



Fr Dermot McCaul SMA (left), Very Rev. Fr François du Penhoat, Superior General of the Society of African Missions (centre), and Archbishop Eamon Martin (right). Photo: Mark Byrne.

A century of the SMA at Dromantine

In September 2026 the Society of African Missions (SMA) celebrated a century at Dromantine.

The centenary celebrations began with a Mass of gratitude and thanksgiving in Newry Cathedral on Saturday 19th September at 3.00pm with music by the cathedral choir.

The main Celebrant of the Mass was Very Rev. Fr François du Penhoat, Superior General of the Society of African Missions. Fr Michael McCabe SMA, was the homilist. Fr Michael, a native of County Cavan, was a member of the last class to be ordained from Dromantine in 1971.

Fr Malachy Flanagan SMA (Provincial Leader of the Irish Province), Archbishop Eamon Martin, Cardinal Sean Brady, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA (Archbishop of Cashel & Emly), Bishop Martin Hayes (Bishop of Kilmore), Bishop John McAreavey (Bishop Emeritus of Dromore),

Bishop Patrick Harrington SMA (Bishop Emeritus of Lodwar), and Abbot Mark Ephrem (Holy Cross, Rostrevor) joined many other priests, religious, and nuns at the Mass.

Over the past 100 years, since Most Rev Dr Edward Mulhern, Bishop of Dromore (April 1916 - August 1943), welcomed the SMA to the Diocese of Dromore, 587 SMA members were ordained to the priesthood at Newry Cathedral.

In his remarks at the close of Mass, Archbishop Eamon Martin said:

"I especially want to recognise today the tremendous contribution that you, the SMA Fathers, have made and continue to make to the Diocese of Dromore: your significant pastoral assistance to our parishes surrounding Dromantine, your excellent
Continues overleaf.

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...and much more.

What's in a name?

Our new name, 'Beo' (Irish for 'Alive'), reflects the mission of this newsletter: to highlight the faith and vitality of parish communities across the Diocese of Dromore.



Conference and Retreat centre, your highly appreciated summer camps for young people, and your prayerful presence at the heart of our diocese. But above all, I thank you for your unstinting witness to the centrality of mission in the life of the Church."

Reflecting on the future, Archbishop Eamon said:

"Today's celebration is a beautiful reminder... of what the late Pope Francis used to say: that the Church should put everything she does in a 'missionary key', because a Church which is turned in on itself, which keeps Jesus Christ shut up inside herself and doesn't let Him out — such a Church becomes self-referential and gets sick."

Archbishop Eamon continued:

"Today is a reminder not to forget our missionary genes. It's a call that we might continue to dare to hope, to look to the future with courage and trust in God, and renew our commitment to fanning into a flame the gifts of the Spirit that are urging us to conversion and new life for the Church in Ireland."

Fr François du Penhoat SMA, Superior General, said:

"I come from Brittany, where Irish monks brought the Gospel to our people quite a number of centuries ago. Later on, many Irish missionaries went throughout the world, especially in Africa. I myself, and my African confrères, can be very grateful to the Church in Ireland."

Fr François continued:

"Without the generous support of the Irish Church, the SMA might not have become the important Society they are today in Ireland. I thank God for this collaboration."



Photographs: The assembled clergy and nuns who participated in the Mass (top). Photo courtesy of SMA, Dromantine. Other photos: Mark Byrne.

Fr François concluded:

"I am convinced that, sooner or later, missionaries will again be sent from this country to serve abroad. May Dromantine continue to be a vital place for this renewed missionary impulse."

You can watch a video on the history of Dromantine here: https://youtu.be/_XJjs3UVTTU?si=H7oJEKhEtxGIVE-O

Archbishop Eamon's remarks in full: <https://youtu.be/kJnE9Moe6os?si=UCdLUcNX88ymtrhN>

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Dromore Diocesan Newsletter.

I would like to begin by remembering our esteemed colleague on the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), Paula Jordan, whose passing continues to be deeply felt across our diocesan family and her home parish of Tullylish. At our April meeting, members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council shared stories and memories of Paula, each one a testament to her kindness, dedication, and the joy she brought to our work together. Those who attended her funeral spoke of the beautiful celebration of her life, led with great compassion by Fr Des Loughran. We continue to hold Paula's parents, her sister Lynn (also a member of the DPC) and her brother-in-law Paul in our prayers, mindful of the depth of their loss.

In March, several members of the DPC attended the Archdiocese of Armagh Congress on Youth, Family and Faith as fraternal delegates. The weekend opened with an uplifting concert on Friday evening, followed by keynote presentations on Saturday and collaborative sessions on Sunday. The outcomes and resources from the Congress have since been shared, and we encourage you to explore the material and reflect on its relevance for our own diocesan journey. www.armaghprays.com

This year has been a busy and grace-filled one so far. In June, many joined us online for our beautiful Triduum to the Sacred Heart, and we are grateful for the prayerful participation from across the Diocese. As we continue to work together, we have taken time to reflect on all that is happening throughout our parishes, and there remains a richness of prayer, service, and community spirit that continues to inspire and encourage us.

During September and early October, we will participate in five Pastoral Area Gatherings, bringing together clergy, members of Parish Pastoral Councils, and active parishioners. These gatherings will create a space for meaningful dialogue, allowing parishes to share their experiences and discern where they are seeing vitality, growth, and hope in their communities. They will also provide an opportunity to listen deeply to one another and gather insights and feedback from across the diocese as we continue our journey together.

Looking ahead, the Second National Synodal Assembly will take place on 17 October 2026, with seven representatives from our Diocese participating. Following on from our original question "What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?" seven priority areas were discerned by the People of God across Ireland. These point to where we are being called to focus: belonging, co-responsibility and lay ministry, faith formation and catechesis, family, healing, women, and young people.

The National Synodal website continues to offer a wealth of information and resources, and we encourage everyone to keep up to date with the latest developments including news on the Working Groups of the Irish Synodal Pathways. <https://synod.ie>

As we move into autumn and return to the rhythm of school and parish life, may this season bring renewed energy, gratitude, and hope. May we continue to walk together in faith, supporting one another and responding generously to God's call in our communities. Every blessing,

Mrs Patricia Maguire
Diocesan Pastoral Council Chairperson



In Memory of Miss Paula Jordan MBE

It was with profound sadness that we, the members of the Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council, learned of the passing of Miss Paula Jordan.



Paula died on April 16th 2026, peacefully after a short illness at Craigavon Area Hospital, surrounded by her loving family.

Paula was a most valued member of the Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council, a Diocesan Safeguarding Representative, and a very active parishioner of Tullylish Parish.

Paula was also a hugely respected teacher and former principal of Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon.

Paula was laid to rest after a Requiem Mass on Sunday 19th April at the Church of Ss. Patrick & Colman (Parish of Tullylish) in her native Laurencetown, County Down.

Paula is dearly missed by the members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council; her loss is felt deeply across our entire team.

Please join us in keeping Paula's parents, Joe and Nora, her sister Lynn and her brother-in-law Paul, and all her family and friends in your prayers.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

Snapshot from the Seminary

By Mark McDonnell, third-year seminarian at Maynooth

As I return to Maynooth for my third year of formation for priesthood for the Diocese of Dromore, I have a chance to reflect on the summer that's just been. I was particularly conscious this summer of how seminarians have the opportunity to meet all sorts of people. **I am so often moved and challenged by how people respond when they hear that I am on this journey.** It can sometimes feel like I am suffering from 'imposter syndrome' — am I really able to be a priest, a seminarian, a disciple? I think that it is right that I am challenged by these identities; it should cause me to reflect on who I am before God and who I am before others. In both cases, a humbling experience.

One of the more common questions I received is why it takes the best part of seven years to be formed as a priest — surely one could learn to say Mass quicker than that! This view is informed, understandably, by the perception that the ministerial priesthood is something for which one studies — think of the familiar title of 'student for the priesthood'. Of course, it is true that the seminarian undertakes focussed academic studies in fields such as scripture, Church history and law, ethics, music, but before that he studies philosophy which helps shape his manner of thinking and develops his ability to critically assess the world around him. Philosophy gives me a means to ground my faith within the realm of reason and understand different views of the world. As challenging as some of the academic concepts can be, that's the easy part!

Far from formation being an academic exercise, it is also profoundly human, spiritual and pastoral. I live in a community of almost 40 seminarians at Maynooth; we pray together every day, share meals and engage in moments of pastoral outreach. These experiences teach me just as much, if not more about myself, about others and about God than any one lecture can! This holistic model of formation is reflected in our programme at Maynooth. It is a careful balance of common prayer, especially the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass, community time, pastoral engagements and retreats. For example, last year I visited a nursing home near Maynooth each week to be with the residents; this year I will be helping at a hostel for homeless men. All of this takes time. Pope Leo appositely stated in a recent address that:

"The heart of the seminary experience lies in learning to be with the Master, the Lord Jesus... cultivated in silence and prayer, which often occurs despite the sometimes deafening noise of the world." - Pope Leo XIV, private audience with seminarians at the Vatican. 3rd Sept, 2026.

I feel it is also important to recognise that I do not take for granted ordination to priesthood. I am currently at the stage of formation called discipleship — a time when



Photograph: Mark McDonnell, third-year seminarian at Maynooth.

I am listening and following the Lord to see where he is calling me. For now, I think that is to priesthood. **I am so grateful for the support that the whole Church in my home Diocese of Dromore provides for me.**

Please continue to pray for our seminarians, that we may keep listening to His quiet voice as we enter this next year of formation.

Dromore Vocations

If you would like to learn more about vocations to the priesthood for Dromore Diocese, please click here: www.dromorediocese.org/dromore-vocations

If you would like to learn more about vocations to the Permanent Diaconate for Dromore Diocese, please click here: www.dromorediocese.org/permanent-diaconate

Carlo Acutis Novena to Bring Nine Days of Faith, Prayer and Hope to Newry Cathedral

Newry Cathedral is preparing to welcome people from across the Diocese and beyond for a special nine-day Solemn Novena to Saint Carlo Acutis, taking place from **Sunday 4th October to Monday 12th October 2026**.

Under the theme “Growing in Faith”, the Novena will provide an opportunity for people of all ages to come together in prayer and to reflect on the remarkable example of Saint Carlo Acutis, whose short life demonstrated that holiness is possible in the midst of ordinary, modern life.

Carlo, who had a particular devotion to the Eucharist and Our Lady, also used his interest in technology to share his faith. His example has a special relevance for young people growing up in today’s digital world.

Each evening of the Novena will have a different speaker and theme:

Seamus Ong will open the Novena on Sunday 4th October with “Call to Holiness”, followed during the week by Ger Brennan on “The Eucharist”, Sister Karen Small on “Prayer and Friendship with Jesus”, Marie Patton on “The Rosary and Our Lady”, Fr Anthony Moffett on “Journey to the Priesthood”, Fiona McAlinden on “Mercy and Service”, and Allen Jophin on “Technology for Good”.

On Sunday 11th October, Fiona Rutherford will speak on “My Encounter with Jesus”, while James Doran will bring the Novena to its conclusion on Monday 12 October with the theme “Becoming Saints Together”.

A particularly special feature will be the presence of a first-class relic of Saint Carlo Acutis. At every Novena Mass, those attending will have an opportunity to receive a blessing with the relic. The Knights of St Columbanus will assist with its procession into the Cathedral.

People will also be invited to write their personal intentions on petition forms and place them in a special petition box during the Novena.

Schools and young people will play an important part throughout the nine days, with local schools participating in the liturgies.

SOLEMN NOVENA
TO
Carlo Acutis
— 4TH TO 12TH OCTOBER 2026 —

*“The more
eucharist we
receive, the
more we will
become like
Jesus.”
— Carlo Acutis*

Growing
IN
FAITH
+

NEWRY CATHEDRAL

AI Content

The Novena will culminate with a candlelight procession on Monday 12th October.

Masses will be celebrated at 7.30pm weekdays, 6.00pm on Saturday and 5.30pm on Sundays.

The invitation is open to everyone – regular churchgoers, families, young people and those who may simply be searching for renewed hope or a deeper sense of faith.

Saint Carlo famously said: “The closer we get to Jesus, the more we become like Him.” This October, Newry Cathedral invites everyone to come along and discover something of that journey for themselves. Visit the Newry Parish website for updates: www.newrycathedralparish.org



In Pictures: Dromore Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

15th–20th May 2026

Photos: (Clockwise from above) Archbishop Eamon leads the pilgrims in prayer, Brancardiers Brendan and Seán light the diocesan pilgrimage candle for all the people of Dromore diocese, Fr Brian with pilgrims from Donaghmore Parish, workers and clergy after Adoration and Benediction in the underground Basilica, Dromore banners and pilgrims lead the rosary procession on Saturday, some of our wonderful handmaids.

Photos courtesy of Fr Brian Fitzpatrick.



International Mass in Celebration of Richness and Diversity in St Peter's & St Paul's Parishes, Lurgan

Archbishop Eamon Martin presided at an International Mass at 12 noon on Sunday 14th June 2026 at St Peter's Church, Lurgan.

The theme for the day of celebrations was **"One God. Many Cultures. One World."**

Speaking at the Mass, Archbishop Eamon said:

"This International Mass is a sign of another possibility and faith-filled vision – of people of many nations, languages and cultures standing together before the same Lord, sharing the same Eucharist, and recognising one another not as strangers, but as brothers and sisters in Christ."

Archbishop Eamon continued:

"I am delighted that this parish has chosen to celebrate this International Mass today. It is an affirmation that we recognise the image of God and human dignity in every person."

After the Mass, the congregation was invited to enjoy an afternoon of music, storytelling, and food from around the globe.

Photos: Janet Forbes



Year of Celebrations to Mark Saval Parish Centenary

Saval Parish Pastoral Council has launched their Centenary Celebrations, marking the 100th anniversary of the foundation of their parish (1920–2020).

While the actual centennial year fell during the COVID-19 pandemic, the restrictions of that time meant it could not be celebrated at that time. Now, they look forward to coming together as One Parish Community – United in Faith to celebrate this significant milestone.

Over the coming year, parishioners, past and present, families, neighbours and friends are invited to participate in a series of special events celebrating a shared history, a vibrant community and an enduring faith.

The centenary programme began on Sunday 2nd August 2026 with the celebration of Mass at Crohill Mass Rock. A large congregation gathered in the beautiful August sunshine to participate in a joyous celebration and an expression of gratitude for their shared faith.

Further events include:

A Mass of Thanksgiving at 6pm on Saturday 17th October at St Colman's Church, Shinn.

A Mass of Remembrance (in association with Saval GAC) on Friday 20th November at Saval GAC.

Evenings of Reflection, Faith, and Friendship facilitated by the Sisters of St Clare, Glenvale on 28th November, 11th December, 12th February 2027, and 12th March 2027 at Glenvale Convent and Retreat Centre.

The celebrations will conclude on Sunday 25th April 2027 with a Centenary Mass celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin in St Joseph's Church, Sheeptown, followed by a parish celebration in St Colman's Primary School.

As the parish reflects on their journey from 1920 to 2020, they also look ahead with hope and confidence, giving thanks for those who built their parish and for all who continue to shape its future.

Saval Parish Pastoral Council invites you to join them throughout this special year as they celebrate faith, heritage and community together.

Dates, times and venues may be subject to change. For updates and further details, please visit the Saval parish website at www.savalparish.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/savalparish1



SAVAL PARISH CENTENARY

1920 – 2020

ONE PARISH COMMUNITY – UNITED IN FAITH

A YEAR OF FAITH, COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATION

Five special events will mark this important milestone in the life of our parish.

All parishioners, families and friends are warmly invited to take part.



1 CELEBRATING OUR PARISH HISTORY

*Theme: Traditional
Mass Rock Sunday.*



SUNDAY
2 AUGUST 2026



Celebrating Sunday Mass
10.30am at Crohill Mass Rock



2 CELEBRATING OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

*Theme: Mass
of Thanksgiving.
6pm.*



SATURDAY
17 OCTOBER 2026



St Colman's Church
Shinn



3 REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED FAMILY & FRIENDS

*In association with
Saval GAC*



FRIDAY
20 NOVEMBER 2026



Saval GAA Club
To coincide with the
Saval GAC Remembrance Mass



4 EVENINGS OF REFLECTION, FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP

with the Srs of St Clare, Glenvale



SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2026 – 2.00pm
Finding Our Way Through Grief



FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026 – 7.30pm
Preparing for the Beautiful Feast of Christmas



FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2027 – 7.30pm
A Special Evening for Young Parents



FRIDAY 12 MARCH 2027 – 7.30pm
Prayer and Pizza



5 THE FUTURE TOGETHER

*Theme: Building
Our Future*



SUNDAY
25 APRIL 2027



St Joseph's Church
Sheeptown
Centenary Mass with
Archbishop Eamon Martin
followed by Parish Celebration

*Let us celebrate our past with gratitude,
live our faith with joy and
build our future together.*

For updates and further details,
please see the parish bulletin, church noticeboards
or our parish website and social media pages.





Summer outing for Cathedral Junior Choir and Altar Servers

A longstanding tradition returned to the Newry Cathedral calendar on 29th August, as altar servers members of the junior choir, Fr Emmanuel Fasakin MSP, and Fr Anthony Moffett embarked upon an action-packed day out at Airtastic in Lisburn. After an energetic day of bowling and laser tag, the group enjoyed a celebratory meal complete with a special cake. Newry Parish extends its heartfelt thanks to those whose generous financial support made this memorable trip possible.



Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council Members 2026/27

Most Reverend Eamon Martin, Rev Pearse Thornbury, Ms Elizabeth Murray, Mrs Frances McNally, Fr Anthony Moffett, Mrs Patricia Maguire (Chair), Mrs Lynn Laverty, Mr Stephen Greene, Fr Brian Fitzpatrick, and Dr Mark Byrne.

Young volunteers at Knock Shrine

Photo: Archbishop Eamon (left) with young volunteers from Dromore and Mrs Frances McNally, Youth Director for Dromore (right).

Young people from Dromore Diocese volunteered during a number of weekends over the summer, including the annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday 26th July 2026. The day also marked the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The theme for the day was chosen by Pope Leo XIV: "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15).

Archbishop Eamon Martin, who presided at the Mass, said:

"Delighted to meet a fantastic group of young volunteers from the Diocese of Dromore who have been helping out at the shrine in Knock. They have made a wonderful impression. Congratulations!"

Comments from parents on Facebook:

"...it was a wonderful experience and they truly enjoyed."

"...loved being involved in the events especially the special Mass."



Return to Studies Mass at Newry Cathedral

Archbishop Eamon Martin presided at the 'Return to Studies Mass' for the diocese at Newry Cathedral on Sunday, 6th September, concelebrated by Fr. Anthony Moffett.

Students of all ages, from primary school children to those in further education, university, and training, gathered alongside their families to seek God's blessing for the new academic year.

Young people participated in the Liturgy of the Word and the Offertory Procession, while a vibrant choir of musicians and singers from across the Diocese brought a great sense of joyfulness to the Mass.

During the Mass, the congregation renewed their baptismal promises before Archbishop Eamon blessed them with Holy Water.

Mrs. Frances McNally, Diocesan Youth Director, in a brief speech at the end of Mass, thanked the young people for their inspiring participation and highlighted upcoming Diocesan Youth Commission initiatives.

Following the Mass, students enjoyed a complimentary treat from an ice-cream van outside the cathedral, while parents took advantage of discounted coffee and tray bakes.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council extends its best wishes to all students, teachers, classroom assistants and staff for a safe, blessed, and productive year ahead.

Check the diocesan website for details of upcoming Youth Commission events: www.dromorediocese.org or email youthdirector@dromorediocese.org

Photographs: Mark Byrne



150th Anniversary of Church of St John the Evangelist, Glenn



St John the Evangelist Church, Glenn, stands today as a testament to the deep and enduring faith of the local Catholic community, a faith whose roots stretch back long before the present church was built. The earliest Catholic presence in Glenn centred around a modest chapel and a parochial house constructed in 1848 under Bishop Michael Blake. Fathers Martin and Francis Ryan oversaw that early building work, providing a pastoral

home for priests and a spiritual gathering place for the people. These structures reveal that Glenn was already a vibrant Catholic community, quietly nurturing its faith in the decades before the larger church was envisioned.

The foundation stone of the present St John the Evangelist Church was laid on 26th May 1863, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the religious life of the area. The people of Glenn, with determination and devotion, undertook the significant task of raising a church that would reflect their commitment to God and to one another. The interior works progressed steadily, and by 1875 the church was fully completed. It was solemnly dedicated on 22nd October 1876, during the episcopacy of Most Rev. Dr Leahy, with Very Rev. F. McLaughlin serving as parish priest. Their leadership helped shape the spiritual identity of the parish during a time of growth and renewed confidence.

Within the altar lie relics that deepen the sacredness of the church: those of St Oliver Plunkett, Martyr, and St Bernadette Soubirous. These holy relics connect Glenn to the wider story of the Church's saints and martyrs. A medal of St Maximilian Kolbe, canonised on 10th October 1982, was later added during the renovation of that same year, further enriching the devotional heritage of the parish.

The Stations of the Cross, installed in 1879, became a cherished feature of the church's interior, guiding generations of parishioners in prayerful reflection on the Passion of Christ. Over time, the church continued to evolve. Major renovations in 1982 and again in 1995 ensured that the building remained both structurally sound and liturgically fitting for modern worship. Today, St John the Evangelist Church stands proudly as one of the two churches of Donaghmore Parish in the Diocese of Dromore.

A historical reminder of the earlier 1848 church remains in the form of a one-armed granite cross, now positioned beside the present building—a quiet witness to the faith of those who came before.

To mark this rich heritage, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday, 18th October 2026 at 10am, presided over by Archbishop Eamon Martin, giving thanks for the generations who built, cherished, and sustained this beloved church.



Photographs: The original granite cross (above), and the original Baptismal Font (below). Courtesy of Donaghmore Parish.





Working Document for National Synodal Assembly now available

The Irish National Synodal Assembly will take place on Saturday 17th October 2026.

Nominated delegates are being asked to engage carefully and prayerfully with the Working Document entitled “Is not this what God asks of you?” in advance to reflect on the proposals it contains. This is not a document for Assembly delegates only. Everyone is warmly invited to read it, pray with it, and reflect on the document.

Download your copy here: <https://synod.ie/working-document-for-the-national-synodal-assembly-2026-published/>

Nominated delegates from Dromore: Archbishop Eamon Martin, Fr Brian Fitzpatrick, Mrs Patricia Maguire, Mr Stephen Greene, Mrs Frances McNally, Deacon Pearse Thornbury, Ms Lisa Murray, and Dr. Mark Byrne.

These delegates have previously participated in local, national, and/or international synodal events.

“Is not this what God asks of you?”

(MICAH 6:8)

Working Document for the
Irish National Synodal Assembly

17th October 2026

Gormanston
Co. Meath



An Exciting Time to Belong to Newry Cathedral Parish

Article by Mrs Kathleen O'Hare, Chair of Newry Parish Pastoral Council

Imagine this... Imagine a Cathedral Parish where everyone feels there is a place for them. A parish where young people don't simply attend, but participate, contribute ideas, take responsibility and help shape its future. A parish where older generations share their experience, newcomers are warmly welcomed, families feel supported, and people with additional needs know that they truly belong.

Imagine a Cathedral alive not only on Sundays, but throughout the week – with prayer, music, learning, volunteering, friendship, outreach and service. We don't have to simply imagine it. We can build it.

At the heart of Newry stands the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Colman. But at the heart of our Cathedral are its people. As we look towards the Cathedral's bicentenary in 2029, we have an extraordinary opportunity to renew parish life around three simple ideas: involvement, inclusion and participation.

The upcoming Novena to Saint Carlo Acutis, 4th–12th October, offers us a glimpse of what this can mean. For nine special days, people from near and far will come together for prayer, reflection and celebration. Different generations will meet, visitors will be welcomed and faith will become visible throughout our city.

But imagine if that spirit continued throughout the year. Imagine an A–Z of parish life, with more than 26 groups,

ministries and initiatives offering different ways for people to become involved. Some might be drawn to prayer through Lectio Divina, Bible Study, the Padre Pio Prayer Group or other devotional groups. Others might serve through the Bereavement Ministry, Baptism Group, Eucharistic Ministers, SEND Group, Lourdes Committee or St Vincent de Paul.

Some may want to help with fundraising (and we have just been successful in our bid for Lottery funding), concerts, the Cathedral Garden, guided tours, communications or our Audio-Visual and Digital Ministry. Others may discover faith afresh through the Sycamore Programme, while our young people could bring completely new ideas that we have not yet imagined.

We don't have to do everything at once. Renewal can begin with one invitation, one volunteer, one new idea and one person deciding: I would like to be part of this.

Our magnificent Cathedral was handed to us through the faith, sacrifice and generosity of generations before us. As we approach 2029, our challenge is not simply to preserve the building they gave us, but to build the living community that will carry it into its third century.

So perhaps the invitation is very simple: Don't just come to your Cathedral. Become part of it. Imagine what we could build together.

The Family Mass

at St Pauls



Children's Liturgy Group every Sunday at
10:30am

Family Mass returns at St Paul's Church, Lurgan

The weekly Family Mass at St Paul's Church, Lurgan, returned after the summer break on Sunday 13th September. **All families are warmly invited to attend on Sundays at 10.30am.**

The weekly Family Mass offers a lively, welcoming space where children actively participate by reading simplified scripture, leading prayers, carrying the Offertory gifts, and joining the priest on the Altar for the Our Father. The parish is also blessed with a wonderfully talented children's choir, featuring vocal soloists, Irish song, tin whistle, flute, and organ accompaniment.

We want to celebrate your good news

What we're looking for: good news stories, recent or upcoming events, community milestones, parish pastoral council initiatives, or heartwarming moments.

Articles should be 450 words or less, written without heavy reliance on AI (see below), and ideally accompanied by relevant photos or graphics.

How to submit: please email the editor, Mark Byrne, at markgbyrne@gmail.com to propose articles for publication.

The deadline for the submission of articles for the Advent 2026 Edition is Monday, 16th November 2026.



The publisher (Dromore Diocesan Pastoral Council) has not used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to produce articles or photographs for this newsletter. This publication may include AI-generated graphics from the publisher and/or contributors. For transparency, these are labelled with the 'AI Content' logo (above left). Contributors are asked to avoid heavy reliance on AI to produce text for articles. Using AI for spelling and grammar checks is permissible. AI-generated or altered photos will not be published. Contributors are asked to identify if, where and how AI was used when submitting content.



Apostolic Blessing for Rosaleen

Congratulations to Mrs Rosaleen Gartland, Tullyconnaught (Corbet), who celebrated her centenary birthday in August with a Mass of Thanksgiving in Saint Therese's Church, Banbridge. Rosaleen is pictured above with Archbishop Eamon, holding the Apostolic Blessing certificate that she received from Pope Leo XIV.

Photo courtesy of Seapatricks Parish on Facebook.