

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Two Caravaggios in Belfast

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Two Caravaggios in Belfast

Two masterpieces by the painter Caravaggio are set for a rare reunion at the Ulster Museum in Belfast.

The Supper at Emmaus and The Taking of Christ, painted in 1601 and 1602 respectively by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, have rarely been seen together since the first quarter of the 17th century.

The reunion comes thanks to the National Treasures project, which will see The Supper at Emmaus loaned to the

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Ulster Museum, while the Jesuit Community in Dublin, with the support of the National Gallery of Ireland, will facilitate the loan of *The Taking of Christ*.

The National Gallery developed the National Treasures programme as part of a series of events to mark its bicentenary and bring masterpieces across the UK for wider audiences to enjoy.

As part of National Treasures, the National Gallery in London's bicentenary celebrations, the Ulster Museum will host Caravaggio's *'The Supper at Emmaus'* (1601) from the Gallery, in a special exhibition this May which will now include *'The Taking of Christ'* (1602), also painted by Caravaggio, on loan from the Jesuit Community in Dublin, with the support of the National Gallery of Ireland, making this a genuine 'once in a lifetime' and rare experience to witness both paintings together again!

The exhibition will open at the Ulster Museum on 10th May and is sponsored by EY.

It marks a significant moment not only for the museum but also for Northern Ireland. Among the 12 museums and galleries selected across the UK to showcase masterpieces from the National Gallery's renowned collection - many of which have never left the Gallery until now - the Ulster Museum is the sole institution representing Northern Ireland in the National Treasures project.

Anne Stewart, senior curator of art at National Museums NI, said announcing the exhibition in the lead-up to Easter "holds profound meaning".

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“The Taking of Christ portrays the arrest of Christ after Judas identifies him with a kiss, while The Supper at Emmaus captures the initial recognition of Christ by two disciples following the crucifixion and resurrection,” she said.

“The connection between the two Caravaggio paintings is remarkable.

“Both were painted for the same patron, Ciriaco Mattei, and originally displayed in the same family palace in Rome.

“Reuniting Caravaggio's The Supper at Emmaus and The Taking of Christ is a highly ambitious and unusual event.

“Both paintings very rarely travel and they have hardly ever been seen together since the first quarter of the 17th century.

“We are truly honoured and grateful to the National Gallery, the National Gallery of Ireland and the Jesuit Community in Dublin for allowing us the opportunity to provide the public with a rare chance to access these masterpieces.”

Kathryn Thomson, chief executive of National Museums NI, said: “This is a wonderful example of bringing together strong east/west and north/south partnerships at the same time, and we are extremely grateful to colleagues in both London and Dublin who have helped make this happen.”

The two artworks will be on display at the Ulster Museum from Friday, May 10.

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Read more about this exhibition spectacular:

<https://www.ulstermuseum.org/news/national-treasures-caravaggio-belfast>

Image credits: Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, 1571-1610, The Supper at Emmaus, 1601. Presented by the Hon. George Vernon, 1839 © The National Gallery, London.

Caravaggio (Michelangelo Merisi da) (1571-1610), The Taking of Christ, 1602. On indefinite loan to the National Gallery of Ireland from the Jesuit Community, Leeson St, Dublin, who acknowledge the kind generosity of the late Dr Marie Lea-Wilson, 1992. Image, National Gallery of Ireland.

News

Portadown Christian Aid lunch next Wednesday

Christian Aid are appealing for support for their monthly lunch in Portadown on Wednesday next, April 10.

The venue is the Armagh Road Presbyterian Church hall and the home-made soup, bread and cheese lunch will be served from noon till 1.30pm.

The minimum cost is £3 and organiser Mrs Moyra Stirling said: "With so many conflicts throughout the world the need for Christian Aid has never been greater."

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Hamas attack of October 7 turned life upside down - Rector of Ramallah

On the Church Times podcast this week, the Rector of St Andrew's, Ramallah, the Revd Fadi Diab, is interviewed by Francis Martin.

Fr Diab was in the UK last week, hosted by Friends of the Holy Land, an ecumenical organisation whose volunteer committee he chairs . During the visit, he met the Archbishop of Canterbury, who, Fr Diab says, “stands firm in solidarity with the Christian community in the Holy Land”. Fr Diab also preached in Southwark Cathedral and was in conversation with the Dean, the Very Revd Dr Mark Oakley

Fr Diab speaks on the podcast about how life in the West Bank “has turned upside down” since 7 October, after Hamas attacks on southern Israel. The situation in the West Bank, however, could “not in any way be compared to the amount of pain in Gaza”, he says.

80s icon Timmy Mallett falls in love with Armagh

Archbishop of Armagh John McDowell welcomed 68-year-old Timmy to the Church of Ireland Cathedral, while Keeper of the Armagh Robinson Library and Dean of Armagh, Rev Shane Forster, gave him a tour and



insight into the historic literary collection which lies within.

Armaghi reports - It was a fun occasion which allowed Timmy, usually to be seen with trademark mallet in hand, take charge of the Archbishop's crozier instead!

Recalling his Armagh adventure on social media, Timmy was clearly besotted with our city, as he wrote: "The great team at Basil Sheils produced a wee breakfast for me – the monster Ulster fry up!

"Cycled past the donkey fields along the lanes till Armagh came into sight. The twin cathedrals on the hill have welcomed pilgrims across the centuries.

"I have a meeting with the Dean and Archbishop after the Easter service in the square towered cathedral. St Patrick

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built the first stone church in this site in 445 and this is building number 17 on the same spot.

“Archbishop John began unexpectedly, ‘Hello Timmy. You went to Warwick University 1974 to 77 didn’t you? My twin brother was there at the same time and I can engender the whiskey we had after the graduation ceremony’.

“That’s something to recall the drink we had nearly 50 years ago!

“It’s a pleasure to meet John and hear about his role following on from Patrick as the head of the church in all Ireland.

“He hands me his crozier while he signs my little book. That’s a good photo!

“Dean Shane tells me the history of the church in this spot. The first on the island of Ireland and Irish King Brian Boru was buried here in 1014. King Charles visited last year. Its got some pedigree.

“Shane showed me the library of 46,000 books including Jonathan Swift’s personal first edition of Gulliver’s Travels with his own hand written corrections to the printed work.

“His family made me a sandwich and I cycled down to Armagh’s Georgian Mall.

“This is a delightful city and deserves more attention.

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Excerpt from a report by Armagh I.

More at -

<https://www.armaghi.com/news/armagh-news/a-delightful-city-that-deserves-more-attention-80s-icon-timmy-mallett-falls-in-love-with-armagh/238967>

Clerical appointments



Canon of Dromore. The Revd Capt Scott McDonald, rector of St Patrick's and St Mary's, Newry, has accepted the Bishop of Down and Dromore's invitation to join the chapter of Dromore Cathedral. Scott is also Lead Evangelist in Newry Centre of Mission.

Bishop David McClay said that in appointing Scott he wanted to recognise his ability to bring cross community healing in the city of Newry, the growth of the churches in Newry and his leading the Centre of Mission to the point where a new congregation is being planted.

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he Revd McDonald, said, “It was such a wonderful surprise to be appointed to the Chapter of Dromore Cathedral. I’m very thankful to Bishop David and humbled by his trust in me. I will do my best to serve the Lord, his Church and the Gospel, in this important responsibility.”

Scott became incumbent of the Grouped Parishes of St Patrick and St Mary, Newry, in August 2020. At the same time, he was commissioned as the Lead Evangelist of a new Centre of Mission.

Scott is originally from Cheltenham and prior to moving to Northern Ireland he served as a Church Army Evangelist in Newcastle upon Tyne in a church planting role. He has lived here for nearly thirty years.

After a lengthy period leading the parish of Glencairn, in the Greater Shankill of Belfast, he trained for the ordained ministry of the Church of Ireland and subsequently spent a year as an Intern in Willowfield Parish in East Belfast.

Before moving to Newry, Scott spent three years as a team vicar in Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP).

Licensing and Commissioning of the Rev. Jean Carney for Moviddy Union and Hospital Chaplaincy

On Thursday, 21st March 2024, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Rev. Dr Paul Colton, licensed and commissioned the Rev. Jean Carney to serve as Bishop’s Curate in Moviddy Union of Parishes and as Assistant Healthcare Chaplain.



The small church of Saint Mark, Kilbonane in Aherla was full to capacity for the Service at which the Bishop presided. Jean was supported by friends and colleagues from throughout the Diocese and beyond and the service was live-streamed for her family in Canada and France. Cork University Hospital was represented by the Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum, and Fr Kieran O'Driscoll.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr William Olhausen, rector of Douglas Union with Frankfield, where Jean served most recently as curate-assistant. After the service, the Bishop spoke words of welcome, and the Rev. Canon Dr Nuzum spoke on behalf of the Hospital Chaplaincy, mentioning the privilege to serve people at particular times of vulnerability as they deal with illness and recovery and assured Jean of a warm welcome. Victor Chambers

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welcomed Jean on behalf of the parish. Afterwards everyone enjoyed the parish hospitality at Cloughduv GAA Club nearby.

Royal wedding bishop says Psalm 31 sustained him during ill health

The bishop who delivered the sermon at Prince Harry and Meghan's wedding has shared the Bible verse that has been a source of comfort for him during his recent health challenges.

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US has been recovering from internal bleeding and an irregular heartbeat over the past year. After experiencing several hospitalisations and undergoing treatment for atrial fibrillation, he had surgery to remove his right adrenal gland and an associated mass.

In his Easter message, Bishop Michael Curry revealed that he has been reciting a few lines from Psalm 31, particularly, "Into your hands, I commend my spirit," underscoring the strength of prayer.

“Prayer matters. We don't always know how. We don't always know or understand the outcome. But prayer matters, and it makes a difference. Over the last several months, I have not known how this would all work out. But I've been very aware, and in some particular moments, consciously aware of being upheld in prayer by you. Without consciously deciding to do it, I actually found myself praying

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some words from Psalm 31, which says, “Into your hands, I commend my spirit.”

He continued: “Before surgeries and treatments, through some long nights, difficult days, ‘Into your hands, I commend my spirit.’ These words are part of a prayer that is Psalm 31 in the Hebrew scriptures. The late night service of Compline uses that Psalm as a prayer before going to sleep at night.”

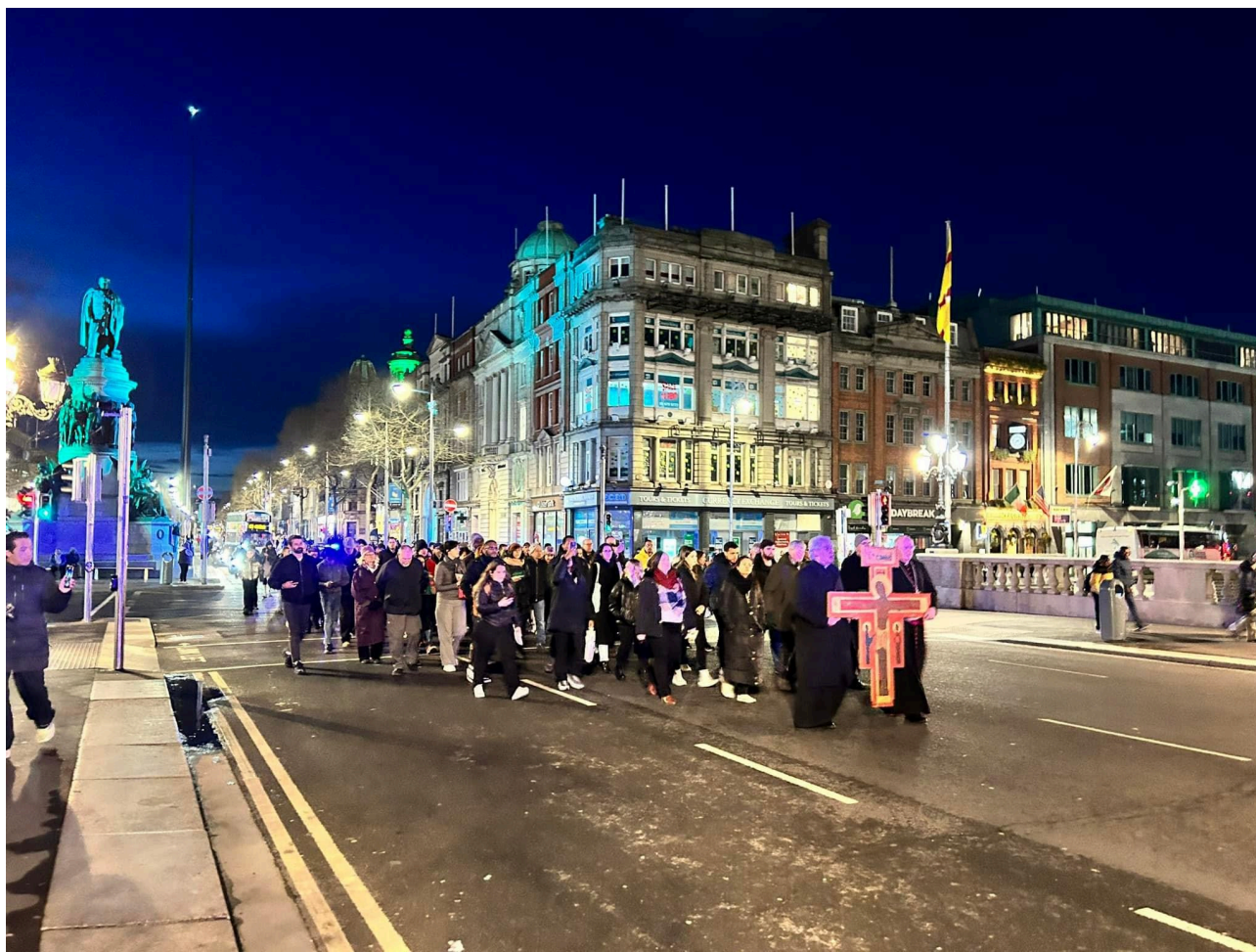
Level of homelessness ‘chilling’- Archbishop Jackson

Archbishop Michael Jackson of Dublin and Glendalough has described the acceptance of the level of homelessness in the country as “chilling” and he called for “an acceleration” of the Government’s response to the crisis.

Speaking to the Irish Independent following the ‘Walk with the Cross’ by Catholics and Protestants through the streets of Dublin city centre on Friday evening with Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Dr Jackson said his criticism was not to say that an effort isn’t been made, “but the problem runs ahead of any response”.

He said he “most acutely” saw homelessness in the capital in the mornings in the doorways of churches and shops or in alleyways.

“You see that people really have no option but to let go of their dignity. It is really tragic. There has to be solidarity. You



Walk with the Cross

would have to be heartless not to understand that there is true dilemma at the heart of what is happening,” he said.

He urged the churches to work with the secular authorities “to move things forward” and he suggested that a “civic conversation” on the crisis was needed in order to recognise “that there are people who are in positions of exhausted desperation who actually need a roof over their head”.

Archbishop Jackson, said he was “disappointed” by the decision to move up to 200 international protection applicants who were sleeping in tents outside the International Protection Office in Dublin to Crooksling on the outskirts of the city.

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“We do ourselves no good if we anaesthetize ourselves visually to something that is a reality. It is not actually a way of addressing the problem and I think it is an indignity to the people who were moved,” he said.

“There are various cultural considerations about that which really need to make us ‘stop the lights’. What responsibility do we have? Do we ‘invisibalise’ people who embarrass us, or do we say we cannot let this happen again.”

Asked about the fact that the homeless crisis was creating tension towards migrants and refugees, Dr Jackson criticised the failure of the authorities to prepare for this.

“If people ask me about my own job, I would say – 98pc of it is homework and 2pc is delivery. You need to do the preparation. We haven’t tried to de-stigmatise and take the danger out of what it is to meet people who are different from us,” he said.

Concern over people washing their hands and walking away from asylum seekers and refugees was also expressed by Archbishop Dermot Farrell during the Way of the Cross procession in Dublin’s Phoenix Park on Friday.

Courtesy Irish Independent and Sara MacDonald

**Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts,
and books**

Edward Taylor plays Noble: Postlude on 'St Kilda'

After a break from recording I am pleased to share with you a series of music for organ particularly associated with the churches season of Lent. A number of the works are based on hymn and psalm melodies and words. Others are works I feel work well at this time in the churches calendar.

I start with the Postlude on St Kilda by Noble.

Thomas Tertius Noble (May 5, 1867 – May 4, 1953) served as organist and master of the music at a number of prestigious venues including Ely Cathedral and York Minster in England and St Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City. He was responsible for the anglican tradition establishment in St Thomas which remains to this day.

Noble is mainly remembered for his church music, two well known canticle settings in particular, the service in A minor and B minor and also for a number of organ works. A sonata in A minor has most recently been found and published which is an excellent addition to an interesting set of works.

St Kilda is from the scottish psalter and is set to various words, in particular these Lentern words: On my affliction do thou look and me in safety set.

The piece sets off in majestic style with the tune in the pedals. This is interrupted by a fast moving pattern of notes with the tune above. This sequence continues and becomes ever more dramatic before the music subsides to a gentle

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passage for strings and flute. A build up of volume and drama leads to a triumphant conclusion with a Tuba statement in the left hand leading to a bright major chord to end the piece.

Performed on the organ of Carlisle Cathedral
visit <https://www.edwardtaylororganist.com/>

Cathedral Call

Peregrine Webcam goes Live

Peregrine cameras go live on Salisbury Cathedral website, catching the courting couple on camera ... and a new partnership for the season!

Since the middle of January the Cathedral team have been monitoring activity on the South Tower balcony, where a pair of peregrines have staked their claim to the nestbox, a prime piece of peregrine real estate. In the last week their 'courting' behaviour has intensified, with the couple bowing and 'chupping' to each other on the nest. A sign that they are ready to settle down.

And whilst this partnership is clearly thriving, another has been established this year, between the Cathedral and RSPB South Wiltshire Local Group. For the first time since the nestbox was established in 2014, volunteers from the RSPB South Wiltshire Local Group are taking charge of a joint Cathedral and RSPB South Wiltshire Local Group Facebook page and are helping to gather footage to share.



The Cathedral will still show livestreams from the three cameras on its website; two set up to catch the action on the nestbox, and one set up at the other end of the balcony, which has been dubbed the 'larder' because that is where the adult peregrines often store spare food.

Live webcam here -

[\[https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/updated-cathedral-peregrine-webcams/\]](https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/updated-cathedral-peregrine-webcams/)

In addition to taking a more active part in the management of the joint Facebook page and nest box cameras, the RSPB South Wiltshire Local Group will also be running their annual Date With Nature experience on the West lawn in June. Visitors will be able to use RSPB bird spotting telescopes to follow the progress of the peregrine fledglings when they leave the nest and learn hunt.

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Granville Pictor, the peregrine expert from Wiltshire Ornithological Society, will be blogging throughout the season, keeping enthusiasts informed and updated. This year he will also manage the ringing of the chicks in May, along with the Cathedral's Clerk of Works, Gary Price.

Granville and Gary have been involved in the Peregrine project since it was set up over eleven years ago by Phil Sheldrake, a former RSPB Conservation Officer. Until 2021 naturalist Ed Drewitt used to ring the peregrines, using his characteristic blue Darvic ring – a coloured ID ring placed on the left leg of each chick with unique initials for each bird. Since then, the ringing has been done by Nigel Jones from Hampshire, who uses an orange Darvic ring.

Tony Goddard, RSPB South Wilts Local Group Leader said: “We are looking forward to the new season and are delighted to be extending our long-running partnership with the Cathedral. Sue Walker, our communications and social media volunteer will be helping to manage a joint Cathedral-RSPB South Wiltshire Local Group Facebook page and will be responsible for collecting recordings and pictures from the nestbox, working alongside the Cathedral Press Office to share news and exciting footage.”

Granville Pictor from Wiltshire Ornithological Society said: “The nestbox has been going eleven years, so the site is well established and always provides interest and excitement to birdwatchers and livestream visitors alike. It is a privilege to share the lives of these amazing raptors with people from across the globe, and a great way to raise awareness and involve people in wildlife conservation.”

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To date, thirty peregrine chicks have fledged from the Tower and thanks to their Darvic rings we have been able to keep track of some of them:

This year Flo (orange colour ring TND) has been spotted at the nest site in Welwyn Garden City after breeding successfully there last year.

Osmund (blue colour ring YK) was spotted on the coast of Guernsey in 2023 and 2022.

Peter (blue colour ring GX) has successfully raised chicks in a Hampshire quarry for the last few years.

Sadly, after a reported sighting near Milton Keynes in January 2017, we have heard no more about Aveline (blue colour ring SC) and Pansy, who fledged in 2019 was found dead in 2020 in Pitton, Wiltshire.

If anyone spots a peregrine falcon with a Blue or Orange ring on their left leg, just check the letters and let the Press Office at Salisbury Cathedral know.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

