

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Ballintoy Parish Church**

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## Image of the day

One of the most scenic locations of the Antrim coastline, Ballintoy church hosts incredible views of Rathlin Island and the Scottish coast in the distance. With a sundial that dates back to 1817, a steeple that was destroyed by one of the worst hurricanes in Ireland's history, and many notable names in the church's graveyard, Ballintoy church is a treasure trove of historical stories! Photo credit Tourism Ireland

## People and places



### Amazing new venue for Summer Madness 2022

On Saturday last Winter Madness filled Belfast Cathedral. The "Big Reveal" was of the change in venue for this year's event. Summer Madness 2022 will be happening at an amazing new venue, at Portglenone using the physical and

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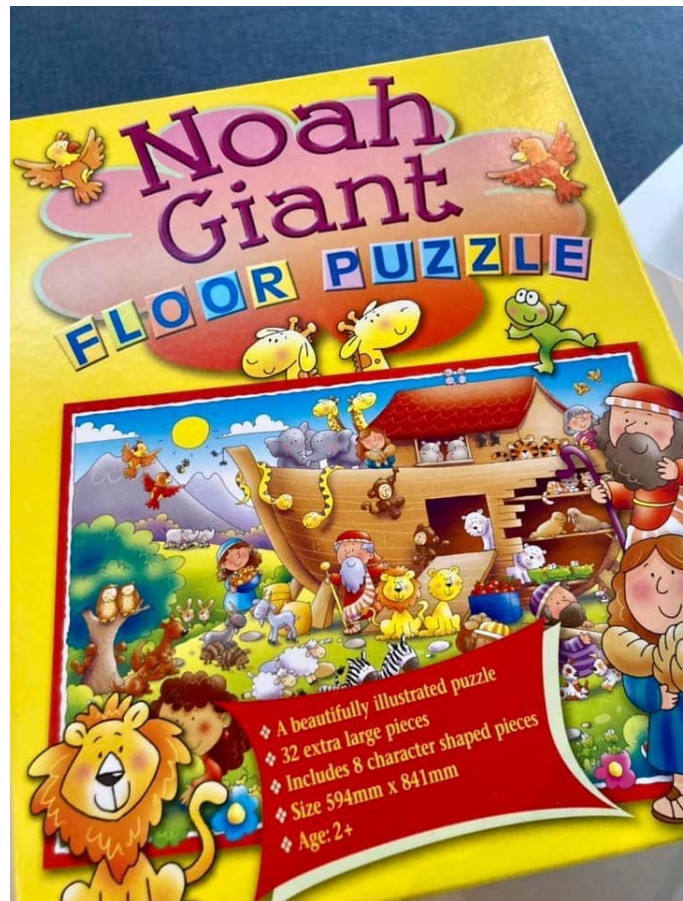
natural facilities of the Bann-side Cistercian monastery. The organisers core message - See you there.



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## Kids' Club Malahide

New furniture has been assembled for the Kids' Club which opens at the Church of Ireland, United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock & St. Doulagh's in St Marnock's Chapel on Sunday 6th March at 11.30am. (Also photo page above)



## Royal British Legion Ireland honours Donegal church member



The President and Chairman said the Legion was delighted to honour “a true Poppy Hero” in her home church of St Patrick's, Donaghmore in Co. Donegal today.

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Meet Pearl Barnett who with, and following on from her mother, has been a key collector in the east Donegal area now for 55 years of unstinting voluntary service. The President and Chairman were delighted to present her with a 30 year medal with full 55 year bars. They also conferred the Royal British Legion Irish Free State Salver (c1928) on her for 2021 in recognition of her personal contribution and that of the Donegal community.

## Deacons for Down & Connor



Bishop Noel Treanor ordained six men for service as permanent deacons at St Peter's Cathedral on Saturday. Congratulations to Jackie, John, Kieran, Paddy, Mark and Ricky on their Ordination to the Diaconate. May God bless the new deacons and their families as they begin their ministry in the diocese.

## New rector for Garrison Group of Parishes

The Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis has appointed Revd Rebecca Guildea as Rector of the Garrison Group of parishes.



Bishop Ellis said; "I am very pleased that Revd Rebecca Guildea has accepted my invitation to be the incumbent of the parishes of Garrison, Slavin, Belleek, and

Kiltyclogher. She is highly qualified with many talents and has gained much experience, particularly in working with young families, in her current position as curate in Greystones parish. I am sure that her engaging and warm personality will be quickly recognised and appreciated by her new parishioners and the wider community.

"Revd Rebecca is moving from one of the Church of Ireland's most easterly parishes to the most westerly parish group in our diocese. We warmly welcome her and husband Brendan with their three children and pray that

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they will be blessed by God and enjoy parish life in this most beautiful part of Ireland.”

Revd Rebecca said she is looking forward to working in Clogher Diocese, “I am thrilled, as are my family, that we have been offered this opportunity to serve in the Garrison group of parishes. We were particularly impressed by the vision this parish union had for outreach within their community, and I am looking forward to working with them to achieve this vision. We are excited about what the future has in store for us together.”

Revd Rebecca was born in Oxford and studied theology at King’s College in London. She said that following a sense of call to ordained ministry, and selection, she completed the MTh programme at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

She was ordained deacon in 2016 and served her deacon intern year at Zion church, Rathgar in the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough. She was ordained priest/presbyter in 2017 and has been serving her curacy at St. Patrick’s Church, Greystones, also in the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough.

Revd Rebecca has a special interest in young people and family ministry. She explained that during her time at St. Patrick’s, she felt a particular call to spearhead outreach among young people and families. She has also been involved in setting up an ecumenical youth ministry, she has led children’s camps and youth camps, the Parenting course and the Alpha course.

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Revd Rebecca is busy with family life. She and her husband, Brendan have three children; Noah (9), Isaac (2) and Moses (4 months) but when she gets the chance for hobbies, enjoys running, hill walking, cooking and interior design.

The Garrison Group of Parishes is situated in west Fermanagh with Kiltyclogher Church located in Co. Leitrim.

A date for Revd Rebecca's institution will be announced in due course.

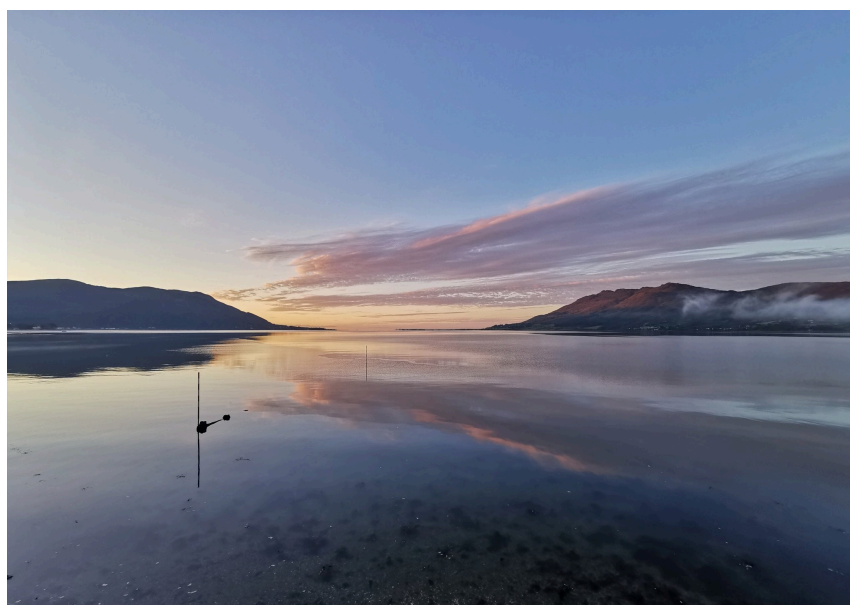
## **Canon Cecil Wilson**

It is with deep regret that we note the death of Canon Cecil Wilson. Cecil died early on Sunday, 20th February in the Ulster Hospital. He was ordained in 1969.

Cecil joined the Ministry Team in Lecale ten years ago, and was very much one of the full-time team even though he was supposed to be retired. Many of the regular fixtures of the LAMP Programme were Cecil's innovations such as 'Conversations' in

Lent and the Ascensiontide Pilgrimage around the LAMP Churches to name but two.

Canon Wilson is survived by his wife Barbara and the family.





## News reports

### Service of Thanksgiving for HRH Prince Philip

**Buckingham Palace has announced that a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey will take place on Tuesday 29th March.**

Attendance at the Service of Thanksgiving will be by invitation only.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who died in April last year, had a long association with Westminster Abbey. On 20th November 1947, he married HRH Princess Elizabeth here (she became Queen in 1952), and they celebrated anniversaries including their Silver, Golden and Diamond Wedding anniversaries with services in the Abbey.

In 1956 he set up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the 60th anniversary of which was celebrated at a special service in November 2016. He was also President and Chairman of the Westminster Abbey Trust, set up in 1973, to raise funds for the restoration of the exterior of the Abbey.

For many years, His Royal Highness attended the annual Opening of the Field of Remembrance. Organised each year by The Poppy Factory, the Field of Remembrance sees thousands of poppies on wooden crosses and memorials, each representing a serviceman or servicewoman who has died in conflict, planted in the grounds of the Abbey.

He also attended a great many other services and events at the Abbey over the years.

The Lord Lieutenant of Belfast has indicated that a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh will also be held in the city later this year. Details will be announced at a later date.

## **Climate Sunday leaves lasting legacy**

**Having galvanised thousands of churches and church groups throughout Britain and Ireland to take action on climate change in the lead up to COP26, the Climate Sunday campaign has now come to a close, leaving a lasting legacy of valuable resources for churches to take further action.**

More than 2,200 churches and church groups throughout Britain and Ireland participated in the Climate Sunday Initiative in the run-up to COP26, addressing climate change by holding Climate Sunday services, committing to practical action and speaking up for climate justice. This widespread take up of the initiative across diverse church traditions indicates a growing commitment by local churches to act on climate change. It has also been the largest ecumenical response to the climate crisis in the UK in the run-up to COP26.

Now, the coalition of churches and Christian agencies which led the Climate Sunday campaign plan to build on the progress made over the course of the campaign. As part of

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this, they will maintain the legacy website of Climate Sunday - ( see link below) - which shows how local churches can take further steps to reduce their emissions and protect the planet.

There are a wide range of service resources available in both English and Welsh on the website to support churches in holding climate focused services and information on the four greening schemes - Eco Congregation Scotland, Eco Congregation Ireland, Eco Church and Live Simply. Finally, partners to the Climate Sunday coalition have collaborated to produce a rich menu of relevant action for churches to take in 2022; the list can be found on the Speak Up section of the legacy website.

Andy Atkins, Chair of Climate Sunday and CEO of A Rocha UK said: "The commitment to action shown by thousands of churches as part of Climate Sunday is inspiring. It should bring practical progress and hope, particularly to young people desperate for their church communities and politicians to engage on this critical issue. The rich resources created by members of the campaign will help local churches to continue to take effective action in 2022 when the UK government still has the presidency of COP."

Reverend Judith Morris, Wales said: "The commitment of so many local churches, denominations and Christian organisations in Wales to Climate Sunday has been encouraging, with both worship and campaign material widely used in both languages. By ensuring the continuation of the bilingual website, the work done in 2020-21 will continue to be available for the churches to continue their work of caring for God's Creation."

Richard Murray, chair of Eco-Congregation Scotland, said: "Climate Sunday demonstrates that churches are tackling the climate emergency with urgency, leading by example, with Christians increasingly motivated and supported to care and act for God's creation. Net Zero commitments by local churches and national denominations ensure that we must all take practical action now."

**Reverend Andrew Orr, Church of Ireland and chair of Eco-Congregation Ireland** said: "Churches across Northern Ireland have really responded to the Climate Sunday initiative. We hope and pray that churches throughout the island of Ireland will see this as a springboard to continue to work for climate justice, through worship, through practical action, and calling on those in our governments to make the courage decisions we need to keep warming below 1.5C."

Hannah Brown, Campaign and Churches Engagement Officer at the Joint Public Issues Team, England said: "We know that the journey ahead as we transition to net-zero across the world will not be easy. We are grateful that church communities across Britain and Ireland have been part of enabling the legacy of COP26 to be more than a negotiated outcome, but also a transformation of grassroots churches' engagement in climate action".

Real examples illustrating Climate Sunday success in a range of different denominations across the four nations in the UK:

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St Chad's Church, Far Headingley in Leeds held a climate focused service on Sunday 17 October led by Anita Shaw, Leeds Episcopal Area Environmental Champion. Local MP Alex Sobel attended with Councillor Emma Flint, a local ward member who sits on Leeds City Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, they both spoke during the service.

Meadowside St Paul's church, Dundee, Scotland - The young people built a climate justice boat 'Seas The Day' which was recycled by today's children from a boat made years ago by a previous generation of young people. The boat was towed on a recycled homemade trolley from Meadowside St Paul's, Dundee to St Andrew's on 31 October. Some paper boats with the church congregation's handwritten prayers and pledges for climate justice were placed in the hull as part of our worship. (see photo)

At St Martin's Church and St Hilary's Church in the Parish of Killay in Swansea, South Wales, in the Climate Sunday service, they heard of Salote, a seven year old living on an island threatened by storms and famine in the South Pacific; and a powerful prayer montage from contributors to COP26 and a poem entitled "If the earth were only a few feet in diameter"

St John's Presbyterian Church, Newtownbreda, Belfast combined Climate Sunday with a Harvest Festival. The Congregation heard from projects that they were supporting across the developing world, supporting farmers and local markets in Uganda, and a literacy project in Senegal. Everyone attending was then to support a letter writing campaign to their local members of the Northern Ireland

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assembly. This urged the assembly to finally pass a Climate Action bill, which became law in January 2022, the last part of the UK to do so. Church



members have

also been developing a wonderful community on waste ground near the church, including tree planting, a wildflower meadow and a pond.

Climate Sunday has formal backing from CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, The Salvation Army, A Rocha UK, Operation Noah, Climate Stewards, Eco-Congregation Scotland, Eco-Congregation Ireland, Green Christian, the Church of England, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Baptist Union of Wales, the United Reformed Church, The Church of Scotland, Churches together in Wales, the Union of Welsh Independents, The Church in Wales, World Vision, The John Ray Initiative, USPG, The United Reformed Church, The Salvation Army, Joint Public Issues Team, CTBI, Christian Concern for One World, Church of Ireland and Young Christian Climate Network.

Link to Climate Sunday -  
[[ [www.climatesunday.org](http://www.climatesunday.org) ]

## In the media



### **Drew Harris: the outsider shaking up the Garda force**

#### **The Independent**

As the commissioner agrees a two-year extension to his term, John Meagher reports on the changes he has made and why some are still sceptical about having a man from a unionist background in charge of our police force as it celebrates its centenary

“It’s a no-fun zone.” The comment by a senior garda to Review is deliberately flippant and delivered with a chuckle,

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but he insists it is how many high-ranking staff at Garda HQ in the Phoenix Park think of Drew Harris's impact as commissioner.

"Harris is respected, pretty much right across the board," the source says, "but it's his way and his way only and he came in with a slash-and-burn approach that has rubbed a lot of people up the wrong way."

Ruth Dudley Edwards comments - "I don't think he would have ever made it to chief constable [of the PSNI] because [of] the Policing Board, which is made up of independent members plus political appointees, including people from Sinn Féin..."

## **Many Dublin churches built in McQuaid's time may be demolished**

### **The Irish Times**

Archdiocese asks council to rezone several parish sites to address housing needs.

Many of the larger churches opened in Dublin during the long episcopacy of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, from 1940 to 1971, seem headed for demolition.

The 3,500-capacity Church of Annunciation in Finglas West, which he opened in October 1967, was demolished last September. It is to be replaced by a smaller church building, capacity 300, with freed-up space to be used for social housing and accommodation for older people.

This was approved by Dublin City Council in February 2020.



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Dublin's Catholic Archdiocese has now made a submission to the council urging that many of its parish sites be zoned similarly for housing, despite planned restrictions on these in all but "highly exceptional" circumstances.

More at -

[[] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/many-dublin-churches-built-in-mcquaid-s-time-may-be-demolished-1.4805588> ]

## **Church and council on collision course over rezoning of Dublin diocesan lands**

### **Independent.ie**

Could Dublin City Council and the largest Catholic diocese in the country be headed for the courts over proposals to rezone church sites across the capital in the new draft Dublin City Development Plan?

An 130-page submission by the Archdiocese of Dublin, prepared by planning consultants Brock McClure, sets out its opposition to the proposals and highlights the planning implications of the development plan for 2022-2028.

Some personnel associated with the 33 churches and 174 schools listed in the Brock McClure report expressed surprise at the news of their ...

More at -

[[] <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/church-and-council-on-collision-course-over-rezoning-of-dublin-diocesan-lands-41357961.html> ]



# ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

## **ACNA moves forward with investigation amid concerns from survivors and advocates**

### **RNS**

The news comes weeks after three members of the ACNA group overseeing the sexual abuse investigation resigned.

As investigations into sexual abuse and abuse of church power get underway in the Anglican Church in North America's Upper Midwest Diocese, at least five individuals who say they experienced sexual or spiritual abuse in the diocese say they will not participate in one or both of the investigations due to concerns about transparency.

In an announcement by the 13-year-old denomination on Sunday (Feb. 13), survivors of abuse were given information about how to contact two firms, Husch Blackwell and Telios

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Law Firm, that will conduct parallel investigations into sexual abuse and abuse of ecclesiastical power, respectively. The denomination also furnished a number for ACNA's confidential support hotline and said that there is a fund to assist sexual abuse survivors.

But the announcement did little to answer accusations from a group called ACNAtoo and others that the investigations do too much to protect the church. It comes weeks after three of eight people appointed to a Provincial Response Team to oversee the sexual abuse investigation resigned, saying the team's process "never felt survivor-centered."

More at -

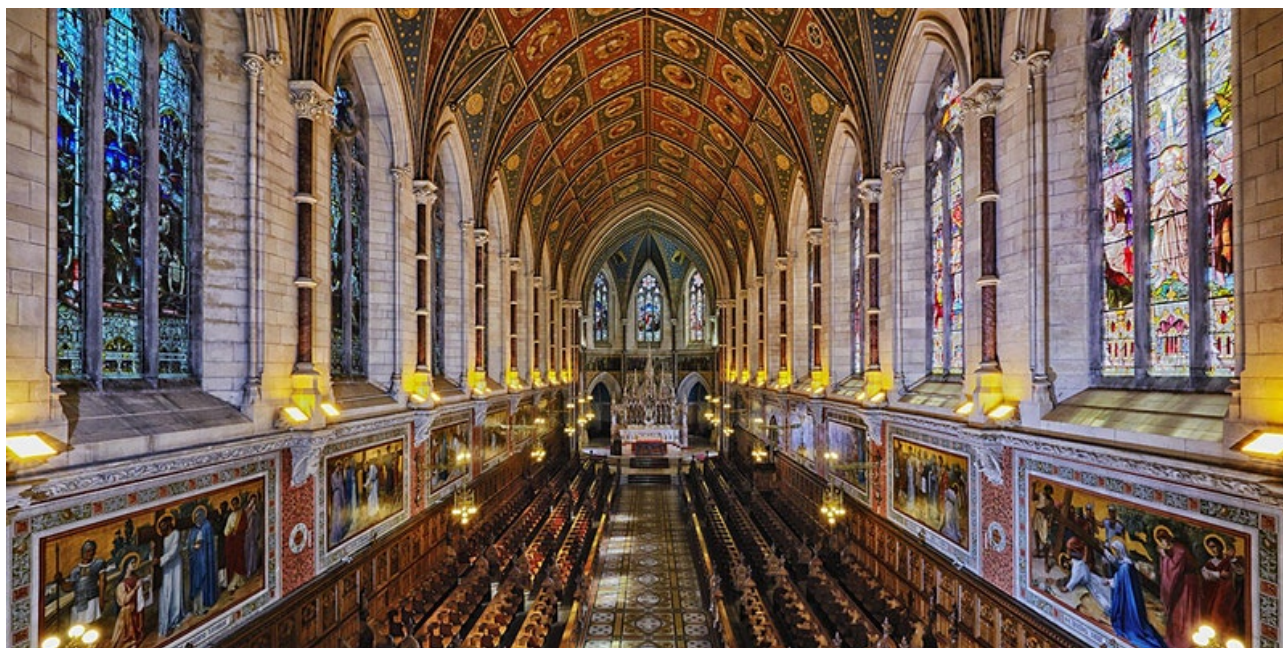
[[] <https://religionnews.com/2022/02/17/acna-moves-forward-with-investigation-amid-concerns-from-survivors-and-advocates/> ]

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

### **Irish Doctors choir Faure's Requiem from Maynooth University Chapel**

**The Irish Doctors choir hope that you and your friends can join their online audience for this very special and joyful event.**

The Irish Doctors choir will be coming together to sing safely in person - mask free! - for the first time in two years.



Joined by Portuguese Bass-Baritone Miguel Maduro-Dias and Organist Gareth Lewis, they will be singing the much-loved Faure Requiem in the beautiful setting of Maynooth Chapel.

The Musical Director is Brian MacKay.

The benefiting charity is Age Action Ireland, so when you buy your tickets you will be supporting the fantastic work that they are doing to support older people .

Audiovisual recording is by Kairos Communications and Irish Doctor Choir thanks them for their generous support for this event.

An online viewing and programme link will be emailed to ticket- holders before the event goes live. In the meantime you can join the event page to view straightforward information about how to watch the concert. We will be

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adding a few video clips and some behind-the-scenes footage.

[[] <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-livestream-performance-of-faures-requiem-from-maynooth-chapel-tickets-258486820037> ]

## **Discover Garrett: Experience a day in the life of a Garrett Seminary student!**

**You are invited to Discover Garrett, a (virtual) visit day on March 9, 2022, that can be customized into the perfect discernment experience for you!**

Whether you are feeling called to ministry for the Church, or to caregiving and advocacy vocations like chaplaincy, counseling, community organizing, activism or non-profit leadership, Discover Garrett will have everything that you need to consider how seminary can support you and your goals.

This will be your opportunity to sit in on a class, hear from current students, alumni, faculty, and admissions staff, join worship, and engage directly with some of our degree directors, centers and institutes.

This day is meant to be built for you! And though our hope is that you will join us for the entire day, we want to give you the flexibility to customize your schedule so that it can fit into your life, or so that it can reflect your most pressing questions. Simply select the sessions you are planning to attend, and then you will receive a customized itinerary a week before the event with the relevant Zoom links.

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We are so grateful to be partnering with you as you discern your next steps! Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of any help. You can reach the Office of Admissions at [getadmitted@garrett.edu](mailto:getadmitted@garrett.edu).

[[] <https://www.garrett.edu/events/discover-garrett-experience-day-life-garrett-seminary-student> ]

## **C of E Worship - the Second Sunday before Lent.**

**Rev Richard Allen, from The Benefice of Trelawny, Cornwall, leads the service, and is preaching about Jesus calming the storm.**

This was broadcast live on Sunday 20 February on the C of E website, Facebook and YouTube . It is available for playback

[[] <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/jesus-calms-storm?> -]

## **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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