

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT COLUMB

HERITAGE • FAITH • BEAUTY

MAGAZINE

MAY 2026 • VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 5

Cathedral
Entrance

A PLACE OF PEACE
A HERITAGE TO CHERISH

The Canon writes.....



Dear Parishioners and Friends

If you want to be assured of the genuineness of a piece of silver, the first thing you do is to look for the hallmark. A hallmark, composed of a sign, symbol or lettering, is a guarantee of quality or purity. Many years ago, all items made of silver – whether pots, dishes, trays, utensils or jewellery – were produced by members of a guild or union, and at one time these guild members met and worked in large rooms called halls – hence the term “hallmark”. Not only is a hallmark a guarantee of authenticity, but it also tells you where the product comes from. So, for example, in Britain where hallmarks originated in the fourteenth century, if the hallmark contains a leopard’s head, the piece of silver comes from London. If there is a castle it comes from Edinburgh. The hallmark of the guild in Sheffield is a crown, and that of Birmingham is an anchor. Irish silver has a maker’s or sponsor’s mark, an assay office mark, a fineness mark and a date letter which changes each year. The letter I represents the year 1994, N stands for 1999 and so on. Now the reason I mention all this is because hallmarks help us to gain an insight into important issues raised in the account of Doubting Thomas in the days following the resurrection of Jesus. Thomas had not been with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them after the resurrection, and when they told him what had happened, his reaction was understandable – he did not believe it. His healthy scepticism demanded proof; “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Thomas would not believe until he saw himself the marks on Jesus.

We all know the sequel. Jesus appeared again to the disciples a week later and the first person he speaks to, after he says to the disciples “Peace be with you”, is Thomas. “Put your finger here”, he says to Thomas, “and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God.” Thomas saw the marks of Jesus’ death, the marks of His love. Because he saw the risen Lord with his own eyes he believed and went out and did what the other disciples did. He spread the good news about Jesus; tradition has it to the nations east of Israel. He proclaimed how Jesus died so that we might know the love of God, and that he was raised from the dead so that we might know God’s love is forever and that all who follow him will receive life eternal.

Jesus showed Thomas and the other disciples the marks of His love so that they might believe and go forth as his apostles to baptise and make disciples of all nations. He showed them the marks of His love so that the blessings which faith brings might become available to more people. And it is still the same today. But rather than the marks of His love being shown in His physical body, today they are shown, or are meant to be shown, in the people of His church which is called the Body of Christ. In other words, you and I are meant to show others the genuineness of our faith in Jesus by bearing His unmistakable hallmark. And that hallmark is a life that resembles His, a life which shows the marks of love.

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.

From The Diocesan Press Officer:

New Dean of Derry Appointed

The Rector of St Augustine's Church, Rev Nigel Cairns, has been appointed Dean of Derry and Rector of the new parish grouping of Templemore & St Augustine's, a merger which brings together two of Londonderry's best-known city centre churches. News of the appointments was shared with the congregations of St Columb's Cathedral



and St Augustine's at services on Sunday 26th April 2026. It is expected that a Service of Institution and Installation will be held on Thursday 4th June 2026 at which the Dean-elect will formally succeed Very Rev Raymond Stewart who retired at the end of last year.

Rev Cairns' appointment as Rector was made following a Board of Nomination meeting, while his appointment as the new Dean was made by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster.

The Dean-elect, who was born and reared in Londonderry, says he and his wife, Alison, are looking forward to this exciting new chapter in their lives. "As a son of the city, I feel both humbled and blessed to be appointed Dean of Derry and Rector of Templemore, which now encompasses St Columb's and St Augustine's.

"For a whole host of reasons both of these churches, and the people, are very close to the hearts of my wife, Alison, and I. We are looking forward, under God, to being part of the Christian witness and ministry within The Walls and I would encourage the parishioners of both churches to prayerfully support and embrace this exciting new beginning as we build and grow together.

"I would like to thank Alison, our children Megan and Matthew, Bishop Andrew, the congregations and my fellow clergy for their encouragement and prayers."

The Dean-elect grew up in Londonderry's Waterside and was educated at Lisnagelvin Primary School, Clondermott High School, Foyle College and Stranmillis University College, where he qualified as a primary school teacher. He taught in schools in Limavady, Artigarvan and Omagh before leaving the profession to train for ministry in the Church of Ireland. He was ordained to the Diaconate in September 2016 and priested in September 2017.

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.

DAILY OFFICES at 10.30 a.m.

The Daily Office is read in Bishop William Alexander Chapel

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.



Sunday School

Attendance at Sunday School has been fantastic this year so lets keep up the good work.

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| May | 3 | Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre |
| | 10 | Sunday School pupils & teachers will be in church for the Rite of Confirmation followed by Holy Communion |
| | 17 | A FAMILY SERVICE |
| | 24 | (PENTECOST/WHIT SUNDAY) Sunday School in Diocesan Centre |
| | 31 | (TRINITY SUNDAY) Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre |
| June | 7 | Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre |
| | 14 | Sunday School in The Diocesan Centre |
| | 21 | (FATHERS' DAY) FAMILY SERVICE / SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION |

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, Chisom, Molly & Safia

As well as the Rite of Confirmation the candidates will also receive Holy Communion.

I know we will all keep the candidates in our prayers



BIRTHDAYS

We only have one birthday this month and it is mine so the least said about that the better!

On the same day I am also celebrating 47 years of teaching in Saint Columb's Cathedral,

I have over 52 years of faith ministry in total as I became a Sunday School teacher in St Augustine's Church following my own Confirmation.



To mum / granny / Irene
Lots of love from Lynsey
Katie, Jake & Mark
all the family
and friends at the Cathedral



ULSTER PROJECT 2026

Thank you everyone who supported Tristan through the retiring collection on Sunday 26th April, your generosity is very much appreciated.

Our Annual Coffee Morning was held in All Saints Centre on Saturday 2nd May, The change of venue was necessitated due to the fact that a greater number of teens are now involved with the introduction of a new host city Milwaukee.

We would like to place on record our sincere thanks to everyone

in the Cathedral Church who have supported the candidates and our teens.

We use No 1 as our meeting place. Thank you to Robert for ensuring the availability of No.1, thank you to Linda for all the printing, artwork and orders of service.

To everyone who has supported the Table Quiz, the Coffee Morning, especially, Pauline, who supplied flowers for the tables and to June for organising the catering.

We salute you all.

This year we have 24 teens with 6 leaders going to three host cities in the USA.

We are privileged to work with the youth of the city.

So on behalf of them all a massive THANK YOU!

Creevagh House Garden

OPEN GARDEN 2026



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.



UNITED STATES NAVY HOSPITAL
LONDONDERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND
BASE ONE - EUROPE
1941 - 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.

WATSON TOWN SQUARE, BARRACK STREET, LONDON, ONT. CAN. M7L 1A7

Responding to Christ's call.... our diocesan link with the Diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania

It has been a privilege to welcome Bishop Given Gaula from the Diocese of Kondoa to St. Columb's Cathedral on several occasions.



Since his arrival in 2012, the Diocese of Kondoa has seen phenomenal growth, expanding from three church buildings to over 70 today!

To support this mission and the ongoing need for clergy and lay training, the Diocese of Kondoa requires a purpose-built facility for offices, meetings, and workshops. The Diocese of Derry & Raphoe has pledged to raise £30,000 for this project. While the site of the Diocesan Centre has been purchased and the foundations and walls are in place, further funding is now required to complete the roof.



The people of Kondoa face significant challenges, including widespread poverty, poor infrastructure, and a lack of clean water, yet in the midst of it all there is a growing prayerful awareness of the presence of God - 'Water is life' in Tanzania.

To continue supporting this project, we invite you to a coffee morning at the:
Home of James and Heather Fielding, Castlemead, Bohillion Upper, Burt, F93 C5Y0
Date: SATURDAY 16 MAY Time: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
for the Diocese of Kondoa Building Project in Tanzania



TANZANIA – Did you know?

Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa and includes the islands of Zanzibar, Pemba and Mafia. **CAPITAL:** Dodoma

AREA: 947,300 square kilometres

POPULATION: 47,173,000

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Kiswahili or Swahili, English

MONEY: Tanzanian shilling

HIGHEST MOUNTAIN: Mount Kilimanjaro,

Three of the largest lakes on the continent are also found in Tanzania – **Lake Victoria** in the north, **Lake Tanganyika** in the west and Lake Nysa in the southwest.

FLAG:



'Encounters with God'



"Encounters with God," is a new book of faith stories recently launched by Songs of Praise presenter, Claire McCollum. This initiative by our Board of Mission and Unity was the brainchild of Rev. Paul Lyons, Rector of St. Mary's, Macosquin, who was inspired by an interview he saw on the programme.

The book features 36 personal stories recounting how God has worked in people's lives through moments of calling, healing, and unexpected answers to prayer.

The launch included a lively presentation from Rev. Roger Thompson, Partnership Co-ordinator for CMS Ireland, illustrating the impactful progress being made across the Diocese of Kondoa.

"Encounters with God" is available for purchase in the cathedral porch for £7.50/€8.50. All proceeds will support the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe's mission partnership project with the Diocese of Kondoa in Tanzania.

We encourage you to pick up a copy to support this important mission and ministry.





Well, what glorious weather we have been enjoying this week. At least two consecutive days of blue skies and warm sun!

In keeping with tradition, we attended the service in the Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week followed by a short meeting in the Chapter House. Thanks to all who helped

to make the service such a profound part of our preparation for Easter.

During our meeting we wished Jacqui well on her recovery from surgery and we shared memories of Lil who celebrates 60 years of MU membership this year.

The Acorn Farm Project is well underway, and we hope to visit there later in the year. For May, we meet in the Diocesan Centre on Tuesday 12 May at 7.30pm for a chat and a brief glimpse into the story of Jane Austen's nieces and their connection with this part of the world! Opening Prayers have been sourced, by none other than, Jane Austen! Please do join us for chat and a cuppa.



Congratulations to Margaret Boyd on her recent appointment as Vice President of DRMU's Action & Outreach Unit.

One of her first duties was leading the excellent MU Worldwide evening in Raphoe, which focused on the Diocese of Kondo. Mothers' Union supports four million members in 84 countries, and Bishop Andrew reminded us not to underestimate what God can do through our kindness and loving actions dedicated to him.

We have an imminent opportunity to offer our support by joining the parish coffee morning in Burt on 16 May. This event will support the diocesan building project in Kondo.

BIODIVERSITY BITE FOR MAY

No Mow May!

When we first learned about this initiative, we imagined a host of complaints regarding weeds and a messy appearance! The lawn was mowed in March and April, then left untouched throughout May and well into June. The results were surprising; Lady's smock appeared followed by various other small wildflowers, providing a feast for bees, ladybirds and butterflies.

Last year, small spring bulbs were planted in a section of the lawn, allowing us to enjoy flowers there from January through August.



It is amazing what can appear. Beyond daisies, dandelions, and clover, you might find speedwell, ragged robin, or even an orchid depending on your soil. Each year, more seeds will find their way to the garden, naturally enriching its variety.

Even a small wild patch can provide vital food for pollinators and give wildlife the best start to the summer.

Consider giving 'NO MOW MAY' a go! Sit back and let it grow!



Christmas Shoe Boxes

We have less than one hundred and eighty days until we again send off our gifts in a shoe box for 'Operation Christmas Child'. Meanwhile, 'Samaritan's Purse' have sent some information that may interest you. Maybe it is time to pick up a few early bargains for the boxes- I know I did last year and then couldn't find them come October time!

Last year in **Northern Ireland** they collected **29,614** boxes which were delivered to Serbia, Belarus and Central Asia.

Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland had another exceptional year with shoeboxes rising by another 10%. Worldwide there were **12.2 million boxes** distributed.

After Christmas 'Samaritan's Purse' have a follow up programme called 'The Great Journey' and enables local churches to share the good News of Jesus with the children in their area. Thank you for packing a shoebox which blesses children and has an impact on their future.

Elizabeth

St Columb's Cathedral

COFFEE MORNING



fundraiser for Kondoa

Saturday 16 May 2026

10.30am - 1.30pm

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



DIRECTIONS TO JAMES & HEATHER'S HOME



SAT NAV CODE: F93 C5Y0

MAIN ROUTE (FROM BRIDGEND ROUNDABOUT)



- 1 From Bridgend Roundabout take the N13 road towards Letterkenny



- 2 Continue for approximately 3 miles



- 3 Drive straight on and pass Callaghan's petrol station on your left.



- 4 Drive straight on and pass 2 central islands which are just beyond Callaghan's.



- 5 Look for Pound Brae running parallel to the road on your left.



- 6 Turn onto Pound Brae and continue for one mile.

- 7 At the end of the road is James & Heather's home.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

- 1 Instead of turning at Pound Brae, continue for 1 mile.



- 2 You will reach another Callaghan's petrol station on your right.



- 3 Turn up the lane directly opposite the petrol station.



- 4 Follow this lane for approximately 1/2 mile.



- 5 Reach their home at the road junction on the left.



LOOK OUT FOR THE BALLOONS!



*If you're coming this way,
you may also want to visit*
**NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
QUILT EXHIBITION**

16 MAY

It's only two miles
further down the road.





SUPPORT ST COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL

CONTRIBUTE TO THE LEGACY OF
THIS HISTORIC LANDMARK

DONATE EASILY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

St Columb's Cathedral has stood as a beacon of faith and heritage for generations. Your donation helps preserve its legacy, maintain vital programmes, and support ongoing community outreach. Every contribution, large or small, makes a meaningful impact.

HOW TO DONATE



1. Open the camera app on your mobile phone.



2. Scan the QR code displayed below.



3. Tap the link that appears and follow the on-screen instructions.



4. Have your debit or credit card ready for a seamless transaction.



5. Prefer digital wallets? Donations are also accepted via Google Pay.



6. For taxpayers, there is the option to include Gift Aid with your donation. To do so, tick the relevant box and follow the instructions that appear. Once you have registered for Gift Aid on this platform, you will not need to repeat the procedure for any future donations, making subsequent contributions even easier.

SCAN THIS CODE
TO DONATE NOW!



WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS



Preserve historic architecture and treasures



Fund community events and outreach programmes



Ensure ongoing maintenance and restoration



Help maintain a welcoming space for worship and reflection



*Thank you for your generosity — together,
we keep St Columb's Cathedral thriving
for future generations.*



SAINT COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL

DERRY ~ LONDONDERRY

Urbs Murata

Urbs Murata 88 88 (LM)

88 88 (LM)

L. FIELDS (1994)
N. MORTON (1995)



- 1 The Angels stand around us all,
And hear the quiet hopes we call;
Like stars that brighten evening skies
or clouds that drift where sunlight lies.
- 2 Kind spirits, gentle, strong, and true,
Who guide the good we choose to do;
Unseen, their courage lifts our days
and leads us in our better ways.
- 3 And we, as children of this earth,
Can live with kindness, truth, and worth;
For every life, both young and old
shines with a light of its own gold.
- 4 When we seek peace in all we do,
May heart and word be brave and true;
Grant us the strength to walk each day
with open hands along the way.
- 5 And when our path brings grief or loss,
When fears arise or burdens cross,
Still teach us gently, through it all
to rise with courage when we fall.
- 6 So may we stand in unity,
With open hearts and harmony;
And build a world where all belong
in justice, friendship, peace, and song.

✦ IN JUSTICE, FRIENDSHIP, PEACE, AND SONG ✦

Nicky Morton,
Organist & Director
of Music and
Louis Fields,
Assistant Organist,
were asked by the
Churches Trust to
compose a piece of
music for their
Peace Plus Project.
The project was
aimed at
celebrating the life
of Mrs Cecil Frances
Alexander.

They took a setting
of Cecil Frances's
words that hadn't
been set to music
yet - and composed
a hymn tune for
them.

This was performed
by the Cathedral
Boy & Girl
Choristers at a
Celebration of Cecil
Frances Alexander,
in Christ Church,
Strabane, on Friday
17th April 2026.





Saint Columba's Cathedral

CHOIR

SUNDAY 3RD

5th Sunday of Easter
*Boys Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

11.00

Hymns
Setting
Motet

CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)

557, 425, 657
Mathias Communion Setting III
Rutter Clare Benediction

Cathedral Ensemble

16.00

Hymns

COMPLINE

66, 73

SATURDAY 9th

19.30

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS FROM NORTH CAROLINE, USA

Includes music by John Tavener,
Eric Whitacre, Thomas Tallis, John Rutter,
Dolly Parton and more.

SUNDAY 10TH

Rogation Sunday
*Girl Choristers and
Lay Clerks*

11.00

Hymns
Setting
Motet

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

398, 422, 581
Sumsion Communion Setting in F
Harris Come down O love divine

*Boy and Girl
Choristers
and Lay Clerks*

16.00

Hymns
Responses
Psalm
Canticles
Anthem

CHORAL EVENSONG

6, 467
Stewart
36: 5-10
Stanford Evening Canticles in C
Rutter All things bright and beautiful

THURSDAY 14TH

Ascension Day
*Boys Choristers
And Lay Clerks*

19.30

Hymns
Setting
Motet

CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)

285, 431, 634
Darke Communion Setting in F
Mendelssohn Above all praise

Service & Music List

May 2026

SUNDAY 17TH **11.00** **FAMILY SERVICE**
7th Sunday of Easter Hymns 259, 509, 443, 318
Boy Choristers Psalm Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35
And Lay Clerks Anthem Gibbons *Almighty and everlasting Lord*

Cathedral Lay Clerks **16.00** **CHORAL EVENSONG**
Hymns 491, 323
Responses Plainsong
Psalm 47
Canticles Lees *in E minor*
Anthem Wood *View me Lord*

SUNDAY 24TH **11.00** **CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 1)**
Pentecost Sunday Hymns 305, 293, 325
Girls Choristers Setting Sarsteiner *Communion Setting*
And Lay Clerks Motet Stopford *O thou who camest from above*

Cathedral **16.00** **CHORAL EVENSONG**
Chamber Choir Hymns 522, 567
Responses Reading
Psalm 133
Canticles Wood *Evening Canticles in D*
Anthem Parry *My soul, there is a country*

SUNDAY 31ST **11.00** **CHORAL EUCHARIST (order 2)**
Trinity Sunday Hymns 321, 322, 6
Boy and Girl Setting Rawsthorne *Festival Eucharist*
Choristers Motet Tchaikovsky *Hymn to the Trinity*
and Lay Clerks

Boy and Girl **16.00** **MOTHER'S UNION FESTIVAL**
Choristers *Special order of service*
and Lay Clerks



We are delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to David Langan, who has been promoted to Head Chorister, Cantoris; to Cavan Wrighton, who advances to Deputy Head Chorister, Cantoris; and to Tom Fairclough, who has been appointed Corner Boy, Cantoris. All three boys were officially installed by the Reverend Canon John Merrick during Evensong on Easter Day - a truly proud moment for the boys and their families!

Louis and I would also like to warmly commend our talented Boy and Girl Choristers for their outstanding performances at the 'Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander Celebrated' Concert held at Christ Church, Strabane, on Friday, 17th April. The Choristers represented our Cathedral with great distinction, filling the venue with their beautiful singing. Louis and I were privileged to be invited to compose a hymn tune to one of Mrs. Alexander's lesser-known words which was performed by four different choirs at the concert. These words, we believe, have never been set to a hymn tune before. It was a wonderful opportunity to contribute, and we are grateful to the organisers for including us.

As we look forward to May, we are excited to continue our regular schedule of Sunday services, which will include a special Service of Confirmation. We extend our warmest wishes to all candidates preparing for this significant step in their faith journey.

We eagerly anticipate Sunday, 17th May, when several of our Boy Probationers will be promoted to full Choristers after completing their six-month probationary period. Keep a watchful eye - you won't want to miss this special milestone!

Be sure to look out for next month's magazine for exciting announcements, including the dates for the Cathedral Choirs' end-of-year BBQ - where our Boy & Girl Chorister of the Year will be revealed - as well as details of our upcoming Chorister Outing to Portrush.

Finally, Louis and I, along with the four Cathedral Choirs, send our prayerful good wishes to Rev. Nigel Cairns, our Dean-elect, in light of the recent announcement. Our thoughts are with Nigel, his wife Alison, their son Matthew, and daughter Megan as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.

Nicky (and Louis)

THANK YOU! 😊

Everyone who generously supported the retiring collection

for the Ulster Project candidate, on Sunday 26th April.

From Tristan Campbell and his family.

The next Men's Club meeting will take place in First Derry Presbyterian Church Lecture Hall on Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7.30pm.

Mr Brian Mitchel is our guest speaker.

The talk is entitled '**Emigration from the Port of Derry/Londonderry**'

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. *Michael*

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





CHOIR TABLE QUIZ ? NIGHT ?



BRIGADE CRICKET CLUB



FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2026



7.00pm for 7.30pm



TEAMS OF 4-6

★ *Great prizes to be won!* ★



£10 PER PERSON



CONTACT NICKY

07758 097290





Prayer Time

FOR CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

O God, who through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ did prepare the disciples for the coming of the Comforter; Make ready, we beseech you, the hearts and minds of your servants who at this time are seeking the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, that, drawing near with penitent and faithful hearts, they may be filled with the power of his divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROGATION DAYS

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, in whom we live, and move, and have our being; who does cause your sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain both upon the just and the unjust; We beseech you at this time favourably to behold your people who call upon you, and send your blessing down from heaven to give us a fruitful season; that, our hearts being continually filled with your goodness, we may evermore give thanks unto you in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE PARISH

Almighty God, we beseech you to bless this our parish. Forgive us our many and grievous sins. Draw us nearer to yourself, and cause true religion to increase and abound among us. Prosper the reading and preaching of your Word, and bless all the ministrations of your Church. Visit with your favour the schools and all who teach or learn there; and make us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of you and of your dear Son, whom to know is life eternal. Hear us for the sake of him who died for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Columb's Cathedral HONORARY BELLRINGERS

Could this be the right time to give bellringing a try?

With 2029 marking the 100th anniversary of the recasting of our cathedral bells (1929), we are beginning to build a team of **trained bellringers** to celebrate this special occasion.

We would love to welcome new members – no experience needed, just a willingness to learn!

TEACHING/PRACTICE SESSIONS



Saturdays: 13:30 – 15:00

Mondays: 19:30 – 21:00

Our traditional practice night is Monday, as registered with the IACR, but we can be flexible depending on availability.

GET IN TOUCH



Email: garth_bells@stcolumbs.net



Tel: 028 7134 5093

(leave a voicemail with your contact number)

JOIN US

Help us prepare for a **historic milestone** and become part of the **living tradition** of bellringing at St. Columb's Cathedral.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

Garth and the Ringers



The Men's Society meeting scheduled for April was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with another church event.

We are presently awaiting confirmation of a speaker for the May meeting and final details will be emailed to all members as soon as possible.

In June, we traditionally organise a day trip. This year, we aim to visit Donegal town, which will include a historical presentation and demonstration on the making of Magee tweed, as well as

potential visits to the Donegal Railway Museum and the castle. Dinner will be arranged for the return journey. The outing is scheduled for Wednesday, 17th June, with further details to be provided in due course.

Robert



All across the world, churches are following in the footsteps of Jesus as they work to defeat leprosy and transform the lives of those affected by the disease. Some of these churches are supporting our work in leprosy endemic countries through referrals and efforts towards social inclusion, making our community intervention: sustainable and impactful.

Other churches are supporting this work through generous donations and prayer. Churches are one of our most important partners and are integral to our work. In the aftermath of the 2025 earthquake in Myanmar, it was churches that worked with us to provide a lifeline to communities that were not being reached by humanitarian efforts. In Bangladesh, churches are reaching out to isolated villages in the tea plantations, in DR Congo ulcer patients are treated at low-cost, church-managed hospitals, and in Mozambique churches are supporting awareness and inclusion. Churches are playing a role across all of our countries. We are grateful for all of these church partners, who together are the body of Christ, serving persons affected by leprosy in the modern day.

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 April was £570.60 received from fourteen contributors. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause and have not already done so, leprosy boxes are available at the cathedral.



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.**

Bible Readings for May 2026

| Date | Bible reading | Title |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st May | 1 Timothy 6 : 11 – 16 | You can do it |
| 2 nd May | 1 Timothy 6 : 17 – 21 | Entrusted to you |
| 3 rd May | Psalms 84 | A longing satisfied |
| 4 th May | Jeremiah 11 | Gotta serve somebody |
| 5 th May | Jeremiah 12 | What do we want? Justice ! |
| 6 th May | Jeremiah 13 : 1 – 17 | Pride comes before a fall |
| 7 th May | Jeremiah 17 : 1 – 18 | The heart of the matter |
| 8 th May | Jeremiah 18 : 1 – 18 | Worse than you think |
| 9 th May | Jeremiah 19 | Justice can be hard |
| 10 th May | Psalms 85 | We need the church |
| 11 th May | Jeremiah 20 | How to suffer suffering |
| 12 th May | Jeremiah 23 : 1 – 8 | We need a leader |
| 13 th May | Jeremiah 23 : 9 – 32 | Hot truth or cold comfort |
| 14 th May | Jeremiah 26 | Lending your voice |
| 15 th May | Jeremiah 29 : 1 – 14 | Plans to prosper! |
| 16 th May | Jeremiah 30 | Coming home |
| 17 th May | Psalms 86 | A heart check |
| 18 th May | Matthew 9 : 14 – 17 | Friendly fire |
| 19 th May | Matthew 9 : 18 – 26 | Unworthy to newsworthy |
| 20 th May | Matthew 9 : 27 – 34 | The blind see |
| 21 st May | Matthew 9 : 35 – 10 : 4 | Harassed and helpless |
| 22 nd May | Matthew 10 : 5 – 15 | Trust and obey |
| 23 rd May | Matthew 10 : 16 – 31 | Sheep among wolves |
| 24 th May | John 14 : 15 -27 | Truth and life |
| 25 th May | Matthew 10 : 32 – 42 | Who comes first? |
| 26 th May | Matthew 11 : 1 – 19 | Friendly fire ---again |
| 27 th May | Matthew 11: 20 – 30 | Rejection and rest |
| 28 th May | Matthew 12 : 1 -21 | Lord of the Sabbath |
| 29 th May | Matthew 12 : 22 – 37 | Houses and hearts |
| 30 th May | Matthew 12 : 38 – 50 | Something greater |
| 31 st May | Psalms 87 | Born in Zion |

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

THE CATHEDRAL MAGAZINE

Notes and Articles for the June 2026 edition
of the Cathedral Magazine are due by SUNDAY 31st May 2026

THE SELECT VESTRY

A meeting of the Select Vestry will be held in The Diocesan Centre, London Street,
Londonderry on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Eulogy for John George (Johnny) McClelland 3rd April 2026

We are gathered here this afternoon to say an earthly farewell to John George (Johnny) McClelland of paramount importance however is our desire to support you, John's family and friends, as you come to terms with the loss of a much loved brother, brother in law, uncle and friend with whom you have shared your earthly pilgrimage. We share your sadness and your emptiness as you come to terms with the realization that you will no longer have his love and guidance surrounding you.

John had not enjoyed good health in recent times. He missed the love and encouragement of his late wife Carmel whose demise, a few short years ago, left a void in his life which nothing could possibly fill given their many years of happy marriage, a union filled with love, empathy and a desire to share life's journey in every facet of their lives.

John was born in August 1935 the eldest child of John and Louise McClelland of 17 Cliftonville Avenue, Londonderry. He was predeceased by his sister Irene and is survived by his brothers Fred and Ronald. He was educated at Rosstown Primary School leaving there aged 15 when he joined his Father in the family milk round remaining there until the day the daily 'pinta' was no longer delivered to the doorstep.

In his formative years he served as a choirboy in St Columba's Cathedral Choir where the family worshipped week by week.

John's siblings held him in high regard aspiring to model their own lives by his standards and example looking to him for moral guidance, advice and encouragement. John neither smoked nor consumed alcohol and even in his adulthood his mother would describe him as 'a good boy' He had many interests in life; he was particularly interested in aeroplanes building quite a few models leading ultimately to a desire to fly real aeroplanes.

He travelled to Newtownards Flying Club where his instructor was Tubby Dash, a World War 2 R.A.F. Spitfire Pilot. The first plane he learnt to fly was a Tiger Moth.

Later with some friends he formed Eglinton Flying Club, teaching many locals the art of flying. I understand that on one occasion when he and Carmel were down at Benone he landed his plane on the beach, which was not received favourably by the authorities.

Vintage cars were another of his passions. He was a member of the Strabane Classic Car Club where he thoroughly enjoyed the Club outings with Johnny driving his 1956 Vauxhall Cresta and Carmel driving the MGB Sports Car. Their love of driving and touring saw them spending many happy days together touring around Donegal, Antrim, Sligo and Scotland in their Motorhome.

Throughout their lives John and Carmel loved their dogs, from Mactavish, Boomerang, Misty and Mitzi and last but not least Poppy all fed on Marks and Spencer chicken and this love of dogs extended to the entire animal kingdom a most admirable trait not always to be found among we humans.

Johnny was also an accomplished artist in both water and oil paints. He enjoyed painting subjects and scenes on smooth stones as gifts for family and friends.

John passed away on Good Friday morning in Altnagelvin Hospital and while there is never an appropriate time to depart this life to do so on Good Friday is particularly poignant given it was on that day our Saviour Jesus Christ died on the Cross for our sins and more importantly our redemption. The resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Day means that we can say with real confidence 'O death where is thy sting, O grave where is thy victory'.

As Christians we can be assured that death is not an end but the beginning of a greater life in the nearer presence of God where we will be reunited with loved ones whom we knew in this life yet see no longer and John is now reunited with as he put it "the two great women in my life, my mother and Carmel" and with all his forbears. This is what Christ achieved on that Cross at Golgotha on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Today, however, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to you his family in your loss especially to you Ronnie and your family, to you Fred and your family, to Irene's family and to Carmel's entire family circle. Please be assured that you are all in our prayers, praying that you will know God's comfort and love in your lives not only today but also in the lonely days, months and years that lie ahead.

Eulogy for Joseph (Joe) McIntyre

17th April 2026

Delivered in his own home

We are gathered here today in this family home to say an earthly farewell to a much-loved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and brother in law. I feel it is very fitting that this service of thanksgiving and commemoration takes place here in number 12, Adelaide Avenue a home where you will all have so many happy memories of your times together as a family. A home full of love, concern, nurture, security and laughter. In the midst of your sadness and sense of loss today hold onto and treasure those memories because they will never fade and will encourage you as you continue your journey in life.

Joseph (Joe) McIntyre was born in 1945 a son to Joseph and Martha McIntyre of Bishop Street in this city. The family moved to Broadway where Joe grew up with his brothers and sisters. He attended the Christian Brothers School, he did not, however, enjoy the strict code of discipline governing life in the school.

He met Elaine in 1967 when they were both working in the Broomhill Hotel on the Limavady Road. They quickly fell in love and were married in St. Aengus' Church, Burt followed by a blessing in St. Columb's Cathedral on St. Valentine's Day 1969 and to quote the family 'Dad was ever the romantic' They were blessed with two children Jayson born in 1973 and Sandra in 1978.

Joe had a diverse working life, starting out as a message boy and he enjoyed recounting the many hours spent transversing the city delivering messages. As I have already mentioned he worked in hospitality and later found employment in engineering as a lathe operator at Molins Engineering later renamed Maydown Precision Engineering.

It was while working here that he was introduced to the game of golf through a Work's Society. He was to become an avid and successful golfer joining City of Derry Golf Club representing the Club on several teams playing against teams from all over the Island of Ireland. The pinnacle of his career came in 1987 when he won the Junior Scratch Cup and the highly coveted Club Championship.

On his retirement he was offered a new sense of purpose and indeed zeal for life with his grandchild Jack. It has to be said that this new sense of purpose and enthusiasm was shared with Elaine. This sense of outreach and love, in recent years, was extended to Charlie and Millie. The arrival of Ruby, a great grandchild in the past year brought great joy and excitement for Joe and Elaine.

Joe and Elaine looked forward to their Saturday outings to the Causeway Coast despite the fact that they always brought their flask of tea and sandwiches they somehow managed to squeeze in a Fish Supper and I can vouch for this because in conversation with Elaine I discovered that she was an expert on where the best fish and chips were to be had on the North Coast.

Joe had a great sense of humour which I feel is an admirable quality in anyone, I find that it can take the tension out of many difficult scenarios and enable people to relax and enjoy each other's company. As an individual Joe did not make many demands on life other than the company, love and support of his family and perhaps the occasional 'sneaky' cigarette. Today you, Joe's family, are saddened by his passing, you may be feeling "how will we cope without his love and support?" This will be difficult, however, as I said at the outset of this address, treasure the memories, remember his words of wisdom and love, follow his example and believe in God and His love for all His children secure in the knowledge that one day we will be reunited with those whom you loved in this life yet see no longer where there will be no more beginnings or endings but one perfect eternity with all God's saints in the mansion that Jesus Christ promised and has created for all his disciples.

Saint Columb's Cathedral

Visitor Opening Times – Summer 2026

Saint Columb's Cathedral will re-open to visitors on
Wednesday 1st April 2026



1st April – 30th June | Mon–Sat | 10:00am – 3:00pm

1st July – 31st August | Mon–Sat | 10:00am – 4:00pm

1st – 30th September | Mon–Sat | 10:00am – 3:00pm

Opening times are subject to change depending on circumstances

With Heartfelt Sympathy

The death has occurred of John George (Johnny) McClelland, husband of the late Carmel, on Friday 3rd April 2026, 129 Rosstown Road. We extend our sympathy to his brothers Fred, Ronald, sisters-in-law of Valerie, Jennifer, Leslie to his many nieces and nephews.

The death has occurred of Joe McIntyre, 12 Adelaide Avenue. We extend our sympathy to his wife Elaine, children Jayson and Sandra. Daughter-in-law Leigh, grandchildren Jack, Charlie, Millie, great grandchild Ruby and the entire McIntyre family circle.

The death has occurred of Reverend Canon W. Brian Johnston, Brookhill House, Coleraine (former Canon of St Columb's Cathedral). We extend our sympathy to his wife Lyn; children Chris, Steve, Ruth, sister Barbara, father-in-law of Lolly, Liz, Parham; grandfather of Max, Lola, Elsie, Nilo, Teo and the entire Johnston family circle.

Parish Register

Holy Matrimony

“Those whom God hath joined together let no one put asunder.”

Thursday 9th April 2026
Friday 10th April 2026

Catherine Taylor and Jack Park
Lydia Love and Andrew McMullan

Burial

Friday 3rd April 2026
Friday 17th April 2026

“The Lord is my Shepherd.”
John George (Johnny) McClelland
Joseph (Joe) McIntyre



In memory of the late Professor Tom Fraser

From Mrs Christine Eastwood
From the Flower Arrangers c/o Mrs Mary Wilson
From Jane Hendrick, Portballintrae

In memory of our good friend Tom Fraser

From Pearl & Bill Woodburn

In memory of my brother John G McClelland

From Fred & Valerie with added thanks to Canons Merrick & Peoples
for a wonderful funeral service and sympathy over this sad time
From Ronald & Jennifer McClelland

In memory of John McClelland

From Elizabeth Fielding
From George & Lila Lynne
From Mrs Helen Parke
From Linda McCallion, Coleraine
From Leslie Wallace, Limavady

In loving memory of Sarah Kathleen Hughes

From her husband Terry & family
From Garth Doherty

In loving memory of Joseph (Joe) McIntyre

From his wife Elaine
From his son Jayson & Leigh McIntyre & family
From his daughter Sandra & Jason Boyd
From his grandson Jack McIntyre

In memory of Joe McIntyre

From his brother & sister-in-law, James & Shirley McIntyre
From Muriel Hamilton
From the Dougherty family, Newbuildings
From his sister-in-law, Sandra Malcor

In memory of Rev Thomas Alexander Doherty

From his brother Garth

Birthday memories of my beloved husband, Roland Hughes

From his wife Joan

Thankoffering for Easter Holy Communion

From Mrs Helen Jones & Karen
From Mrs Oonagh Todd
From Nan Carson

Donation

From Ian & Pauline Peliow for use of the Cathedral for a Concert on 27th March 2026

Overall total £2,185.00

Dean Elect: The Reverend Nigel J Cairns
Priest in Charge: The Reverend Canon John Merrick
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 |
| | | (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

Organist & Director of Music

Mr Nicky Morton
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
treasurer@stcolumbs.net

Assistant Treasurer

Mr Alan Thompson 12 Torrens Avenue
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Miss Muriel Hamilton 28 Lansdowne Road
(All Donations/Thankofferings)

Parish Administrator

Robert McGonigle BEM
Tel: **07794666754**

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Office Hours

(Tuesday & Thursday 2pm-6pm)

Parish Secretary/Webmaster

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Email: linda@stcolumbs.net

Hon Secretary

Ms Jacqui Armstrong
Email: vestrysecretary@stcolumbs.net

Sunday School Superintendent

Mrs Irene Hewitt BEM
Email: irenechewitt@outlook.com

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

JUNE 2026 Magazine

**Notes / Articles for the June edition of the Cathedral Magazine
are due by SUNDAY 31st May 2026**

The Publication will be available from SUNDAY 7th JUNE