

# Church News Ireland

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Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

# Image of the day

## Mussenden Temple

Thanks to Gas Drone once again for a sensational photograph.

**Mussenden Temple** is a striking circular building perched dramatically on a 120ft cliff edge, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean on the north coast of Northern Ireland. Built in 1785, it is part of the Downhill Demesne near Castlerock, County Londonderry.

Here's what makes it special:

\* **Inspired by Roman Architecture:** The temple is modeled after the Temple of Vesta in Rome, with its iconic circular shape and columns.

\* **Dedicated to a Loved One:** It was built by Frederick Hervey, the Earl Bishop of Derry, in memory of his cousin Frideswide Mussenden.

\* **A Library with a View:** Originally intended as a library, its walls were once lined with bookcases. Imagine reading with that incredible view!

\* **Breathtaking Scenery:** The clifftop location offers panoramic views of Downhill Strand, Magilligan Point, and Donegal. It's a truly awe-inspiring spot.

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\* **A Ruin with a Story:** While the main house on the estate is now a ruin, the temple has been preserved and is a popular tourist destination.

If you visit, you can explore the temple grounds, enjoy clifftop walks, and imagine the life of the eccentric Earl Bishop who created this unique building.

## News



### Call out to all bell ringers

**The bellringers of St Donard's Parish Church, Belfast - wish to invite all ringers of the Irish Association, past**

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**ringers, family, and friends to a service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 24th November 2024 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary on the installation of the Bells of St. Donard's (26th November 1949).**

A service of Thanksgiving will take place in the Parish Church at 7pm, led by the Rector - The Rev'd Jan Stevenson.

General Ringing will be available from 5pm and service ringing prior to service by local ringers.

Light refreshments will be provided in the Parish Centre immediately after the service.

Please let all ringers know of this service of Thanksgiving and we look forward to seeing you all in St Donard's on Sunday 24th November 2024 to "Celebrate 75 years of Bellringing in St Donard's".

## **RNIB update on access to Grand Central Station in Belfast.**

**As you will know by now, Durham Street is closed to vehicles from the Glengall Street junction to the Hope Street junction until further notice.**

Pedestrians will continue to be able to cross Durham Street to access the Station, via a safe hoarded walkway from Glengall Street.

For anyone with accessibility or mobility requirements, Glengall Street can still be used for pick up and drop off via Image above shows an external view of the new Belfast



Grand Central Station, we can see three buses in the picture and the sign has the words 'Grand Central Station' in white lettering. a new temporary access road now in use from Durham Street.

Taxis are also able to pick up and drop off on Glengall Street.

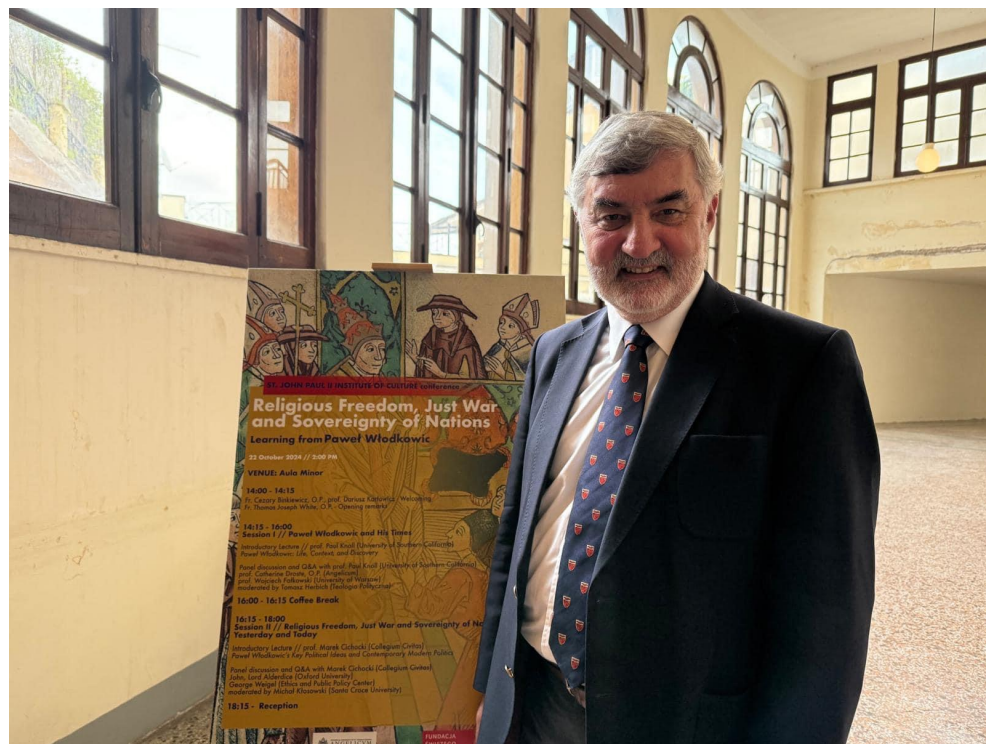
All taxis can be requested to use this location as the preferred pick up / drop off point or continue to use the Hope Street entrance of the old Europa bus station and walk through to Glengall Street.

For more on this and loads of other useful info about Grand Central Station, visit the FAQ page on the Translink Website.

<https://bit.ly/4eSCfnL>

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## Irish input on Religion and Identity at The John Paul 2 Institute



### John Alderdice writes on a recent event in Rome

“Just finished up a very worthwhile event at the Angelicum in Rome. It was great to do a half day event with my CDPB friends, Eva Grosman and Zac Hutchinson, for students here on the Role of Religion and Identity in Conflict.

“The following day considering issues of Religious Freedom, the Just War tradition and the Sovereignty of Nations in the work of the 15th century Polish lawyer, statesman, and Rector of Krakow University, Pawel Wlodkowic was really fascinating. It was one of those conferences where you learn a great deal more than you contribute.

“Thanks to Dariusz Karłowicz and my other friends at The John Paul 2 Institute for putting together such an interesting event and for being so kind as to include me.”

## **Incredible day at the NICVA Future Thinking Summit**

**370 representatives of Northern Ireland's charities, community groups and social enterprises came together at W5 Belfast to learn, share, and celebrate the value and diversity of the voluntary and community sector.**

NICVA's CEO, Celine McStravick, kicked off the Summit by highlighting the immense contribution of NI's voluntary and community sector. Referencing the work of the Joint Forum she captured the spirit of change perfectly by stating, "We're not asking for a seat at the table anymore – we're building the table!"

Looking to the future, Celine outlined three key priorities:

1. Embed partnership across government and funders. "Nothing about us without us".
2. Secure sustainable funding that recognises the sector's true value. No more "more for less."
3. Invest in our people – both paid staff and volunteers – with the skills and support to meet evolving needs.

Celine proudly spoke of a Summit created by our sector, "with and for our members".

Participants were also joined by First Minister Michelle O'Neill and Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly BL MLA, who emphasised the sector's vital role as a core partner in delivering public services. They acknowledged the



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challenging funding environment and its significant impact on organisations and staff, with the First Minister highlighting her advocacy for multi-year funding to provide stability for the sector. Both Ministers expressed optimism about working together to find solutions to key societal challenges.



# CONCERT For Corrymeela



**25th October, 2024**  
McCracken Memorial,  
Malone Road, Belfast  
7.30pm (*Doors open 7pm*)

Conductor: Sheelagh Greer  
Accompanist: Joanne Cruise  
Compère: Gene Fitzpatrick  
Soloist: Alexandra Dick

**Tickets £12.50**  
Available online - scan the QR code



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## Archbishop ‘deeply sorry’ as he reveals ancestor was slave owner

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has apologised for his family’s past after disclosing that his ancestor was a slave owner, Alex Barton reports in the Daily Telegraph**

The Most Rev Justin Welby said the great-great grandfather of his father, Sir Anthony Montague Browne, enslaved people on a plantation in Jamaica and was compensated when slavery was abolished. The archbishop said: “I am deeply sorry for these links. It is now time to take action to address our shameful past.”

He said he discovered his late biological father, a private secretary to Winston Churchill, “had an ancestral connection to the enslavement of people in Jamaica and Tobago”.

In 2016, he learnt that he had been conceived as a result of a previous relationship between his mother, Jane, and Browne, and that Gavin Welby, who his mother later married, was not his biological father.

The archbishop had no relationship with Browne, who died in 2013, and did not receive any money from him while he was alive or after his death. His statement said Browne was the great-great-grandson of Sir James Fergusson, the 4th Baronet of Kilkerran and the owner of enslaved people at the Rozelle plantation in St Thomas.

Fergusson, who died in 1838, was given a portion of a £20 million compensation package from the British government for loss of “property” when slavery was abolished.

The Rozelle plantation had almost 200 enslaved people at its height. The Fergusson family shared compensation of £3,591 in 1836, which is estimated at more than £3 million in today’s money, according to the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery.

The Church of England vowed to set up a £100 million slavery reparations fund in January 2023, a year after announcing it was “time to take action to address our shameful past”. It said investments into “communities affected by historic slavery” would be “delivered over the nine years commencing in 2023”.

However, it is yet to announce how the fund will work or set a date for when its first investments will be made.

A 2022 report found that the Church’s £10 billion endowment had partially benefited from 18th century investments in the transatlantic slave trade.

The £100 million sum represents just three per cent of the £3.6 billion figure that the Church Commissioners, who manage the endowment, expect to distribute in total over the next nine years. The archbishop said the fund was intended to “address past wrongs by investing in a better future” when he made the announcement.

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# Cathedral Calls

**Live Watch Party**

THE INVESTITURE OF  
THE RIGHT REVEREND SEAN ROWE

**SATURDAY,  
NOV. 2, 2024**  
@  
St. John's Cathedral  
256 E Church Street

**DOORS OPEN**  
@ 9 AM

**ROLL CALL AND  
PRELUDE @ 9:30 AM**

**SERVICE OF HOLY  
EUCHARIST**  
@ 11 A.M.



*Light refreshments and Child Care will be provided!*



RSVP by scanning QR code or  
email [npurcell@jaxcathedral.org](mailto:npurcell@jaxcathedral.org)



**SAINT JOHN'S  
CATHEDRAL**  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

[JAXCATHEDRAL.ORG/WATCH-PARTY](http://JAXCATHEDRAL.ORG/WATCH-PARTY)

## Investiture of Presiding Bishop online for St. John's Cathedral watch party

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe will be invested as the 28th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church on Saturday, November 2

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Churches and groups are encouraged to attend the livestream together. St. John's Cathedral will be hosting a watch party for the event at 9AM. You can register for the watch party here: <https://bit.ly/4dV57KY>.

You can also watch the livestream on The Episcopal Church's Facebook page here: <https://bit.ly/3YgLV4z> or by clicking the event link here: <https://bit.ly/4f8H5O5>.

The Episcopal Church hopes "you will join us for this joyous celebration of Bishop Sean Rowe's investiture as Presiding Bishop!"

## **RTÉ Concert Orchestra Carols from Kildare**

**Christmas starts early in RTÉ Concert Orchestra world...  
Filming on Tuesday - day and at night - with conductor Gavin Maloney for Carols from Kildare in**



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## **St Brigid's Cathedral.**

The Cathedral posted - It was a great joy to welcome the RTÉ Concert Orchestra to the cathedral this evening for a very, very special television recording.



## **New date of Labyrinth Evening at St. Pauls**

**Come and walk a Labyrinth under the magnificent Dome of St Paul's.**

Free event. Tuesday November 12, 6.10 to 8.00 pm. All welcome.

Experience Wren's sacred space created to inspire awe and wonder. Enjoy the tranquillity and stillness of the Nave and Transepts in the early evening. You are also welcome to join the daily service of Evensong beforehand at 5pm and conclude your experience with a short service of night prayer at 7.45pm.

During this evening there will be an opportunity to experience a Christian mindfulness taster session lasting 20

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minutes. The session will run twice, once at 6.30pm and again at 7pm. The sessions will be led by Martin Zetter of [Mindful WorkLife] who helps busy people to use meditation and mindfulness to manage stress. See - <https://www.mindful-worklife.com/>

Christ Church  
Bessbrook

Camlough  
Parish

*presents*

**THE**  
**LINDSAY CHORALE**  
*in Concert*

featuring Tullyallen & Mountnorris Male Voice Choir  
in aid of  
Mullabrack & Kilcluney Parish Church Group and Abaana  
Uganda Mission Trip 2025

**Saturday 2nd November 2024**

Christ Church Parish Hall  
Convent Hill, Bessbrook

Doors open 7.00pm Concert starts at 7.45pm

**Tickets £12.50 or pay at the door**

Tickets available from Mrs. Jill Hunter  
or any Select Vestry member

[www.christchurchbessbrook.co.uk](http://www.christchurchbessbrook.co.uk)

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# Clergy and ministry

## Bishop's visit to Galway school



**St Nicholas Parochial School Waterside, Galway, posted:**

“We were delighted to welcome Bishop Michael to our school today. He shared some very thoughtful and kind words with each of the classes. Go raibh míle maith agat Bishop Michael for stopping by”.





## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at St Malachy's College

**Congratulations to the new group of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, who were commissioned at the weekly Mass in the College Chapel, Belfast, on Friday 18 October.**

“Ministering the Eucharist to others is powerful way to show one’s love for God. Undertaking this ancient ministry in the Catholic tradition is a great example of service leadership, and these six young men and one of our classroom

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assistants have taken the training and preparation very seriously.

“Thank you for living a very particular and important aspect of the College’s ethos”.

Pictured are Fr Spence, Deacon Dowd, Miss McFerran, along with Myles, Oisín, Michael, Jude, Patrick and Liam.

## **Rector instituted in Holy Trinity Parish, Dromore**

**The institution of the Revd William Boyce, as incumbent of Dromore Parish, by the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr. Ian Ellis, took place in Holy Trinity Church on Thursday, 17 October.**

Clergy and readers from throughout Clogher Diocese as well as representatives of local church denominations attended the service in the church built in 1957.

The lessons were read by Mr Charles Kenwell, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs Valerie Bleakley, Rector’s Churchwarden and Canon John Woods, Rural Dean.

The sermon was preached by Revd Adrian Green, a chaplain in Ibiza and Formentera in the Diocese of Europe, who has just been appointed to the Parish of Ballywalter, Diocese of Down.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

### Support Uganda projects by raising the rafters in Bessbrook

**This would be a good way to spend a Saturday night. In less than two weeks, two choirs are coming together to ‘raise the rafters’ in Christchurch, Bessbrook.**

This is in support of the Uganda building and mission projects that Jill Hunter (who helps out in this parish) is hoping to do next year with Mullabrack and Kilcluney Parish Group and Abaana.

Tickets can be got from Christchurch Bessbrook and/or Jill Hunter. See notice on page 15 above.

### Dungannon harvest livestreams

**At St. Anne’s Harvest Thanksgiving services. “Gerald and Dorothy, our two speakers, gave us much food for thought as we were reminded of how much God has blessed us, and how we can express gratitude in return and consider our ways before the Lord.**

“A big thank you to everyone who made it possible, including those who decorated the church and those who led our praise (the church choir and the TT4U choir).

“Both services were live-streamed and can be viewed here:

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Morning:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/kfXEibwiXyA?  
si=jruTS76Mv7f8wGW6](https://www.youtube.com/live/kfXEibwiXyA?si=jruTS76Mv7f8wGW6)

Evening:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/mJ6b-oYWHw8?  
si=d0Yo0heu2GnZtEzL](https://www.youtube.com/live/mJ6b-oYWHw8?si=d0Yo0heu2GnZtEzL)



## **BB web archives of Felden Lodge**

**On the 22nd October 1949, The Boys' Brigade opened Felden Lodge as their National HQ**

Discover more about the opening here [https://  
www.thebbmuseum.org/the-boys-brigade/countries/united-  
kingdom/1949-felden-lodge-opening](https://www.thebbmuseum.org/the-boys-brigade/countries/united-kingdom/1949-felden-lodge-opening)

## Poem for today

### The Darkling Thrush

By Thomas Hardy

I leant upon a coppice gate  
When Frost was spectre-  
grey,  
And Winter's dregs made  
desolate  
The weakening eye of day.  
The tangled bine-stems  
scored the sky

Like strings of broken lyres,  
And all mankind that haunted night  
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be  
The Century's corpse outleant,  
His crypt the cloudy canopy,  
The wind his death-lament.  
The ancient pulse of germ and birth  
Was shrunken hard and dry,  
And every spirit upon earth  
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among  
The bleak twigs overhead  
In a full-hearted evensong  
Of joy illimited;



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An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings  
Of such ecstatic sound  
Was written on terrestrial things  
Afar or nigh around,  
That I could think there trembled through  
His happy good-night air  
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew  
And I was unaware.

## 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)

**Posted early Monday to Saturday**

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