

Queen's Enniskillen visit immortalised on canvas

A painting to mark the Queen's visit to Enniskillen has now gone on display.

News Letter - Commissioned by Canon Peter O'Reilly of St Michael's Catholic church, Enniskillen, the work commemorating last year's Diamond Jubilee visit is now available to view at Fermanagh County Museum.

Entitled simply The Queen's Visit, it depicts the moment that the Queen crossed the street to visit St Michael's after attending a service in St Macartin's Anglican Cathedral in Enniskillen on June 26.



"It was an event of significance that no photograph could capture and deserved a painting to bring out the inner significance of the moment," said Canon O'Reilly.

"There is a stillness in the picture itself, which captures the impact of the moment for those who were there. The painting also captures one of the wonderful street-scapes which are characteristic of Enniskillen," added Canon O'Reilly.

Belfast-born artist Hector McDonnell was commissioned to paint the piece. He was chosen after Canon O'Reilly visited an exhibition of his which included paintings of Ground Zero – the impact site of the September 11 atrocity. Mr McDonnell said: "I was particularly moved by the idea as my mother and an aunt had both been



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much involved in the Irish School of Ecumenics which had tried to promote Christian understanding and togetherness during the worst of the Troubles in the 1970s and '80s and felt it would be, amongst other things, a subject which would have been particularly dear to their hearts. I therefore came down to Enniskillen shortly after the suggestion was made to me."

Sarah McHugh, Fermanagh County Museum [manager](#), called it a fitting display of "a historic moment in Enniskillen's history". For further information about Fermanagh County Museum, including opening hours, telephone the museum directly on 028 6632 5000 or visit its website at www.enniskillencastle.co.uk.

Living Faith Roadshows in Armagh

A series of Living Faith Roadshows are about to commence in Armagh diocese.

Commenting on these events, the Archbishop, Dr Richard Clarke said, "I think that most of us would recognise the increasing need in a rapidly secularising society for all Christian disciples to be able to speak about their faith and even to defend the Christian faith against those who would demean or reject any idea of religious faith.

"It is not good enough to leave it to others. Every Christian is called to be an

evangelist and ambassador for the faith and, in biblical terms, to contend for the faith they have.

"With this in mind, I hope to run a "roadshow" in three different venues each week in different parts of the diocese, over three weeks in November. The theme will be "A Living Faith", and each week will focus on a different aspect of the faith – A Reasonable Faith, A Biblical Faith, An Active Faith.

"My plan is that after I have given a short talk on each, there will be opportunities for discussion and questions. Provisionally, I hope that the venues will be the parish centres in Mullabrack on Tuesdays 12th, 19th and 26th November, Killyman on Wednesdays 13th, 20th and 27th November, and Cookstown on Thursdays 14th, 21st and 28th November.

"Obviously all will be welcome and my hope is that this may be some contribution to the needs of each one of us – and I include myself because I too have much to learn – to be an evangelist for the faith. I hope that you might put the dates in your diary, even at this early stage."

Outrage over anti-Semitic posters in West Limerick

Politicians in [County Limerick](#) have slammed anti-Semitic and hate posters that had been hung on a bridge.

Some of the offensive posters, one of which targeted Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, [Alan Shatter](#), have now been removed.

The posters were among a large number of other handmade posters all strung along one wall of the stone-cut Sugar Hill bridge, close to Barnagh, the [Limerick Leader](#) reports.



"Shatter has learned from his homeland how to crucify the little people," one poster claimed.

Shatter is Ireland's only Jewish member of parliament.

"Jewish influence in our dictatorship has brought Palestinian devastation to Ireland," proclaims another poster.

One poster carries a picture of Minister Alan Shatter with a caption that reads: "Ye will all be as poor as the Palestinians when ye are finished and be glad to have €5 a day."

Another poster criticizing the Protection of Life during Pregnancy Act, referred to Taoiseach Enda Kenny as Herod Kenny.

Speaking about the posters Fine Gael Councillor Jerome Scanlan said, "It is frightening to think people would even think of putting these up," adding, "It is absolutely shocking that anybody would do so."

Newcastle West's councillor, Fine Gael's Damien Riedy described the three posters in question as "disturbing."

"If people know these posters are being put up, they have a duty of care to people if there is anything on them that is anti-Semitic or inciting to hatred. They should be taken down," he said

Church on a boat!

'Church on a boat' finally became a reality on Sunday evening 3 November when 90 people gathered for the first ever scheduled church service in the Titanic Quarter.

And the boat in question wasn't any old boat, but the historic and beautifully restored SS Nomadic; tender to the Titanic



Stile Antico at Christ Church Cathedral

On **Friday 29th November at 8pm**, for the first time in Dublin, comes the multi-award-winning British vocal ensemble, Stile Antico with *The Phoenix Rising* concert. Described as "one of the finest choral ensembles of our day" Stile Antico have received many prestigious awards including the **2009 Gramophone Award** for Early Music. This very special concert will include a wealth of extraordinary music including masterworks by Taverner, Tallis, Gibbons, White and William Byrd's exquisite five-part Mass.

"An ensemble of breath-taking freshness, vitality and balance"
New York Times

Tickets cost €28 - €30 and are available from entertainment.ie.

Church on a boat

and the last remaining White Star Line ship in the world.

Revd Chris Bennett welcomed everyone aboard the 2nd Class Upper Deck including 3 of the 5 other chaplains who are now involved in The Dock Church.

The service, which will take place on the first Sunday of every month, followed a simple format – a few familiar hymns, some stories, reflections and a time of prayer.

Chris recounted The Dock's journey and how they have sought to build community in the Titanic Quarter. The Dock Walk has

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been a regular fixture for three and a half years, there have been 'Meet the Neighbours' events, BBQs in the warm weather and of course the amazing provision of the café premises on a 'meanwhile lease'.

The original dream of 'church on a boat', however, remained elusive as time and again the door shut firmly on a series of barges and old ships that simply weren't fit for purpose (or anything else!).

Hamilton Dock, where Nomadic sits, is just beside The Dock Café and Chris recalled how they watched the restoration of the boat, never thinking that she would become part of their story. However,

having built a great relationship with her owners, it was over a recent cup of coffee that the offer to host a regular church service came from the Nomadic team.

“The Nomadic is so historically important, so valuable; such an incredible thing in its own right, we could scarcely have dared to dream that a ship as beautiful, as historic and iconic would ever become our venue. It’s incredible how the simplest conversation opens a door after all those years of frustration,” said Chris.



The message of encouragement was clear – God knows what he is doing in our lives and can lead us to much more than we could have dared to ask for.

The other chaplains – Revd Wesley Ellis (Congregational) Br Finian Gavin (Catholic) and Pastor Richard Porter (Nazarene) – each shared briefly from scripture and this will be the pattern each month in keeping with the vision of a ‘shared medley’ of voices. (The Methodist and Presbyterian chaplains had other duties to fulfil that evening but they are very much on board with The Dock). Next month, CS Lewis will be the topic and in January 2014 it will be the Methodist Covenant Prayer. All aboard Nomadic at 6.00 pm!

The Dock Café is still a vibrant community hub and through the winter is open 11.00 am –5.00 pm, Monday– Saturday. Cross community choir initiative in Belfast

Choir initiative

St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, is reaching out to primary schools in north Belfast as it seeks to build a new cross community Boys’ Choir.

As part of a restructure of its music department, the Cathedral is to create an ecumenical and cross-community ‘Choir School.’ This does not mean building and establishing a brand new school, but (on the pattern of St Anne’s Cathedral in Leeds) it is forming a strong musical relationship with three local schools.

The schools - Edenbrooke Primary, Sacred Heart Boys’ Primary and Cliftonville Integrated School - will have one or more of the Cathedral’s professional singing tutors teaching singing in every class virtually every day.

This musical outreach into the community will not only train boys and girls to sing to such a standard that will give some the opportunity to eventually be part of the Cathedral choir, but it will take the Cathedral’s musical expertise into the community of which it is a part

The Dean of St Anne’s, The Very Rev John Mann, said: “I believe that St Anne’s should not only have an open door to the people of Belfast, but an intent to take what we have been given in abundance to share with everyone – and especially with children.

“The Choir School project is close to my heart and will happen because of the vision of our musicians, the enthusiasm of the schools and the faith and courage of the Cathedral Board to resource it.”

A selection of pupils from the three north Belfast schools sang at the launch of the Choir School in St Anne’s on Tuesday November 5, and the Cathedral hopes to have the new Boys’ Choir together by

Christmas. While the pupils taking part in the Choir School will be considered for the new choir, Dean Mann stressed that boys from all schools are welcome to audition when the choir is being recruited.

A Girls' Choir was formed in autumn 2012 and sang publicly for the first time at the Christmas carol services that year. The Girls' Choir is also a successful cross-community group, and the girls come from a number of different schools in Belfast and beyond. The choir is already recognised for its high standard of singing, and has broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster, recorded part of a soundtrack for the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, and taken part in several of the important civic services at the cathedral, including the World Police and Fire Games Memorial Service.

Christ Church Chapter Appointments

Two new canons have been appointed to the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

The Revd Nigel Sherwood, rector of Arklow, Inch and Kilbride, succeeds Canon John Clarke who retired as rector of Wicklow at the end of September. The Revd William Deverell, rector of Tallaght, succeeds Canon Ted Ardis, who took up his new position of Dean's Vicar at Saint Fin Barre's cathedral and union of parishes, Cork, on Sunday November 3.

The appointments have been welcomed by the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Revd Dermott Dunne. He said: "I am very happy to welcome the Revd Nigel and the Revd William to the Chapter of the cathedral. They are worthy successors of Canon John Clarke and Canon Ted Ardis both of whom were loyal supporters of the cathedral and personal friends. I look forward to working with the new canons as

we enter the next phase in the life of the cathedral."



The Revd Nigel Sherwood said he was honoured to hear of the appointment. "When I was about ten years of age our local rector the Revd A. E. Crawford gave myself and two other boys lessons on how to create a cannon in billiards. Afterwards he became known as Canon Crawford. He was instrumental in sowing seeds towards my vocation and was the first person I thought of on hearing of my appointment. I hope I can follow in his footsteps, even if it is a different Cathedral!" he commented.

He grew up in Clara, County Offaly and attended boarding school at the King's Hospital School. After finishing school, he joined Penney's as a trainee manager, leaving some six and a half years later for the Theological College. He was ordained in 1986 and served as a curate in Kildallon and Kilmore. In 1989 he was appointed as rector of the Tullow Group of parishes before moving to Arklow in 1995. I is married to Carol and they have three sons Adam (25), Robin (23) and Peter (16).

The Revd William Deverell said his appointment was completely unexpected. "I was surprised and very humbled to hear of my appointment to the Chapter of Christ



Church Cathedral. I have long had an interest in cathedral life and in the cathedral's role in reaching out to the wider community. I am delighted to have this opportunity and look forward to the challenges that it presents," he stated.

A native of Dublin, William was ordained in 1993 and served as a curate in Agherton, Portstewart, until 1995. He was rector of Sixmilecross with Termonmaguirke in Armagh from 1995 to 1999 after which he became rector of Tallaght where he has served for 14 years. He is married to Valerie and they have two children, Amy (20) and Lionel (15)

Carol Singing at The Mansion House

The Annual Ecumenical Carol Singing on the steps of the Mansion House, organised by the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Council for Mission and the Archdiocese Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism, will take place on Saturday December 14 at 2.30 pm.

This year the singing will be led by "Teenspirit", a group from the Archdiocese.

There will be seasonal readings given by The Lord Mayor, Miriam O'Callaghan of RTE, Dublin footballer Gerard Brennan and Anne Lodge, Principal of The Church of Ireland College of Education. Everyone is invited to come and join in the singing of favourite carols and seasonal songs.

Robbers break into church and threaten priest with hammer

A priest has been left badly shaken after robbers went into a Catholic church in County Down and threatened him with a hammer.

BBC News - The pair then forced the parish priest, Fr Peter O'Kane, into the parochial house beside St Colmcille's Church, High Street, Holywood.

The incident happened at about 18:20 GMT on Tuesday.

The robbers left with money and a mobile phone. The police have appealed for information.

Fr O'Kane said: "I was praying in the church at 6.10pm when two men approached me and forcibly brought me into the sacristy and then over to the office and the parochial house.

"I managed to escape from them when we returned to the sacristy.

"They made off with a sum of money, and the police were then alerted."

Fr Eddie McGee, a spokesman for the Down and Connor diocese, said his colleague had been left very distressed by the incident, and condemned recent attacks on clergy.

"There appears to be over the past number of weeks a growing tendency of attacks on clergy who are very vulnerable.



These attacks are very, very distressing for those concerned."

Mayor of North Down, Councillor Andrew Muir, said local people were appalled at what happened.

"The church is such a welcoming place. So for this to occur saddens people," he said.

"I'm really hoping people will come forward to the police with information around this matter so that they can catch these two people who did this terrible act."

New Chaplain to Lay Ministers

The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton, has appointed the Rector of Ballydehob Union of Parishes, the Reverend Steve McCann as Chaplain to Lay Ministers in the Diocese, in succession to the Reverend Sue Watterson.

The role of Chaplain to Lay Ministers embodies three roles previously done separately:

- Warden of Readers,
- Chaplain to Lay Pastoral Assistants, and
- Chairperson of the Diocesan Healing and Pastoral Care Committee.



The Reverend Steve McCann

Prayer for Today

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.