

Palestrina Choirs new CD of Christmas Carols



The Palestrina Choir, Dublin has released their latest CD, *Joy to the World*, featuring a selection of the world's best-

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loved Christmas carols and choral music for the festive season.

Recorded in the resplendent acoustic of the choir's home, Dublin's Pro-Cathedral, the album features timeless carols such as *Silent Night*, *The First Nowell*, *Joy to the World*, *Adeste Fideles*, modern compositions by Irish composers, and iconic choral pieces that are instantly evocative of the Christmas season. The CD follows several acclaimed releases in recent years, most notably their most popular disc, *The Bells of the Angelus*. This CD is a celebration of the most iconic and cherished Christmas pieces of all time.

The Palestrina Choir was founded in 1903 and since then has enjoyed an unbroken tradition of music making of the highest standards in the heart of Dublin's city center. Among the choir's alumni was Ireland's legendary tenor, John Count McCormack, and throughout the decades the choir has remained committed to the vocal training and music education of its boy choristers. The Choir has made an invaluable contribution to Ireland's musical landscape through its support of new Irish compositions, a fact that is underlined on this CD.

The Palestrina Choir, a jewel in Ireland's musical life for over one hundred years, have also earned a distinguished reputation internationally, receiving a Papal invitation from the Vatican to sing at mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI, among other prestigious invitations.

The Choir enjoys a busy schedule in Ireland and has toured extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States, performing at Carnegie Hall on their

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most recent American tour. Spring 2019 will see the choir embark on yet another US tour of the mid-west states.

Joy to the World features Ireland's renowned Palestrina Choir, conducted by Blánaid Murphy, joined by organist David Grealy and Dublin Brass. The CD is a treasury of Christmas music spanning almost five centuries. The CD is available from Tower Records to download on iTunes and from www.palestrinachoirdublin.ie.

Youghal remembers local men who died in two world wars

About 200 men from the greater Youghal area who died in the first World War and the second World War have been honoured and remembered with the unveiling of panels bearing their names in one of the oldest churches in the country.

Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton blessed the eight wooden panels bearing the men's names as they were unveiled at St Mary's Collegiate Church in Youghal at a special ecumenical memorial service on Sunday.

Local rector, Rev Andrew Orr said it was important to remember those of all faiths who had died in the conflicts from the greater Youghal area and about 400 people, including many descendants of the deceased, attended the ceremony in the 13th century church.

"We were very pleased with the ceremony where six of the descendants of those who died read the full 200 or so names – I think people in Youghal and the surrounding areas are very pleased that there is now a permanent



Watched by the Reverend Andrew Orr, Priest-in-Charge of Youghal, the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, dedicated the memorial panels prior to their installation.

memorial to those who died and a lot of people commented on how well it looks.”

St Mary's Collegiate Church is a listed building and the commemoration committee worked closely with local conservation consultant, David Kelly on the wooden panels made by local craftsman, Willie Keniry to ensure that they fitted in with the historic surrounds.

The ceremony which saw the laying of wreaths at the altar follows seven years of research by Youghal local historians Norman McDonald and Billy Healy whose interest in how



The Collegiate Church of St Mary the Virgin, Youghal, County Cork was full for the dedication of a new war memorial

the first World War impacted on Youghal was triggered by the discovery of a grave at nearby Templemichael cemetery.

“Billy found the grave of this man, Private Oliver

Havens when he was out walking one day at Templemichael and that piqued our interest and we began researching the subject and then we found another five wartime graves in North Abbey Cemetery in Youghal, “ said Mr McDonald.

“We focused on the Youghal postal district from Ballycotton to Clashmore in West Waterford and we found that some 900 men from the area fought in World War I and that some 154 of them died in the conflict, many in the Royal Navy, given Youghal’s seafaring tradition,” he added.

Mr McDonald explained that the discovery of a ledger - about to be thrown in a skip during the renovation of a

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building in Youghal - yielded the names of around 200 members of the Royal Navy Reserve in the Youghal area and some of those were among those who later became casualties. Report courtesy the Irish Times

Presbyterian Church's Window on the Middle East

Members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) have looked at the complex issue of identity in the Middle East from a Christian Arab perspective at a special conference held in Belfast. The keynote speaker was the author and academic dean of Nazareth Evangelical College, Dr Yohanna Katanacho.

Entitled 'Hard pressed, not crushed, a window on the Christian experience in the Middle East', the conference is the latest in a series of events organised in recent years where the Church has heard from different Christians living out their faith in the context of the Middle East. This has included the senior pastor of Baghdad Presbyterian Church in 2015 and the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Lebanon in 2017.

Organised by PCI's Council for Global Mission, its Global Concerns Committee convener, Rev Richard Kerr, welcomed the opportunity to hear from Dr Katanacho. "In holding this conference we wanted to continue to broaden our understanding of what is a sensitive and incredibly complex region and give people an opportunity to listen to a different voice from the Cradle of Christianity and hear first-hand what it means to be a Christian in an Arab context.

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“Born in Jerusalem, Yohanna lives in Nazareth and describes himself as a Palestinian Evangelical Christian. Of his Arab background he says that his ability to speak both Arabic and Hebrew has pushed him ‘to be a peacemaker and messenger of love as well as justice in a country that is full of segregation and hatred.’

“In talking about his identity as a Christian, as an Arab, as a Palestinian and an Israeli, Yohanna has enabled us to look at the complex nature of identity in the region afresh and from a very different perspective. It was a perspective that challenges us as a Church to better understand the situation for our brothers and sisters in Christ across the Middle East.

Dr Katanacho, who is also Professor of Biblical Studies at Bethlehem College, took the 150-plus delegates present on a journey. Starting with the Arabs in the Bible to the subsequent and often overlooked rich Christian Arab heritage and identity that emerged, he went on to talk about the rise of Islam and beyond, and finally to the reformation and recent ‘Arab Spring’.

“I hope that what people take away from today is that Christ is the best starting point for understanding our identity and for designing a politics of love that takes justice seriously without advantage, without stereotyping or discriminating. I can’t separate justice from the logic of love, if it is separate it becomes injustice. The Cross is the ultimate expression of justice and love,” he said.

On his identity as an Arab Palestinian evangelical Christian Israeli citizen, he said that people assume these labels can’t live together. “In reality identity is dynamic, something that is

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shaped by the reality that you live in. When I say I am a Palestinian I am not making a political statement. I want these elements, Arab, Palestinian, Israeli to be sanctified in Christ.

Speaking of Christianity in the Middle East, Dr Katanacho said, “We don’t just want to survive, we want to love Jesus and take the gospel to our neighbours. By the grace of God the Arab church has existed for centuries, sometimes it is not easy to take a stand for Christ, but we will continue to survive by the grace of God. If we suffer, let it be. But we want our brothers and sisters around the world to honour Jesus Christ, to honour his will for the Church in the 21st century.

“People ask me ‘what will happen to Christians in the Middle East?’ It is the wrong question. I ask what will happen to the Middle East without Christians! Our concern is for the Church in Europe. When we kneel down and pray we know we will lay down our lives for Jesus – will you?”

During the morning the Moderator, Dr Charles McMullen, spoke about his visit to Jordan this summer, the people that he met - Christian refugees in particular - and students from Iraq, Egypt and Sudan who were studying at the Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary in Amman.

Reflecting on what Dr Katanacho had shared, Dr McMullen said, “It was uplifting to hear someone speak so passionately about their faith and their relationship with Christ in the context of the suffering our brothers and sisters have had to endure in the Middle East.

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“I was struck by the rich Christian heritage, which goes back many centuries, in Arab culture, and the challenges that it continues to face today. I was also struck by what Dr Katanacho had to say about identity, his emphasis on the politics of love rather than hate and his concern for the Church in Europe. An incredible witness for all disciples of Jesus Christ, especially here in Ireland.

During his visit Dr Katanacho will be speaking to the Church in a number of other venues, which include Second Limavady Presbyterian Church, Lowe Memorial Presbyterian Church and Union College. He will also preach in two congregations on Sunday.

Advent celebrated in cathedrals

The first Sunday in Advent was celebrated in both St Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral yesterday (Sunday December 2) with beautiful services marking the start of the liturgical year and the beginning of the time of anticipation and waiting as we look towards Christmas Day.

In St Patrick's Cathedral, A Sequence of Music and Readings for Advent was sung by the Cathedral Choir (Schola and Men's Voices) with readings by RTE's Bryan Dobson. This Advent Procession is one of the year's most dramatic services in the cathedral, moving as it does from darkness to light. The words and music focused on the Advent theme of light in darkness, hope in despair and a new relationship with God in Christ.

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In Christ Church Cathedral the Advent Procession took place entirely in candle light. Sung by the Cathedral Choir the service highlighted the unique position of the First Sunday of Advent, precisely at the turning point of the liturgical year which turns a spotlight on the paradox that is characteristic of the Christian faith. The service sheet put it further: "Perhaps the greatest paradox of Advent is the tension between the joyous anticipation of the birth of Jesus and the inevitability of the cross... So that at the beginning of things, we think about the end of things".

Both cathedrals have numerous services and events throughout Advent. See their websites: <http://stpatrickscathedral.ie/> and <http://christchurch.ie/> for details.

News links

Lindy McDowell: Looming shadow of anti-Semitism is threatening to engulf all of us

Belfast Telegraph

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/lindy-mcdowell/lindy-mcdowell-looming-shadow-of-antisemitism-is-threatening-to-engulf-all-of-us-37582995.html>

Alex Kane: 'Northern Ireland plc took its Brexit case to Downing Street because there was no one at home on the Hill'

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/alban-maginness/alex-kane-northern-ireland-plc-took-its-brexit-case-to-downing-street-because-there-was-no-one-at-home-on-the-hill-37572552.html>

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John Simpson: However we leave, Northern Ireland's sure to suffer

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/analysis/john-simpson-however-we-leave-northern-irelands-sure-to-suffer-37576075.html>

Esmond Birnie: History shows that we must be cautious about Brexit forecasts

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/esmond-birnie-history-shows-that-we-must-be-cautious-about-brexit-forecasts-37576094.html>

The Archbishop of York: I voted Remain, but now I'll be backing the Brexit deal and here's why - Yorkshire Post

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/the-archbishop-of-york-i-voted-remain-but-now-i-ll-be-backing-the-brexit-deal-and-here-s-why-1-9473200>

WTO says its rules would not force EU or UK to erect hard Irish border

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/wto-says-its-rules-would-not-force-eu-or-uk-to-erect-hard-irish-border-1.3710136>

Irish Taoiseach and leader of the Orange Order meet in Dublin

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2018/30-november/news/world/irish-taoiseach-and-leader-of-the-orange-order-meet-in-dublin>

Scouting Ireland receives 80 calls to helpline

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2018/1128/1014002-zappone-scouting-ireland/>

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Revealed: Almost half of Irish speakers only know basic terms

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/revealed-almost-half-of-irish-speakers-only-know-basic-terms-37578213.html>

In these 'Looking Glass' times, Ireland turns left, US veers right | Boston Irish Report

<https://www.bostonirish.com/commentary/2018/these-'looking-glass'-times-ireland-turns-left-us-veers-right>

Second Newman miracle confirmed

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/11/28/second-newman-miracle-confirmed/>

[Irish bride of groom tragically killed in Greek wildfires during their honeymoon tells how she's 'still ...](#)

The Irish Sun

Zoe Holohan was speaking at a memorial service and celebration of Brian O'Callaghan-Westropp's life held in Kilnasoolagh **Church** in ...

['Other Voices' starts new conversations as festival extends range](#)

Irish Times

The dominance of **Irish** rap in contemporary **Irish** culture received a crowning moment with Kojaque performing on the St James's **Church** stage, ...

[Belfast Roma leader threatened to take families 'out of the country' if they speak to authorities](#)

The Irish News

It came just days after The **Irish News** revealed police were investigating online ... The recording of Mr Nicola at a Roma

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service in City **Church** was obtained by ... In September, The **Irish News** reported how Sinn Fein MLA Máirtín Ó ...

[Dipping wafers in wine can spread flu, **churches** told](#)

The Times

Anglican **churches** have been warned to avoid dipping wafers into the holy communion wine to guard against the risk of triggering allergic reactions or ...

[The primary school children delivering random acts of kindness](#)

ITV News

Children at St Peter's **Church of England** Primary School have decided to begin Advent by doing random acts of kindness for total strangers.

[Shakespeare was a Catholic sympathiser who left 'coded political messages' in his work](#)

Telegraph.co.uk

The persecution of England's Catholics followed the act of Parliament that recognized Henry VIII as the Supreme Head of the **Church of England** and ...

[£1m mission project to create small worshipping communities across Manchester](#)

ChristianToday

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[Franco-English Catholic-Anglican surprise](#)

The Connexion

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Their efforts resulted in a successful bringing together of the **Church of England** and Catholic churches – but in a way they had not anticipated.

[Vicar who asked parents to dress their children as 'wise people' instead of Wise Men for their ...](#)

Daily Mail

Church of England Canon Freda Evans asked parents to dress their children as 'wise people' instead of the men who came bearing gifts of gold, ...

[Vicar is blasted for 'crazy political correctness' after dumping Wise Men from kids' Christmas service](#) - The Sun

[Vicar slammed for PC gone mad after insisting nativity has three wise PEOPLE](#) - Mirror.co.uk

[Full Coverage](#)

[Shayne Looper: Tolerance: Rediscovering the lost virtue](#)

The Hutchinson News

What Wesley taught the Methodists, he also practiced.

According to William Barclay, John's brother Charles had a son who left the **Church of England**, ...

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