

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Scouts NI meet the new Chief

Image of the day



Chief Scout Investiture

Featuring Scrabo and Copeland Explorers

Scouts NI meet the new Chief

On 5th September, Scouts from NI had the honour of attending the investiture ceremony for Dwayne Fields, the new Chief Scout, at Scout Park in London.

September 9, 2024

Cara Allsop, Pamela Emerson, Brody, and Donald MacVicar, were among those who enjoyed this unforgettable event, filled with activities, campfires, and the chance to connect with Scouts from across the UK and beyond.

Read more about this special occasion by clicking the link: <https://shorturl.at/ZjM0L>

News



First Mothers' Union awards for tackling gender and domestic abuse

Mothers' Union groups from two parishes in Derry and Raphoe have become the first in the UK or Ireland to



receive the organisation's coveted Gold 'Rise Up' awards for their work to tackle gender-based violence and domestic abuse.



Representatives of the Christ Church Strabane and St Columb's Cathedral & Templemore groups were presented with their awards at an event in Glendermott Parish Hall on Saturday by MU's Provincial (All Ireland) President, June Butler. To earn the award, branches have to organise opportunities for local people to engage with political leaders



about domestic abuse issues, engage with vulnerable groups affected by abuse, commit to pray for MU's global efforts to counter gender-based violence and appoint a champion to lead on domestic abuse work.

Three other branches, Raphoe, Castlerock & Dunboe and the Balteagh Group's, were presented with bronze awards.

September 9, 2024

These require groups to connect with and support local domestic abuse support organisations, put up RISE UP posters in public places to raise awareness, and to commit to pray for those affected by domestic abuse, including victims, survivors, perpetrators and those who work in the field.

Prestigious International School Award for Belfast school

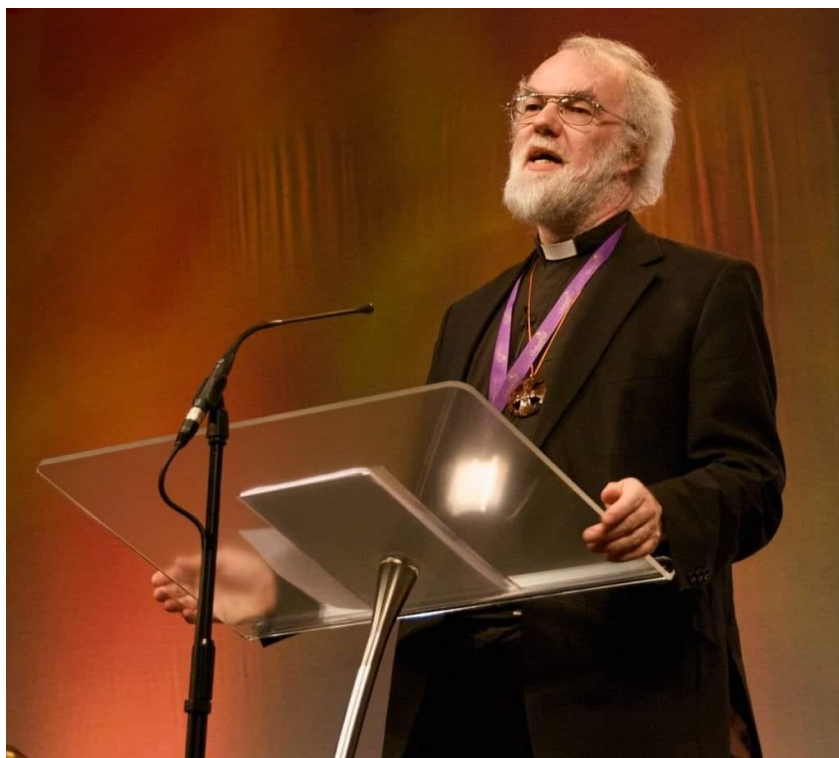
RBAI (Inst) has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

The re-accreditation recognises the involvement of departments and activities across the school: the Rugby Club with the partnership with Blackrock College, Dublin; the Cricket Club with its tour to Dubai; the Geography Department with its visit to Iceland; the History and German Department with its visit to Munich; and the significant contribution of the Spanish Department with its partnership with in Jaén, Spain.

September 9, 2024

Former Archbishop of Canterbury key speaker at Dublin seminar



Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, will be the speaker at a two day seminar in Balally parish at the end of this month.

The Second Annual Dermot Lane Seminar takes place on September 28 and 29 in the Church of the Ascension of the Lord, Balally, Dublin, D16EO32.

The theme of the seminar is “A noisy world in need of Meditation and Service” and Dr Williams will give three lectures. His visit to Dublin will conclude with a Eucharistic service in Christ Church Taney on Sunday September 29 at 7pm which will be celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson (all welcome).

This annual event is held in honour of Fr Dermot Lane, theologian, author, teacher, ecumenist and pastor who served as Parish Priest for 25 years in Balally parish and is currently the

parish Chaplain. When Fr Jim Caffrey PP was appointed to Balally parish in late 2021, he wanted to find a way to celebrate the prophetic theology and pastoral leadership of Fr Dermot. The plan to have an annual event was agreed with the Parish Pastoral Council. In 2023 the first Dermot Lane event was held with keynote speaker Professor John Fitzgerald, Irish Economist, on Care for our Common Home – putting this into practice.

Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury was invited to speak in Balally after Fr Jim and some of the Parish Pastoral Council attended a seminar lead by Dr Williams at the World Community for Christian Meditation in Bonnevaux, France last November.

The theme of the seminar is complementary to the mission of Balally parish which is to become disciples of Jesus through Meditation and Service.

On Saturday September 28 the first session starts at 10.30am, when Dr Rowan Williams will present on Graced by the Holy Spirit of God after which there will be short responses from Fr Dermot and Rev Stephen Taylor of Dundrum Methodist Church. On Saturday afternoon starting at 2pm Dr Williams will present on Contemplation: Journey Inwards followed by short responses from Fr Dermot and Rev Nigel Pierpoint, Rector of Taney Parish.

On Sunday September 29 at 3pm, Dr Williams will present on Working together for justice and the care for our common home. This will be followed by a panel discussion with retired Archbishop of Armagh, the Rt Revd Richard Clarke, author of Playing Dice with God: The Risk of Discipleship

September 9, 2024

(Dominican Publications 2024), Fr Peter McVerry, social activist, Dr Margaret Daly Denton, theologian and author of *John: An Earth Bible Commentary: supposing Him to be the Gardener* (London 2017) Jane Mellett, Church Outreach Manager with Trócaire.

All three lectures will conclude with a short question and answer forum. There will also be an opportunity to visit the new Icon Chapel in Balally on Saturday for those who have not seen it yet.

An Ecumenical Service will be held at 4.30pm in Balally on Sunday celebrated by the clergy from the Dundrum Partnership of the Catholic Churches Balally, Dundrum, Ballinteer, Meadowbrook, Church of Ireland Taney/St Nahi and Dundrum Methodist Church.

At 7pm on Sunday evening there will be a Eucharistic Service in Christ Church, Taney celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson and Dr Rowan Williams.

Fr Jim Caffrey PP says: “Honouring Fr Dermot through the annual seminar places his work in an ecumenical context. Having Dr Rowan Williams as the keynote speaker is a blessing. Here in Ballally we are trying to build a Contemplative parish and Rowan is a contemplative in action. Recovering our common Celtic and monastic traditions is something all our churches can do together, as they come from a time when we were united. It is one of the great joys of my ministry to work with Rev Nigel Pierpoint and Rev Jane Burns and our friends in Taney “.

September 9, 2024

This two-day event is a unique opportunity to hear from Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, a world-renowned theologian, poet and author; and to hear from other expert speakers on the need for meditation and service in a noisy world.

Everyone is welcome to attend one, two or all three presentations in Balally and to join as a community in the services and prayers over the two days in Balally and in Taney on Sunday evening.

The Pilgrim's Path in the World: Journeying with God



The Church's Ministry of Healing Advent Retreat is a particular response to a request of the C of I Commission on Ministry.

The Pilgrim's Path in the World:

Journeying with God in Advent will run from the evening of Friday 15 November to lunchtime Sunday 17 Nov in Mount St Anne's retreat centre, Co. Laois. And this year, the retreat will be led by Rev Canon Alistair Graham, with CMH:I

September 9, 2024

facilitating creative responses to Alistair's sessions by setting up our art stations at the retreat.

The Commission on Ministry has been running this annual retreat for years and it is always a richly inspiring and gently restorative weekend. If you are anxious, lonely, overwhelmed, tired, or just seeking time away from your everyday routine to listen to God's voice and to rest in His presence, then the retreat is for you. Places are limited and are on a first come, first served basis, so do get in touch at hello@ministryofhealing.ie to find out more and book a place.

Alistair's chosen topics for the sessions this year are wonderful – “reading the map” and “the scent of roses” are just two of the beautiful titles. Many of you will know Alistair



September 9, 2024

from his parish ministry in Mullingar, in the Diocese of Meath and Kildare, and his wonderful work with a youth initiative on climate change, 'Lighten Our Darkness By Numbers'. His facilitation of the Advent retreat will be a prayerful and gentle experience that is not to be missed.

The **Larne Divine Healing Ministries** team will be holding a healing service at **Drumalis** retreat centre on Sunday 15th Sept at 3pm. The speaker will be Rhonda Humphrey, who is a member of the prayer team. She will be speaking on the subject of "Trusting God".



Dedication of Arranmore Island RNLi lifeboat

The Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev Liz Fitzgerald, was one of two members of the Diocesan family

involved in the recent Service of Dedication at the opening of the new lifeboat station on Arranmore Island off Donegal.

A former Rector of the Gweedore and Templecrone Group of Parishes, Dean Fitzgerald was joined by Rev Michael Classon, who attended the dedication of the previous



Lifeboat station, 29 years ago, and whose daughter-in-law, Anna Classon, is RNLI Head of Region.

The other clergy who led the Service of Dedication were Fr Pat Ward, Fr John Attoch and Fr John Joe Duffy. Two of the participating clergy had strong links with the sea. Fr Duffy, who grew up in a fishing family in Burtonport, was training for the priesthood when he lost his father in a drowning in accident in Burtonport harbour. And Dean Fitzgerald's husband, Sean, a retired merchant seaman, once had to issue a Mayday call after the vessel he was commanding got into difficulties off the coast of Shetland.

The Dean paid tribute to the RNLI for the assurance they give to Merchant Navy families – knowing they are ever ready to rescue and save their loved ones.

Donegal Person of the Year, Moya Brennan, spoke briefly before unveiling a plaque to officially open the new station.

Cathedral Calls



Dean...and Rural Dean

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster, has appointed the Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev Liz Fitzgerald, as Rural Dean of the Raphoe and Inishowen Rural Deaneries.

The announcement comes just over a year after Dean Fitzgerald became the Diocese's first female dean following her appointment as Rector of the Grouped Parishes of Raphoe, Raymochy and Clonleigh and Dean of St Eunan's Cathedral.

There are eight rural deaneries in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, and the Rural Deans help the Bishop with aspects

September 9, 2024

of oversight in their designated areas. Dean Fitzgerald replaces Rev Canon David Crooks who retired recently.

Belfast Cathedral - Ministry of Healing

“The CMH Team will be back in the Cathedral in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Monday 12-2 (today) as usual.

“Anyone who would like us to pray with them is very welcome to come along for individual prayer ministry”.

York reflection



 The Revd Dr Jenny Wright
Chaplain to the Archbishop of York

This Sunday's reflection came from the Revd Dr Jenny Wright, Chaplain to the Archbishop of York. Jenny reflects on James 2.1-17 for Education Sunday (8th September).

September 9, 2024

Find the reflection here:

dioceseofyork.org.uk/reflection240908



Happy birthday Michael of Down

A big birthday last week at Down Cathedral with their Director of Music, Michael McCracken, turning the page on another decade.

Michael, who has been Down's Director of Music for nearly forty years, is a well loved member of the

Cathedral family. All at

the Cathedral wished Michael a very happy birthday!

Clergy and ministry

An acknowledgement of Thanks from Archbishop Noël Treanor's family

The family of the late Archbishop Noël Treanor wish to express their profound gratitude to all who helped and



supported them following Noël's very sudden and unexpected demise.

To Fr. Eugene O'Hagan, Chancellor of Down and Connor, who accompanied us to Brussels and was a pillar of strength and guidance as we navigated the required administrative protocols.

To Archbishop Noël's staff and

friends in Brussels; Monsignor Jean Baptiste, Sr. Claudia, and Sr. Rosalba, and the 'Focolare Community', Maria Rosa, Anna, Theresa, Catherine, Andreas, Elena, Marcelo, Maria and Merce who provided us with hospitality and transport.

To Cardinal Jozef De Kesel and the clergy in Brussels; who offered us heartfelt condolences and provided Archbishop Noël with a most beautiful Requiem Mass prior to his repatriation to Ireland.

To the many representatives of COMECE, the EU, co-workers and acquaintances; who met us and offered their condolences.

To the O' Kane Funeral Directors in Belfast; whose professional and dignified service provided smooth passage of Noël's coffin from Dublin airport, and in collaboration with Peter McMahon, Funeral Home, Emyvale, Monaghan, escorted Noël with a memorable and deeply emotional journey through his homeland, enroute to Belfast.

To Murphy video services, Emyvale, Monaghan and Peadar McMahon photographic services, Emyvale; for their professional and beautiful coverage of Noël's final journey home.

To the local people who stood along the route through Tyholland, Monaghan Cathedral, Corracrin, Emyvale and onward towards the Aughnacloy border; to honour his cortege.

To Dorothy, Lisanne, Marius and all the staff at Lisbreen, Belfast; for their consistent and steadfast support for Noël as Bishop of Down and Connor and at his final return.

To Bishop Alan McGuckian; for his gentle support, hospitality and beautiful Funeral Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.

To Fr. Martin Graham, Administrator, St. Peters Cathedral, Fr. Eugene O' Hagan Chancellor, Fr. Gerard Fox, Diocesan Secretary, Ms. Claire Carmichael, Living Church Office, Fr.

September 9, 2024

Brian Watters, Fr. Aidan Mc Caughan, and the assisting Deacons; for their efficient organisation and attention to detail during the reposing of Noel's remains in St. Peters Cathedral, the service of Vespers and the Funeral Mass.

To Fr. Eugene O'Hagan, his brother Fr. Martin; for their incredible singing during the ceremonies.

To the Cathedral Choir and the Schola Cantorum; for their beautiful singing, which Noël loved and spoke highly of during his 14 years in Down & Connor.

To the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, the Cardinals, Bishops and Priests; who attended the Funeral Mass.

To His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City and County Borough of Belfast; Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle. To Commandant Deirdre Newell; who represented An Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D Higgins and Captain Bronagh Keenan who represented An Taoiseach, Simon Harris and to Ms. Mairead McGuinness who represented the Irish Government.

To Fr. Paddy McGinn and Fr. Hubert Martin; for their blessings and prayers at St. Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan and St. Patrick's Church, Corracrin as Noël's funeral cortege paused.

To all our neighbours, friends, relatives and the many people who attended the services, joined in the live stream, offered their condolences, sent cards, floral tributes, wrote letters to us; we sincerely thank you.

September 9, 2024

A Month's Mind Mass for Noël will be held in St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on Sunday 8th of September at 5 pm which will be broadcast live and recorded on the Cathedral webcam; www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral.

A Memorial Mass will also be held in Tyholland on Tuesday 24th September at 7.30pm

May Archbishop Noël's soul rest in eternal



Derry and Raphoe's Representative Canon at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

The Rector of the Tullyaughnish Group of Parishes, Rev Canon Harry Gilmore, has been appointed by Bishop Andrew Forster as the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe's

September 9, 2024

Representative Canon to the National Cathedral, St Patrick's, in Dublin. He will be installed as Prebendary of Howth, which is annexed to the Diocese, and will succeed Rev Canon David Crooks who retired recently. A date has yet to be confirmed for the installation.

Canon Gilmore, who has been a Canon of St Eunan's Cathedral in Raphoe since 2021, has gained a wealth of experience over a number of years serving on central church and diocesan committees.

Congratulating him on his appointment, Bishop Andrew Foster said: "Canon Gilmore has been unstintingly generous in sharing his formidable spiritual and intellectual gifts wherever he has been called and in whatever role he has served. Few clergy have given such stalwart service to the central church and this honour is richly deserved. Harry will make an enormous contribution to the worship and life of our National Cathedral."

Heritage

Explore Campbell College's History at European Heritage Open Day 2024

Join us on Saturday, 14th September for an afternoon of history, heritage, and hospitality. Our staff and students will host a series of tours, sharing interesting insights into the College's origins and heritage!

Tour Times:

September 9, 2024

Choose from three start times: 13:30, 14:30, or 15:30, each tour lasts around 45 minutes. After your tour, enjoy tea, coffee, and Campbell's famous shortbread!

Book your place here: <https://bit.ly/4eh3jwt>

Highlights across the counties for EHOD 2024

County Antrim

New Toomebridge Lock Keepers Cottage, take an evening tour along the Canal Walk and Lock Keepers cottage.

Themed Whitehead Railway Museum enjoy this fantastic museum and learn how railways facilitated social change.

County Armagh

New Archbishop's Palace Tour, enjoy a tour of this magnificent building. Then take a meander round Armagh Friary, a State Care Monument located at the entrance to the Palace Demense.

New & Themed Hands on Heritage: Recording Heritage on the Blackwater. Join UAH staff to learn more about its history and connections to industrial heritage.

County Down

September 9, 2024

St Annes's Church, Killough See the conservation work and enjoy a talk on the history of the church and village!

Tollymore Forest guided walk, did you know the Grand Staircase of the Titanic was made from Tollymore Oak? Learn about this and much more fascinating stories.

County Fermanagh

Crom Estate, Florence court and Castle Coole Take a tour and visit these 3 magnificent properties and see the conservation work of the National Trust.

New Cuilcagh Mountain Jeep Safari, Book early!

County Londonderry

New Caisleán Dhún Geimhin Visit Dungiven Castle, now a Irish Medium post Primary School, and hear a talk by the principal.

Tour of Ebrington Barracks: Join Manus Deery, HED Principal Conservation Architect for this popular tour. Book early!

County Tyrone

Coalisland Museum Heritage Centre Visit this centre and enjoy the family activities organised for EHOD then pop next door to Island Turf Crafts and visit the Bog Museum.

September 9, 2024

Church of the Immaculate Conception, Strabane – Take a guided tour of this magnificent building of important ecclesiastical heritage.

Belfast

***New* Comber Greenway Walking Tour:** Walk the historic Comber Greenway. Then visit the Neill's Hill Railway Station.

RSUA Architect Tours – Take one or more of the many organised tours by RSUA .

Belfast City Cemetery: Visit on Sunday and enjoy the many activities organised by Belfast City council including Rock Stone Masonry workshop and tours – Booking for these essential.

In the media

Hymn commissioned by King performed for first time on Songs of Praise - Daily Telegraph

Crathie, named after the Royal family's beloved tiny chapel at Balmoral, was broadcast on the second anniversary of Elizabeth II's death, writes Victoria Ward, Deputy Royal Editor.



A recently unveiled statue in the grounds of Antrim Castle

A new tune for a hymn commissioned by the King in honour of the Royal family's beloved tiny chapel at Balmoral will be broadcast for the first time on Sunday, the second anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's death.

The piece, Crathie, is named after Crathie Kirk, where the late Queen was a valued member of the congregation for seven decades.

It was composed by Prof Paul Mealor and set to the words of traditional hymn Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.

September 9, 2024

The hymn will be performed publicly for the first time on the BBC's Songs of Praise, during a special episode about the church; Crathie Kirk – Mountains and Majesty.

Prof Mealor, who has composed music for national and royal occasions including the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 2011 and the King's Coronation last year, said: "This place here, Crathie, is such a glorious place.

"It's had a huge history of the Royal family right back to Queen Victoria, and it's not got its own hymn. Well, now it does."

When at Balmoral during the summer months, the family take their seats in the royal pews at Crathie Kirk, an unassuming Church of Scotland chapel within the grounds of the estate.

The parish church is very much part of family life. It is where the Princess Royal married her second husband, Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, and where senior royals sought solace during a short service of prayer on September 10, 2022, just two days after the Queen's death.

It is also where the King and Queen will worship in private on Sunday, as they mark the second anniversary of his accession.

Rev Kenneth MacKenzie has been minister at the church for more than 20 years and as a personal chaplain to the late monarch, was called to Balmoral castle on the day before she died.

“It happened here, the death, and that was particularly poignant, obviously for us. We felt that loss because there was that connectedness with this area,” he said.

Asked how it felt to be a chaplain to both the late Queen and now, her eldest son, he added: “I find it hugely rewarding, a real privilege, and getting to spend time with them at moments of good times, and not so good times, of course.

“The Queen would speak to me about church life and parish life. She would ask me about individual people in the parish, ‘how is so-and-so doing?’ She very much felt part of this worship.

“She was very clear about her faith, and it wasn’t just going to church. Faith was real, it was deep, and I think she had a real sense of calling. She had a very, very clear sense that she had a responsibility to this nation that was given to her, to some extent, by God.”

On preaching to the royals, the minister added: “There is something rather surreal of course but we are aware of the fact that these are people that have come as part of our congregation. But there is obviously something rather special about it.”

Queen Victoria first worshipped at Crathie Kirk in 1848 and laid the foundation stone for the new, improved church 1893.

“It’s not a royal church, it’s a parish church, part of the Church of Scotland,” Rev MacKenzie said.

September 9, 2024

“Queen Victoria was very clear that she was a local landowner, and she should go where her people were to worship.”

Songs of Praise is thought to be the world’s longest running religious television programme. It first aired in 1961 from the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cardiff and has since been filmed in churches and cathedrals across the UK.

The late Queen congratulated the programme as it marked its 60th anniversary in 2021, applauding the series for showing Christianity as “a living faith”.

Conman cleric's cheek as he digs in at £500k rectory

Sunday Life. Belfast Telegraph - Man of fraud Rev Adrian McLaughlin is still holed up in his luxury, church-owned home despite stealing £10,000 from its accounts.

Three months after being found guilty by a jury, the shamed cleric has yet to quit the detached £500,000 pad next to St Colman's Church in Dunmurry, on the outskirts of Belfast.

McLaughlin, who told a tissue of lies in the witness box and tried to falsely implicate his ex-wife, was due to be sentenced last Friday.

However, the case was put back until this Tuesday, with a judge warning the conman he could face a prison term.

How local church fire was hijacked by bigots around the world to fuel anti-Islam hate

September 9, 2024

Sunday Life. Belfast Telegraph. As darkness descended last Sunday, an inferno seriously damaged the Greenisland Church of Ireland building and completely destroyed the parish hall.

Police and firefighters quickly declared it a suspected arson, adding to the sadness of those who'd celebrated, mourned and worshipped in a church which had just marked its 70th anniversary.

The article reviewed remarks in social media and traced some to far-right sources internationally/

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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