

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Choral visitors at St Molua's**

# Image of the day



## Choral visitors at St Molua's

There was a beautiful service of Choral Evensong this week with Canon Jono Pierce and the choir of St Finnian's Parish Church (plus friends). St Molua's Church, Dundonald hosted the service during which the address was given by the Reverend Greg Downes. The organist was Mark McGrath.





# People and places

## Methodist President calls for continued prayer for North Africa

**In response to the devastating floods in the eastern Libyan city of Derna, the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Rev David Turtle has issued the following:**

The intervention comes as the UK Government announces “As North Africa has once again been hit by tragedy we call for continued prayer for those affected by disaster in that



We remember sisters and brothers  
whose fields and farms  
are inundated by rising seas, or drying out  
as rains fail once again.  
And we choose not to walk by on the other side  
or pretend that the increased frequency  
of these extremes has nothing to do with the way our  
nations choose to live.

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The intervention comes as the UK Government announces “As North Africa has once again been hit by tragedy we call for continued prayer for those affected by disaster in that region. Having been shocked just a few days ago by the devastation of the earthquake in Morocco we lament the death and destruction caused by the floods in the eastern Libyan city of Derna. To date some 5000 people are reported dead and over 34000 have been displaced.

As with the news from Morocco, we bring before God those affected by this tragedy in Libya, as well as those who are mobilising to bring help and support.

World Development & Relief advise financial giving as the best form of support through reputable agencies.”

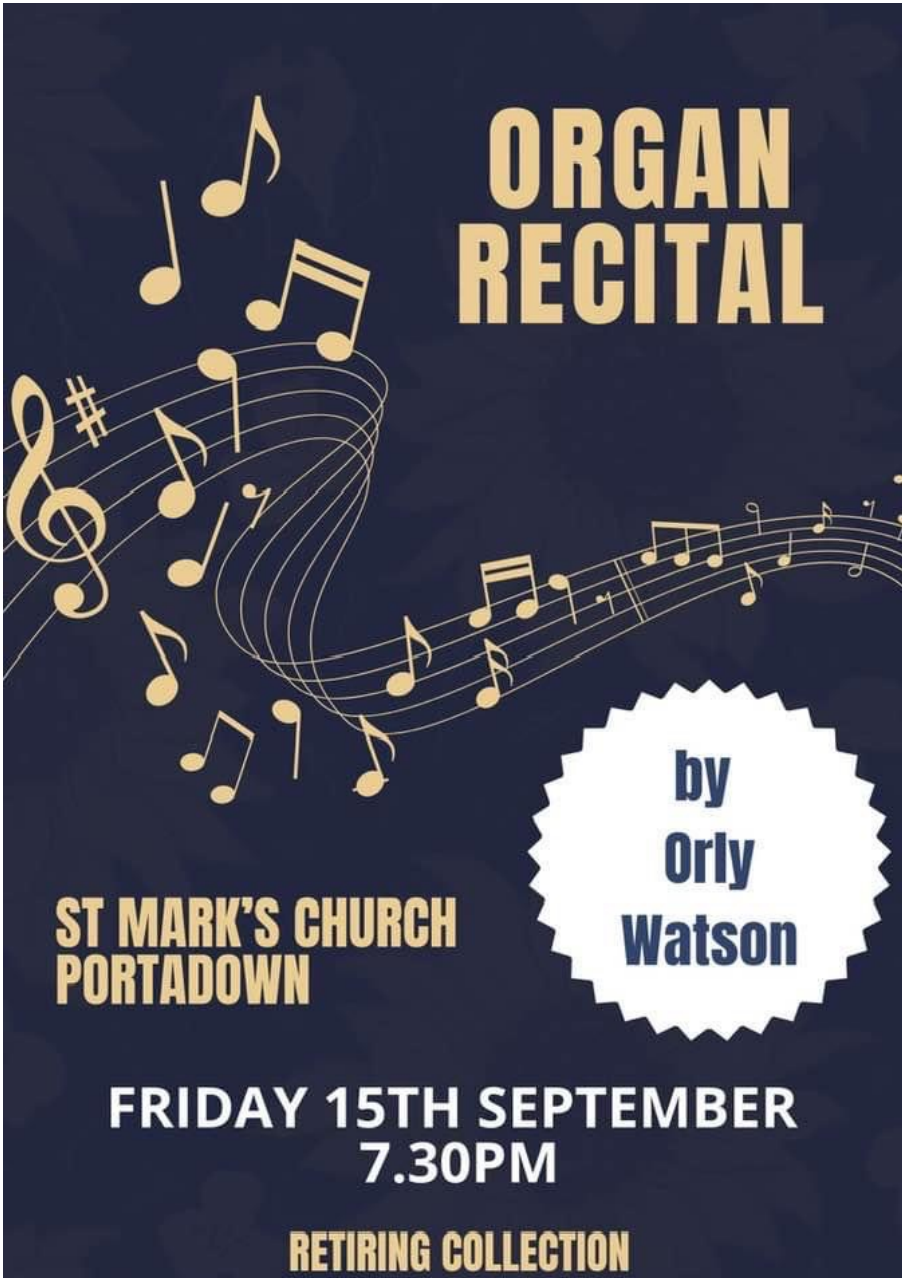
## **1400 Anniversary of the Death of St Fin Barre – A Weekend of Celebration at St Fin Barre’s Cathedral**

**This year marks the 1400th anniversary of the death in 623 A.D. of Saint Fin Barre of Cork. Plans are well underway for the commemoration of the 1400th anniversary in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Cork and in Saint Fin Barr’s Cathedral.**

Announcing the plans, Bishop Paul Colton said: “I was reading some historical material late last year and noticed the date and did the sums. I said to myself “hang on a minute; next year (2023) will be the 1400th anniversary, according to the usually observed year of the death of St Fin Barre.”

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“On Saint Patrick’s Day last at the Civic Service in St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, I announced that we would be commemorating the anniversary and, since then, the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne and I have been working on a modest programme. I am especially delighted that the Dean and the Cathedral Select Vestry have responded positively to my suggestion that we should commission a sacred icon of St Fin Barre to mark this anniversary. What we are really celebrating, of course, is the



**ORGAN  
RECITAL**

by  
**Orly  
Watson**

**ST MARK'S CHURCH  
PORTADOWN**

**FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER  
7.30PM**

**RETIRING COLLECTION**

The poster features a dark blue background with golden musical notes and a treble clef on the left side. The text is in white and golden-yellow. A white starburst shape contains the performer's name.



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contemporary life of faith in this part of the world to which St Fin Barre brought the good news of Jesus Christ.

## **Friday 22nd September:**

11. a.m. Presentation of Wildlife kits to the children of 3 local Primary Schools (St Fin Barre's St Maries of the Isle and Greenmount).

6.15 p.m. Choral Evensong at St Fin Barre's Cathedral

7.30 p.m. to 9. 30 p.m. Culture Night with tour guide presentations at 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. And short musical programmes at both 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.

## **Saturday 23rd September**

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. An open invitation to the people of Cork to visit the Cathedral Simply to visit...



**Royal Irish Rifles 1st Battalion Laying Up of Colours in St Patrick's Church, Ballymena**



## Royal Irish Rifles 1st Battalion Laying Up of Colours in St Patrick's Church, Ballymena

Simply to visit

To make a pilgrimage

To say a prayer or to light a candle

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a special invitation to anyone named after the Saint (in whatever form, language or spelling) to come to visit and for those who can confirm their name to the Cathedral staff there is a small limited edition gift to mark this anniversary.

7. 30 p.m. Organ recital by the internationally renowned Franco-Lebanese organist, Naji Hakim which will also coincide and mark the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Cathedral Organ

## Sunday 24th September





## Royal Irish Rifles 1st Battalion Laying Up of Colours in St Patrick's Church, Ballymena

11.15 a.m. Choral Eucharist at St Fin Barre's Cathedral

3.30 p.m. Choral Evensong: A Diocesan Service at which the Bishop will consecrate a new icon of St Fin Barre written by international iconographer Aidan Hart of London. Afterwards the Dean of Cork will re-launch the 'Friends of Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral.'

**Monday 25th September** ~ the Feast of Saint Fin Barre of Cork

Special assemblies in schools in the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The Cathedral will be closed to visitors throughout the day until the Ordination at 7.30 p.m.



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Livestream: <http://churchservices.tv/corkstfinbarreT>

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10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Quiet Day and Retreat for the clergy of the Diocese led by the former Archbishop of Armagh (a former Dean of Cork) the Right Reverend Dr Richard Clarke.

7.30 p.m. Ordination of a priest: the Reverend Martin Steele, currently a deacon at St Fin Barre's Cathedral will be ordained to the priesthood.

The Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, adds:

It is important that we mark significant anniversaries such as that of the death of our Patron Saint. Bishop Colton and I have been working out a programme of services and events at Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral and for our schools which will celebrate this important milestone by giving thanks for the rich heritage we have inherited as we strive to continue Saint Fin Barre's work of Christian witness, teaching and welcome 1400 years after his death. It is important that we give thanks for Saint Fin Barre's legacy on the site where our city was founded and where Christian worship has continued unbroken for so many centuries. It will be a busy weekend at the Cathedral and hopefully the wide variety of events will be of interest to people of all faiths and none across the city and county.

## **Scouts NI Explorer Belt in Belgium and Luxembourg 2024**

**Calling all Network and Explorers**

**Will you be 18 years before 28th June 2024 and under 25 years by 18th July 2024?**



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Scouts NI are delighted to announce that an Explorer Belt is being organised for the summer of 2024 to Belgium and Luxembourg.

There is an information session, about the Explorer Belt and everything it involves, being held in the North Room, KG Centre at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre on Sunday 24th September 2023 from 1:30pm - 4pm.

To attend the information session, you will need to fill out an expression of interest form. Click the link:

<https://www.scoutsni.org/news/article/explorer-belt-2024/>

## **Belfast Habitat team success in Poland**





The cross-community Habitat Ireland team has returned after their very successful work in Poland.

Team Leader Andrew Davidson used the national bird of Poland & Ukraine and national flower of Ukraine to leave a welcome mural for arriving refugees. Great work by this Belfast team

## News reports

### **Bishop Jo Bailey Wells to become Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion**

The Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion, the Right Revd Dr Jo Bailey Wells, is to take up the role of Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican





## Coleraine Grammar School rowers early morning on the Bann

Communion. The announcement was made on Wednesday by the Secretary General, the Right Revd Anthony Poggo.

The Anglican Communion is a global family of 42 autonomous and independent-yet-interdependent regional, national and pan-national churches active in more than 165 countries. The Secretary General, Bishop Anthony Poggo, is responsible for managing the Anglican Communion's secretariat, based at the Anglican Communion Office (ACO) in London.

In her new role, Bishop Jo will assist in leading the work of the Anglican Communion Office in collaboration with the

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Secretary General, and will also continue to progress her current portfolio of work, overseeing episcopal ministry development and Phase Three of the Lambeth Conference, focused on the Lambeth Calls.

Announcing Bishop Jo's initial appointment, Bishop Anthony Poggo said that the post had been created to "foster a collaborative, engaged, enriched fellowship among the bishops of the Anglican Communion, inspiring ever greater

**BALLYNURE METHODIST CHURCH**



Harvest Thanksgiving Service  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 7pm**

Special guests  
**BALLYCLARE  
MALE CHOIR**  
with supper and  
more music to  
follow!



**All are most welcome**



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companionship, learning and interchange between provinces.”

Today, Bishop Anthony said: “Bishop Jo plays an important role in the life of the Anglican Communion Office and the wider Anglican Communion. As my deputy, she will play an increased role of the leadership in the Secretariat while continuing to develop connections between bishops around the world.

“I have just completed my first year in post. Over the past 12 months I have managed to engage personally with the leaders of all 42 of our member churches, and I look forward to further engagement in the years ahead. I am very grateful to Bishop Jo for accepting the invitation to step into this new role. Her leadership will be vital as I step up my own engagement with our member churches.”



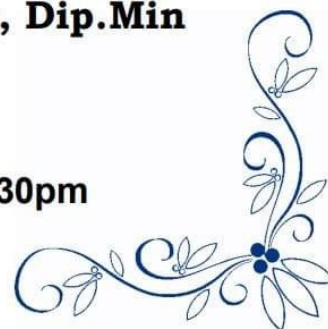
**Presbytery of Iveagh**  
First Rathfriland Presbyterian Church  
Congregation erected A.D. 1662



**Service of Installation**  
of

**Rev. Rodney Matthew Moody: BSc, M.Div, Dip.Min**

**On Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.30pm**  
and reception afterwards.



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The Chair of the Anglican Communion Standing Committee, Canon Maggie Swinson, said: “Although Bishop Jo has served in her current role for less than a year, she has already had a significant impact in developing connections between bishops across provinces and cultures. Her new role as Deputy Secretary General is indicative of the importance of this work and I am delighted that she has accepted the invitation to take on this new additional responsibility.”





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Bishop Jo said: “it’s been all joy serving with and under Bishop Anthony since I came to the Anglican Communion Office last January for Phase Three of the Lambeth Conference journey. I’ve been working with bishops all over the world as we continue to confer. I have particularly enjoyed helping to induct new bishops. I am hugely honoured now to be invited to serve as Deputy Secretary General.

“The global Communion has ever been at the heart of my commitment within the body of Christ. Though my faith was nurtured in the Church of England, it was in Uganda that I came to understand Anglicanism; and it was during my first spell in the United States that I discovered the call to ordination. Over the years I have also served – more briefly – in other countries and provinces, from Haiti to South Sudan to Australia – where I have relished the way Jesus finds expression in different contexts and cultures.”

Bishop Jo was ordained in the Church of England as deacon in 1995, priest in 1996 and bishop in 2016. She has served as Dean of Clare College, Cambridge, and held teaching roles variously at the University of Cambridge, at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, and at Duke Divinity School in North Carolina. At Duke she also founded the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies.

From 2013 she was Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury – during which she was instrumental in founding the Community of St Anselm. She moved to the Diocese of Guildford as Bishop of Dorking in 2016. In January 2023 she took up her role as Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion.

## In the media

### Former senior cop poised for key job in new Troubles legacy organisation

**Former senior PSNI officer Peter Sheridan is expected to be appointed as commissioner for investigations for the new Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR), Allison Morris writes in the Belfast Telegraph.**

It comes just days after the controversial Legacy Bill was passed at Westminster.

In May of this year Sir Declan Morgan was announced as chief commissioner for the ICRIR.

Sir Declan was tasked with leading the process to recruit a number of commissioners to head up the body, and the jobs were advertised shortly afterwards.

Paying almost £150,000 a year, the first commissioner for investigations attracted applications from across the UK and Ireland.

The deadline was extended until June 1 to allow a panel of experts to be formed to carry out interviews.

The job advertisement called for the applicant to “have a background in investigative work, putting the needs of those who request reviews at the heart of any process”.

“They will be able to draw on existing criminal or other complex investigatory processes, as well as developing new ones which focus on information recovery for victims, survivors and families.”

Sources say Mr Sheridan, current CEO of Co-operation Ireland, was the “outstanding candidate”, with his background not just in policing, but his more recent work with marginalised communities.

A former assistant chief constable, Mr Sheridan was the highest ranking Catholic to serve with the PSNI when he retired in 2008 after 32 years' service with it and the RUC.

He had been responsible for the Crime Operations Department, which investigated serious and organised crime and terrorism.

He was also heavily involved in sensitive negotiations around parades with the Apprentice Boys and nationalists in Derry.

Those talks resulted in an accommodation that facilitated a series of peaceful parades in Derry city centre for the first time in decades.

As CEO of Co-operation Ireland he played a significant role in facilitating the historic handshake between Martin



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McGuinness and Queen Elizabeth II. The charity strives to promote better relations between people on the island. In June, Mr Sheridan was awarded a CBE for peacebuilding in the King's Birthday Honours.

Despite his cross-community credentials, his appointment is still likely to attract criticism from victims' organisations.

The controversial legislation, which provides a conditional amnesty for information received from those who committed Troubles-related crimes, has been universally condemned by victims, human rights groups and the US and Irish governments.

It will bring an end to not just criminal investigations, but also inquests, civil cases and Police Ombudsman probes.

After criticism that there had been insufficient consultation with victims, Lord Caine was tasked with overseeing its progress and a number of amendments were proposed, but only some passed the scrutiny of MPs.

In a recent interview with the Belfast Telegraph, Sir Declan said he would encourage legal challenges to the legislation to be lodged promptly with the High Court.

**PSNI crying out for leadership, ex-chief constable says**  
BBC News  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66804245>

## **450 meet concerned about Northern Ireland relationship and sex education (RSE) plans**

**Some 450 people from many religious and political backgrounds have attended an event addressing concerns about the Secretary of State's sex education plans, Philip Bradfield reports in the News Letter.**

Entitled, Let Kids be Kids, the event was in Seagoe Hotel, Portadown on Monday and was organised by Upper Bann DUP MLA Jonathan Buckley.

“This was a personal campaign, it was not a party event because I wanted to be able to reach as many people as possible,” the MLA said. “And you know, we had people there from all faiths and none. We had Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, atheists, republicans and unionists – you name it, and they were there.

“Most people who attended were from the wider Portadown area but we also had people coming from Bangor to Ballinamallard. I couldn't believe how well it was supported.”

The panel for the evening included Dr Andrew Brown, a senior lecturer from Stranmillis College; James Martin, Principal of Laurelhill Community College in Lisburn; Callum Webster, NI Representative of the Christian Institute and Marion Woods, a campaigner with pro-life group Both Lives Matter. The event was chaired by DUP MLA Paul Givan.



In June Chris Heaton-Harris announced he was compelling the Department of Education to roll out compulsory sex education plans for all post-primary schools in NI based on recommendations for the Province from a New York based committee of the UN. The main focus is to educate all post primary children on using contraception and abortion to prevent pregnancies.

His plans have been severely criticized by a House of Lords committee for failing to include a normal public consultation. They have also been criticised for explicitly excluding any discussions about faith or ethics – which by contrast are a statutory requirement in RSE in England.

The curriculum includes sexual consent, violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, healthy and respectful sexual relationships, marriage, LGBTQ+ issues, abstinence, menstrual health and wellbeing and social media and online safety.

Mr Buckley said many parents raised concerns with the panel about their rights to exempt their children from lessons. The Department is planning to allow parents to exempt their children from contraception and abortion sections only.

But he said there was also major concern from teachers who were concerned that teaching some of the material would run against their conscience – and what the RSE policy would look like in 5-10 years.

“The panel noted that it is actually the Board of Governors that employ the teachers and principal, and it will be a duty

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for them to give due regard to issues in the future regarding teacher's concerns and parental concerns," he added.

He is not planning any further events at this time, but said he expected groups such as the Evangelical Alliance and Christian Institute to do so.

### **Ulster University drops Magee name in Londonderry campus rebrand**

BBC News

[\[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66774880\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66774880)

### **Strangford College selection plan given green light**

BBC News

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-66803436>

### **Primary schools call for more funding as OECD report finds Ireland lagging behind neighbours**

Journal. ie - Primary school bodies have highlighted the increases in energy, insurance, cleaning and waste disposal costs among others.

<https://www.thejournal.ie/primary-schools-more-funding-ireland-6166477-Sep2023/>

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

### **Environment and Sustainable Development webinar**



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Looking for free Bible study materials and resources to help your church advocate on environmental issues and develop a theology of creation care? Don't miss our latest webinar 'Environment and Sustainable Development', on September 20th and 21st.

Hear contributions from Anglicans around the world, including Archbishop Julio Murray, Nicholas Pande, Rev'd Jacynthia Murphy, and more. Join us as we explore how to campaign for change in the lead-up to COP28. Register today.

[\[https://www.lambethconference.org/phase-3/our-current-focus/the-environment-and-sustainable-development/\]](https://www.lambethconference.org/phase-3/our-current-focus/the-environment-and-sustainable-development/)

## 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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