

Saint Columb's Cathedral Magazine



Photo credit: Janelle McClintock

February 2026

Volume 33

Issue 2

The Canon writes



Dear Parishioners and Friends

As I pen this letter, we are still in the season of Epiphany and as I reflect on the Christmas just passed, I feel for an increasing number of people Christmas seems to involve a great deal of preparation, even anxiety and stress. Then, in the course of one short day, it's all over. There is a huge buildup of expectations and anticipation. For a brief time, human beings are at their best generous, friendly, kind. Then it is back to earth with a thud. Where did Christmas go?

Well, newspaper reports provide one explanation. "Retailers report bumper shopping figures." "New Year sales frenzy into fever pitch." Crowds descending on High Street shops compared to "ants scurrying from beneath an upturned stone." The mad rush was described by one person as "guerrilla shopping" with everyone out for themselves and heaven help the person who gets in the way.

Where did Christmas go? Come to think of it, where did some of the main characters of the Christmas story go? When we look to the Scriptures, we certainly find some indication as to what happened to the original cast after the birth of Jesus.

Where did the Shepherds go? Luke tells us that they returned "glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen." Returned where? No doubt to sheep tending and their normal chores. For a short time, they had shared in the mystery of the Christ Child's birth, but now it was time to get back to work. There were sheep to be tended, pens to be mended, pastures to be found, and lambs to be helped into the world.

The really important question is not where they went but how they went. They returned to their jobs. That's hardly surprising. But they returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen. Now there is the difference!

And what about the central figures? Where did they go? Before long, we are told, Mary and Joseph and Jesus became refugees, fleeing from their homeland to Egypt, fearful of Herod's threat to murder young children. Luke tells us that the child Jesus grew in wisdom and years. Later he was to develop a skill in the carpenter's shop at Nazareth. Later still, a brief public ministry of teaching and healing would culminate in conflict, arrest, trial and execution. It was a tough road which began at Bethlehem and ended at Calvary.

The question is - and it is a pertinent question at the beginning of this New Year - Where are you going from Bethlehem? The Shepherds returned to their work-a-day world glorifying and praising God. They knew life could never be the same again because of all the things they had heard and seen. The Holy Family went from Bethlehem into hardship. Unfortunately, Jesus went all the way to Calvary, but with a strength and joy that surpassed any adversity. So maybe it's not just a question of where you are going, but of how you are going and who is going with you.

Wishing you every blessing and fulfilment in 2026.

Yours sincerely

BISHOP ANDREW FORSTER APPEAL TO OUR UNITED DIOCESES

ON BEHALF OF THE DIOCESE OF KONDOA IN TANZANIA.

During the season of Advent the Tuesday Morning Fellowship responded to the Bishop's appeal by donating £657.00 towards the building of Diocesan Offices in Kondoa. This generous donation was received with sincere gratitude by Bishop Andrew.

THE PARISH OF TEMPLEMORE
SAINT COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL, LONDONDERRY

The Deanery
30 Bishop Street
Londonderry
BT48 6PP

6th January 2026

Dear Friends

I thank everyone who ventured out on Sunday morning, 4th January 2026, to attend Choral Eucharist at Saint Columb's Cathedral.

This was a Service to acknowledge my long and active service of 46 and a half years in The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe, and my 8 and a half years as Rector of The Parish of Templemore and Dean of Derry.

I thank The Reverend Canon John Merrick, the members of the Select Vestry and other parishioners who played a part in planning a wonderful service.

I thank The Cathedral Choirs, conducted by Organist & Director of Music Nicky Morton and Assistant Organist Louis Fields, who sang two of my favourite pieces ('Fairest Lord Jesus' and 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You') as motets.

I thank Bishop Andrew Forster who celebrated Holy Communion and preached the Sermon. His words of appreciation about my length of service in the dioceses and my association of 26 and a half years with the Chapter of Saint Columb's Cathedral encouraged me greatly.

At the end of the Service gifts were presented to me for which I am most grateful.

Mr William Lynn, Rector's Churchwarden, on behalf of the parishioners presented me with a Cathedral Plaque and a very generous and substantial cheque and Miss Muriel Hamilton, People's Churchwarden, presented my wife Patricia with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Hollie McCorkell, one of the girl choristers, on behalf of the boy and girl choristers, organists and choir supervisors presented me with a signed card and a memory stick containing comments and reflections from Nicky Morton, Louis Fields, Ellen Duffy (Head Chorister) and Ben Langan (Head Chorister), as well as a beautiful rendition of 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' sung by the boy and girl choristers.

I wish to acknowledge other gifts that were presented to me on previous occasions.

The Cathedral Sunday School (a signed card and a walking stick);

The Board Members and Young People of The Ulster Project (City of Derry Crystal with a motif of The Peace Bridge);

The Mothers' Union (a Cross Pen);

The Men's Society (a 'Jerusalem' Cross and a cheque);

The Inner City Centre Churches (a Foyleside Gift Voucher);

The Sunday Morning Holy Communion Group

(an Emporio Armani watch – suitably inscribed).

After the Service Mr Mervyn Lewers, Vice-Chairman of SEFF (South East Fermanagh Foundation / Support for People Affected by Terrorism) presented me with a framed tribute from The SEFF Family.

I wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way to these lovely and generous gifts to me and Patricia. I also wish to acknowledge cards, letters, emails and gifts that I received from individual members of the parish and community.

Following the presentations there were complimentary speeches from Alderman Niree McMorris, BEM, Deputy Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council; Mr Ian Crowe, MBE, CStJ,

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for The County Borough of Londonderry;

His Grace, The Duke of Abercorn, Mr James Hamilton;

The Reverend Paul Farren, Administrator of Saint Eugene's Cathedral, representing The Most Reverend Dr Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry;

The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, Bishop of The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe.

I thank them all for their words of appreciation.

I have enjoyed fellowship with many different groups and churches during my time here in Londonderry. I believe that God wishes us to be people who welcome one another and to co-operate together as much as we are able.

At the afternoon service (Carols of the Epiphany) in the Cathedral Ross Duncan made a presentation of a gift of money on behalf of The Cathedral Ladies Chamber Choir and The Cathedral Lay Clerks.

The Reverend Canon David McBeth, Rural Dean, made a presentation of a Gift Voucher for Bishop's Gate Hotel on behalf of the clergy members of Derry Rural Deanery and The Archdeacon of Derry, The Venerable Robert Miller, made a presentation of a City of Derry Crystal Hand Cut Glass Bowl, suitably inscribed, on behalf of the members of The Chapter of Saint Columb's Cathedral.

I thank Ross Duncan, The Reverend Canon David McBeth and The Venerable Robert Miller for their complimentary speeches.

I thank everyone who contributed in any way to these lovely and generous gifts. One of the highlights of Sunday was having my family with me to share the occasion. Thank you for the welcome and hospitality that you gave to my brother Philip and sister-in-law Janet who had travelled from Mountmellick, County Laois and to my sister Myrtle and brother-in-law John who had travelled from Nenagh, County Tipperary. Incidentally, the Rector in Nenagh is The Reverend Keith Barry, a former Curate-assistant at Saint Columb's Cathedral.

Along with my wife Patricia and our daughter Dione they appreciated the welcome and hospitality of the Cathedral family.

Thank you all once again for your love and support.

Yours sincerely
Raymond



Saint Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry Wednesday 31st December 2025: New Year's Eve

Janus is the god of beginnings and endings. He is often depicted with a double-faced head; one face looking back and the other face looking forward.

Tonight I feel very much like Janus – as I look back over 70 years of life, as I look back over 46 and a half years of active ministry in The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe, as I look back to an association with this Cathedral Church that began 48 and a half years ago, as I look back on my membership of 26 and half years as a member of the Cathedral Chapter, and as I look back on the honour of having served as Rector of this Parish and the Dean of Derry for 8 and a half years.

My story begins in the Parish of Mountmellick in County Laois in The Diocese of Kildare. I came from a church loving family. We attended church on every Sunday and for a number of years my mother was a Sunday School teacher.

Ours was a traditional Church of Ireland parish, using the services in The Book of Common Prayer.

Our parish fostered vocations in a quiet way. I can think immediately of five men from the parish who were ordained.

One became a bishop, one became a dean and two became canons.

As a teenager myself and two other parishioners who were ordained sat in close proximity with our families in that parish church.

One particular and significant memory for me was when I was about eight years of age. It was the custom in those days to visit neighbouring churches at Harvest and at Christmas time.

On one occasion along with my parents I attended a church service at Harvest time. I believe that the preacher was the Archbishop of Dublin, Archbishop George Simms. I do not remember his sermon but I do remember what he did when we went to the parish hall for refreshments after the service. He handed round a plate of sandwiches and I went home convinced that this was what I wanted to do with my life.

On that evening I firmly believe that God spoke to me.

For me there were no flashing lights and no fanfare of trumpets, but in a simple action I felt God calling me to serve Him. And that sense of calling has never left me. On another occasion when I was about ten or eleven years of age my grandfather took me to where he grew up in County Tipperary. We called to visit an elderly couple, friends of his.

During my time in the home the lady of the house turned to me and in a very confident voice said, "**You are going to be a clergyman**". I do not believe that my grandfather had mentioned my desire to be ordained to that lady at any time during our visit. She must have had some special gift of perception as her prediction came true some years later.

Another significant moment for me was in March and April 1977.

A number of theological students came to this City and Diocese for Holy Week. I was fortunate to be placed in Saint Columb's Cathedral where I stayed with The Reverend Terry Doherty in St Columb's Court. I preached here on Palm Sunday and on Maundy Thursday of that week.

During the week the students also visited other churches in the City, including All Saints' Clooney.

In that week I fell in love with this City and I went home knowing clearly that if and when I was ordained I wanted to serve my title in the Parish of Clooney.

In February 1979, on the day before prospective curates met Rectors, Canon John Brown – the Warden of the Divinity Hostel – received a telephone call from the Rector of Clooney, Archdeacon Charles Willoughby, inviting me to become the new Curate of The Parish of Clooney. I didn't have to think twice; I accepted the invitation immediately – and on Sunday 24th June 1979 I was made a deacon in this Cathedral Church to serve as Curate-assistant in the Parish of Clooney.

During the three years that I ministered there I got to know many people and many of them remain friends to this day.

In fact some of them are now members of this parish!

Archdeacon Willoughby and his wife Morwenna spent part of their Summer holidays in Dunfanaghy. The Rector of Dunfanaghy – The Reverend Fred Reilly - had left in 1982 and Archdeacon Willoughby suggested that I should consider becoming Rector.

I well remember meeting the parochial nominators in the old Diocesan Office; one of them was a man named John Merrick! – and I was instituted as Rector in April 1982.

During the five years that I spent there a re-organisation of parishes in part of

The Diocese of Raphoe took place and I took on the responsibility for

The Parishes of Gweedore (Bunbeg) with Carrickfin, and Templecrone (Dungloe).

Although I loved the area and the people, a parish of six churches covering a distance of thirty miles with four services every Sunday, made me think about my ministry in this area.

I was approached by a parish in the Midlands to consider putting my name forward for Rector. I was unsure what to do.

When I chatted to Bishop Meheffey he told me that he was meeting with the parochial nominators for the Parish of Castledawson and would I allow my name to be considered. Well, the rest is history as I was instituted Rector of Castledawson in June 1987 and spent sixteen very happy years there.

My ministry in Castledawson, while it was mostly happy, meant that at times I had to meet some very sad and challenging incidents. One of these occurred in January 1992 when 14 construction workers, returning from their work in Omagh, were set upon at Teebane crossroads near Cookstown.

Seven of the men were killed instantly and the rest were wounded.

The driver of the van (Oswald Gilchrist) – a parishioner of mine – died from his injuries four days later in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. I was present with his wife when the life support machine was turned off.

Two years after moving to Mid-Ulster Bishop Mehaffey appointed me Rural Dean of The Maghera and Kilrea Rural Deanery.

Over the next twenty-eight years I got to know all of the parishes and worked closely, especially during interregnum, with the local parishioners.

In 2003 I was looking after The Parishes of Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper and Lower (Inniskillen) near Kilrea and I felt God calling me to pastures new. In May 2003 I was appointed Rector of that group of parishes and I served as Rector there for 14 years.

In the Autumn of 2016, following the installation of Dean William Morton as Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, I was invited to consider the post of Rector of The Parish of Templemore. And as is known I was appointed

Rector of this Parish and Dean of Derry, being instituted and installed in March 2017.

On that occasion the wheel had turned full circle.

I returned to the City with which I had fallen in love forty years previously – and it is interesting to note that on my first Sunday as Rector and Dean (2nd April 2017) it was one day short of forty years that I had preached from this pulpit for the first time as a young theological student!

Ministry is a very wonderful vocation. What an honour and a privilege to be chosen by God to serve Him!

The words of Jesus ring true – **You did not choose me, but I chose you.**

And I appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit.

I hope and pray that in some small ways people have been helped and encouraged through my ministry. I am always grateful and encouraged when someone comments on one of my sermons and asks for a copy. Very often it is the sermon that I feel was not well prepared that makes the most impact!

Tonight as I retire from the Stipendiary Ministry of The Church of Ireland I find personal comfort in words that I quote at this time every year. As I look to a future that is as yet uncertain – yet full of promise – the words of Louise Haskins strike a chord with me.

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown”.

And he replied, “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way”.

So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Raymond Stewart



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Northern Ireland

For many years the parish of Templemore has been a strong supporter of the Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland. Indeed, just a few weeks ago Mr Stephen McCartney a support engagement officer from the Leprosy Mission travelled from Lisburn to update us on their ongoing work

in places like India, Brazil and Indonesia. He pointed out that even today around 200,000 new cases are reported each year. Many of you have been generous supporters of the Leprosy Mission and we want to thank you most sincerely.

As you know Mrs Anne Hamilton recently retired as Secretary of our Templemore Branch and we thank her for her faithful years of service. Canon Mervyn Peoples has now agreed to be the new secretary.

If you have not returned your Leprosy Box in recent weeks it would be very helpful if you could do so as soon as possible so that we can update our records. If you have not contributed to this worthy cause in the past and would like to do so, a limited number of boxes are available in the church and more will follow shortly.



ULSTER PROJECT 2026

We are delighted that we now have 'teens' going to three host cities in the USA. East Tennessee, Greenville and now Milwaukee. We had our orientation meeting this week and we are delighted that Tristan Campbell has been successful.

Another Cathedral connection is Charlie McIntyre whose family are associated with us.

We have a table quiz organised for Tuesday 17th February at the White Horse Hotel commencing at 7pm. This is open to all supporters of The Ulster Project past and present.

Further events will be published next month.



Sunday School

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

We nearly ran out of time at our party, on Sunday 14th December as we were having so much fun. We had party food and goodie bags to give out along with Selection Boxes. Thank you to Margaret Smyth & Sarah-Jayne for their kind donation.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Our Christmas Celebration was a great success and the confidence of our 4-8 year olds was great to see.



We also presented, for the first time, **The Sadie McLaughlin Award** for “attendance, showing kindness, consideration, and trying your best to live out God’s Commandments”. We had two contenders and were delighted to present Sadie’s very own grandson Jamie Reilly with the award and Mark Hewitt as runner up. They also received a framed certificate (thanks to Linda for her creativity).

Dean Stewart was presented with a gift from the children of the Sunday School to mark his retirement: We received this message:

“I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the parents, children and teachers of Saint Columb’s Cathedral Sunday School for the signed card and beautiful Walking Stick presented to me to mark my retirement as Rector of The Parish of Templemore and Dean of Derry”.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION:

We have seven candidates from our Sunday School who will be presented to Bishop Andrew on Sunday 10th May 2026:

Ifeoma, Leah, Lillie-Mae, Jamie, Ijeoma, Molly & Safia

Classes commence Sunday 22nd February with Irene & Canon John.

Confirmation 2026

The Right Reverend Andrew Forster, the Bishop of The Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe, will visit Saint Columb’s Cathedral on SUNDAY 10th MAY 2026 to administer The Rite of Confirmation.

Parishioners (young people and adults) who wish to be presented for Confirmation are asked to give their names to Canon John Merrick, or to Mrs Irene Hewitt.

Those who wish to be confirmed – Must be baptised members of the Church of Ireland. Must be 13 years of age or over in 2026.



Lenten Bible Reflections 2026 led by The Reverend Canon Mervyn Peoples

The important season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (18th February) providing us with opportunity to prepare for Easter as we remember Christ's suffering and glorious resurrection. These forty days of Lent should allow us to draw even closer to God through prayer, reflection and the study of the Holy Scriptures. It has been the practice at St Columb's Cathedral to set aside some time each week to meet and reflect on God's Holy Word. This year will be no different. We hope that you will consider coming along to one or more of the weekly sessions that are outlined below, focusing on some of the significant events in Holy Week. They will be held in the Diocesan Centre, Coffee Dock, from 2:30pm to approximately 3:30pm. You will be made most welcome to these informal sessions and will not be expected to contribute unless of course you wish to. Copies of the readings will be made available but naturally you can bring your own Bible.

Wednesday 18 February St Luke 19: 28-41 Palm Sunday

Wednesday 25 February St John 3: 1-3, St John 7: 50-52, St John 19: 38-40 Nicodemus

Wednesday 4 March St Luke 21: 1-6 Widow's Mite,

St John 13: 1-15 Jesus washes his disciples feet

Wednesday 11 March St Matthew 26: 69-75 Peter's Denial,

St Matthew 27: 22-26 Jesus before Pilate

Wednesday 18 March St John 19: 16-37 The Crucifixion

Wednesday 25 March St John 20: 11-18 The Resurrection



MID-WEEK SERVICES FOR LENT

The office of Compline will be read each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. As part of these Services Canon John Merrick will deliver a series of short reflections based on the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. We look forward to your support as we journey through Lent.



The Men's Society held their annual dinner at the Bishop's Gate Hotel on Tuesday, 20th January, with an excellent attendance of 21 members. Recent meetings have welcomed several new members, and we are delighted to extend our warmest greetings to them. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 17th February, at 7:30 pm in the Diocesan Centre. The guest speaker will be Mr. Ryan McCready, Chair of the Londonderry Port and Harbour Commission, who will present on his military career, including service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Additionally, on Wednesday, 18th March, there will be a visit to the Newgate Arts & Culture Centre on Kennedy Street, where attendees will learn about the organisation's development from its inception to its current status as a thriving arts and culture centre. Please note that this event has been rescheduled to Wednesday to avoid conflicting with St Patrick's Day events.

Robert - Secretary

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION DAYS

LETTERKENNY - 21ST FEBRUARY

LIMAVADY - 28TH FEBRUARY

Scan the QR code
for consent form



Date and Locations:

Saturday 21st February 2026 in Conwal Church Hall, Letterkenny

Saturday 28th February 2026 in Christ Church Hall, Limavady

Time: Doors open at 11am with registration and games,
please be there by 11.25am
Programme from 11.30am - 3pm

Cost: Free

Wear: Casual clothes, a coat is suggested if we do games outside

Food: All food provided, please ensure all dietary requirements are mentioned

Transport: Please arrange with your own parish

We would recommend that each person brings their own Bible with them.

Please note all young people must attend with their own group and leaders.

Check with your Rector which date your group is booking.

Closing date for bookings is 13th February for Letterkenny and 20th February for Limavady.



**life
project**
Public Feedback Survey

Have you received a tree sapling
through the Life Project? We'd love
your feedback.

Your feedback will help us:

- Improve air quality and green spaces
- Support mental wellbeing
- Develop the Life Project for future generations



Scan the QR Code to take
part in our short survey



Bible Readings for February 2026

Date	Bible Reading	Title
1 st February	Psalm 74	Up, back, forward
2 nd February	Jeremiah 6: 1 – 15	Comfort or challenge ?
3 rd February	Jeremiah 6: 16 – 20	Ask
4 th February	Jeremiah 7: 1 – 20	Hollow actions
5 th February	Jeremiah 7: 21 – 29	True worship
6 th February	Jeremiah 8: 18 – 19: 9	Culture shock
7 th February	Jeremiah 10	Maker of all things
8 th February	Psalm 75	Heads down , eyes up
9 th February	Hebrews 11: 1 – 19	Believing without seeing
10 th February	Hebrews 11: 20 – 31	Family of faith
11 th February	Hebrews 11: 32 – 40	Redefining faith
12 th February	Hebrews 12: 1 – 13	A fixed focus
13 th February	Hebrews 12: 14 – 29	Now or forever ?
14 th February	Hebrews 14	Loose ends
15 th February	Psalm 76	Same God !
16 th February	Genesis 42: 1 – 24	Tears for the years
17 th February	Genesis 42: 25 – 38	Everything is against me
18 th February	Genesis 43	Mercy, mercy ,mercy
19 February	Genesis 44	More than meets the eye
20 th February	Genesis 45: 1 -15	Faithful in the dark
21 st February	Genesis 46: 1 – 7, 28 – 34	No boundaries
22 nd February	Psalm 77	Praying our pain
23 rd February	Genesis 47: 1 – 10	Indiscriminate blessing
24 th February	Genesis 47: 11 – 27	Wise leadership
25 th February	Genesis 47: 28 – 48: 22	Keep the faith
26 th February	Genesis 49: 1 – 28	The Lion King
27 th February	Genesis 49: 29 – 50: 14	Tears and hope
28 th February	Genesis 50: 15 – 26	Whose story ?

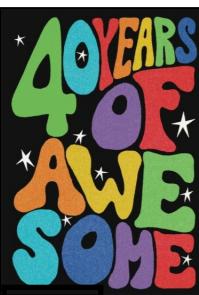
Readings are taken from Daily Bread brought to us by Scripture Union



We extend our very best wishes and congratulations to
Mrs Joan Doherty on her recent appointment as High Sheriff
for the County Borough of Londonderry.



Chuckwaebuka Agoha



Lucy McMackin
(McGonigle)



Celebrating 150 Years of Mothers' Union: Join Us, Join In – Lighting the Way for Generations to Come

2026 marks the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union, founded in the parish of Old Alresford by Mary Sumner. Her vision was to bring women together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life.



From that small beginning, we have grown into a global movement of 4 million members across 84 countries. Guided by Matthew 5:16, our members "let their light shine" by offering non-judgmental care to those in hospitals, families of prisoners, and parents of premature babies. We also work to build resilient communities by speaking out against injustice and hosting parenting support groups.

All of our work is guided by three core pillars:

- **Ending Violence:** Promoting peace and safety.
- **Ending Injustice:** Advancing gender justice.
- **Ending Poverty:** Fostering self-reliance and resilience.



Our global programmes—ranging from literacy and savings groups to domestic abuse awareness—are rooted in local communities. We listen first, then respond with practical, faith-led action through thousands of daily acts of service.

Mothers' Union reflects the diversity of the modern world and welcomes people of all backgrounds. While we are a women-led movement, men are also welcome to join.

After 150 years of courage and community, we are just getting started. We invite you to join us in this mission.

In January, we joined the congregation at the Cathedral for the weekly Communion Service with intercessions for the sick. The service was conducted by Canon John Merrick, and Pauline read the powerful verses of the Magnificat from Luke 1:46-55. Following the service, we joined the regular attendees for tea and goodies provided by June and her helpers, which offered a wonderful opportunity to catch up. We then held a short meeting to discuss our upcoming programme for the year, followed by a delicious lunch at Café Central. Sincere thanks to Canon John and everyone who helped make it such an enjoyable morning. Our next meeting will be held on February 10th, where we will learn about the importance of water quality and the health of our rivers.



February 7th marks Annabella Hayes Day. Annabella, a friend of Mary Sumner, founded the first branch of the Mothers' Union in Ireland in Raheny, Dublin, in 1887.

*Dear Lord, we thank you for the life and service of Annabella Hayes.
As she showed her willingness to serve, may we serve.
As she devoted herself to helping others, may we do the same.
As she used her faith to overcome her tragedies, help us to trust in you.
As she set an example of love and gratitude, may we emulate these qualities.*

THE CATHEDRAL MAGAZINE

Notes and Articles for the March 2026 edition
of the Cathedral Magazine are due by SUNDAY 22nd February 2026

THE SELECT VESTRY

A meeting of the Select Vestry will be held in The Diocesan Centre, London Street, Londonderry on TUESDAY 4th February 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

**Plumber available for weekends and afternoons
any enquiries contact Jake Hewitt. 07752 305304**



Men and Domestic Abuse

In 2024/25, police recorded 5,747 domestic abuse crimes with a male victim in Northern Ireland, representing one-third of all domestic abuse victims. Despite these figures, only about a fifth of these incidents resulted in a sanction outcome. This highlights that many men still feel unable to report abuse or continue through the criminal justice system.

Help For Men

While the majority of domestic abuse is perpetrated by men against women, men also experience abuse from female partners and in same-sex relationships. The stigma and shame surrounding this issue often create significant barriers for men seeking support. If you or someone you know is affected, the Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline, currently operated by NEXUS NI, is available 24 hours a day. They offer emotional support and information for men experiencing domestic abuse and can provide referrals to other helpful agencies. For many, calling this helpline is the vital first step in addressing these challenges.

Contact the Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline on 0808 802 1414.

There are also other local agencies who can help, such as –

- **Men's Action Network – 028 7137 7777**

Offers a range of support services to men, including counselling and one-to-one support, promoting male health and wellbeing.

- **Men's Advisory Project – 028 7116 0001**

Provides counselling and support for male victims of domestic abuse, relationship and anger management (men and women) in Northern Ireland.

- **Men's Advice Line (UK) – 0808 801 0327**

A confidential helpline for male victims of domestic violence and abuse.

- **The Rainbow Project – 028 9031 9030**

Works to improve the physical, mental and emotional health of gay, bisexual and non-heterosexual men in Northern Ireland.



[Help for Men – Foyle Womens Aid offer Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence Support in Derry / Londonderry, Strabane, Limavady & Dungiven](#)

[International Men's Day – PSNI urges male victims of domestic abuse to seek help | PSNI](#)

THE LEPROSY MISSION PRAYER

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during His earthly life. Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease. Give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients.

Reunite the separated with their family and friends.

And inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission that it may never lack the staff or the means to carry on its healing work in accordance with your will and to the glory of your holy name.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY PRAYER

May the God of Light shine brightly on the CMSI family, bringing blessing to – and through – staff, volunteers, members, mission personnel and Global Partners. May the God of Life bring hope and renewal to those living in despair, in the places where CMSI's partners work.

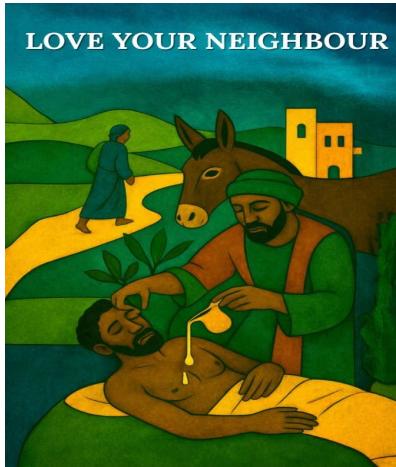
May the God of Love bring healing and transformation to churches and individuals in Ireland as they encounter Him afresh and engage in His work of mission.

May the God of Peace and Justice reign in our world.

May His Kingdom come on earth as in heaven. **Amen.**

Inaugural Diocesan Service for Racial Justice Sunday

Conwal Parish Church in Letterkenny will host our first ever Diocesan Service to mark Racial Justice Sunday at 4pm on Sunday 8th February. Bishop Andrew will host the service and preach the sermon, and he will be assisted by the Rector of Conwal and Gartan, Rev Adrian Dorrian.



The Rt Revd Andrew Forster,
Bishop of Derry and Raphoe

invites you to

A Service for Racial Justice Sunday

on Sunday 8th February

at 4pm

in Conwal Parish Church,
Letterkenny

CHRISTMAS 2025

The remaining Christmas trees have now been removed, and as Candlemas approaches on 2 February- the season is officially over. The Events Working Group (EWG) are appreciative of all the work of the volunteers in enabling the cathedral to be open during a very busy and cold time of the year, we just could not do it without you, and that includes those who sent food to keep us going. We will not talk about the Saturday volunteers who had a party every shift and who all know now how to work an air fryer! The team responsible for behind-the-scenes operations is an integral component of the event and has been observed transporting equipment such as typewriters, whiteboards, lighting, and various Christmas-related items.

During our four-week opening, more than four thousand visitors—primarily local residents—attended and offered congratulations. They were impressed by many of the seventy-four exhibits, which included: 27 typewriters, 120 ballet shoes, the gingerbread people, the wool trees an assortment of teacups from various places in all sizes, and the largest Victorian village in Northern Ireland which brought great joy to the children of all ages!



At the beginning of November each year we hold our breath and wonder if anyone will turn up with a tree. We are very grateful to the wider community who are so generous in their support and their amazing creativity. It is a privilege to meet the community and often to be told “this is my first time in here or, this is part of our Christmas tradition.” As part of our outreach programme, we decided to show some Christmas films on our large screen, and we were pleased at the reaction from those who came. Our thanks go to the Nerve Centre who were so supportive in sorting licenses and bookings.

Thank you to those who gave us donations, it is much appreciated.

Thank you all from EWG to everybody involved and do have a good rest, it is only 273 days to November and we re-open to visitors on 1st April 2026.

**SUNDAY 1ST****11.00 CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)**

The Fourth Sunday
after the Epiphany

The Feast Day of Saint Brigid Hymns 461, 293, 712
Boy Choristers and Setting Rawsthorne *Festival Eucharist*
Lay Clerks Motet Stanfield *Sweet Sacrament Divine*

Boy and Girl Choristers
and Lay Clerks

16.00 CHORAL EVENSONG

Hymns 34, 67
Responses Stewart
Psalm 34: 1-10
Canticles Dyson *Evening Canticles in F*
Anthem Eccard *When to the temple Mary went*

SUNDAY 8TH**11.00 CHORAL MATINS**

2nd Sunday before Lent
Girl Choristers and
Lay Clerks

Hymns 3, 25, 365
Responses Ebdon
Canticle Venite
Psalm 136: 1-9
Canticle Urbs Fortitudinis
Anthem Goodall *The Lord is my shepherd*

Cathedral Ensemble

16.00 COMPLINE

Hymns 66, 71
Psalm 31: 1-6
Nunc Dimitis Stanford *in B-flat*

Service & Music List

February 2026

SUNDAY 15TH

Sunday before Lent

11.00 HOLY COMMUNION (order 1)

Hymns 325, 509, 112

16.00 EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY 18TH

Ash Wednesday

*Boy Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

19.30 CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)

Hymns 207, 635, 409

Canticle Saviour of the World

Setting *Boodle Communion Service*

Motet *Gibbons Drop drop slow tears*

SUNDAY 22ND

1st Sunday of Lent

*Girl Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

11.00 FAMILY SERVICE

Hymns 108, 652, 92

Psalm 32

Anthem *Purcell Thou knowest, Lord*

Cathedral Chamber Choir 16.00 CHORAL EVENSONG

Hymns 372, 64

Responses Reading

Psalm 50: 1-15

Canticles *Brewer Evening Canticles in D*

Anthem *Howells Like as a Hart*

WEDNESDAY 25TH

19.30 COMPLINE

Hymns 66, 70



February will be very much 'business as usual'. We are looking forward to maintaining our regular Sunday Service schedule - as well as the beginning of Lent. Please note that the Choir will enjoy a well-earned break on Sunday, 15th February, (in observance of) half-term. After the half-term break, activities will gradually pick up again as we move into March. One of the highlights will be a **concert at Christ Church, Infirmary Road, on 26th March**.

The Boy and Girl Choristers will perform as part of the concert, joined by the St Mary's College Orchestra. We hope you can join us for this special evening!

The choirs would also like to extend our heartfelt good wishes to the former Dean, Dean Stewart, as he begins his retirement. We wish him joy, happiness, and every blessing in this new chapter of his life.

We extend our prayerful support to our Parochial Nominators as they begin their important task of the appointment of a new Dean.

Nicky



HOSPITAL / NURSING HOME ADMISSIONS

If you or a relative is admitted to, or discharged from, hospitals or nursing homes please let The Reverend Canon John Merrick or The Reverend Canon Mervyn Peoples know if you would like a Pastoral Visit.

Under Data Protection (GDPR) we **do not** have access to the Hospital Admissions Forms, so we can only know that you are a patient in a hospital or a nursing home if the Chaplain notifies us or if you or a relative notifies us. Thank you for your co-operation.

THE DAILY OFFICE

The Daily Office is read in Bishop William Alexander Chapel at 10.30 a.m.

Tuesday: Holy Communion with Intersessions for the sick

Thursday: Morning Prayer.

Friday: The Litany.

The Tuesday morning service of Holy Communion (Order Two) with intercessions for the sick is celebrated in the Sanctuary of the Cathedral.

Holy Communion on Saints' days and holy days is celebrated in Bishop William Alexander Chapel.



Slowly but surely we are now getting back into the swing of things as we begin another New Year 2026. Scary! as 2025 seemed to rush past us. A sign of old age on my part!!! We are delighted to confirm that classes are now up and running for all age groups. We have, at last, a new youth worker who is working alongside Graham with programmes for the young people. Davy's Diner is attracting new customers so if you would like to drop in at anytime for a cuppa please feel free to come along, we would love to see you.

On Thursday the 29th of January 3.00pm we hosted a reception for The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart M. A. to honour his retirement as Chairperson of our board. The Dean has held this position since he came to the Cathedral. His dedication and commitment to The Cathedral Youth Club throughout the years was appreciated.

As we prepare for the busy year ahead we are now offering OCN NI Level 2 Awards in Diversity and Good Relations. The course will last for 10 weeks, and the participants will gain skills in Good Relations, Understanding Diversity, and Recognising prejudice and discrimination. An exciting course, in partnership with The North West Regional College, also OCN level 2 in Volunteering Skills.

We would also welcome volunteers along to help out in our club. An extra pair of hands either in The Office, Café or Workshops would be fantastic.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch even if you only want to volunteer a few hours a week. I can guarantee you will get great satisfaction from carrying out this role.

Jeanette - Project Manager

We were delighted to receive a surprise gift of a kneeler from Diana Rudd a member of All Saints and a Cathedral Volunteer. It is a beautiful deep blue with a Celtic cross.

Diana is a skilled crafter and we appreciate the time and skill that went into the project, it is really nice to have a new kneeler.

The fabric of the cathedral is always in need of attention and repairs go on all the time, Diana has quietly added poppies to the display where she noticed gaps.

The bulk of our kneelers were gifted in 1983 as a result of a M.U. Competition.

Templemore were joint winners with Castlerock branch that year.



Dear Templemore MU and Parishioners at St. Columb's Cathedral. We want to take a moment to thank you for your generosity, kindness and support of families at Foyle Women's Aid. Your contribution makes a real and lasting difference.

With heartfelt thanks,
From all of us here at Foyle Women's Aid

St. Columb's Cathedral Honorary Bellringers

This could be the right time to start building our number of Bellringers and we are also conscious it is only four years until 2029 which marks the 100th anniversary of the recasting of the bells in 1929, so it would be great if we had a team of Bell Ringers trained and ready to mark the anniversary.

If you are willing to give the bells a try please let us know, our email address is garth_bells@stcolumbs.net or you can leave a voice message including contact Tel number on 02871345093.

Initially we can arrange for learning sessions to be held on Saturdays between 13:30 and 15:00 and Monday nights between 19:30 and 21:00. Traditionally our normal practice night has always been Monday as registered with the IACR but we can be flexible depending on availability. We look forward to hearing from you.

Garth and the Ringers.

Obituaries

George Winston Carson 12th August 1940 – 27th November 2025

We meet in this family home on this afternoon to remember Winston Carson, to reflect on his life, to thank God for the memories that we have shared and that we cherish, and to support you, Winston's family, with our presence and our prayers. I wish to convey to you Nan and to your family the sincere condolences of myself and of Canon John Merrick and of the members of the church family of Saint Columb's Cathedral.

As we remember you today we also remember Dale and Kathryn, Amanda and Allen, Nicola and Dave; your grandchildren – John, Samantha, Nathan, Jake, Rhiannon, Rhys, Ryan and Cori – and your great grandchildren Riley, Esme, Harvey, Tamera and Blake. The story of Winston's life takes us back 85 years – to 12th August 1940.

That is the day on which he was born – the son of William and Elizabeth Carson of Ferguson Lane in Londonderry.

He was given two names – George Winston. I understand that he was named George after King George V and Winston after Winston Churchill!

Winston was one of five children – his siblings Tilly, Noel, Joe and Robbie have all predeceased him.

Winston began his life as a member of Carlisle Road Presbyterian Church.

His first formal education was as a pupil at First Derry Primary School.

It was on the occasion of his marriage to Nan Moore that he joined the church family of Saint Columb's Cathedral.

I know that there is some confusion about when Winston and Nan were married.

Was it 30th or 31st July?

The Cathedral records say 30th July 1960 and record that the best man was James Campbell, the bridesmaid was Sylvia Stewart and the Officiant was The Very Reverend Leslie Lawrenson.

Nan remembers the day very well. It was quite a hectic day for the Dean and his curate The Reverend Cecil Bradley as three couples were married in Saint Columb's Cathedral during the day. Nan has told me that as soon as one couple was married another couple was entering the Cathedral for their wedding!

Winston and Nan were childhood sweethearts.

Winston lived at 3 Ferguson Lane and Nan lived around the corner at 15 Belview Avenue. Some people may have frowned upon their friendship, romance and marriage because of the fact that they were so young.

But Winston and Nan have proved them to be wrong because their marriage has lasted for just over 65 years.

After their marriage Winston and Nan made their home at Clarence Place in the Fountain Estate and they moved to this home in Lincoln Courts 54 years ago in November 1971.

Today many boys and girls remain in education well into their teenage years.

For Winston his formal education in school ended when he was 14 years of age.

Upon leaving school he gained employment at a number of places.

First at Dr Watson's practice at Dacre Terrace where he was a receptionist.

He then moved to Robert Keys Builders Merchants where he was employed as a lorry driver. He was a first class driver – Class 1 HGV – entering and winning many competitions.

He later was promoted to Transport Manager for the Company.

Having completed 31 years working for Robert Keys Winston's career changed when he became a school bus driver for children with special needs.

He loved his new job. He loved the children and they loved him and showed that love especially at Christmas time when Winston would be the recipient of many cards and presents.

Winston retired at the age of 65 years, but it was only last year at the age of 84 years that he ceased from driving with the proud record of an unblemished driving record.

As well as the jobs that I have mentioned Winston also was employed as a Bouncer in the Embassy Ballroom on the Strand Road in the 1960's.

(I am informed that he was very good at his job).

He also was a Corporal with the Territorial Army (The North Irish Horse Regiment).

Winston and Nan were a wonderful example of a married couple.

Their relationship of husband and wife for just over 65 years was one of love, commitment, devotion and sacrifice.

I'm sure that they faced some challenging times in their lives but they faced them together. Winston's family is so grateful for a loving father and grandfather who loved all of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren equally.

And they will all miss his interest and presence in their lives.

On Thursday afternoon while I was visiting this home to prepare for this Service I invited Nan and her family to share with me some funny event in Winston's life.

It could be something that happened years ago or something that happened in more recent weeks.

Well, they have shared with me something that happened recently while Winston was a patient in Altnagelvin Hospital.

And could I just say here that Nan and her family appreciate the care that was given to Winston over the past weeks. He was in a ward by himself but very close to the Nurses' Station. And the nurses attended to his needs with care and compassion. The needs of his family were not forgotten either.

They also received support from the nursing staff for which they are very grateful. Now to get back to this event.

At this time Winston had an infection and it caused him to see things that were not there; to say things that seemed plausible but were not true; and to act in ways that were totally out of character.

On one particular day a young junior doctor came to Winston's room to take some blood. When she inserted the needle in his arm Winston pretended to be dead and so convincing was he that the young doctor dropped the tray and went to get some assistance.

Nan had to convince her that 'he was taking the hand at her' – an expression that only added to her confusion and distress!

I'm sure that there have been other funny events that will emerge at a later time but this one shows that there was a light-hearted side to Winston.

And, perhaps, that is one of the reasons why people warmed to him.

He did not take life, or himself, too seriously.

The death of a loved member of a family, whether it is sudden and unexpected or after many weeks and months of ill-health, brings a new situation to a family and to their home. This is so for you who mourn for Winston today.

Your lives have been focused on him and his needs for many weeks.

You have spent many hours, days, and weeks in Altnagelvin Hospital.

Those were precious times for you because, although Winston was very ill, you were able to spend time with him.

Now life has changed. The visits to Altnagelvin Hospital have ceased because Winston is not there.

It may be that, in time, visits to Ballyoan Cemetery will become more frequent. But always remember that Winston is not there either.

Our Christian faith convinces us that today Winston is in Heaven.

In the place that Jesus has prepared for him.

In the place where one day you and I will be.

Hold that thought close to you. Find reassurance in the belief that one day you and Winston will be re-united and that you will find joy and peace again.

Andrew (Andy) McCorkell
4th August 1940 - 25th December 2025

We meet this afternoon to remember and to pay tribute to Andy McCorkell, to thank God for his life, to recall how his life touched our lives in different ways and at different times – and to uphold in prayer the members of his family.

Let me begin by expressing the sympathy of myself, of Canon John Merrick, and of the members of The Parish of Templemore to you Lisa and to Andy's surviving sibling George. We also remember the families of Andy's other siblings – all of whom are now deceased – Sally, Betty, Sammy and Carol.

I asked Lisa to prepare some details of Andy's life that I could include in a Tribute.

What Lisa gave me was a wonderful Tribute in itself so I will read it as I have received it – and add some personal comments at the end.

Andy was born on 4th August 1940 to Sadie and Samuel McCorkell at Meenagh Hill, Bready. He was the eldest of six children and always took on the role of big brother seriously and this protective nature stayed with him for life. He always saw it as his duty to be there for his siblings for whatever they needed, whenever they needed it. I know that George, Sally, Betty, Sammy and Carol all looked up to him throughout their lives.

Andy often spoke with love about his childhood and family was always at the centre of every memory. These early years and family experiences really instilled a devotion to family and he lived his life with family as priority and of great importance.

One memory that always makes Lisa smile is the tale of Andy trying to be helpful.

He overheard his parents speak about rats on the farm at Meenagh Hill and so, unknown to them, Andy took himself outside, found a spade before coming back in to declare, **"All done Mummy. The rats are dead"**.

However, when they went outside they discovered that the rats were actually baby chicks and that his actions were less than helpful!

The McCorkell family then moved to Clarence Place in the Fountain and then to Northland Way where they called '**home**'.

Andy went to First Derry Primary School where he excelled in his studies. Despite having the grades to progress to Grammar School, his mother had four job options lined up for him instead.

When he left school Andy worked at Ebrington Factory for a number of years before getting a job as a Fitter's Mate at Coolkeeragh Power Station. It was here that he met many people whom he would consider good friends throughout his life.

Andy grew up in a Christian household and the family were regular and devoted members of Saint Columb's Cathedral.

Here, Andy took part in the Sunday School and Scouts and had a very brief stint in the Boys' Choir before being told to mime!

Church life and his Christian faith would continue to be important to Andy through his whole life.

He married Kathleen Campbell at Ballyarnett Presbyterian Church on 8th September 1979 and the couple then started to attend Saint Columb's Cathedral together.

Andy rarely missed a Sunday Service until Covid lockdowns and then afterwards he was delighted to get back out to church where he would attend until his Alzheimer's diagnosis didn't let him. Faith and prayer were fundamental parts of Andy's day and as a family he and Kathleen would instil bedtime prayers as routine with themselves and Lisa.

Even during the last week he still liked to say 'The Lord's Prayer' before bed and was delighted to be offered Holy Communion or visits from Dean Stewart and Canon John. Children have always been special to Andy.

He was devoted to his nephews and nieces and loved taking them to places and buying them treats. He was delighted to become a father himself when Lisa was born in April 1984.

He devoted himself to this role and would do anything and everything to make sure that she had what she needed.

Lisa has lots of childhood memories of the two of them sneaking off for ice cream, going to the library for new books and making up the most amazing bedtime stories.

In later years Andy was delighted when his great nephew Brandon was born and the two of them had the most special bond.

Andy loved nothing more than playing with him, reading him stories or building snowmen. When Molly and Finn came along they lit up his world too.

When they would visit him in the care homes a special smile would be seen and everyone could tell how delighted he was to see them!

When any children visited Andy's care home he was just delighted and a special event for him was recently when Lisa was able to bring the children from her P1 class to visit, sing and deliver Christmas cards he was the centre of attention on that day!

Andy loved music so much so that Kathleen would often say that they had to hide beer mats and bottles on nights out to stop him from drumming!

Andy often spoke of the dances at the Memorial Hall and it was during one of those dances that he met his beloved Kathleen.

They would have many tales of nights out at dances and dinner dances with their good friends Barney and Liz.

There would always be music playing in the car where Phil Coulter was a firm favourite. Andy loved getting to a concert and the Abba Tribute in the Odyssey brought lots of singing and dancing.

After the Alzheimer's diagnosis, music remained an important part of Andy's daily life. He just loved it when Gina G came to sing at Oakleaves. The music of Andre Reiu was the music that calmed him and Elvis got the hips swinging.

He even discovered new music too and singing the chorus of Applejack became his party piece!

From an early age Andy loved to travel and he enjoyed holidays to Portugal, Yugoslavia and Gibraltar. He also loved family holidays, especially his trips on the boat with his sister Sally and her husband Mick. Andy, Kathleen and Lisa also spent many happy Summers in Portrush where they stayed with Kathleen's brother Sammy and his wife Anna.

Sport was also a massive part of who Andy was.

He was a huge football fan and played for Institute Football Club in his youth before continuing to support them and attending most of their matches.

This support never went and even during a recent stay in hospital he requested to watch a Stute match on Lisa's computer.

In his early years Andy also played darts and table tennis and through friends in Coolkeeragh he also took up golf.

His proud achievement was winning a golf trophy the day after he found out that Kathleen was expecting Lisa.

Andy's love of sport developed his friendships further and we would often joke that he had to be out at church early on a Sunday so that he could relive the Saturday football match and his daily walk to Longs Supermarket for the newspaper could take over an hour by the time that he met people and chatted about sport!

Andy received a devastating diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease in 2023 and for a few years before this he had lost lots of his independence. He moved to Oakleaves Care Home in August 2024 and the care that he received here was outstanding.

This felt like home to him and the staff here were able to give him back some of his independence through music, games and shopping. He loved to wave and chat to all of the staffand was always delighted to get the sneaky ice creams at night.

As a family we will be forever grateful for the love and care that he was shown to make his final year so happy and calm.

Andy was one in a million and a hero to many.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and he will be fondly and lovingly remembered for his unconditional love and kindness to everyone.

In this wonderful tribute penned by Lisa we have been allowed to see a man who loved life; a man who thrived on family relationships and friendships; a man who enjoyed music, singing and dancing.

I see Andy as a colourful character; someone who enjoyed the bright things of life.

On Christmas Eve when I visited him in Altnagelvin Hospital he was dressed in a colourful Christmas pyjama top, red with a Christmas motif.

We see this trend also in the photograph on the front page of the Order of Service.

I believe that Andy would just love and appreciate all of the lights and decorations in this Cathedral Church today.

As we see the lights in this church, in our city and towns, and in our homes we begin to appreciate that light is something that we need. The days are still mostly dark but soon more hours of sunshine will prevail.

At this time of the year the Church's Liturgy has been reminding us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

He came and still comes to dispel darkness – and the death of a loved member of our family is always a dark period in our lives.

It is evident from what we have heard today that faith was one of the important aspects of the life of Andy, Kathleen and Lisa.

Today, continue to hold onto the aspect of faith.

Keep looking to the light and hope that Jesus gives.

It will carry you through dark, sad days to a time when the future will become much brighter and hopeful.

In Memoriam



In loving memory of Winston Carson

From Sylvia McIntosh & family

From Junior & Grace McIntosh & Maureen Foster

From Victor & Isalaine Colhoun

From Muriel Hamilton

From Yvette Dunn

In loving memory of our parents Jim & Emily Thompson

From Joy, Ann & families

In loving memory of our parents Billy & Ruby Adams and Archie & Chris McSparron

From Audrey & Gordon McSparron

In loving memory of a kind and devoted father Andrew McCorkell

From his daughter, Lisa

In memory of Andrew (Andy) McCorkell

The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart

From Lorraine Bradley

From Muriel Hamilton

From George, Ann & Michelle Patterson

From Billy & Joy Begley

From Charlie, Joan & Gail Ferguson

From Matt Cole

From Linda Dickson

From Ray Mace & Joanne

From John & Margaret Hancock

From The Ulster Project

From Billy & Rosemary Blair

From Rhoda & Harry McNeill

From Mrs Linda McKee, Holywood, Co Down

From Alan & Irene Moody, Burnfoot, Co Donegal

From Marion Walker

From Eileen Hamilton

From Margaret Smyth

From Ceara Dunlop



In Memoriam

In memory of my late friend Andy McCorkell
From Albert Warke, Hillsborough

In memory of the late Valerie Brown
From Mrs Violet Colhoun & family
In loving memory of my brother Elwin Colhoun
From Eileen Hamilton

**In memory of our much loved mum Sarah (Sadie) McLaughlin
on the First Anniversary of her death (02.02.2025)**
From Margaret, Isabel, John & Louis

In loving memory of husband, Aubrey Fielding
From Elizabeth

Thankoffering for Christmas Holy Communion
From Nan Carson
From Mrs Oonagh Todd
From Mrs Helen Jones
From Karen Jones

DONATION TO FABRIC FUND
From Stuartie Arthur
From Karl Pedersen

CHOIR FUND
From The Very Reverend Raymond Stewart

Overall Total 2,150.00

Parish Register

Burial

“The Lord is my Shepherd.”

27 th November 2025	George Winston Carson, 89 Lincoln Court Ballyoan Cemetery
25 th December 2025	Andrew (Andy) McCorkell, 6 Woodburn Park Altnagelvin Cemetery
29th January 2026	Robert (Bobby) Hepburn, 6 Greymount Crescent Eglinton Parish Church, Cemetery

With Heartfelt Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to Joan & Ken Doherty on the death of Joan's mother Elsie Millar.
We also extend our sympathy to the family of Hugo Miller brother of the late Lexie.

Priest in Charge: The Reverend Canon John Merrick B.A. H.Dip. Ed. D.A.S.E.
Contact: 00353 749136971
Priest Assistant: The Reverend Canon Mervyn Peoples
In Emergency please contact Canon Peoples at 07843 906444

Saint Columb's Cathedral Tel: (028) 7126 7313
Web Site: www.stcolumbscathedral.org

Saint Columb's Cathedral

SUNDAY SERVICES:	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	(1st & 3rd Sunday of the month) Choral Eucharist
	4.00 pm	(2nd Sunday of the month) Choral Matins
4th SUNDAY:	11.00 am	Choral Evensong
EACH TUESDAY:	10.30 am	Family Service
EACH THURSDAY	10.30 am	Holy Communion
EACH FRIDAY	10.30 am	Morning Prayer
		The Litany



[To website](http://www.stcolumbscathedral.org)

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directorofmusic@stcolumbs.net

Assistant Organist:

Mr Louis Fields

Rector's Churchwarden

Mr William Lynn

(Email: wlynn_geology@hotmail.com)

People's Churchwarden

Miss Muriel Hamilton

Hon Treasurer

Mr Louis Fields

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Safeguarding Trust Panel Members

The Reverend Canon John Merrick

Mrs Elizabeth Fielding BEM

Mr Malcolm Hewitt MBE



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

MARCH 2026 Magazine

**Notes / Articles for the March edition of the Cathedral Magazine
are due by SUNDAY 22nd February 2026
The Publication will be available from SUNDAY 1st March**