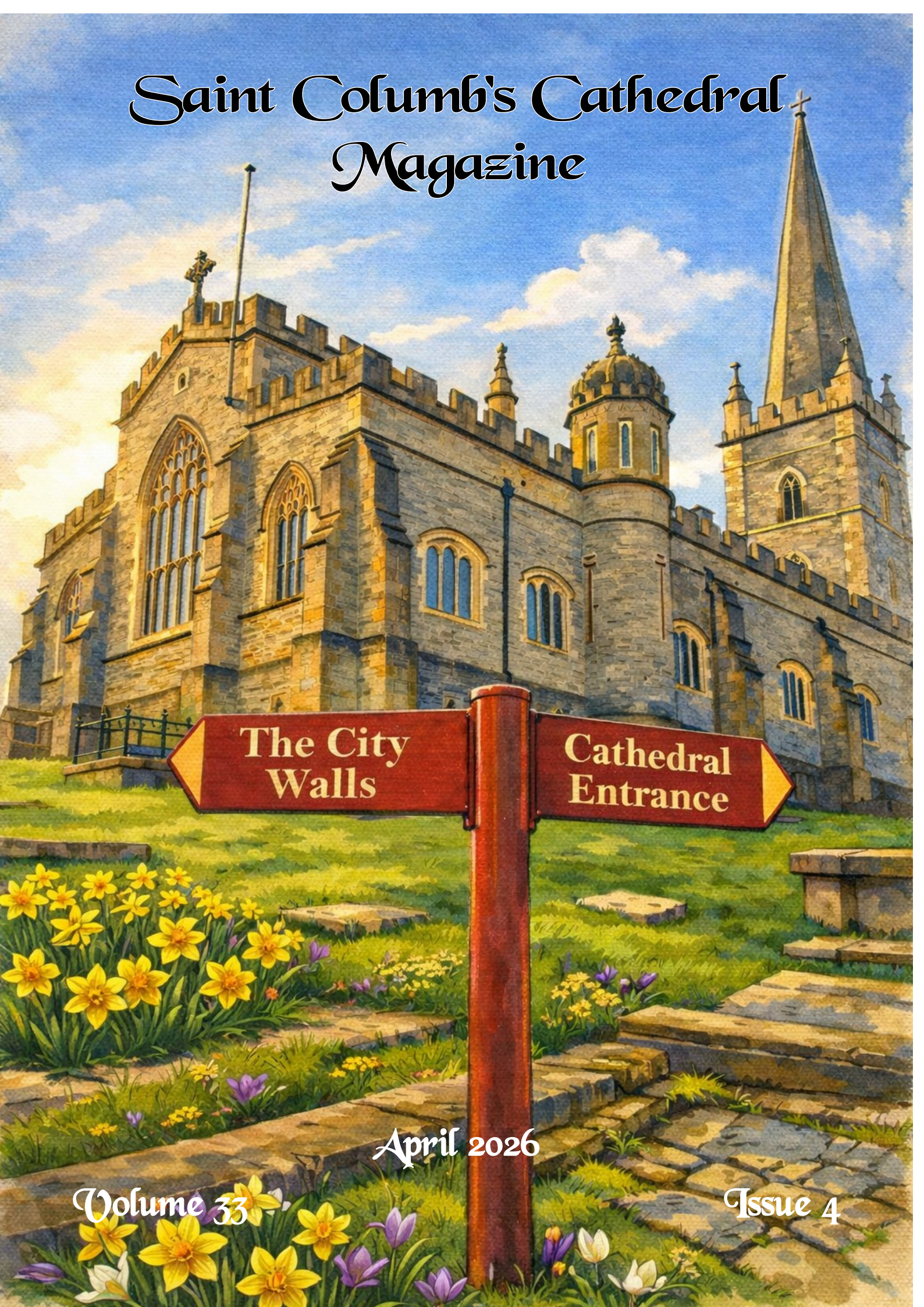


Saint Columb's Cathedral Magazine



April 2026

Volume 33

Issue 4

The Canon writes.....

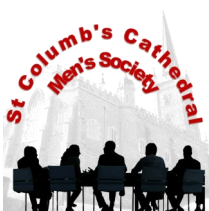


Dear Parishioners and Friends

When you look at the events from Palm Sunday to Good Friday it's almost like one of those "Good news and Bad news" anecdotes. The good news is that Jesus Christ reached the peak of His popularity, riding in a triumphal procession into the Holy City of Jerusalem. Everyone turned out to catch a glimpse of the King who came in the name of the Lord, and even the Pharisees and the Sadducees realised that they had seriously underestimated this Galilean teacher. Riding on this great crest of public approval, Jesus entered the Temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and began to teach and preach. With impunity he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and released the sacrificial birds. During this same week Jesus established the great new commandment – "Love one another as I have loved you" and instituted a new ceremony with bread and wine which would become the sacrament of Holy Communion. So, what's the bad news. On Thursday he was betrayed and arrested, and on Friday he was put to death on a cross. Today the palms, tomorrow the passion, good news and bad news. Everyone's hero was to become an object of scorn and hatred. For the grim truth is that the same people who shouted "Hosanna" on Sunday shouted "Crucify him!" just five days later.

Good news Bad news makes up the story of every life. We have all been there and done that. We have known the sweetness of success and popularity, and we have tasted the bitterness of Good Friday, the pain of failure and rejection. We may be at the peak of our lives, with money, health, security and friends, but we know well how all that can change and turn around, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. On the other hand, if we believe that God has a purpose for our life and that His love strengthens and sustains us, then the endless round of ups and downs, the sequence of events over which we have no control, loses its power and impact upon us. That is what the experience of Jesus so clearly illustrates. He believed His Father had given him a mission to fulfill, and He was determined to see it through whatever the cost. Jesus realised that all the uphill - downhill, good news - bad news, palms one day - passion the next, in no way diminished or destroyed the purpose of His life. In fact, it was to be the means of fulfilling that purpose of enabling us to enter into a new relationship with God, and to enjoy His friendship forever. The message of Holy Week and Easter is that God can take any situation – no matter how bad it may seem – and make it into good news for us all.

Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Easter



The Men's Society met on Tuesday 24th March and visited The Newgate Arts & Cultural Centre in Kennedy Street.

Mark Roxborough gave a talk on the growth and impact of this relatively new organisation in the Arts and Culture sector. He highlighted its self-sufficiency, supported by the use of their new building and two refurbished Airbnb's presently. Afterwards, the members toured the building and were impressed by what it has to offer the community for the future. We would like to thank Mark and the Newgate Centre for their generous hospitality and the opportunity to learn of the great work they are doing.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April at 7:30pm in the Diocesan Centre. Professor Aaron Peace will make his return to finish an extremely interesting talk on Men's Health he delivered a few months ago.

Robert

EASTER SERVICES



SUNDAY 29th MARCH 2026 / THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT / PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 11.00 a.m. The Passion of our Lord: A Liturgy of Readings, Hymns and Anthems for Palm Sunday
- 4.00 p.m. Choral Evensong

MONDAY 30th MARCH 2026: MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Order One) / BCP page 87-100
- 7.30 p.m. An Order for Compline / BCP page 154-161

TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2026: TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Order Two) with intercessions for the sick / BCP page 201-221
- 7.30 p.m. An Order for Compline / BCP page 154-161

WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL 2026: WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Order One) / BCP page 87-100
- 7.30 p.m. A Celebration of Wholeness and Healing / BCP page 458-464

THURSDAY 2nd APRIL 2026: MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (Order One) / BCP page 87-100
- 7.30 p.m. Choral Eucharist of The Last Supper / BCP page 201-221

FRIDAY 3rd APRIL 2026: GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.30 a.m. The Litany / BCP page 170-174
- 2.00 p.m. 'An Hour at the Cross – Meditations on the Suffering and Passion of our Lord
- 3.30 p.m. An Act of Worship at the graves of Archbishop William and Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander at The City Cemetery, Londonderry
- 7.30 p.m. A Liturgy of Hymns, Anthems and Reading on the Passion and Death of our Lord

SATURDAY 4th APRIL 2026: EASTER EVE

- 10.30 a.m. Ante-Communion / BCP page 180-184

→ SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2026 ↘

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Order One) / BCP page 180-191 / with hymns.
- 11.00 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist (Order Two) / BCP page 201-221
- 4.00 p.m. Festival Choral Evensong / BCP page 87-100



Sunday School

Attendance at Sunday School has been fantastic this year, so let's keep up the good work! The younger children especially are so committed to all the learnings, it is great to witness. Well done teachers Katie & Sam. We miss Ronan who has joined the boys' choir, but he drops in when the girls' choir is in church.

Calendar:

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| April | 5th | EASTER DAY & EASTER BREAK |
| | 12th | EASTER BREAK |
| | 19th | Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre |
| | 26th | FAMILY SERVICE |
| May | 3rd | Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre |
| | 10th | Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre |

RITE OF CONFIRMATION:

We now have 6 candidates from Sunday School who will be presented before Bishop Andrew Forster on Sunday 10th May: Leah, Lillie-Mae, Jamie, Ijeoma, Molly & Safia. Classes commenced on Sunday 22nd February with Irene & Canon John. We all enjoyed the The Derry & Raphoe Confirmation Day in Limavady on Saturday 28th February, which included Dominoes Pizza's for lunch! I know we will all keep the candidates in our prayers.

IFEOMA AGOHA

Unfortunately Ifeoma has made the difficult decision to hold off her Rite of Confirmation for this year as she is now goal keeper for the NI under 17's. Last month Ifeoma and her team Northern Ireland u17s Women travelled to North Macedonia for the euros u17s qualifiers. Played 3 games, Beat Luxembourg 4-1, Georgia, 3-1, North Macedonia 3-0 as well as topping their group and securing a place in the finals in May based in North Macedonia. Her family and all of us in Sunday School are so proud of her and wish her and her team the very best.



ULSTER PROJECT 2026

We held our sponsored walk on Saturday 28th March. We have a Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd May, change of venue this time! It is in the All Saints Centre, Glendermott Road. ALL WELCOME and convenient free car parking. There will be a retiring collection for the work of the Ulster Project on Sunday 26th April following family service.

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.

Creevagh House Garden

Open GARDEN 2026



UNITED STATES NAVY HOSPITAL
LONDONDERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND
BASE ONE - EUROPE
1943 - 1945



THE UNITED STATES NAVY HOSPITAL
ESTABLISHED ON THIS SITE, WAS USED TO HANDLE
WOUNDED PERSONNEL FROM THE NAVY BASE ONE-
EUROPE, AND AS A TRAINING BASE FOR
"FOXY 29", COMBAT NAVY MEDICAL CORPSMEN GROUPS.
THE HOSPITAL WAS USED FOR HANDLING CASUALTIES
FROM "D", DAY JUNE 6, 1944, THE INVASION OF FRANCE
AND THE NORMANDY CAMPAIGN.

UNITED STATES NAVY HOSPITAL LONDONDERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND
BASE ONE - EUROPE
1943 - 1945

63 Letterkenny Road
Londonderry/Derry BT48 9XQ

Creevagh House is registered with the National Garden Scheme this year.

The NGS oversees gardens open to the public with a **£7 per adult admission (Children free)**.

Creevagh House Garden, home of William & Elma Lynn, is open **BY APPOINTMENT** to individuals or small groups from 1st May to 31st May. Telephone to book – **07771608084**.

The garden is in its majesty in the month of April/ May with azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias and bluebell walks. It is wheelchair accessible and there are picnic tables.

All funds go to medical charities including Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's UK, amongst others. Last year NGS raised over £3 million of which Northern Ireland Gardens raised £50,000.

St Columb's Cathedral

COFFEE MORNING



fundraiser for Kondoa

Saturday 16 May 2026

10.30 am - 1.30 pm

at the home of

Heather & James Fielding

Castlemead, Bohillion Upper, BURT F93 C5Y0



We are raising funds for the Diocese of Kondoa Building Project in Tanzania



The King's Award
FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

ALL SAINTS' CENTRE

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 2nd May 2026

10:00am - 2:00pm

All Saints Centre
Glendermott Road, Derry-Londonderry

All Welcome!

We'd love to see you there!

DONATION AT THE DOOR



Dear readers,

Let me introduce myself! My name is Smita Das and I am a community health worker for The Leprosy Mission in Bangladesh. My role consists of many different things, but I predominantly search for new cases of leprosy, conduct follow up care and lead education sessions around leprosy for both communities and other health care professionals. I grew up caring for those affected by leprosy. This is what my dad did for work, so I often joined him when I was younger. **This, combined with my faith in Jesus, ignited a passion to see justice and inclusion for those affected and show the love and care they deserve.**

I am currently mainly working in the tea gardens.

These are beautiful places, with rows upon rows of lush green tea leaves. Many of which brew your cups of tea in Northern Ireland! The gardens leave you in awe of God's magnificent creation. However, leprosy is contrasting the flourishing of the scenery. It does not want to see flourishing in the lives of those who work and live in these gardens. It wants to see the opposite in fact. It wants to leave desolation and destruction. **Amongst the 600,000 people who live here, nearly every family is affected in some way by leprosy. Cases here are higher than I have seen anywhere else.** But I am so thankful to God that people like you in Northern Ireland have a passion to see change here, like me.



I wanted to write this note to show you the impact you are making in these communities and share how you can continue to support and pray for them. I hope and pray you feel encouraged and inspired to hear of the change and transformation you are enabling. These may only be my words and experience, but I know I speak on behalf of other health care professionals like me in TLM Bangladesh and across the world in TLM.

Thank you!

**Every Blessing
Smita**

Please note. The amount forwarded to The Leprosy Mission N.I from St Columb's Cathedral, between the beginning of January and the end of March was £300.60. A thank you letter from the Mission was received acknowledging our contribution, stating that lives are being transformed by the generosity of many people.

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.**

Commissioning of Mothers' Union All-Ireland President and All-Ireland Trustee Board

Saint Columb's Cathedral was delighted to host a Service of Holy Communion where the Archbishop of Armagh commissioned Mrs. Kay Clarke as the All-Ireland President of the Mothers' Union, succeeding Mrs. June Butler. Mrs. Clarke is the second person from the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe to hold this office, an honour she shares with Mrs Thelma Mehaffey. The Archbishop also commissioned seventeen members of the All-Ireland Trustee Board.

The service featured a procession of diocesan banners and was attended by five Bishops, including Rt Rev Andrew Forster, who preached, and Bishop Isaac Ephraim Bangisa of Ezo, South Sudan. Distinguished guests included the Lord Lieutenant Ian Crowe MBE CStJ, Deputy Mayor Alderman Niree McMorris, High Sheriff Mrs. Joan Doherty MBE DL, and several past MU Presidents.

In his sermon, Bishop Andrew reflected on the Gospel reading (John 4:5-42), noting its significance on International Women's Day. He highlighted how Jesus meets people in the ordinary rhythms of life with compassion rather than judgment, suggesting that the Mothers' Union reflects this grace by drawing near to those who feel overlooked or burdened. He commended Mrs. Clarke's deep sense of compassion and faith lived out through service.

The service was assisted by Rev Canon John Merrick, with musical worship led by the Cathedral Choir and prayers led by Eleanor Livingston, Phyllis Grothier, and Iris Suitor. Saint Columb's Cathedral wishes Mrs. Kay Clarke God's richest blessings during her term of office.





How lovely it has been to hear the birds singing and see the spring flowers blooming after what seems to have been a long, grey winter. Let us hope there will be more such uplifting days to come.

On Tuesday 10th March we met in the Diocesan Centre when I had the great pleasure of introducing our Speaker Rev Canon Judi McGaffin who entertained us with her life story and call to the ministry which led her to become the first female Canon in the Chapter of Raphoe Cathedral. Doreen then kept us up to date on arrangements for the Parish coffee morning to be held in May in support of the Bishop's appeal for the Diocese of Kondo in Tanzania.

In our prayers we remembered Jacqui who was self-isolating before a major operation, and we now wish her a speedy recovery. Thanks to Vivien and Irene and all who helped with the delicious supper.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Grace's husband Professor Tom Fraser. Grace is now an indoor member and has been a staunch supporter of the Mother's Union for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this difficult time.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 31st March when we will be attending the Holy Week Service in the Cathedral at 7.30 pm followed by supper in the Chapter House.

Another date for your diary is Thursday 23rd April when the Diocesan Worldwide Evening will be held in Cathedral Hall, Raphoe at 8 pm.

The theme will be *"Tanzanian tales from Kondo"*, with Bishop Andrew.

As we submit these notes, we are mindful of the horrific murder of a young woman in our own city and community. This tragedy is a stark reminder of the violence that can occur behind closed doors. Our immediate thoughts are with her family, friends, and colleagues.



Recently, Rev. Canon Mervyn Peoples and Jacqui attended a "Thank You" breakfast hosted by Foyle Women's Aid for community organisations.

Foyle Women's Aid works tirelessly on behalf of women and children, and St. Columb's Cathedral is proud to support their vital work.

May God give us eyes to recognise abuse where it exists.

May God give us a heart to reach out in compassion.

May God give us courage and resolve to make a difference wherever we are.

Amen



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.

Those who conduct the daily services would be delighted to have your support.



Earth Day

Earth Day is observed annually on 22 April, providing us an opportunity as a church community to honour God as Creator. We are invited to join in reflection and action to consider ways of taking care of God's creation, and to sustain and renew our world.

Climate change and the destruction of the natural world disproportionately affect the poorest countries and the most vulnerable people. Our practical efforts to combat these crises are guided by our faith and a hunger for righteousness.

Even small actions make a difference; here is how we can put our faith into action:

Make Sustainable Switches: Transition to LED bulbs, use recycled or sustainably sourced products, reduce the use of disposable cutlery, and choose environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Reduce Your Travel Footprint: Walk or cycle more frequently where possible.

Volunteer in the 'Bee Garden': We have created a space in our churchyard to support well-being and biodiversity. If you would like to volunteer here this summer, please contact vestrysecretary@gmail.com

Improve Local Habitats: Enhance your own outside space for native wildlife through tree planting, wildflowers, bird feeders, or bug hotels.

Community Engagement: Join local conservation work or community clean-up projects.

For further information, please visit www.ecocongregationireland.com. You can also view the Church of Ireland's "Marks of Mission" video series, specifically Video 3: **TREASURE**, which highlights creation care and community projects across the island, including the wonderful Men's Shed Community Garden in Glendermott.

[Video series shares stories from living out the Marks of Mission - Church of Ireland - A Member of the Anglican Communion](#)

To conclude, a prayer for our world:

We hold all who suffer from natural disasters and climate change.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions. May love and wisdom inspire our communities to care for all living beings and the future of our children. Amen.



An acknowledgement from Mrs Joan Doherty, High Sheriff for the City and County Borough of Londonderry

8/2/26
Dear All,
Apologies for the lateness in this thank you to you all at the time of my appointment as High Sheriff - it was so good of you all to think of me and also the mention in your magazine. This was all overtaken by my mother's death - again you all have been so understanding and sympathetic to me - your care and love for all my family has been greatly appreciated by us all. This is definitely "Faith in Action."
Many thanks to you all
Joan Doherty



WEDNESDAY 1ST **19.30**
 Wednesday of Holy Week Hymns
Girl Choristers

THURSDAY 2ND **19.30**
 Maundy Thursday
Chamber Choir
 Hymns
 Setting
 Motet

FRIDAY 3RD **14.00**
 Good Friday
Girl Choristers

The Cathedral Choirs **19.30**

SUNDAY 5TH **8.00**
 Easter Day
 Hymns

The Cathedral Choirs **11.00**
 Hymns
 Introit
 Setting
 Motet

The Cathedral Choirs **16.00**
 Hymns
 Responses
 Psalm
 Canticles
 Anthem

HEALING SERVICE
 513, 244, 240, 374

**CHORAL EUCHARIST
 OF THE LAST SUPPER**
 427, 423, 105
 Wood *Phrygian service*
 Byrd *Ave Verum*

AN HOUR AT THE CROSS
 Barnard *Were you there?*
 Lloyd Webber *Pie Jesu*

**THE PASSION AND DEATH
 OF OUR LORD**
 Mathias *Agnus Dei*
 Sanders *The reproaches*
 Ireland *Ex ore innocentium*

HOLY COMMUNION (order 1)
 286, 267, 251

FESTIVE EUCHARIST (order 2)
 287, 288, 271
 Carter *Joy is come*
 Rawsthorne *Festival Eucharist*
 Wood *This Joyful Eastertide*

CHORAL EVENSONG
 431, 259
 Stewart
 114
 Stanford *Evening Canticles in C*
 Lindley *Now the green blade riseth*

Service & Music List

April 2026

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY 12TH 2nd Sunday of Easter | 11.00 Hymns | MORNING PRAYER 281, 268, 260 |
| FRIDAY 17TH <i>The Cathedral Choirs</i> | 19.30 | CECIL FRANCIS ALEXANDER CONCERT <i>Christ Church, Strabane</i> |
| SUNDAY 19TH 3rd Sunday of Easter <i>Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks</i> | 11.00 Hymns Psalm Anthem | FAMILY SERVICE 263, 360, 255, 84 116: 1-3, 10-17 <i>Stopford All things bright beautiful</i> |
| <i>Lay Clerks</i> | 16.00 Hymns Responses Psalm Canticles Anthem | CHORAL EVENSONG 268, 285 Tallis 48 <i>Morley Evening Canticles</i> <i>Purcell Rejoice in the Lord alway</i> |
| SUNDAY 26TH 4th Sunday of Easter <i>Girls Choristers and Lay Clerks</i> | 11.00 Hymns Setting Motet | CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 1) 655, 496, 644 <i>Shephard The Wiltshire Service</i> <i>Coleman The King of Love</i> |
| <i>Chamber Choir</i> | 16.00 Hymns Responses Psalm Canticles Anthem | CHORAL EVENSONG 614, 8 Ayleward 23 <i>Noble Evening Canticles in B minor</i> <i>Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine</i> |



I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all our choir members for another outstanding term of music-making.

To our Boy and Girl Choristers: You continue to amaze us with your dedication and energy. Despite your busy schedule, you tackle every rehearsal and service with enthusiasm and joy. Your exceptional performance at the cross-community concert in Christ Church on

Thursday, 26th March, was a testament to your hard work and talent.

You are a true credit to yourselves and to our Cathedral. A special thank you to the Chorister parents for your support of the Cathedral Choir - it truly wouldn't be possible without you.

To our Lay Clerks: you sing the most number of services at the Cathedral and you do so with grace, willingness, and consistency, and for that, we are grateful.

To the Chamber Choir Ladies: Thank you for bringing your smiles and expertise each month. Your dedication allows us to tackle more challenging music, expanding the Cathedral music repertoire list.

A heartfelt thank you to our choir supervisors - Marion, Lucy, Janelle, Therese, and Anna. Your time, energy, and care in creating a safe and supportive environment for our Choristers never goes unnoticed. We are grateful for everything you do as volunteers.

A special mention goes to Jacqui, our Music Facilitator, who continually prioritises the Cathedral and works alongside Louis and me to support the Choristers. Her musical expertise and personal connection with the Choristers have been invaluable. We wish Jacqui every blessing as she continues to recover from a medical procedure.

Lastly, to my co-Organist, Louis (he doesn't know that this paragraph was slipped into our choir notes): Your dedication, work ethic, and exceptional organisational skills have been crucial to any success of the Cathedral's Music Department. Your contributions are immeasurable, and I am thankful for everything you do.

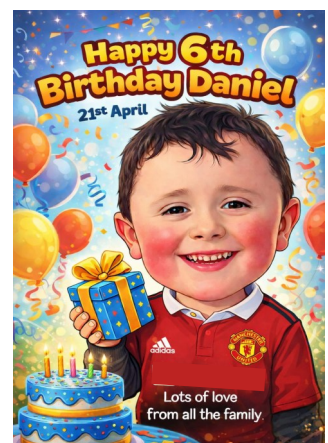
Looking ahead, we are excited to perform during Holy Week and Easter Day!

Our Choristers have made it clear to me (!) that they want to invite everyone to Good Friday's "An Hour at the Cross," where they will perform one of their favourite anthems, John Ireland's *Ex Ore Innocentium*. They are also enjoying preparing music for Easter Day. Following Easter Day, the choir will take a well-deserved break and return to duty on Sunday 19th April.

Looking further into the future, please mark Friday 17th April in your calendars! Our Cathedral Choirs - Boy Choristers, Girl Choristers, and Lay Clerks - will perform a concert to celebrate the life of Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander at Strabane Church of Ireland Parish Church.

Finally, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a Happy and restful Easter to Canon Merrick, Canon Peoples, and the entire Cathedral Community.

Nicky



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



'WALKS FOR KONDOA'

Bishop Andrew Forster is closing in on the £30,000 target he's set for his series of fundraising walks in the diocese's seven rural deaneries in aid of our partners in the Diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania. On Wednesday 18th March Bishop Forster was delighted to see this set up by Elizabeth Fielding for a symbolic washing of the feet as he arrived in Saint Columb's Cathedral for a short prayer on his travels around the Derry District churches.



On Monday 9th March the Bishop of Kondoa, The Right Reverend Dr Given Gaula, arrived in the northwest on a week-long visit to the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. Bishop Given spent his first morning attending a Service of Holy Communion at Saint Columb's Cathedral, before addressing clergy at the nearby Diocesan Centre.



Prayer Time



MAUNDY THURSDAY WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

Son of Man, who on the night before your passion took towel and water and washed the feet of your disciples: give us understanding of what you have done, and teach us to follow the example of your humility, that by love we may serve one another for love of you, our Saviour and Lord.

(John 13: 1—17)

Frank Colquhoun

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION BEFORE THE CROSS

Holy and mighty Father, you gave your only Son to be a sacrifice for us— for us, who all like sheep have gone astray, for us, who every one has turned to his own way, for us, whose iniquity you have laid on him.

In your mercy look on us as we meditate and pray before his cross.

Give us faith so to comprehend the mystery of his passion that we enter into the fellowship of his sufferings.

Let his wounds be our healing, his cross our redemption, and his death our life; through all that makes him 'Jesus Christ, our Lord'.

(Isa. 53: 6; Phil. 3: 10)

Anon.

EASTER DAY EASTER WORD AND SACRAMENT

Living Lord, vanquisher of sin and death, come among us in your risen power and make your presence known to us in word and sacrament this Easter day.

Speak your message of peace to our hearts; show us your wounded hands and side; and send us forth to your service in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the glory of your name.

(John 20: 19—23)

Frank Colquhoun

Bible Readings for April 2026

| Date | Bible Reading | Title |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 st April | Matthew 27 : 11 – 26 | Your choice |
| 2 nd April | Matthew 27 : 27 – 44 | The Crucifixion |
| 3 rd April | Matthew 27 : 45 -56 | Jesus dies |
| 4 th April | Matthew 27 : 57 – 66 | Dead and buried |
| 5 th April | Matthew 28 | Risen! |
| 6 th April | Leviticus 1 | The whole of me |
| 7 th April | Leviticus 2 | The whole of today |
| 8 th April | Leviticus 4 : 1, 2, 22 – 35 | I didn't mean to |
| 9 th April | Leviticus 5 : 1 – 13 | I'm sorry, I forgot.... |
| 10 th April | Leviticus 5 : 14 – 6 : 7 | Putting it right |
| 11 th April | Leviticus 6 : 8 – 23 | Pleasing to God |
| 12 th April | Psalms 81 | Will you or won't you? |
| 13 th April | Leviticus 16 : 1 – 22, 29 – 34 | A special effort |
| 14 th April | Leviticus 19 : 1 – 18, 30 – 37 | How to be holy |
| 15 th April | Leviticus 23 : 1 – 22 | Let's celebrate ! |
| 16 th April | Leviticus 23 : 23 -44 | Let's keep celebrating ! |
| 17 th April | Leviticus 25 : 1 – 22 | Time to rest |
| 18 th April | Leviticus 26 : 1 – 26, 40 – 46 | Ifs and buts |
| 19 th April | Psalms 82 | God who judges |
| 20 th April | 1 Timothy 1 : 1 – 11 | Stay where you are |
| 21 st April | 1 Timothy 1 : 12 – 20 | Point to Jesus |
| 22 nd April | 1 Timothy 2 | Do you worship well ? |
| 23 rd April | 1 Timothy 3 : 1 – 7 | A noble task |
| 24 th April | 1 Timothy 3 : 8 – 13 | Hold on |
| 25 th April | 1 Timothy 3 : 14 – 4: 5 | The key to character |
| 26 th April | Psalms 83 | Praying for our enemies |
| 27 th April | 1 Timothy 4 : 6 - 16 | What is your goal ? |
| 28 th April | 1 Timothy 5 : 1 – 16 | Care for the vulnerable |
| 29 th April | 1 Timothy 5 : 17 – 6 : 2 | A taboo subject |
| 30 th April | 1 Timothy 6 : 3 – 10 | More or less ? |

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

THE CATHEDRAL MAGAZINE

Notes and Articles for the May 2026 edition
of the Cathedral Magazine are due by SUNDAY 26th April 2026

THE SELECT VESTRY

A meeting of the General Vestry will be held in The Diocesan Centre, London Street,
Londonderry on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Dedication of Books of Common Prayer

On Saint Patrick's Day Canon John Merrick was delighted to dedicate a number of Books of Common Prayer to The Glory of God and for the use in the Cathedral Church of Saint Columb.

The Prayer books were gifted

By Cynthia Murden in Loving Memory of David Murden and Joan Munkley
By Kathy McKittrick in Loving Memory of William & Kathleen Wright,
Raymond & Andrea McKittrick and Stephen McKittrick

The Men's Club

The next Men's Club meeting will take place in First Derry Presbyterian Church Lecture Hall on **Thursday 16th April 2026 at 7.30pm.**

PLEASE NOTE THE TALK THIS MONTH IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL.

The Reverend Nigel Cairns is our guest speaker. The talk is entitled 'A recent visit to the Holy Land' This is a most interesting topic and I know it will be a fantastic talk.

The Men's Club is open to all men and ladies in the city, so please come along and bring your friends. You will all be made most welcome.

Light refreshments will be served after the talk.

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.



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UNIVERSITY
CHAMBER
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**ST COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL,
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Modern and traditional
sacred, spiritual and gospel
favourites by John Tavener,
Eric Whitacre, Thomas Tallis,
John Rutter, Dolly Parton
and many more

**DIRECTOR
MARC ASHLEY FOSTER**

FREE ENTRANCE



Eulogy for Professor Tom Fraser 14th March 2026

We have gathered here this afternoon to give thanks for the life of Professor Thomas Grant Fraser known simply to his friends and former colleagues as Tom. In giving thanks today for his life, we also would like to share with you his family our sadness as you say farewell to a much-loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. Please be assured that you are very much in our thoughts and prayers today as indeed you will be in the coming days. I first met Tom or Mr. Fraser as he was then, when I entered the New University of Ulster in Coleraine, in October 1969, as an undergraduate reading history, in fact Tom joined the academic Staff in that same year. At that time many of the younger Lecturers dressed quite casually and it could be difficult to differentiate between Lecturers and Students, Tom, however, always wore collar and tie with a tweed jacket. I'm sure it was Harris Tweed, perhaps he later graduated to Donegal Tweed. As a lecturer his classes were always engaging and informative, leaving the participants in no doubt as to his insight and enthusiasm for the subject matter he was imparting. As to his tutorials, they were conducted in an open and encouraging fashion, removing any anxiety that his students might have as to the validity or value of any contribution that they might make to the overall thrust of the debate or conversation.

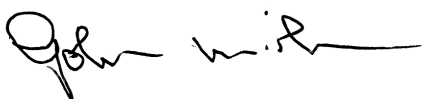
As has already been said Tom's contribution to the development of the university can never be overstated. Within this city he will long be remembered for his determination to re-establish, encourage and promote the status of Magee College giving back to this city, something which many felt was taken from them in the late 1960's.

A visit to the Fraser household was always an enjoyable and relaxing experience, something to be looked forward to with a real sense of anticipation. The living room was partly furnished with antiques and artifacts acquired by Tom and Grace on their visits to the sub-continent of India. He enjoyed relating his many experiences of life in that amazing country with so many cultural variations. I remember well, during one of my visits delivery of yet another acquisition of Indian origin that he had obtained.

Sadly, on occasions, our conversation would involve a discussion surrounding the ongoing conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. He had a genuine empathy for the deeply held convictions of both nations.

On a lighter note he and Grace enjoyed reminiscing about their visits to Donegal and in particular Rathmullen House, where they enjoyed the ambiance, the food and the occasional cocktail. Sadly, due to Tom's failing health, he and Grace have been unable to travel there in recent times.

In our reading today from St John's Gospel Jesus is informing his disciples that in His Father's House there are many mansions and how He is going to prepare a place for them. They are confused and fail to grasp the significance of what He is saying. Thankfully, we do not suffer from that confusion because we know that through our Lord's Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension those rooms are prepared for us if we ensure that in this life we serve God and serve our neighbour. Those of us who knew Tom could not fail to realise that he was a man of faith and someone who served his fellowman. Today I say to you his family to you Grace, Simon, Robyn and Adam, to you Anna, Jeremy, Aiden and Grace hold fast to this great Christian message that one day we will be reunited with those who we knew in this life yet see no longer but do be assured that as you continue on your journey through life without the loving presence of Tom in your midst you will be supported by the prayers of those gathered here today and indeed those who have been unable to join us for this Service of Thanksgiving. We give thanks to God for our many memories of Tom blessed be God for ever.



Eulogy

Professor Thomas Grant Fraser

I am here today to speak about my father's distinguished academic career. Dad came over from Scotland in 1969 to accept a post as a History lecturer at the then New University of Ulster in Coleraine. He was part of that golden academic generation that helped build and shape the University for the next 50 plus years. I fondly remember growing up in that then small academic community at Coleraine, with dinner parties, and other get togethers. In 1974 just before I was born, he got his PhD from LSE. In 1983, he became a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Indiana University in South Bend.

On returning to Coleraine, he resumed his University of Ulster career and became Professor (personal chair) in the mid 80s due to his impressive research publications. I do remember being memorised by what dad said at his professorial lecture as he was an exceptionally good speaker and being very impressed that the Vice Chancellor Derek Birley spoke at it. Dad then became Head of the Department of History (1988-1992) and Head of the School of History, Philosophy and Politics (1992-1998).

The books Dad wrote, co-authored or edited ranged from his primary field of interest – the middle east, then to Ireland, and India. Some of his works made it into multiple editions and he was exceptionally proud that what he wrote got published in several languages – Arabic, Turkish, Chinese, and Italian. I looked at the bookcase where his published works and it was about a metre's worth in length. Perhaps Dad's most astonishing feat was to pen his most well known book "Contested Lands" during Covid, based entirely on the knowledge that was in his head and on his bookshelves. It was only this year that he actually made any real money from a book, something familiar to many academic historians.

Back to his career - despite having experienced university bureaucracy at its finest, dad accepted the post of the Provost of Magee at the turn of the century. I do remember the Vice Chancellor at the time Professor McKenna phoning dad to tell him he had the job. I will say this, Dad loved this city, it became a home to him and my mother. His Provost role took him down many pathways but he always tried to do the best for the students and staff here as well as the wider community. In his time he worked with John Hume as a colleague and a friend, various international dignitaries came as a result of the Tip O'Neill chair. Kofi Annan, the Clintons and John Kerry. I remember glowing with pride when shopping with him at the Foyleside Centre, and various people recognising him and wanting to talk to him. The role of Provost was a calling for him and he handled it with dignity and discretion and how to deal with people with great care. I am still trying to learn from that. And I will take this opportunity to thank the staff that supported dad as Provost. So much work went on behind the scenes to make things run smoothly. Finally it also seems fitting that his former offices as Provost are now being used by INCORE, an Ulster University conflict resolution institution of which my father was very proud to be associated with both before and after retirement.

When news of his death broke, I had colleagues email me to say that they had fond memories of meeting dad and working with him. I looked at the Facebook comments on the Derry Journal article and he was universally praised as humble, a gentleman, and a true scholar by past students and staff. He was also a good father and an inspiration and role model to me. We will miss him dearly. And one last thing, the day before he died he finished the last draft of an update to his latest book on the Middle East. This was typical of him. It gave him purpose and made him happy in his last few weeks, and I'm very glad it did.

Simon Fraser

As my brother Simon put it so well, we are incredibly proud of dad's career and all he accomplished.

As anyone who ever heard my dad speak, whether while he was giving a lecture, welcoming the President of a country or making a best man's speech at my brother's wedding or a father of the bride one at mine, you know following him is an incredibly hard act. His way with words was written or spoken was part of his very being. So, I am not going to attempt to do anything like that but simply share on behalf of the whole family a little more about him and what he meant to us.

In many ways, for all his public facing accomplishments, my father was an intensely private man. He valued discretion more than most things, it was important to him to be a man of his word. If you told him something personal, it would stay with him, you could trust him always.

When anyone ever asked me about my dad the word that always used to spring to mind was integrity. In a world where we increasingly lack models of leadership and how to be a good person, my dad was there to remind us that there is a different, better way to be in the world. It didn't matter who you were or how important or not important people felt they were, with my dad everyone was treated with equal respect, attention and kindness. He understood people at their core.

His fascination with studying conflict, whether it was in the partition of India, the Balkan states, the middle east or closer to home here, in Northern Ireland stemmed from a desire to understand the how and why behind it so that we could move forward to resolution. That's what mattered to him. He sought always to educate so that the world could be better.

He was a proud Scot, as we know. He used to say that you could take the man out of Irvine, Scotland, but not Irvine out of the man. But that wasn't his identity, he was a truly global citizen. Seeking to observe and experience many parts of the world whether through the many trips he took on university business, occasionally in planes whilst being shot at or through his delight of travelling with my mum to many far-flung destinations, particularly to his great love, India, the most important part for him was meeting people and hearing their experiences.

India was incredibly special to him, teaching out there, learning to make a vindaloo so hot that it would reduce the rest of us to tears, sitting on an elephant in the middle of the jungle still dressed in a shirt, jacket and tie, and collecting the beautiful miniature paintings that adorn the walls of their house. If you have ever had the chance to be at the house, you'll know that there isn't a spare inch of wall space to be found. He loved art, had a keen eye and immaculate taste, whether it was his favorite Scottish artists, depictions of places he had traveled and loved, it was a source of joy for him.

His love of culture particularly extended to classical music, with Wagner and Beethoven being two of his particular favorites. You could often find him after dinner sat his front living room, nodding off to one of his favorite symphonies, while the rest of us also got to enjoy it through the wall due to the volume at which he would play his 'gramophone' as he referred to it as. Living in the 1960s in London you wouldn't find him at a Beatles concert but most likely at the Royal Festival Hall watching one of his favorite conductors, a job he would have liked in another life.

His taste could also run to the slightly more mundane and the sound of him guffawing at Dad's Army or Rab C Nesbitt or funny cat videos is something that will always bring a smile to my face. He had a keen sense of humor that he used to balance his habit of being glued to the news channels 24/7. He loved cats very much and his wee cats, Dixie and Elsa were a source of delight to him. He was quite a softie with them.

Family was his foundation. Simon and I are so grateful that our own children, Adam, Aidan and Grace had the opportunity to spend time with grandad or as he is known to my kids, Buddha.

When Grace was very little we had a fairly jolly brass statue of a Chinese buddha in our house and the next time she saw my dad Grace pointed at him and pronounced him 'Buddha'. He was delighted and we all went with the story that it is because she understood how enlightened he was rather than any physical resemblance to said statue. Aidan and Grace were so sorry not to be able to get here in time from California. My son has university entrance exams this week which my father would have put as his top priority as you know but they wanted me to share a couple of words on their behalf.

Grace: My grandfather was the one of the most inspiring people i have ever met. He was always ready to help educate whoever asked him to, and that was one of my favorite things about him. He was one of the most selfless people ever. i remember almost every single history lesson from the dinner table. I also remember how he never failed to make everyone near him laugh. I will always miss and love him

Aidan: Buddha was and continues to be one of the most passionate, intelligent, loving, and effortlessly humorous people I've ever met. I love every history chat or tangent we would end up on. Thanks for sharing just a small fraction of your wisdom to me Buddha. I love you.

All 3 grandkids loved him very much.

As a dad, we couldn't have asked for a better one. Always there to lend an ear, a reassuring pat on the hand, help you understand something better or see another perspective, never judging or telling what you should or shouldn't do. On the very rare occasions I ever got into trouble as a teenager, he would always tell me to take the dog for a walk while he would break it to my mum for me :) Thanks, dad, I owe you for that.

He raised us to go out into the world and do our own thing, no matter how hairbrained it sometimes probably seemed to him. He taught us to tread lightly in the world and leave it better than we found it. Despite growing up in a pretty formal, post war environment in Scotland he knew how to express love just by showing up. We never felt anything other than that from him ever. I don't have the words really to say what he meant to me and I'm not sure I ever will. But he knew and that's what matters.

The greatest love of his life was undoubtedly, his wife Grace, our mum. Gosh, that is a real love story, meeting as university students in Glasgow where the story goes that a very pretty green-eyed girl had her eye on the handsome stellar history student from the year above and ended a party sat on his knee. And the rest, as they say, is history. Almost 60 years at each other's sides, through so many good times and also tough, like my mum's illness many years back, they were each other's backbones. Not only did they love each other but you could see that they were still 'in love', still writing notes in cards to each other, bringing flowers, teasing each other about previous boyfriends or girlfriends. Never really a cross word spoken between them, they modeled how marriage can be a true partnership, founded on respect, mutual admiration, growth, humor, shared love of experiences and true, true love. Having this kind of love modelled for us has been such inspiration and grounding in our lives. This loss for her is immeasurable and we will be there to support her through this.

My dad once joked that when he passed away, he would have liked to have had a Viking funeral, be floated on a boat down the river Foyle and have someone shoot flaming arrows into it. We couldn't quite manage to sort that out. He also said he was so old that no one would turn up to his funeral anyway. Looking round the cathedral today, with so many people here and who also have reached out to us in many other different ways, we were not surprised. He touched so many people's lives for the better, as a teacher, a mentor, a colleague, a friend and a family man. We are so grateful for people coming out and he would secretly be pretty pleased that so many did. So, if you ever get to sip on a really dry martini, stirred, not shaken, we hope you raise a glass to his memory.

He was a gentleman and a scholar. A good man and we will miss him more than words can really ever say.

Anna (Fraser) Sulzmann



In Memoriam

In memory of Kathleen Hughes
From Billie & Fay Gallagher

In memory of Thomas & Iris Doherty
From their son Garth

In loving memory of our dear father, Albert (Bob) Kilpatrick on what would have been his 100th birthday on 8th April 2026
From his daughters, Pat, Marilyn and Angela

In loving memory of my wife, Margaret Hetherington
From her husband, Ivan

Baptismal Thankoffering on the Baptism of Hallie Sandra Harris
From her parents Gemma Thompson & Gary Harris

In memory of Professor Thomas G Fraser
From Denis & Mary McKinney

Overall Total £650.00

With Heartfelt Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the Hewitt family circle on the death of Charles (Walter) Hewitt, former Parishioner and Boy Chorister of this Cathedral Church.

Parish Register

Holy Baptism

“Go and make disciples of all nations

Sunday 22nd March Hallie Sandra Harris
daughter of Gemma Thompson & Gary Harris
19 Dennet Gardens, Londonderry

Burial

“The Lord is my Shepherd.”

Tuesday 10th March Professor Thomas (Tom) Grant Fraser
45 Blackthorne Manor, Londonderry
Burial Ballyoan Cemetery

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

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



To website

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MAY 2026 Magazine

Notes / Articles for the May edition of the Cathedral Magazine
are due by SUNDAY 26th April 2026

The Publication will be available from SUNDAY 3rd MAY