

Cathedral Music: A Gateway to God theme of Northern European Cathedrals' Conference in Dublin



**Christ Church Cathedral Choir singing at the West End
of Christ Church Cathedral during the recent
Candlemass in Dublin**

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Further details have been released about the Northern European Cathedrals' Conference in Dublin next week. Up to 120 delegates will gather from across Northern Europe from February 12 to 15 to discuss issues relating to the life and ministry of European Cathedrals. Christ Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral are co-hosting.

The main theme of the conference is 'Cathedral Music: A Gateway to God'. There will be a wide range of speakers on the subject including Bishop Michael Burrows, Dr Kerry Houston, David Bremner, Nicholas Carolan, Dr Margaret Daly Denton and the Revd Dr Alan McCormack, who will be the convener.

Archbishop Michael Jackson will preach at the opening service in Christ Church Cathedral on Tuesday evening at 6pm. This will be followed by the official opening of the conference. The main lectures will take place in Dublin City Council's Wood Quay Venue.

On Thursday evening at 6pm Choral Evensong in St Patrick's Cathedral will be sung by the combined choirs of St Patrick's and Christ Church. This will include excerpts of Handel's Messiah.

Lunch for two days will be provided by Ellie Kisyombe and her team from Our Table, an initiative which highlights the situations of people who live in Ireland's Direct Provision system. Delegates at the conference will be drawn from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Finland as well as from around Ireland.



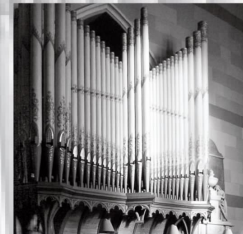
COFFEE CONCERT SERIES

Presented by Pipeworks in conjunction with Monkstown Parish Church, St Joseph's Glasthule and Sandford Parish Church

MONKSTOWN PARISH CHURCH

Sunday February 17TH, 4PM

Raymond Russell and Simon Harden play Bach, Franck, Guilmant and more



ST JOSEPH'S, GLASTHULE

Sunday March 3rd, 4PM

Ronan Murray plays Bach, Guilmant, Lefebvre-Wely and improvisation



SANDFORD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday March 31ST, 3PM

Rachel Talbot, soprano and David O Shea, organ



Followed by coffee and cake!

TICKETS AT THE DOOR: €10/€5

Supporting Pipeworks Festival www.pipeworks.ie

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C of I journal asks ‘What we need in our bishops’

“What we need in our bishops” is the timely subject addressed in the upcoming issue of Search by four writers – two male and two female, two from each province of the Church of Ireland. Timely indeed, because there are likely to be more than two electoral colleges meeting this year, and possibly four by the end of 2020.

Former Dean of Belfast John Mann now with the C of E, Dean Maria Jansson, Ms Ethne Harkness, and Limerick synodman Andrew Eadie are the contributors. An article by Alan Ford on Richard Hanson as Bishop of Clogher adds counterpoint to their thoughts on episcopacy, which include seeking new blood from beyond the Church of Ireland.

The issue will also include an article on the run-up to Disestablishment by Ian d’Alton, one by Dean Susan Green on women in the Church, and articles by Bishop Michael Burrows, Robin Stockitt, and Swami Purnananda of the Dublin City Interfaith Forum.

Pádraig Ó Tuama, Leader of the Corrymeela community, will end his term in April 2019

Pádraig Ó Tuama has been the Leader of the Corrymeela Community since 2014, and he will end his term at the end of April this year. Pádraig, from Cork, has been a member of

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Corrymeela since 2006, and once his term ends, will continue as a member of the community.

His time in his role has been marked by his characteristic interest in how language, story, gospel

and dialogue can support the ongoing work of reconciliation and peace. Pádraig's interests in poetry, religion and conflict have influenced his public voice on behalf of Corrymeela, bringing our message of *Transforming Division through Human Encounter* to thousands, through programmes, publications, trainings and broadcasts, both at home and abroad.

Pádraig was the first Catholic and the first LGBT person to lead Corrymeela. Long established as an ecumenical community, Corrymeela has, since 1980, been a place of support and amplification for LGBT people seeking increased civic safety and voice. Kate Pettis, Chair of the Corrymeela Council noted "Through initiatives incorporating retreats, a resource named Spirituality of Conflict, civic engagements on topics of War, Conflict and Memory,



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training on community dialogue and storytelling, Pádraig's leadership has been marked by the desire for encounter, faith and community to be deepened". Pádraig noted "It has been one of the deepest honours of my life to serve Corrymeela in this role. I have been a member of the Community for a long time, and this will continue. I look forward to continuing my membership and supporting my successor."

Pádraig will continue as a member of Corrymeela, and will also continue in leading occasional retreats at our Ballycastle centre. We are thrilled that he has publishing and broadcasting opportunities ahead of him, not least in a new poetry venture with the On Being Project, established by Krista Tippett.

On behalf of the community of Corrymeela, the Chair, Kate Pettis, expressed warm and profound thanks to Pádraig for his work, and looks forward to further collaboration. Kathy Galloway, one of the co-leaders of the Iona Community noted: "Pádraig's creativity, pastoral sensitivity and profound theological insight has inspired and encouraged many people, especially those whose previous experience has been of theology as something that is done to them. Pádraig enables people struggling with big questions to experience theology as a creative and respectful mutual discovery, poetic rather than prosaic. We too will miss him, and wish him well for the future."

Information about the appointment of a new person in the role of Leader of the Corrymeela Community will be advertised on the Corrymeela website in mid-February.

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Cobh Cathedral parish prepares for centenary celebrations

Saint Colman's Cathedral, Cobh, in the Diocese of Cloyne, is preparing to mark the centenary of its dedication later this year with a series of cultural and faith events. On 24 August 1919, Saint Colman's Cathedral was solemnly consecrated after a decades-long campaign of planning and building.

In the latest edition of *Faithcast*, the weekly faith podcast produced by the Catholic Communications Office, Maynooth, Father John McCarthy, Administrator of Saint Colman's, said the centenary year was officially opened last month at a carol service for the Epiphany by Bishop William Crean of Cloyne.

Father McCarthy said this event on the Epiphany marked the beginning of a whole year of musical, historical, cultural and faith events through which it is hoped to "commemorate the extraordinary achievement of the building of this cathedral and its consecration and dedication in August 1919".

The key celebrations will take place in August to coincide with the actual centenary of the cathedral's dedication.

Fr McCarthy said the centenary is an important launchpad into the future as well as a commemorative milestone in the history of the cathedral. He explained that a major cleaning project at the cathedral has been ongoing for three years which has included the cleaning of the pipe organ by Ruffatti of Padua in Italy.

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Towards the end of 2015, the organ was dismantled and sent to the Ruffatti workshops for restoration. The pipe organ is in the final phase of re-tuning and voicing to be ready for the re-dedication at the centenary Mass in August.

Other projects have included new lighting works as well as specialised cleaning of the interior stonework and the stained glass windows.

“Once the pipe organ is fully functional it will make for a beautiful setting for Masses for the coming year,” Father McCarthy said.

He also recalled that the cathedral, which is an iconic presence on the skyline of Cobh, was dedicated with the words: “For the greater glory of God under the patronage of Saint Colman”.

The bishops who oversaw the building of the cathedral wanted the neo-gothic structure to give glory to God. The Diocese of Cloyne was founded in AD 560 by Saint Colman.

According to Father McCarthy, as people come into Cobh on cruise liners, Saint Colman’s stands out among the town’s skyline. He said, “From April each year we have the cruise liners coming in. Last year witnessed 100 days of cruise liners and those cruise liners vary in passenger capacity from 500 to 5,000. Many come up to the cathedral to visit – to pray or even just to see it as a place of passing interest. But the cathedral is also a functioning parish, serving a population of 14,000 people.”

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You can listen to the interview with Father McCarthy on *Faithcast* [here](#).

Pope at Mass in UAE: Jesus walks at our side even when we think we are alone

Pope Francis told the largely-expat Catholic community living in the United Arab Emirates that Jesus walks at our side, even when we think we are alone.

The vast majority of Christians living in the UAE are migrants who have mostly come from the Philippines and India to look for work.

Celebrating Mass in the Zayed Sports City in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, the Holy Father brought them a message of comfort and hope.

“It is most certainly not easy for you to live far from home,” he said, “missing the affection of your loved ones, and perhaps also feeling uncertainty about the future.” But, the Pope said, “the Lord is faithful and does not abandon his people.”

Pope Francis celebrated the Mass for Peace and Justice, and reflected on how the Beatitudes relate to Christians living in the Middle East.

He said they *are* blessed, and noted that blessedness is not a future state but a present reality. Jesus, he said, repeats his message of blessing today. “If you are with Jesus, if you love to listen to his word as the disciples of that time did, if



you try to live out this word every day, then you are blessed.”

The Pope called it “a joy that gives peace also in the midst of pain”.

Pope Francis said Jesus’ life shows us that blessedness cannot be measured according to worldly standards. The Beatitudes overturn popular thinking that those who are successful, rich, and powerful are blessed. Rather, the poor, meek, just, and persecuted attain that category.

“He came to serve and not to be served,” said Pope Francis, “he taught us that greatness is not found in having but rather in giving.”

The Pope said the meaning of life is living “in communion with him and in our love for others”.

The Beatitudes, said Pope Francis, are a roadmap for life. “They do not require superhuman actions, but rather the imitation of Jesus in our everyday life.”

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He thanked all those present – some 180,000 persons from over 100 countries, including around 4,000 Muslims – for “the way in which you live the Gospel we heard.”

Comparing the written and lived Gospel to written and performed music, Pope Francis said they know the Gospel’s tune and follow its rhythm with enthusiasm. “You are a choir composed of numerous nations, languages and rites; a diversity that the Holy Spirit loves and wants to harmonize ever more, in order to make a symphony.”

Then Pope Francis compared the Church of the UAE to the ancient Church of Philadelphia, which Jesus addresses in the Book of Revelation (Rev 3:7-13). The Pope said the Lord does not reproach it for anything. “That Church,” he said, “kept Jesus’ word without renouncing his name and persevered, went forward, even in the midst of difficulties.” Philadelphia, he noted, means “brotherly love” or “fraternal love”, a reference to his attendance at the Global Conference of Human Fraternity on Monday.

Pope Francis concluded by inviting all people of the United Arab Emirates – indeed the entire region – “to preserve peace, unity”, and “to take care of each other, with that beautiful fraternity in which there are no first or second class Christians.”

News briefs

+++New Irish Methodist Connexional Structures - “We’re going through a period of change designed to enable us to



carry out our calling as the Methodist Church in Ireland. Did you know that this June (post-conference) we will see our 8 Connexional Districts become 3.

- North Eastern - North Western - Southern

“This Connexion Wide change is to improve how we operate as one body to equip us for the ministry that lies ahead in all of our varying contexts.”

+++Moderator meets Castlederg victims - The Moderator said, “One of the most harrowing moments of my year in office. A meeting with the victims of The Troubles in Castlederg. A son, brother, uncle, cousin or daughter. The pain that never goes away.”

+++Shankill parish presentation to hospice - On Sunday January 20, parishioners at St Matthew’s, Shankill Road, Belfast, welcomed Jackie from the NI Children’s Hospice. The rector, the Rev Tracey McRoberts, presented Jackie with a cheque for £485, the collection lifted at the parish Community Carol Service held on December 23. During her visit, Jackie spoke about the work of the Hospice. St

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Matthew's thanks everyone who contributed to this collection.



+++Methodist President visits Belfast hospices -

Delighted to visit both Belfast hospices today at the invitation of Chaplain, Jim Armstrong. We give thanks to God for such wonderful facilities, along with the excellent medical and spiritual care shown to patients.

+++Tullamore recognition of parish organist - Large numbers gathered in St Brigid's Church in Clara for Robert Gyles' final service as parish organist. Robert has played the organ in Clara for over sixty years. His commitment and dedication is a wonderful example. Robert chose some of his favourite hymns and the singing was amazing.

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Following presentations were made to Robert as a small token of the parishioners appreciation and affection.

+++The Feast of Candlemas in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin - was celebrated last Sunday evening (February 3) with a special Candlemas Procession. The feast day marks the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. He was offered to the Father and shown to his people. His mother was purified according to the custom of the time. Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord. The service, which was led by Dean Dermot Dunne, was in two parts. A candle-lit vigil was kept recalling in readings and music the journey to the Temple culminating with the Candlemas Gospel. In the procession which concluded the service, the congregation's lit candles were a sign of the promised Christ.



+++The new C of E General Synod app - is now available to download in advance of the February meeting of @synod. You can find out more about the app & links to download on our website: bit.ly/2HNPF9y #Synod #GeneralSynod

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+++Flame 2019 the largest Catholic youth event in

England and Wales - returns to The SSE Arena, Wembley on Saturday 2nd March 2019. 10,000 young people will join in a day of celebration, prayer, reflection and praise with internationally renowned speakers, including Archbishop Eamon Martin, exclusive video footage from Jean Vanier, Gospel preacher Robert Madu from Texas and worship led by worship leader and songwriter, Tim Hughes, "Here I am to worship" and many more.

+++Quote for today - Most people, if they have really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise."
CS Lewis

February 6 in Christian history

February 6, 891: Photius, patriarch of Constantinople from 858-867, dies after a series of excommunications and restorations. His 867 encyclical, which denounced the presence of Latin missionaries in Bulgaria as an intrusion and objected to the *filioque* clause in the creed ("the Holy Ghost . . . who proceeds from the Father *and the Son*"), was significant in the East-West conflict that eventually led to the "Great Schism".

February 6, 1564: Carried to church in a chair, John Calvin preaches his last sermon three months before his death.

February 6, 1820: Eighty-six free black colonists sail from New York to Sierra Leone, Africa. Though white abolitionists

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initially supported such emigration efforts, most free blacks (and eventually more radical white abolitionists) denounced the effort as racist and ultimately proslavery.

News links

The Irish Times view on Pope Francis in the Gulf: Inter-faith gestures

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorial/the-irish-times-view-on-pope-francis-in-the-gulf-inter-faith-gestures-1.3781878>

Unionist council to hold St Patrick's Day parade on Saturday 16th

The Irish News

The St Patrick's Day parade in the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland will be ... Armagh is home to Catholic and **Church of Ireland** cathedrals which are ...

A 'new covenant' in Ireland. Gladys Ganiel

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/25-january/features/features/a-new-covenant-in-ireland>

The greatest threat to Catholic education is a lack of parental involvement

<https://www.catholicireland.net/greatest-threat-catholic-education-lack-parental-involvement/>

Faith cast from Cobh cathedral

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2019/01/31/episode-30-of-faithcast-podcast-features-cobh-cathedral-centenary/>

Calling all singing enthusiasts and music lovers

WicklowNews.Net

With over 300 member groups at present, Sing **Ireland**, formerly the Association of Irish **Choirs**, is focused on spreading the word about singing in a bid ...

Church of England lay minister steps back from role after comments about Jews

Jewish Chronicle

A **Church of England** lay minister has stood down from his role after writing on Facebook that "Jews" want to keep Labour out of office because it "may ...

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Travellers could be welcomed onto church land under CofE plans

Premier

Church of England congregations would be encouraged to offer up their land for use by travellers, under new plans to tackle "centuries of ...

Bishop Daly: pro-abortion politicians should not receive Communion

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/02/04/bishop-daly-pro-abortion-politicians-should-not-receive-communion/>

BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Dietrich Bonhoeffer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bkpjns>

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