



Therapy dogs in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi

Thanksgiving for therapy dogs marks Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi

Dogs, their owners and friends of Peata Therapy Dogs gathered in Christ Church Cathedral,

Dublin, on Tuesday afternoon (October 4) to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organisation. The Service of Thanksgiving, which was led by Dean Dermot Dunne while Archbishop Michael Jackson gave the address, took place on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. A number of people who enjoy visits from Peata dogs were also present.

Peata Therapy Dogs and their owners visit caring units bringing many of the therapeutic benefits and pleasures of pets to the residents and patients. Peata is a voluntary organisation. The service was organised by Lesley Rue, a Peata volunteer who has a long association with the cathedral.

In his address the Archbishop admitted to being a dog owner and spoke of the many positive gifts dogs bring to the lives of individuals and families. He added that Peata encourages people to enjoy dogs and their warmth, affection and friendship not least if they are confined to their home or living in a nursing home. He paid tribute to the Peata volunteers who give up their time to provide this service.

“One of the glorious things of this act of worship on the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi is that



Noah's Ark' Tapestry presented to St Mary's Church of Ireland School, Carrigaline, County Cork by Mrs Helen Morgan on 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, a date which is also marked as World Animal Day,

we bring into the church the totality of God's creation," he concluded before blessing the dogs present.

Canterbury and Rome commission bishops to implement expressions of unity

Pulpit swaps, shared retreats, joint action on social issues and regular meetings between clergy are just some of the ideas for local expressions of unity between Anglicans and Roman Catholics taking shape during an ecumenical summit in Canterbury and Rome. Yesterday afternoon, during a service in the monastery church of San Gregorio al Cielo, Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby commissioned 19 pairs of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops to implement local expressions of unity in their dioceses around the world.

The commissioning of the 19-pairs of bishops has been organised by the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) as part of a week-long ecumenical summit marking the 50th anniversary

of the first public meeting between a Pope and an Archbishop of Canterbury since the Reformation.

The summit, which began at the weekend in Canterbury Cathedral and is continuing now in the Vatican, will also mark the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

“I have been deeply moved by what has been happening,” the Anglican Bishop of Sialkot in Pakistan, the Rt Revd Alwin Samuel, said. “To see Roman Catholics celebrating the Eucharist in Canterbury Cathedral was a miracle.

“It is an answer to Jesus’ prayer that we may be one.”

His Roman Catholic counterpart, the Most Revd Sebastian Shaw, Archbishop of Lahore, said that the two had agreed that their clergy would meet twice a year “to agree methodology and to learn from one another so that our evangelism becomes more effective and powerful.”

He said: “This is a good environment to learn from each other. We have found that we have the same challenges all over the world – secularism, pluralism and the growth of newer churches.”

Bishop Samuel added: “Bishop Sebastian and I have been thinking about the concrete steps we can take towards greater unity because we are on one mission.

“We will make concrete efforts. For example, we have been thinking about exchanging pulpits – having a Roman Catholic preach in an Anglican church and an Anglican at a Catholic church.”

The Anglican Bishop of Colombo, the Rt Revd Dhiloraj Canagasabey from the Church of Ceylon, said that he was “really excited” by the way the summit participants had been “celebrating our common call.”

He said: “Its greatest success is breaking down the walls of separation. We are becoming ‘buddies’ – partnerships grow when we hear about each other’s situations.

“In Sri Lanka, we are developing ideas to work together. For example, leaders having joint retreats, joint youth rallies, joint church rallies. And our work on social issues can be joint too.”

The Anglican Bishop of the Cape Coast in Ghana, the Rt Revd Victor Atta-Baffoe, part of

the Church of the Province of West Africa, described the summit as “interesting and challenging.”

He said: “This is a step forward. The links we already have are at local level. The challenge for us is building a platform at national level to give us a stronger voice.

“People are interested in what we stand for. There is a myth of separation between the churches in Ghana (which Iarccum work will help us to overcome.)

“This is a joy for the two of us. Working together will help us give a voice to the voiceless. We will be able to speak into areas such as policy-making and social services.”

- *A fuller interview with Bishop Alwin Samuel and Archbishop Sebastian Shaw will appear in the next edition of Anglican World, the quarterly magazine of the Anglican Communion. You can subscribe by [clicking here](#).*

Christian Aid launches appeal to help Haiti after Hurricane Matthew

Christian Aid has [launched an appeal](#) to help people in Haiti recover from Hurricane Matthew.

Thousands of people have lost their homes and livelihoods have been destroyed after the most powerful Caribbean hurricane in nearly a decade ripped through Haiti yesterday with winds of up to 145mph.

The worst-hit area is the southwest of the country, where scenes of flooding and devastation were described as “truly catastrophic”.

Prosperity Raymond, Christian Aid’s country manager in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, said: “People have lost their homes and livelihoods. Livestock were swept away and plantations have been flattened. They will need a lot of support to recover, including cash to rebuild their homes.

“We do not yet know how bad the damage is because there is no communication with the

southwest of the island. Some of our colleagues have been unable to get any information about their families there.

“We do know that houses have been destroyed and people have lost most of their belongings. A lot of farms have been flattened – corn and banana crops have been wiped away.

“People will need essential items, such as hygiene kits and blankets, cash and materials to rebuild their homes, as well as seeds and livestock.”

Christian Aid and its local partners ensured that shelters had been stocked with food over the weekend before the storms hit.

The category 4 storm made landfall near Les Anglais on the western tip of Haiti at 7am EDT (11am GMT) on Tuesday.

High winds and severe flooding have knocked out mobile communications, and there has been no electricity in the southwest of the island since Tuesday afternoon.

The main bridge linking capital Port-au-Prince with the southern peninsula was destroyed in the hurricane, creating a communications black-out and hampering aid delivery.

Nick Guttman, head of humanitarian at Christian Aid, said: “In the run-up to the hurricane our country team and local partners were helping to evacuate people to safe shelters. Our partners are with communities before disaster strikes and can be first to respond.

“We are carrying out a rapid needs assessment with our partners. It is vital to work with local partners in emergencies as local people are often the first to respond in a crisis. They have the best understanding of what their communities need so we should equip them with the resources they require.” Christian Aid has been working in Haiti for almost 20 years.

Pope welcomes Auschwitz survivors to general audience

Pope Francis greeted a group of Auschwitz concentration camp survivors after his general audience in St Peter's Square.

Addressing the 33 former prisoners and Polish pilgrims present, he said the day's feast of St Faustina Kowalska "reminded the world that God is rich in mercy and that his love is more powerful than death, than sin and every evil."

During his weekly message, the Pontiff said that Christians are called to follow the example of St Therese of Lisieux, who helped draw people to Jesus by way of attraction, not by proselytising.

She was a reminder that an authentic witness is proclaimed through a union with Christ "in prayer, adoration and in concrete charity, which is serving Jesus, who is present in the least of our brothers and sisters," he said.

In his main audience talk, Pope Francis reflected on his recent visit to Georgia and Azerbaijan, which, along with his visit in June to Armenia, fulfilled his desire to encourage the Catholic communities in the Caucasus region, he said. Recalling the October 1 Mass in Tbilisi celebrating the feast of St Therese, the patroness



A dog with a Pope's eye-view as Pope Francis poses with members of dog club

of the missions, the Pope said, “This is what the religious men and women I met in Tbilisi do, as well as in Baku: They do it with prayer and charitable works. I encouraged them to be steadfast in the faith with memory, courage and hope.”

Although both countries celebrated the 25th anniversary of their independence from the

Soviet regime, they still “face numerous difficulties in different aspects of social life” and the Catholic Church, in collaboration with other churches and Christian communities are called to be “a sign of charity and human development, he said.

“In Georgia, this mission naturally passes through the collaboration with our Orthodox brothers and sisters, who form the vast majority of the populations,” the Pope said.

Pope Francis said a “very important sign” of this collaboration was the presence of Orthodox Patriarch Ilia II at the airport upon his arrival as well as their meeting at Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, which houses the seamless tunic of Jesus, a garment the Pope described as a “symbol of unity of the church.”

“This unity is supported by the blood of so many martyrs of different Christian confessions. Among the most tested are the Assyrian-Chaldeans in Tbilisi with whom I lived an intense moment of prayer for peace in Syria, Iraq and in the whole Middle East,” the pope said.

The witness of love and unity given by religious men and women as well as Christian families in Georgia was also witnessed in Azerbaijan. Although the majority of the population is Muslim, he said, they share a good relationship with the small Catholic community there and “maintain fraternal ties with Orthodox Christians.”

Tributes paid to Sr Carmel Martin who ‘worked tirelessly’ in north Belfast

A north Belfast community is in mourning following the sudden death of a "much loved" nun.

Sister Carmel Martin, based in the Sacred Heart parish, was said to have "worked tirelessly" in the area for the past 30 years.

Sr Carmel, a member of the Rosminian Sisters (Sisters of Providence), had been visiting a bereaved family in the north of the city on Friday night when she suddenly took ill.

Originally from Dundalk, she had lived in the area for the past three decades and was heavily involved in charities and prayer groups, as well



as being a governor of Our Lady's Nursery School.

Warm tributes have been paid to the 60-year-old, who had dedicated her life to helping others.

Sacred Heart parish priest Fr Martin Magill said on Tuesday night that the community had been "stunned and shocked" by her death.

"She was a larger than life character who loved north Belfast and the Sacred Heart parish. It had become home to her over the 30 years that she had spent here," he said.

"She was very much regarded as a part of the community, so much so that we celebrated her

30 years here last year and just recently we marked her 60th birthday in July.

"Everyone is totally stunned and shocked by her death."

Sr Carmel's remains were brought to Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday evening ahead of Requiem Mass at noon on Wednesday, followed by burial in St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk.

She is survived by her brothers Luke and Aidan, sister Ann and family circle.

News briefs

+++ Trinity Chaplaincy introduction - The Service of Introduction of the Revd Steve Brunn as Dean of Residence and Church of Ireland Chaplain of Trinity College Dublin takes place on Thursday October 13 at 5.15 pm in the college chapel. The Archbishop of Dublin will preach. All are welcome to attend and a reception follows in the Atrium.

+++ Raising a cup for Macmillan - The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan and members of the Connor Diocesan team joined parishioners of both St Stephen's and St Michael's and many

friends of the parishes for coffee last Friday. They all turned out in support of St Stephen and St Luke's Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning. The event raised £545 for Macmillan.

+++ Dublin parish book launch - A book, which is being published to mark the 200th anniversary of Nun's Cross Church, will be launched by Archbishop Michael Jackson at the Clermont Campus, Rathnew, on Friday October 14 at 7.30 pm. "Nun's Cross Church and its Treasures 1817–2017" is written by Patricia Butler and details the history of the church over 200 years. The full colour production will cost €25 and can be ordered by emailing nuncrosschurchtreasures2017@gmail.com.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Orange Order members should be allowed to attend Mass: Assistant Grand Master Mervyn Gibson

Belfast Telegraaph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/orange-order-members-should-be-allowed-to-attend-mass-assistant-grand-master-mervyn-gibson-35106199.html>

Religion should play no role in debate on abortion

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/daniel-mcconnell/religion-should-play-no-role-in-debate-on-abortion-424023.html>

Mail/Christian Today/ITV

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury will meet Pope Francis in Rome to celebrate unity within Christianity, their third formal meeting since 2013. It will be part of a week-long summit celebrating the close relationship between the Anglican Communion and Roman Catholic Church. The two leaders will commission 19 pairs of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops from around the world. The summit is being held to mark the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Centre in Rome. David Moxon, director of the Anglican centre is quoted. *CT* reports that Anglican and Catholic theologians meeting in Rome will be examining a new path to possible unity.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3822242/Archbishop-Canterbury-meet-Pope-Francis-Rome.html>

Oxford Guardian

Further report that the new Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, was confronted by survivors of abuse on Friday before his inauguration service at Christ Church Cathedral. They were protesting that the Church had not listened to their disclosures of abuse. Includes comment from Bishop Steven and the Dean of Christ Church.

<http://www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/bishop-faces-protest-at-city-inauguration/>

Premier

Reports that a project letting people to access live-streamed C of E services on their phones and tablets has had more than 40,000 viewers so far. The project, called *ChurchLive*, will make its final broadcast on Sunday at the Point church in Sussex, the site of its first broadcast in 2015. It marks one year on after the scheme was launched by the Church in partnership with Twitter UK. The Revd Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Archbishops' Council is quoted.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/40-000-viewed-Church-of-England-services-online-since-2015>

Times

Reports the thanksgiving service for the life and work of Lord (Asa) Briggs of Lewes at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lord-briggs-mfwmgt8m2>

Comment

Guardian (Tues): Giles Fraser writes under the headline "Corbyn is an atheist - but his ideas are true to the Bible."
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/sep/29/corbyn-is-an-atheist-but-his-ideas-are-true-to-the-bible>

Christian Today: Archbishop Justin Welby And Pope Francis Want Christian Unity. Will They Get It?

Archbishop Justin sends good wishes for Rosh Hashanah

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5782/archbishop-justin-sends-good-wishes-for-rosh-hashanah>

Blogs

Psephizo Do we need common prayer?

<http://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/do-we-need-common-prayer/>

threads: Where were you God, when I needed you?

<https://www.threadsuk.com/where-were-you-god-when-i-needed-you>

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