

Church News Ireland

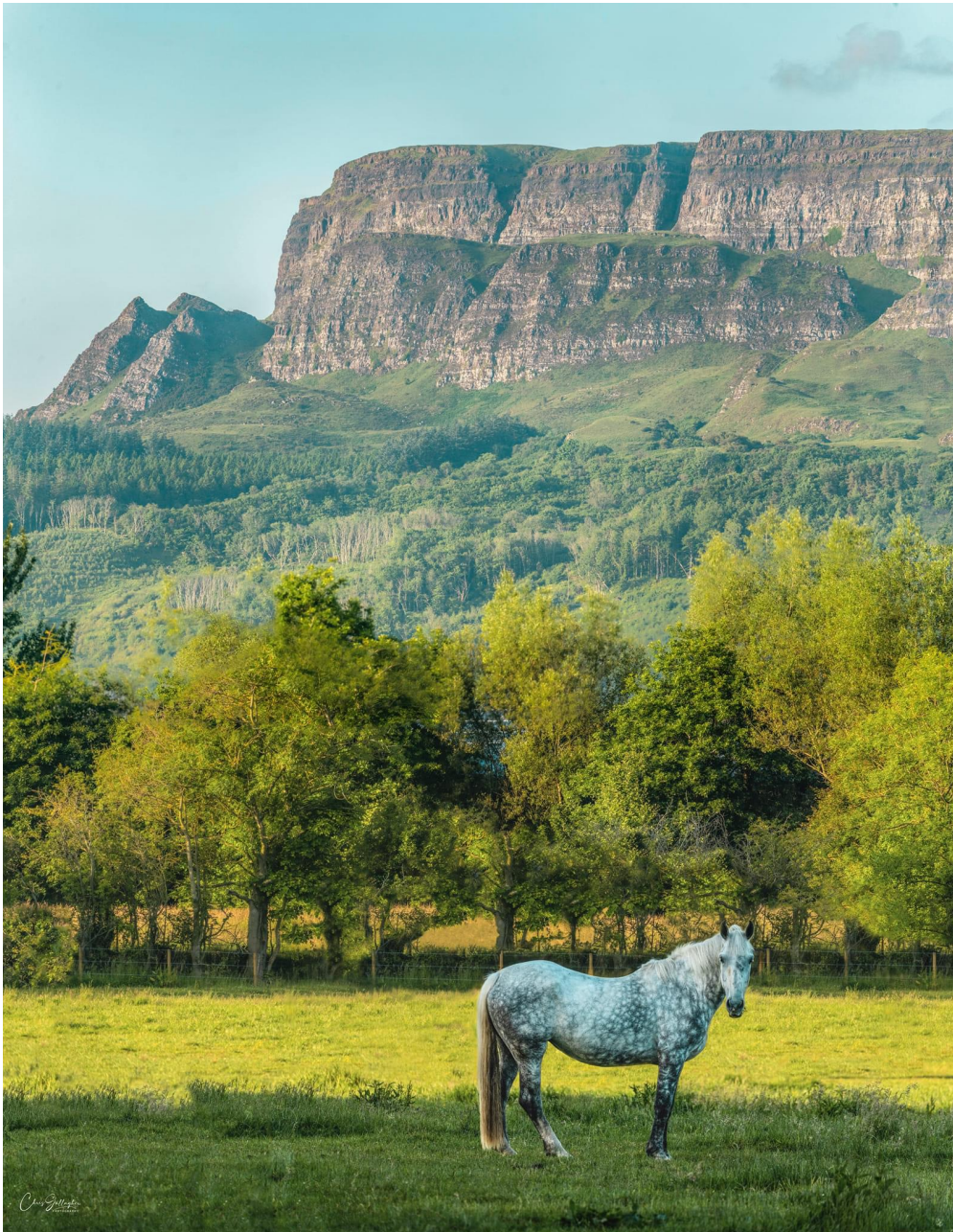


Image of the day – area of natural beauty

Image of the day

Binevenagh Area of outstanding natural beauty

Binevenagh is an officially recognised area of outstanding natural beauty. A massive basalt plateau complete with forestry and lakes looks out over an area of flat land where the water table is so close to the surface that the fenlands and Dutch polders comes to mind.

From the Gortmore viewpoint there are views across the Foyle to Donegal. The strands converging on the sandy point of Magilligan attract caravaners and daily visitors. To the east is the coastline to Portrush, and on a clear day Scotland is visible. Chris Gallagher Photography
More at - [<https://binevenaghaonb.ccght.org/>]

People and places

Church House Belfast on the move

After nearly 30 years in Donegall Street, Church House Belfast will move to temporary premises in Titanic Quarter.

The Donegall Street office will close to the public on Friday June 23 to facilitate the move, and the new premises will open for normal business at the end of July. The address of the temporary office will be published in advance of that date.

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Staff from both Connor and Down and Dromore dioceses will continue to work throughout this period and email addresses and phone numbers will remain the same during and after the move.

Stockholm Choirs perform imaginative programme at Belfast Cathedral Concert



Under the direction of their Belfast educated Director, Gregory Lloyd, a combined choir drawn from the Stockholm Cathedral Boys' Choir, and the Boys' Choir, Girls' Choir and Ensemble choirs from the Katarina Church sang an imaginative programme of music at lunchtime in Belfast Cathedral. The concert was titled "Choral Music through the Ages from Scandinavia to Italy".

Music which was sung both by the combined choir and by smaller choral ensembles, ranged from Monteverdi, to

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Vaughan Williams. Other pieces included Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, a Swedish choral piece which evoked cow herders in the Swedish forests, and an Icelandic piece that reflected the volcanic landscape and sagas of that Nordic nation.

Following their concert at Belfast Cathedral the intrepid choral group crossed the city to give a "pop up concert" at Lanyon Station and then an evening concert in Carryduff before travelling to Dublin.



Special birthdays for MU members

Clondehorkey MU and Clondevaddock MU party the day away to celebrate 2 very special members with 2 very special birthdays! Happy Birthday, Revd Shiela! Happy Birthday, Anne! Congratulations to you both!

The joy of the Lord is your strength..... may your youthfulness and vigour continue to energise you, and thank you for the inspiration you are and have been to so many. God bless.



Ride, walk and swim for chorister bursary

**The St
Patrick's
Past
Choristers'
& Pupils'
Association
are currently
trying to
raise funds
to support a**

bursary in the Grammar School for music tuition.

On Sunday week ago the Association's President, Ms Elaine Sloane and some friends set out on a sponsored challenge across Dublin Bay which included a 20k cycle, 10k walk and a dip at the 40ft.

The funds raised have now surpassed €5,000 for this year, and they have made a start on next year's fund too. If you are in a position to support this bursary, please contact



Elaine or one of the committee members. “Huge thanks to Elaine and all who took part in the day, and especially to all who have supported the fundraising this year”.

Introduction of Priest-in-Charge of Muckamore and Killead

The Rev Derek Harrington was Introduced as Priest-in-Charge of the Grouped Parishes of Muckamore and Killead, Antrim, at a service in St Jude’s Parish Church on Thursday June 15.

Derek, 39, was previously curate of Christ Church Parish in Lisburn. He and his wife Anne-Marie have a young daughter and are expecting their second child in July.

Derek was Introduced by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, and the preacher was the Archdeacon of Dalriada, the Ven Paul Dundas, rector of Christ Church, Lisburn.



The introduction of the Rev Derek Harrington as Priest-in-Charge of Muckamore and Killead. From left: Archdeacon Paul Dundas, preacher; Archdeacon Stephen McBride; Bishop George Davison; the Rev Canon William Taggart, registrar, and the Rev Canon Derek Kerr, rural dean.

St Jude's Parish Church was full to capacity, as was the adjacent Parish Hall where the service was relayed by video link.

Derek grew up in Co Tyrone and worked as a maths teacher for seven years before entering full-time training for the ministry. He was ordained deacon in 2017 and served his deacon internship in the Grouped Parishes of Derg and Killeter, Diocese of Derry and Raphoe.

Derek and Anne-Marie moved to Lisburn in 2018 when he was ordained priest/presbyter to begin his curacy.



Visiting the Ulster Tower on Saturday and going on a tour of Thiepval Wood were pupils from Methodist College, Belfast. It is great to see schools from Northern Ireland visiting what is regarded by many as Northern Ireland's National War Memorial.

Antrim Uniform Bank to re-open

Antrim Uniform Bank will be open again shortly and “we are looking forward to helping out Antrim families where we can with donated uniforms...”

UNIFORM DONATION:

Uniforms (in good condition and clean, please) can be dropped off at First Antrim Presbyterian halls. The front door



of the halls will be open and uniforms can be placed inside the first set of doors during the following days/times:

Monday 26 - Friday 30 June - 10am - 2pm

Tuesday 4 - Friday 7 July - 10am - 2pm

UNIFORM BANK:

Please ring 079 2880 9280 to advise us of the uniform you need and we will check if we have what you need. When you come, we will have an appropriate size and uniform for your child/young person to try on.

Below are the dates/times we are planning on opening up:

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JULY

Wednesday 5 July, 10am - 12pm

Thursday 6 July, 2-4pm

Monday 10 July, 10am - 12pm

Friday 14 July, 2-4pm

Tuesday 18 July, 6-8pm

AUGUST

Tuesday 22 August, 10am - 12pm

Wednesday 23 August, 2-4pm

If there is more demand, we will open up more dates. Please keep an eye on our social media pages. For more information, please contact 079 2880 9280 during office hours only.

News reports

Church of England awards £16.3 million for mission including outreach to young people

The C of E has made awards to dioceses for work to help parishes and churches spread the Christian faith to children and young people.

Diocese of London youth apprentices - Apprentice youth workers, youth ministers, children and families workers and chaplaincy aimed at students in further education are to be funded as part of major awards to dioceses announced by the Church of England.

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A total of £16.3 million has been awarded by the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board to five programmes to support parishes and clergy to spread the Christian faith and increase the Church of England's engagement with young people.

The plans reflect the Church of England's goal of doubling the number of children and young active disciples in the

Church of England by 2030 and ensuring that its churches more fully represent its communities in age and diversity.

The **Diocese of Bristol** has been awarded £6.8 million for work including church and school partnerships with children, youth and



**An evening
of praise with
Kerygma Choir**

**Sunday
25th June 6.30pm**

Milltown Parish Hall,
Derrylileagh Road,
Birches, Portadown

**Come along and hear
this fantastic choir.
Everyone welcome**

Donations in aid of 

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families workers, with a special focus on lower income areas.

Under the plans the investment will provide support for ordained ministers to lead mission work, with investment in wellbeing, as well as vocational and leadership coaching and volunteer development.

Collaborative training and support will help teams to revitalise parishes, plant new congregations and pioneer new expressions of church.

There will also be a pilot administrative centre across several benefices to help free up clergy from paperwork, and investment in areas of deprivation including work to promote ministry on estates.

The **Diocese of Sheffield** is to receive £4.8 million to fund church plants and a Ministry Experience Scheme for 18-to-25-year-olds to develop young leaders, along with a new



Maghera Parish Caring Association

Vintage Rally

All Usual Vintage & Classic Vehicles Welcome!



Saturday 24th June
12pm-4pm
in St Lurach's Rectory Grounds
(beside Maghera Walled Garden)



Stalls, Crafts, Ice Cream,
Balloon Modelling,
Teas, Tray Bakes, BBQ & more!

(Stall spaces still available!)

For more info contact:
07307859336 or 07779599132

ENTERTAINMENT

- *Second Chance Band
- *Knockloughrim Accordion Band
- *Sollus Highland Dancers

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communal 'house of prayer' for young adults, inspired by the monastic movement.

The funding will further support five church revitalisations in areas of deprivation in Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster, and provide support for lay-led congregations through a small grants scheme and funding for lay workers.

The **Diocese of Durham** has been awarded £2.7 million to support chaplaincy to further education colleges through local partnerships with churches, interim ministry and strengthening the diocese's strategic capacity over the next six years.

The Board has also agreed in principle to award a further £1.2 million - with funds released subject to approval of additional plans - to support three Mission Hubs, where churches work together to develop mission projects.

The **Diocese of London** is to receive an award of £1.5 million over three years to expand its youth worker apprentice scheme with an aim of recruiting 24 apprentice youth workers who will be deployed in parishes in deprived areas across the diocese.

The **Diocese of Canterbury** has been awarded £560,000 to support the development of mission plans across the diocese and two cohorts of the Ministry Experience Scheme. The scheme, offering young adults the chance to spend a year's placement in ministry, will be focused on working with children and young people.

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As part of this work the Board has further agreed to award £460,000 - subject to approval of additional plans – to support the development of seven youth ministers working with churches in the diocese over a five-year period.

John Spence, Chair of the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board, said: “We have been really pleased and impressed by so many creative plans for the Church to become younger and more diverse.

“The Board was delighted to be able to provide funding to partner with dioceses in supporting lay and ordained leaders in parishes in the vital work of reaching more children and young people with the good news of the Gospel.

“These latest plans have the potential to be a rich source of learning for the Church as we seek to engage more effectively with children and young people in ways which more fully reflect the diverse communities we serve.”

In the media

Irish citizens risk jail under ‘Orwellian’ hate speech law

Irish citizens who campaign against transgender women being able to use female changing rooms or crisis centres risk jail under an “Orwellian” hate speech law, critics have claimed, Maighna Nanu writes in the Daily Telegraph

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The Irish senate last week debated the controversial Criminal Justice (Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences) Bill 2022.

The Bill seeks to expand the range of people protected from hate speech to include those with “gender identities” including transgender or “gender other than male or female”. Supporters of the Bill argue that Ireland needs to update its hate-speech protections to match the evolution of society and social media.

The Bill, introduced in 2022 by Helen McEntee, the justice minister, has drawn global interest, with Donald Trump Jr describing it as “insane” and Elon Musk as “very concerning”.

It is expected to become law this year, with the senate unlikely to make major amendments given that its recommendations can be rejected by Parliament.

Under the law, existing offences such as assault or criminal damage will receive higher sentences if they are aggravated by “hatred”. The law will also criminalise possessing material that could incite hatred towards people with “protected characteristics”. The material does not have to be disseminated to the public in any way.

Reacting to fears that the Bill could have a “chilling effect” on free speech, the Government last year told The Irish Times that the bar for criminal prosecution will be “very high”. “Criminal incitement to hatred will not be an area that anybody will stray into by accident,” the Department of Justice told the newspaper.

To be prosecuted, government ministers have argued, people will have to deliberately and recklessly stir up hatred against citizens with “protected characteristics”, which also include race, religion and disability.

Debating the law in the senate last week, Pauline O’Reilly, Irish Green party senator, said it was right to restrict people’s freedom of speech to protect vulnerable people from “discomfort”.

“If a person’s views on other people’s identities make their lives unsafe and insecure, and cause them such discomfort that they cannot live in peace, our job is to restrict those freedoms for the common good,” she said. “One cannot do and say whatever one likes in our society.”

What the Windsor Framework/Protocol will mean in practice for the institutions of government in Northern Ireland

This paper by Andrew McCormick considers what the post-Brexit context will mean for the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Executive and its departments of government, the North-South institutions and the British Irish Council.

The relationships, opportunities, risks and obligations will be very different from anything that has gone before. While there are parallels with the operation of the EEA countries, and others with association agreements with the EU, Northern Ireland will be unique in that it is a region of a non-

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Member State, and not a separate sovereign jurisdiction. The issues that will arise will be affected not only by the relationship with the EU, but by the place of Northern Ireland within the governance and constitution of the United Kingdom, which



will itself also be adapting to new policy opportunities and challenges post-Brexit. Communication and understanding (with NI stakeholders as well as the EU and UK institutions) will be absolutely critical if the opportunities are to be realised, and the potential tensions (which could be very significant) are to be anticipated and navigated to avoid disruption or controversy.

Andrew McCormick joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service in 1980, working in the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) until 1992, before assisting in the political talks from 1992-1993. From 1993 to 1998 he was a Director in the Department of Education, and then Director of the Central Finance Group (DFP) until 2005, when he became Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, Social

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Services and Public Safety. In 2014 he took on the position of Permanent Secretary of the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, moving on to hold the same position at the Department for the Economy until 2018. From 2018 to 2021 he was Director General for International Relations in The Executive Office, with responsibility for EU exit issues.

This Briefing Paper was launched at a special Seminar in the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels which you can view. Link at

[\[https://crossborder.ie/reports/what-the-windsor-framework-protocol-will-mean-in-practice-for-the-institutions-of-government-in-northern-ireland/\]](https://crossborder.ie/reports/what-the-windsor-framework-protocol-will-mean-in-practice-for-the-institutions-of-government-in-northern-ireland/)

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



The Parentline Podcast

The Parentline Podcast is a goldmine of resources for parents in Northern Ireland - and further afield! Our guests are local, and our episode topics aim to provide factual

and relatable content to all parents - no matter what parenting stage you're at.

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You can view and listen to our bank of episodes here:
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/861409>

Cross-Border Funding for Peace and Prosperity

Attention, changemakers! The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) “is thrilled to announce that the PEACEPLUS funding calls are officially OPEN!”

PEACEPLUS is a groundbreaking cross-border funding programme worth an astonishing €1.1 billion! This ambitious initiative is a collaborative effort between the European Union, the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Executive, with SEUPB managing the program.

The primary objective of PEACEPLUS is to ensure stability, drive prosperity, and support peace in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. This program aims to foster unity and cooperation, transcending boundaries and making a lasting impact on the lives of people in these regions.

Are you passionate about creating positive change in your community? Do you have a project that aligns with the goals of PEACEPLUS? Now is the time to act!

“We invite you to visit our official Support Portal where you'll find all the information you need to apply for PEACEPLUS funding. Discover which projects are eligible and how they can benefit.

“Whether you're working on initiatives related to education, social integration, economic development, PEACEPLUS is here to help you turn your vision into reality!

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“Spread the word and share this incredible opportunity with your network. Let's make a difference, one project at a time!”

seupb.eu/support-portal

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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