

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Llandaff Cathedral**

## Image of the day

### Llandaff Cathedral

CNI is indebted to the choir of Holy Trinity, Southport, who kindly circulated the front page photo after their recent residency in Llandaff Cathedral. And if you happen to be in Southport you would be well rewarded musically at their Choral Evensong. They resumed last week after their summer break with Responses by Byrd; Canticles: Stanford in B Flat and the Anthem: If ye love me - Tallis. Choral Evensong also takes place on Wednesdays at 7pm during term time.

## People and places

### Methodist President marks anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II

**The 8th September 2023 marked one year from the death of Queen Elizabeth II who died aged 96 at Balmoral Castle.**

Speaking on behalf of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the President, the Rev David Turtle has said,

“On this first anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, I give thanks for her life and Christian witness, and offer the

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thoughts and prayers of our Connexion to King Charles III, Queen Camila and the other members of the Royal Family.”

## **C of I tributes to Queen Elizabeth II recalled**

A record of The Church of Ireland’s responses in statements and church services in the time of national mourning following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday, 8th September 2022 is available on the C of I web site at - [<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/11491/commemoration-of-the-life-of>]



## **‘Cops and Robbers’ in All Saints’, Antrim**

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**Great fun was had by all at the All Saints', Antrim, Holiday Club which ran each evening from August 21-25.**



*A smart looking police officer*

The organisers followed John Hardwick's 'Cops and Robbers' programme which is based on the story of Joseph.

Activities included warm-up games and worship song with plenty of actions. The clergy team of Peter Blake, Claire Thompson and Stephen McBride gave a short introductory talk which set the scene for each's nights action adventure involving Joseph and his brothers.

The Funday Club leaders acted out the story in a dramatised reading of the scripture passage and then puppets Lucy and Bert put the story into a modern setting

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the young members could relate to. After snacks, the young people split into two groups for games and crafts.

Archdeacon Stephen McBride said: “All Saints’ has used several of Hardwick’s Holiday Club plans and the success of this year’s programme was seen in the almost 100 per cent attendance of the young people from Monday to Friday.”

## Radio Maria Ireland launched in Northern Ireland

**Radio Maria Ireland launch in Northern Ireland was held at its Belfast Studio, located in St Marys Church, Chapel Lane, BT1 1HH on Thursday last 7 September, Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

Starting with 6pm Mass in St Mary’s Church followed by tea/coffee there was an information evening about Radio Maria and its Mission, Vision and how it can help support the faithful in Ireland today.



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For more information [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie) or call 00353 86 838 9989.



## **Bishops share in service at Our Lady's' Island**

**Continuing a long history of ecumenical fellowship and collaboration in the Diocese of Ferns, Bishop Wilkinson joined his Roman Catholic counterpart Bishop Ger Nash and other clergy at the annual ecumenical service in Our Lady's Island Church on Tuesday, 5th September.**

The service was arranged by Fr James Murphy, a member of the Ferns Diocesan Ecumenical Committee. Also in

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attendance was the Revd Canon Trevor Sargent, the Church of Ireland representative on the Ferns ecumenical committee and Fr Jim Cogley PP.

Lady's Island in south County Wexford has been a place of pilgrimage for many centuries and it looked at its best on the warm and sunny evening.

Before he began his sermon, Bishop Wilkinson acknowledged that it was the second anniversary of Bishop



The poster features a vibrant background of colorful brushstrokes in shades of blue, purple, yellow, and orange, with black musical notes scattered throughout. At the top right, there is a logo for the First Lisburn Presbyterian Church, which includes a stylized tree icon and the text 'FIRST LISBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Welcomes All The Community'. Below this, the text 'You are invited to' is followed by the main title 'A MUSICAL EVENING' in large, bold, red letters. The date and time are listed as 'Friday 22nd September 2023 7.30pm'. The word 'Featuring' is followed by the '3rd Carrickfergus Silver Band' and its conductor, Mr Brian Connolly. A list of performers includes Richard Douglas (flute), Hayley Howe (violin), Nathan Howe (clarinet), and Natalie Ward (piano). At the bottom left, there is a circular logo for the '3RD CARRICKFERGUS BAND' and text indicating that the event is for raising funds for NHS charities and The Simon Dickey Memorial Fund. Logos for NHS and RNIB are also present at the bottom left.

FIRST LISBURN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Welcomes All The Community*

You are invited to

**A MUSICAL EVENING**

**Friday 22nd September 2023**  
**7.30pm**

Featuring

 **3rd Carrickfergus Silver Band**  
Conductor: Mr Brian Connolly

Richard Douglas - flute

Hayley Howe - violin

Nathan Howe - clarinet

Natalie Ward - piano

Raising funds for NHS charities &  
The Simon Dickey Memorial Fund

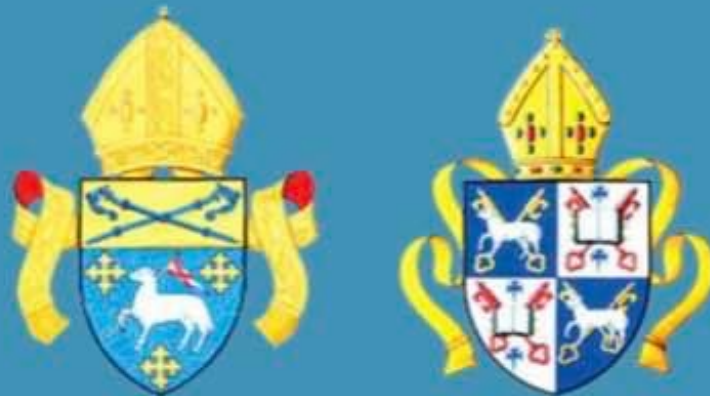
 

DIOCESES OF DOWN & DROMORE AND CONNOR  
ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

# *Annual Service of Choral Evensong*

GUEST PREACHER: VERY REVD SHANE FORSTER  
DEAN OF ARMAGH

**Sunday, 17th September 2023 at 3:30 p.m.**



**St Columba's, Knock  
29 King's Road, Belfast BT5 6JG**

You are invited to join us for our annual service marking the dedication  
of new and continuing organ scholars and the  
Presentation of Certificates to outgoing scholars.

**E: [downdromoreconnororganinfo@gmail.com](mailto:downdromoreconnororganinfo@gmail.com)**



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Nash's ordination as Bishop of Ferns. He extended his congratulations to Bishop Ger and thanked him for his ecumenical solidarity and support and the congregation greeted this with applause.

In his sermon Bishop Wilkinson referred to the gospel reading from Luke which recalls the visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. Recalling that both women were on the margins, Elizabeth as a childless wife until she was old and Mary as an unmarried expectant young mother, Bishop Wilkinson said 'Elizabeth's words and actions invite us to reflect on our own openness to the ways that God chooses to act in our world. What is God doing through unexpected people in our society today? Where is God at work through the people that we in our churches might overlook or exclude? Will we listen to the Spirit's prompting when the bearers of God's new reality show up on our doorstep?'

The service ended with generous hospitality in the nearby community centre.

## **Archbishop Eamon Martin reflects on Trócaire's fifty years of leadership in creating a just world**

**Trócaire is the Irish branch of Caritas established by the Bishops of Ireland. Today it works in partnership with communities in sixteen countries to relieve poverty and tackle injustice.**

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Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh speaking in Belfast this week at an event to celebrate the fiftieth year of the work of Trócaire said,

“In February 1973, when the Irish bishops issued their pastoral letter establishing Trócaire, I was only a young boy in primary seven at Saint Patrick’s Pennyburn in Derry. Over the past 50 years, Trócaire has established itself an essential arm of our Church’s life, witness, mission and hope.

“I have always associated Trócaire with the call to be a follower of Jesus Christ, who called his disciples to love one another, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick and for anyone who is suffering or in need.

“Over the past 50 years, I’ve learned that Trócaire is not simply a fund, but is a family of carers – at home and abroad – who are the eyes, the ears, the hands, the feet, the heart of the people of Ireland. The Trócaire family reaches out in love and generosity towards our brothers and sisters who struggle to cope: to those who go to bed hungry at night; to children and grown adults who cannot read or write; to whole communities displaced from their homes by war and violence or environmental destruction; to our fellow human beings who cannot find clean water to drink, or a safe shelter for themselves and their children.”

The Primate of All Ireland continued, “At a deeper level, Trócaire has also introduced and explored for us over the years the underlying reasons for much of the poverty and the root causes of discrimination, exploitation and injustice. I think I saw my first Trócaire box when I was at St Columb’s

College in the mid-seventies. The catchy messages and moving photos on those boxes each year opened my eyes to Trócaire's work in highlighting and alleviating injustices. I learned that it is our Christian duty to stand up for the rights of those around the world who are being marginalised and disadvantaged. I can still see the image one of the very earliest Trócaire boxes – a young child, with a sad face, gazing out at me with the striking message: 'It's my world too'.

“As an adult I've come to appreciate Trócaire's ethos which is very much in line with the social teaching of the Catholic Church. Perhaps more than any other agency or instrument within the Catholic Church in Ireland, Trócaire has helped to expose the reality of violence towards the vulnerable; the plight of women and children around the world who are used and abused as weapons of war; the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental destruction on the world's poorest and most defenceless peoples; the exploitation of natural resources, the land grabbing, the discrimination, threats, and intimidation, the trafficking manipulation and exclusion of those whom Jesus once described as “the least of our brothers and sisters”.

“Trócaire's approach over fifty years has been not only to provide much needed resources and humanitarian help to those areas of greatest need, but also to educate and raise awareness of the reasons behind that need, and to empower those on the ground to change the reality of their situation for the better.

“Here in Belfast this evening I borrow some words from the late Brian McKeown – a Belfast man and an alumnus of this



university at Queen's – who helped to inspire the foundation of Trócaire in 1973 and became its first Director. Brian once said: “you can put up the image of a starving child which will evoke sentiments of pity and fill collection boxes, without telling the people why the child is starving, without attacking the causes of the problem.” Brian convinced the Irish bishops that it was vital to channel funds directly to people on the ground around the world who understood their local context and who knew best how to use those funds strategically in order to change lives for the better in the longer term.

“The principles of justice and social action have remained of the core of Trócaire's approach for half a century now: always challenging our thinking and our approaches to tackling the problems and root causes of poverty, injustice and inequality in the world. Trócaire is therefore at once about generosity and charity; about picking people up when they are hungry and suffering and restoring their dignity;

and, about giving them agency to engage in social transformation within their own local context.

“I saw this for myself in January 2020, just before Covid, when I travelled to visit the Trócaire team in Nicaragua. I saw the work they were doing with communities and especially with women, instilling in them the skills, confidence and the wherewithal they needed to make a real difference for themselves, their families and their future. Sadly, like many other organisations, Trócaire has since had to leave Nicaragua: it is heartbreaking and troubling that in too many countries around the world – from Myanmar to Ethiopia, from DRC to Zimbabwe and Nicaragua – the work of justice and protection of human rights and dignity is seen as a threat by the powers that be.

“But still there are prophets and saintly people who join Trócaire to keep the flame of hope alive: people like Sally O’Neill from Dungannon in County Tyrone who dedicated her life to working with Trócaire in caring for marginalised people. For almost forty of Trócaire’s fifty years, Sally was a witness to faith, hope and love in Latin America, Ethiopia, Somalia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Sally was an outstanding ambassador for Christian charity and human rights in caring for refugees, providing essential humanitarian aid, while at the same time highlighting for politicians at home and abroad the Truth that, in reality, suffering and injustice are often two sides of the same coin.

“Brian and Sally, and many others from these parts and from all over Ireland have supported Trócaire’s mission on the front line, buoyed up by the support, encouragement and prayers of thousands of others: from young primary school

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children to parents and family members who shake their Trócaire box at home or who pledge direct debits and standing orders every Lent to Trócaire. We also salute the example and support of teachers, priests and religious, staff, leaders, and many partners of Trócaire who collaborate in this amazing work of mercy.

“I thank God for Trócaire’s work over 50 years in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and the work of justice which all go hand in hand. And I recognise the links which Trócaire, founded as a Catholic agency for world development, has made with people of all faiths and none, with the governments in Ireland, the UK and the EU, to ensure that the task continues of tackling poverty, malnutrition, injustice, as well as highlighting their underlying causes.



*Some Beethoven at this week’s lunchtime concert at St Ann’s, Dawson Street, Dublin*

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“The work of Trócaire is the work of Mercy; it is the work of God.”

Archbishop Martin concluded, “As we have done since the day of Trócaire’s foundation, we pray to the All-merciful God:

to grant us a share in his mercy; to keep our hearts always open to those who are in hunger and in need; to never let us grow accustomed to the injustice and inequality that exists in the world or grow weary in the work of setting it right.

Amen.”

## News reports

### Edinburgh church commemorates lives lost to Covid-19 with memorial tribute

**A church in Edinburgh has unveiled plans to build a memorial to commemorate lives lost during the Covid pandemic.**

An oval granite memorial will be placed at Liberton Kirk, Kirkgate, beside the main path through the Kirkyard to Liberton Cemetery and Liberton Brae.

John Young, the minister at Liberton Kirk, said: “The pandemic impacted many different people in different ways, and we want to provide a quiet place of remembrance, especially for those who are still processing the loss of loved ones – both near and far. The oval granite memorial will remember all those who suffered during the pandemic, as well as those who died.”

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While the memorial itself won't bear names, families can choose to honour their loved ones by having their names engraved on brass plaques adorning nearby benches.

To fund the memorial, the church has set up a Just Giving page to raise £ 8,000. Any surplus funds will be directed towards supporting the CrossReach care homes under the administration of the Church of Scotland.

The church is hoping to unveil the memorial in May 2024, close to the first anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring Covid-19 was no longer a global pandemic. They are hoping to hold a short service of remembrance every May for those who died.

## **Catholic schools in England and Wales raise funds for Cafod**

**Nearly half the Catholic schools in England and Wales raised funds for Cafod in the last academic year, with around 44 per cent of them raising more than £610,000.**

Catholic schools donated more than £170,000 to emergency appeals including for victims of floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Syria. In addition, 37 schools achieved the LiveSimply award over the same period, where schools commit to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poorest communities. There are also now 444 CAFOD clubs in Catholic Primary Schools, which help pupils put Catholic social teaching into action using Cafod resources.



## In the media



In marking the first anniversary of Her late Majesty's death and my Accession, we recall with great affection her long life, devoted service and all she meant to so many of us. I am deeply grateful, too, for the love and support that has been shown to my wife and myself during this year as we do our utmost to be of service to you all. - Charles R.

### **The Queen and her 'lovely sense of humour'**

Queen Elizabeth is walking in Balmoral with her royal protection officer and comes to two American tourists who don't recognise her. She stops to chat. 'Do you live

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here?’ ‘Yes, I have a house just over the hill.’ ‘Have you ever met the Queen?’ ‘No, but he has.’ ‘Oh! Can you take our picture?’

## **The Queen and the girl at the till**

The Queen pops into a small village shop near Balmoral. The girl at the till (cashier) says: Gosh! You look just like the Queen! The Queen responds drily: ‘That’s very reassuring.’

## **Queen Elizabeth and her amazing humanity, sensitivity and kindness**

A surgeon who worked for years on the frontline in wartime areas returned to Britain from the ‘carnage in Aleppo’. He was invited to a luncheon at Buckingham Palace. Seated next to the Queen, she asked him something and he couldn’t reply. He simply couldn’t say anything at all. His PTSD was overwhelming. The Queen sensed his trauma. She gently called for the biscuit tin and the corgis, who quickly ran to her under the table. For the next few minutes during the luncheon, he and the Queen stroked and fed biscuits to her corgis. No one else was aware; just the two of them, silently with her dogs. A touching and healing kindness from the Queen. He tells the story so movingly on Desert Island Discs — voted one of the most popular episodes of all time.

## **This is one from Balmoral**

The Queen was out walking one morning and passed a man coming in the opposite direction. They wished each other good morning and walked on. The penny dropped and the

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man said, "Oh my God!" The Queen called back, "Not quite".

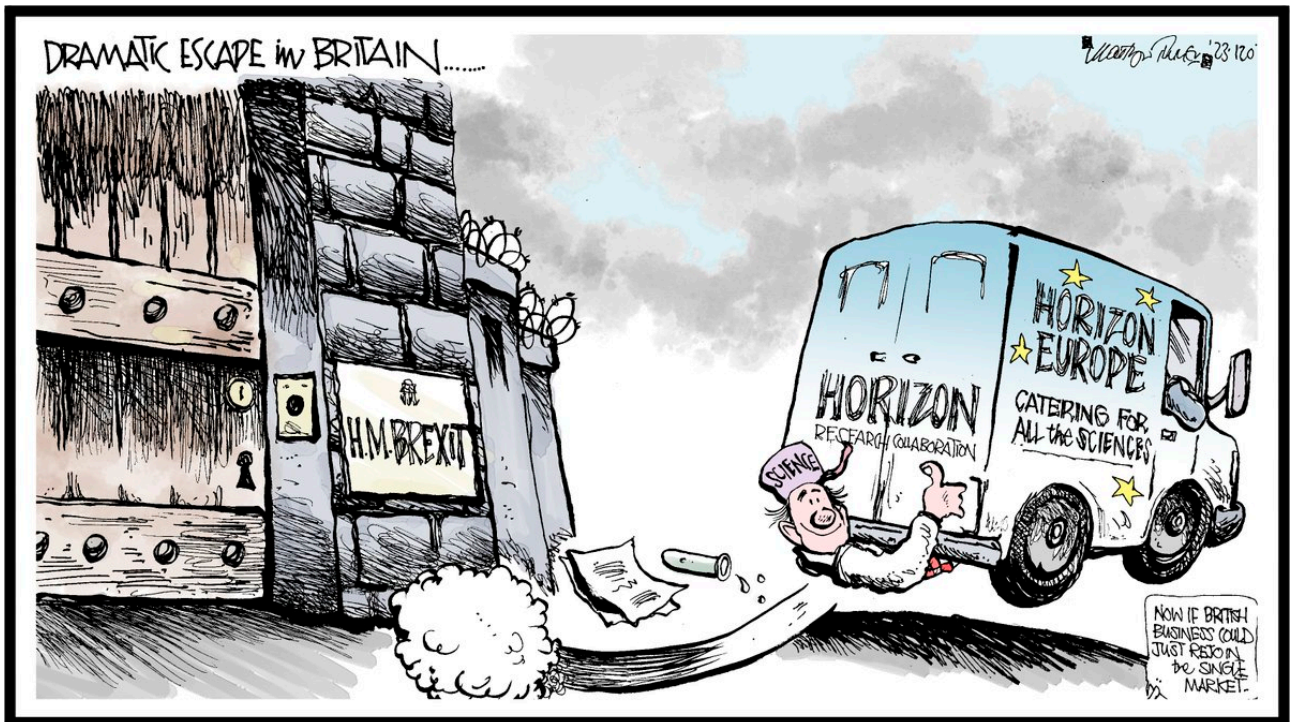
## Long to reign

When her late Majesty was having lunch with the even later Queen Mother, she unusually tucked into a second glass of wine: "do you think you ought to dear? After all, you do have to reign all afternoon..."

## Cartoonists' field-day

MATT





Horizon Europe and Brexit Prison attracted Matt, Peter Brookes and Martin Turner

# Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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## Church News Ireland

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