mate," Dreher wrote. "Naw, man, I don't think about that," he said. Now he is going to be the next VPOTUS. God is good, and so is @JDVance".

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Trump, 78, served as the 45th president between 2017 and 2021 but lost to incumbent Joe Biden in 2020.

Trump is the first president since Grover Cleveland in 1893 to return to the White House after losing a re-election bid.

The billionaire declared election victory with an appearance at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, telling his supporters:

"This is the greatest political movement of all time, there's never been anything like this... This will forever be remembered as the day the American people regained control of their country."

He added that he was "going to help our country heal".

"We made history for a reason tonight," he went on. "Every single day I will be fighting for you... this is a magnificent victory for the American people that will allow us to make America great again."

Trump also referenced almost losing his life in an assassination attempt.

"Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason," he said. "And that reason was to save our country and restore America to greatness...and now we are going to fulfil that mission together."

Trump is scheduled to be inaugurated on 20 January 2025.

Michigan was one of the closest races in the election. A contributing factor was frustration among Michigan's large Arab-American community with the current administration's handling of the war in Gaza, which reduced support for Democrats compared to 2020. See also Media section today.



Cathedral Calls

St Brigid of Kildare in Armagh

Armagh cathedral features a stunning depiction of St Brigid of Kildare, in a 2003 stained glass window by artist David Esler (sgn) in memory of Archbishop George Otto Simms.

Gallery One states - "David Esler was born in 1951 in County Antrim. He has been working as a painter specialising in the medium of stained glass.

His work draws on colour and movement using spiritual narratives, nature, poetry and music as inspiration. His many large commissions reflect the style and quality of

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David's work. With commissions in prominent buildings such as Stormont Castle, The Island Centre Lisburn and St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh; creating a dynamic and lyrical feel to the internal space of these locations.

“More recently David has been utilising these experiences of colour and light to create a series of watercolour paintings and collages. This new body of work has been influenced by a sense of place, music and Celtic culture bringing a sense of diversity and spontaneity through dreamscapes and sequences of a continuing journey”.

See other works at -

[<https://www.galleryone.co.uk/artists/david-esler/>]

Christmas by Candlelight concerts at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

A spectacular West End Cast and incredible live band perform your favourite Christmas Hits, as you have never heard them before.... Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 8pm

‘It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas’, so, join us at St Patrick's Cathedral, for this magical evening of best loved festive songs, performed live by Candlelight.

Featuring sing-along classics such as ‘White Christmas’, ‘Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!’, ‘Santa Baby’, ‘O Holy Night’ and ‘Winter Wonderland’, this uplifting concert is

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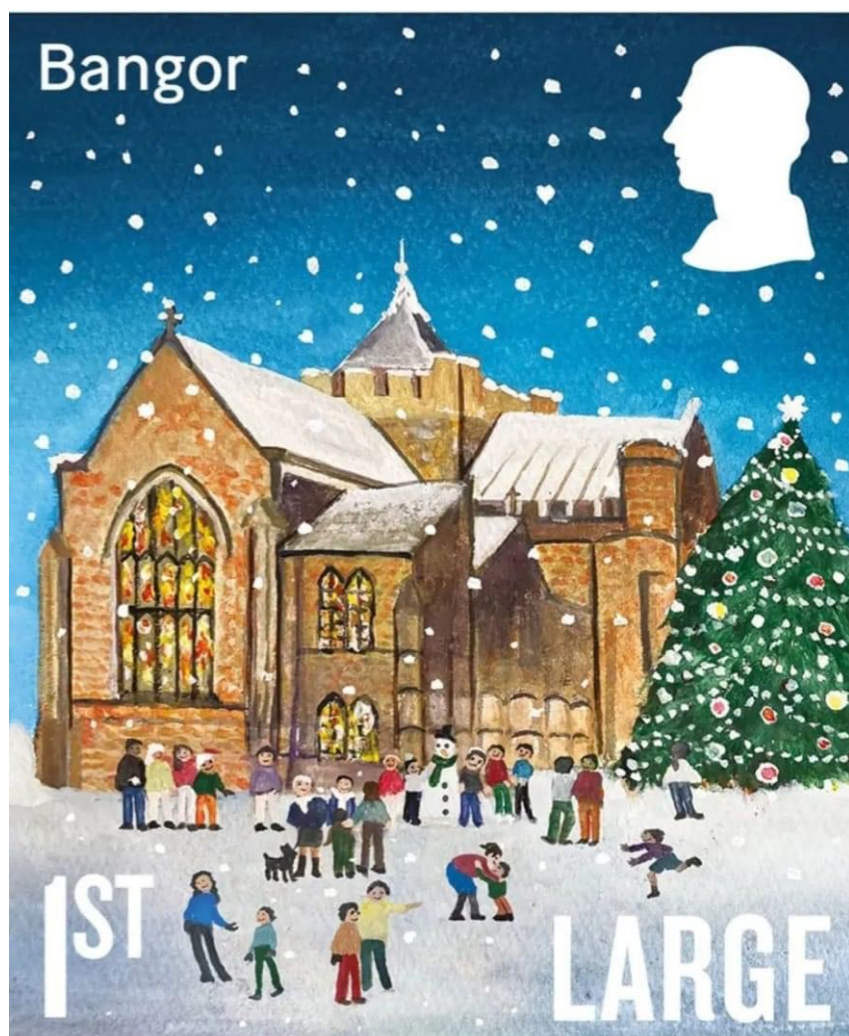
the perfect way to celebrate a 'Holly Jolly Christmas' with all the family!

Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 8pm.
Doors open at 7.30pm.

Food and drink are not permitted in the Cathedral.

All seating is general admission and seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis on the evening, within the block that you have purchased tickets for.

[<https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/event/christmas-by-candlelight-03-12-24/>]



Bangor stamp

**St Deiniol's Cathedral,
Bangor /
Cadeirlan Deiniol
Sant ym Mangor**

Bangor Cathedral stands where St Deiniol established his Celtic monastery in the 6th century.

Battered by

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medieval wars between the princes of Gwynedd and the English kings, the cathedral now celebrates the languages, cultures and landscapes of Wales.

Every Sunday and on Christmas Day, Welsh and English coexist in worship and prayer.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

An Evening in Bray of Melodies from Michael

An evening of instrumentals and songs including movie and television themes along with your favourite songs and hits takes place with Michael Byrne and Friends at 8pm on Friday November 22nd in St. Anthony's Room, adjacent to St. Fergal's Church, Boghall Road, Bray

There will be something for everyone and all performed in an intimate setting, with lighting and visual backdrops. Admission is €10 with proceeds going to St. Fergal's Parish. As this is a limited seating event, admission is by ticket only. Tickets are available from the Parish Office/Sacristy or call 086-364 7315.

Perspective

A Prayer for America

Rev Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, writes:

Mysterious God your ways are sometimes hard to fathom and your purposes amid the turmoil of life are sometimes hard to perceive.

Bless America. Be close today to those who behold the election result with dismay. Be with migrants who fear hostility and deportation. Uphold women who anticipate disrespect and feel their wellbeing in jeopardy. Give hope to the people of Ukraine who imagine a perilous future. Have mercy on the Palestinian people who wonder if their faint hope of a future has been extinguished. Sustain all throughout your world who sense the peril of the planet and its ecosystem. Make each one of us quicker to understand than to condemn, eager to work together even with those with whom we profoundly disagree, and hopeful despite despair.

As you have so many times before, surprise us with what your Holy Spirit can do in the face of setback and bewilderment; and draw us to that place of surprise, that we may in some small way be part of it.

In Christ your risen Son our Lord. Amen.

LINK

www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/

In the media

Episcopalians in the United States and US Catholic Bishops' Conference reaction to Presidential election

Episcopalians in the United States have been urged to model fellowship amid political differences, as leaders of the Church make their first statements since the election of Donald Trump to a second term in the White House, Francis Martin writes in The Church Times.

“Regardless of our political allegiances, we must remember that God has called us in the Episcopal Church to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” the Presiding Bishop, Dr Sean Rowe, wrote in a pastoral letter on Wednesday.

Dr Rowe, whose primacy was inaugurated in a service on Saturday (News, 4 November), wrote that the Church was committed to “working with the new administration to advance policies that follow the teachings of Jesus by supporting the most vulnerable among us”.

He referred to Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), which, since 1988, has resettled more than 100,000 refugees and reaffirmed the Episcopal Church’s support for the “dignity, safety, and equality of women and LGBTQ+ people”.

“I pray that President Trump and his administration will do the same,” he wrote. He called on Episcopalians to be “agents of peace and reconciliation in our communities, both in person and online. As people of faith, we can work and

pray for peace and unity among God's people whether we are joyful, hurting, or afraid."

The President of the House of Deputies, Julia Ayala Harris, also released a letter on Wednesday. "As a woman and as a Latina, I am feeling the weight of what this moment represents both for myself and my own family, and for the Church I serve as President of the House of Deputies," she wrote.

She acknowledged that "some in our church family will celebrate while others will experience deep fear and concern," and wrote: "Let us demonstrate to a watching world how Christians can model respectful dialogue and genuine fellowship even amid political difference."

The Church was called to a "distinct witness", she wrote, "to stand firm in our gospel commitments while remaining in communion with those who see the path forward differently".

The Episcopal News Service reported that some church leaders had expressed concerns about what Mr Trump's victory would mean for EMM. The organisation's director, Sarah Shipman, said on Wednesday that, although there might be "difficult times ahead . . . our commitment to this work has not wavered".

"While the path ahead may require us to work even harder, we know that, together, we can be a powerful voice for change and for 'the way of love'," she said.

During the election campaign, Mr Trump pledged to deport undocumented immigrants, and polling suggests that the policy was a priority for many of those who voted for him.

Mr Trump's first term was marked by repeated injunctions to "build the wall" on the US southern border. Despite the rhetoric, more deportations took place during 2023, when Joe Biden was President, than in any year of the previous Trump administration, Reuters reports.

On Wednesday, the President of the US Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Most Revd Timothy Broglio, congratulated Mr Trump, but said: "the Catholic Church is not aligned with any political party, and neither is the Bishops' Conference."

Speaking to Vatican News, he said that there was a duty to "treat each other with charity, respect, and civility, even if we may disagree on how to carry out matters of public policy".

He highlighted the alleviation of poverty, and making the immigration system "more responsive to the needs of people", as policy areas in which the Bishops' Conference had a particular interest.

On abortion rights, Archbishop Broglio said that it was important to "try and convince people of the right of the unborn to life".

The Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the Revd Dr Sam Wells, who formerly served as the Dean of Duke University Chapel, in North Carolina, posted a "prayer for America" on the parish's website on Wednesday morning. See page 19.

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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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