

# Church News Ireland

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**Image of the day – Cathedral's urban Queen Bee**

## Image of the day

### Cathedral's urban Queen Bee

The hive at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin is doing great. The queen is faring well and laying at a steady pace. “On our next visit, we will add another super which will allow the bees more room as the colonies expand”.

## People and places

### Saint Nicholas' Galway wins award for encouraging Irish language use

**Congratulations to Saint Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway, who recently won the Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh award for encouraging the use of the Irish language as part of its service to its community.**

This is the longest–running award of its kind in Ireland, organised by Gaillimh le Gaeilge, in partnership with The Galway Advertiser and with support from TG4 and Galway Chamber. This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Gradam, a testament to all Galway businesses and organisations that have supported it over the years.

St Nicholas' is located in the heart of Galway city and welcomes thousands of local and international visitors every year. The Irish language has come to play an important role in the Church over the past few years; An Ghaeilge is part of



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their regular Sunday Eucharist services with parts of the liturgy sung in Irish. It has been incorporated onto their signage, leaflets, tours and social media as well. It is also a feature of their business tourism offering that St Nicholas' are now promoting as a venue for events in the city.

Rector Lynda Peilow was thrilled on receiving the news and said: “Tá áthas an domhain orainn a bheith ainmnithe mar bhuaiteoir iomlán Ghradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh i mbliana. Táimid an–bhródúil as an méid atá déanta againn ó thosaigh muid amach leis an nGradam trí bliana ó shin. We believe that using the language protects and celebrates An Ghaeilge in the city as well and we are delighted to introduce An Ghaeilge to the thousands of visitors from every corner of the world who come through our doors.

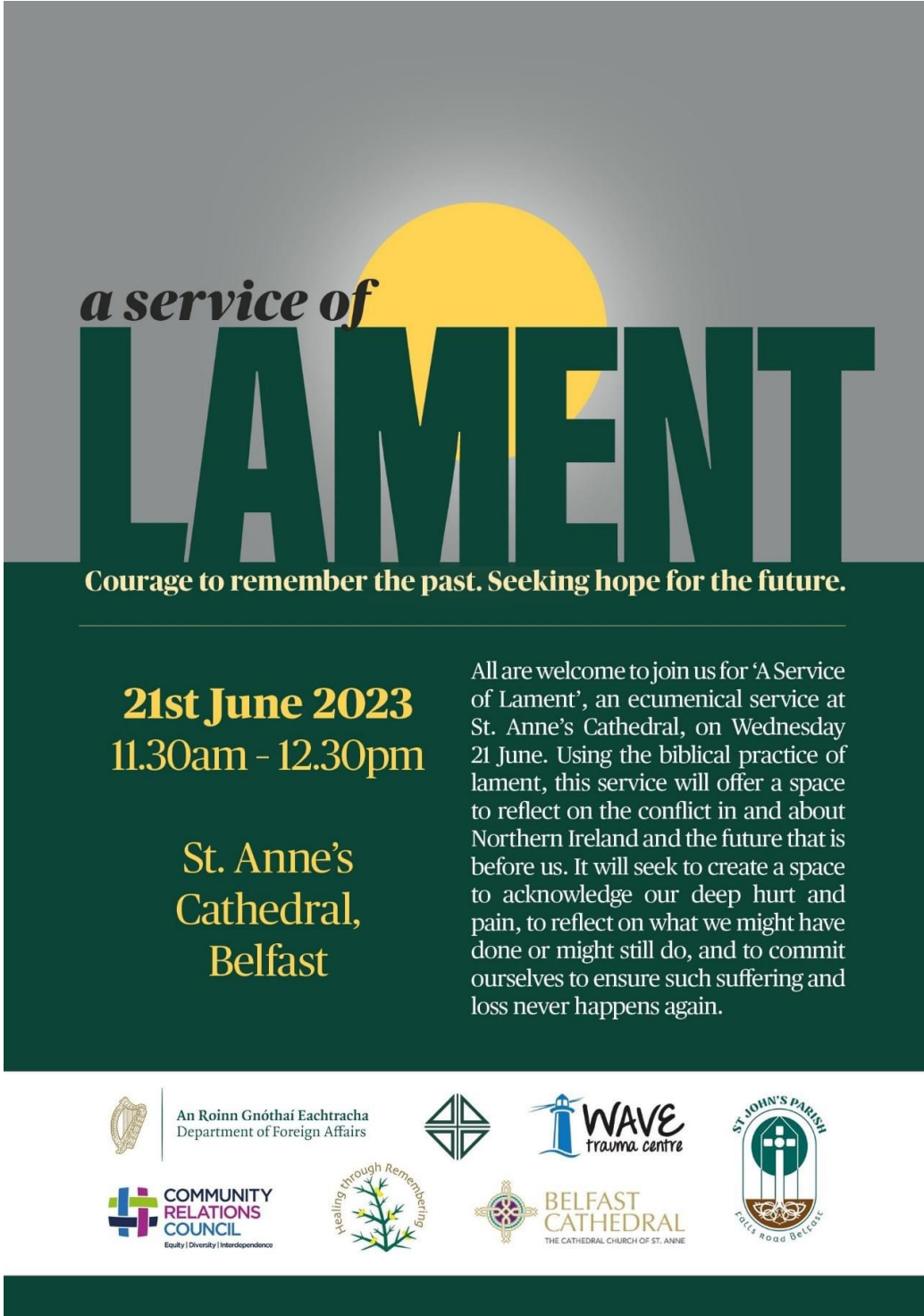


“We feel that the whole community is behind our efforts to promote the language and we look forward to continuing our journey with the language into the future.”

The presentation was made by Galway City Council's Mayor, Councillor Clodagh Higgins.

## **Corrymeela Service of Lament at Belfast Cathedral**

**As June 21 is given increasing recognition across Northern Ireland as a Day of Reflection, Corrymeela, in partnership with Belfast Cathedral, will bring people together to St Anne’s Cathedral for the third annual Service of Lament.**




*a service of*  
**LAMENT**


**Courage to remember the past. Seeking hope for the future.**


**21st June 2023**  
**11.30am - 12.30pm**


**St. Anne's  
Cathedral,  
Belfast**


All are welcome to join us for 'A Service of Lament', an ecumenical service at St. Anne's Cathedral, on Wednesday 21 June. Using the biblical practice of lament, this service will offer a space to reflect on the conflict in and about Northern Ireland and the future that is before us. It will seek to create a space to acknowledge our deep hurt and pain, to reflect on what we might have done or might still do, and to commit ourselves to ensure such suffering and loss never happens again.


 An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs

 WAVE  
trauma centre

 COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS  
COUNCIL  
Equality | Diversity | Interdependence

 Healing through Remembering

 BELFAST  
CATHEDRAL  
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

 ST JOHN'S PARISH  
101st road Belfast

Extending the invitation on behalf of the Dean, Healing through Remembering, the WAVE Trauma Centre and other partners, the Rev Dr Alexander Wimberly, Leader of the Corrymeela Community, said: “As the sun reaches its highest point, we are given time to pause and acknowledge the grief that countless individuals have experienced





*North Western District Methodist women - The final evening this year of the Ladies for Life group at Cranagill was a pot luck supper with Maeve Wilson, the North Western District MWI president.*

through sectarian violence – and to commit ourselves to a more hope-filled future for everyone.”

The Service of Lament begins at 11.30am.

Dr Wimberly said that while this is ‘a Christian service for a society marked by sectarian violence,’ the liturgy is designed as an ecumenical experience.

“At St Anne’s, leaders of both Catholic and Protestant churches stand alongside victims and survivors. They



*The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev John McDowell attended the annual church service for police which was held on Sunday past in St Patrick's Parish Church, Ballymena*

alternate reading the lead parts of the liturgy to demonstrate leadership on equal standing. Instead of one voice dominating the service with a sermon or sacramental act, multiple voices are heard. This year those who are victims and survivors will be joined Bishop Alan Abernethy, and Abbot Mark-Ephrem Nolan of the Rostrevor Benedictines

“The service includes a generous amount of silence with the explicit recognition that well intended words often arrive as irrelevant noise, that too often churches in Northern Ireland remained silent in the face of sectarian violence when they



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could have been more outspoken, and that silence held together can be both difficult and beneficial.”

Dr Wimberly said this ‘very powerful’ service can bring a degree of healing to a painful and often unspoken part of someone’s life.

“At the service last year, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland remarked on how rare it is for us in this society to come together to acknowledge our collective pain,” he said. “The Archbishop of Armagh (RC) noted that we have separated ourselves from each other – even in our grief.

“A shared service of lament provides an opportunity for us to be together as we find the courage to remember the past and seek hope for a better future.”

A link to the livestream of the event will be available on the day at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CorryCentre>

## **Main churches in Londonderry hold prayer event at new shared school campus**

**Clergy from three of the main churches in Londonderry made their way through a dusty building site earlier this month to lead a short ecumenical service of prayer for the success of Ardnashee School and College’s new construction project.**



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Work is well under way on the single storey building on the Northland Road, and the project is scheduled to be completed in February 2025.





Nine pupils from the current campuses in Belmont joined principal Raymond McFeeters, the vice-chair of the Board of Governors, Dee Amor, and three teachers at the ceremony, which took place on an area of raised ground overlooking the site. The project's architect and two members of staff from Woodvale Construction also attended. A number of the pupils gave readings.

The clergy who took part were the Bishop of Derry, Rt Rev Dr Donal McKeown; the Rector of St Augustine's Church, Londonderry, Rev Nigel Cairns; and Rev Dr David Latimer from the Presbyterian Church. All three clergy performed readings and Dr Latimer shared a short reflection.

The children brought with them hopes and wishes they had written down for the success of the new school. After the service, these were buried in a hole, which was then



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covered in by the shovel-wielding principal, and they will remain under the school's flooring for the rest of the building's lifetime.

## In the media

### Chloe Mitchell Ballymena church vigil

**Harryville Presbyterian minister says murder will continue to inspire love and concern from community members for each other - Philip Bradfield writes in the Newsletter**

A Presbyterian minister believes the shock caused by the murder of Chloe Mitchell in Ballymena will continue to inspire love and concern among members of her community.

Rev Eddie Chestnutt of Harryville Presbyterian Church was speaking ahead of vigils for the 21-year-old woman, whose disappearance on 3 June sparked a huge search operation.

The search was called off after suspected human remains were discovered. One man has appeared in court charged with Ms Mitchell's murder, while a second was charged with assisting an offender.

Rev Chestnutt ministers in the same Harryville area of the town where Ms Mitchell's family reside.

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On Sunday night his church hosted a community prayer vigil for her safe return. Tragically, it was not to be.

“But the people of Harryville are a very strong people,” he said. “We talk about Harryville being a close knit community of people who look out for one another.”

He added: “They are people who work together to really encourage each other. So although it is dreadful what has happened – and it has caused shock, deep distress and pain – in time it will continue to draw out of Harryville people the strength, the love, and the concern that they have for each other.”

He has been a minister in the church for 12 years. And as concern was mounting for Chloe at the weekend, he sensed “a real sense of desperation” about the situation on social media.

“So that fed into our decision to hold a special time of prayer on Sunday evening.”

The congregation normally meets to pray on Sunday evening anyway, but on this occasion there were many new people who attended.

“It was just a real cross section of the community and indeed folk from beyond Harryville.”

“The heart of the Christian gospel is that God welcomes us, in his son Jesus Christ,” he said. “It’s not a kind of a message where you have to measure up. It is a welcome that’s broad and wide and open and that is the type of church we try to be.”



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About 100 attended the event.

“Certainly some folk would have said that they were comforted and encouraged.”

He added: “We cried out in prayer as a child cries out to their father – but a father does not always give his children what they want. We cannot treat God like Santa Claus. There is more to it than that.”

However he sees the resilience and compassion in Harryville people in helping each other deal with the tragedy.

And he says his congregation will continue to support them.

“We will still be here when the focus shifts onto something else. God willing, we will still be quietly in the background preaching God’s word and praying together and looking after people.”

## **Clonard Novena returns with focus on the future of the Catholic Church**

**Thousands are preparing to attend the annual Clonard Novena in west Belfast over the next nine days, Allan Preston writes in the Irish News**

Last year’s event was the first to take place in person after two years of disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Held in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a total of six sessions will be held each day between Wednesday and June 22.

Fr Peter Burns, Rector of Clonard, explained how this year's theme would be "a new vision of church".

It follows a pastoral letter from the Bishop of Derry – who is also Apostolic Administrator for Down and Connor - Donal McKeown, outlining how a growing shortage of priests means more lay people will need to become more involved in the running of the church.

Fr Burns said: "He realises...and we all realise that the church is going through a very significant period of renewal.

"We're at a very important transition in the church."

During the Novena, Fr Burns said it was a chance for those attending to consider what the future of the church will look like.

"It involves all of us and it's very challenging, but it's also potentially very exciting.

"So, this year, the theme will be to reflect on and to celebrate that renewal which is happening in the church.

"And we very much look forward to all of you joining us during those days."

He added that while many people had drifted away from the church for various reasons, he said the Novena was an



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important opportunity to communicate with them and show them they were welcome.

This Saturday, there will be a Special Blessing of the Sick taking place at all masses, while on Sunday evening a youth session with Mass is to be held at 8pm.

Monday will also include the traditional custom of an Inter-Church Day.

## **Decline in church attendance is personal failure, says Welby**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury has said he believes that the decline of church attendance during his tenure is a “personal failure”, Gabriella Sterling writes in the Daily Telegraph**

The Most Rev Justin Welby’s comments come as the Church of England grapples with division among its membership following the move to bless same-sex couples, threats from the worldwide Anglican Communion that it will “disassociate” from the institution after the historic vote and concerns that the parish system is under threat amid dwindling congregant numbers.

In his frankest comments to date on the subject, the Archbishop, who has held the post since 2013, said the decline of church attendance was something that “personally, I count as failure”.

The total average attendance for Sunday services across the whole of the Church of England in 2013 was over a

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million people — at 1,009,100. By 2019, the figure dropped to 854,00, marking a decline of just over 15 per cent. However, many churches have struggled to return to their pre-pandemic congregant numbers. For example, a report published by the Diocese of Oxford and based on a limited number of parishes, estimated that attendance in October 2022 was only at 81 per cent of the 2019 level.

The Archbishop made the comments at the Religion Media Centre's festival in London on Monday. Asked about the reasons for the fall in church attendance, he responded: "The further decline in the Church is something that ... even if I were not to be responsible for, I'm certainly accountable for, so that I personally count as failure.

"Lots of people tell me I shouldn't have said that. But it's what I feel personally, yeah. I'm not sure I know what else could have been done.

"Because in the end, the future of the church, its survival or otherwise, does not depend on archbishops, it depends on God and the providence of God."

The Archbishop also said that the structure of the Anglican Communion, which he leads and which claims around 85 million members worldwide, needed reform "so it's no longer invariably run by a white guy from England in a communion that is 90 per cent global south".

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# Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



## Stockholm Choirs to give concert in Belfast Cathedral

On Saturday, June 17th at 12 noon four choral groups from Stockholm will join together

to give a concert in Belfast Cathedral. The concert is entitled “Choral Music through the Ages from Scandinavia to Italy” and will include music by MacMillan, Monteverdi, Bernstein and Vaughan Williams amongst others. There will be about 70 singers with ages ranging from 10-70 from four different groups: the Stockholm Cathedral Boys choir, the Katarina Church Boys Choir, Youth Choir and Ensemble will all perform. This concert is open to all, Admission is free and donations will go to the life and work of Belfast Cathedral.  
Photo - Stockholm Cathedral



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## **New exhibition highlighting role of Ulster-Scots in the American Declaration of Independence**

A new exhibition highlighting the role of the Ulster-Scots in the American Declaration of Independence has been opened by Joe Kennedy III at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast. The exhibition includes an original Declaration of Independence on loan from The National Archives (UK), which is on display in Belfast for the first time....

The exhibition, which opened last month at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, includes an original Declaration of Independence on loan from The National Archives (UK), which is on display in Belfast for the first time.


The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) is located at 2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, BT3 9HQ and is open Monday – Friday, 9am – 4.45pm. Public holidays may affect opening times - for the latest details visit the Proni web site.

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The exhibition, Ulster-Scots and the Declaration of Independence, is located on the ground floor of the building and has been brought about as a result of a partnership between the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Running until 24 July 2023 the exhibition is open to the public. Admission is free.

## Armed Forces Day 2023

The hugely popular Armed Forces Day in NI will take place in Larne on Saturday 17th June 2023 at Sandy Bay Playing Fields, from 10am 

The action packed day will kick off with a parade to the venue and a drumhead service. The day will be filled with something for the whole family, including;

- Interactive & static military displays
- Performance from Band of the Royal Irish Regiment
- Military village
- 21 Royal Gun Salute for the King's official birthday fired by 206 (Ulster) Battery RA
- Live music from the Music Yard, Swingtime Starlets and The Gold Tips
- Army Parachute display by Silver Stars RLC
- RAF Display team featuring BBMF Spitfire and Hurricane
- AAC Gazelle helicopter (static display)
- RAFP Military Working Dogs display
- Children's entertainment
- Ulster Aviation Society static display

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- STEM competition

HMS Hibernia will also be in attendance to talk all things Royal Naval Reserve careers, so feel free to come by for a chat!

***Sea View Garden***  
Salthill, Mountcharles, Donegal F94H2T5



Open:  
**Fri.16th, Sat.17th, & Mon19th. June**  
**2-5pm**  
**In Aid of: Fields of Life, Uganda.**  
At other times by Appointment  
**Plant Stall**

Contact: Dorothy Jervis: Mob: 087 9131393  
Email: [dorothyjervis@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyjervis@gmail.com)  
Webpage: Donegal Garden Trail.com

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site



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# Church News Ireland

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