



Political progress in North and South focus of Archbishop Jackson's East address

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson presided and preached at a Festal Eucharist in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Easter Day

In his sermon the Archbishop looked at the interchange between Faith Communities and the political world in the light of The Passion of Christ and the Resurrection which, with the help of the Transfiguration, point to dynamic change. He said this interchange remained important to civic life “because religious expression has not disappeared with the rapidity and the finality a secular society has hoped and assumed”. He focused on political progress in Ireland, North and South, and the work of Stephen Hawking.

Archbishop Jackson said Ireland North and South was finding that progress was a tiresome friend. “Twenty years of The Good Friday/Belfast Agreement have shown us that The Peace is very hard work and always requires encouragement, hope, forbearance and love in order to set its compass and plot its course. The last of these – love – no longer seems to be a public virtue. One Hundred Years of Independence bring their own difficulties in terms of the word: progress also. The past is easier to commemorate and its social constructs are easier to seek to tear down than the future is to create. Again love no longer seems to be a public virtue. Everybody speaks of the need for patience and vision and I think that we are

entitled to ask the question: What are the components of such love as a public and a civic virtue and vision?" he asked.

He suggested these components should include: A tolerance that expands and enlarges beyond toleration; A respect that already is greater than respectability itself; A righteousness that goes beyond regulation; Most of all: a connection of the individual with the personal in his or her life and in the life and dignity of The Other. "All of these ask much of people of faith but being asked much of is what we are called to do. This is the vital role of Faith Communities to public and to civic life," he stated.

The Archbishop suggested that living a life of faith in the post-Hawking era was never going to be easy. He said Stephen Hawking had done more in our day than any other single individual to show us all that science is not going away.

Full text of Archbishop Jackson's sermon at -

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2018/04/01/easter-asks-many-questions-of>

'I'd like a much stronger female presence in the Church' - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has said he would like to see 'a much stronger female presence in the Church', speaking in light of recent comments made by Mary McAleese calling the Catholic Church "the primary global carrier of the virus of misogyny."

In an interview with Miriam O'Callaghan on RTÉ Radio 1, the Archbishop said he believes that a stronger female presence in the Church is achievable, even with a male priesthood. "But it depends on the ability of the male priesthood," he said.

"Misogynism is obviously present in the Church. It is a sign of human immaturity," he said. "If there are priests that are misogynists, it means they are not mature in themselves and they've either never had healthy relations with women or they don't understand that."

In Ms McAleese's speech, delivered at the Rome headquarters of Francis' Jesuit order earlier this month she said: "The Catholic Church has long



since been a primary global carrier of the toxic virus of misogyny.

“Its leadership has never sought a cure for that virus though the cure is freely available.

“Its name is equality.”

Speaking about young people losing confidence in the Church, the Archbishop stated that “there are more members of the Cabinet under 45 than I have priests under 45. What does that say?”

He also addressed the issue of St. Colman's College in Newry and the claims of abuse suffered by young boys at the hand of Fr.



Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin lead the Good Friday Walk of Witness down Dame Street, Dublin.

Malachy Finnegan. “Why are all these stories only coming out now?” he said.

“I don’t know if people were covered up, or were afraid to talk. Let the truth come out. The truth will make you free, even if it’s unpleasant.”
Speaking about the Pope’s upcoming visit to Ireland, he described the Pope as a “complex figure,” who’s “nobody’s fool.”

The Archbishop said he worries that some of the protocol issues during his visit might take more time than “meeting with the poor.”

He added he would like Pope Francis to address struggling families and victims of clerical abuse.

“There’s no way Pope can’t address that,” he said.

During the interview, Archbishop Martin also became upset while describing an interaction between him and the Pope on the subject of babies being uncovered around Mother and Baby homes.

“I hope that people around him, and even people in Ireland, allow him to say what he wants to say,” he said, referring to the Pope.

Report courtesy Irish Independent

WCC decries violence on Israel-Palestinian border

World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit decried both the violence and the denial of the right to nonviolent and peaceful protest on the border.



World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit

After at least 17 Palestinians were killed and more than 1,400 injured by Israeli fire at the Gaza border on 30 March, Palestinians were observing a national day of mourning on 31 March.

Thousands of people were attending the funerals of those who were killed during a “Land Day” protest symbolically demanding a right for Palestinians to return to former family homes in what is now Israel. The protest, the largest seen in Gaza in years, coincided with Palestinian Land

Day, which remembers the confiscation of Palestinian-owned land in Israel in 1976.

World Council of Churches general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit decried both the violence and the denial of the right to nonviolent and peaceful protest on the border.

“This has become a critical situation for people’s lives and people’s dignity in Gaza,” he said and added: “The events the last days shows that it is urgent to respond to the extremely difficult life conditions in Gaza with constructive and just solutions.” Tveit underlined: “We call on the Israeli government to guarantee human rights, the freedom of speech and the need for just peace and decent living conditions for all people.”

Tveit added: “We also call for support and action from the international community to end the blockade of Gaza. We all need to commit to the moral value of justice and peace: both parties would be blessed by a lasting solution, and it would be an important contribution to world peace.”

The 30 March protest was the single deadliest day in the Israel-Palestine conflict since the 2014 Gaza War. Today, some 1.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza are registered refugees, according to the United Nations.

Tveit called for prayers and solidarity with the people of Gaza. “We pray for the victims and their families,” he said, “and we seek God’s mercy, love and grace that we may be empowered with strength to continue our work for justice and peace.”

WCC policy on Palestine and Israel 1948-2016 (<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/public-witness/peace-building-cf/wcc-policy-on-palestine-and-israel-1948-2016-summary>)

Archbishop Leo Cushley celebrates first ever Mass in Scottish Parliament

Archbishop Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Scotland, has described as a ‘great privilege’ his celebration of what is believed to be the first ever Mass in the Scottish Parliament. Members of Scottish Parliament



Archbishop Leo Cushley

gathered at Holyrood Parliament Building on March 28, the Wednesday of Holy Week for the Mass.

Speaking ahead of the Mass, Archbishop Leo Cushley said, 'It is a great privilege to be officially invited to offer Holy Mass within the Scottish Parliament, the first such invitation since the parliament's re-establishment 19 years ago. It is a generous gesture which seems to recognise that Catholics are valued participants in the civic life of contemporary Scotland, where we seek to work with others in advancing the common good.'

Commenting on the occasion, Anthony Horan, Director of the Scottish Catholic Parliamentary Office said, 'The celebration of Holy Mass, the summit of Catholic life, is an opportunity to express prayers for the work of our elected representatives and for the common good of society. Of course, Holyrood means Holy Cross, so in that sense, parliament is a most fitting place for this historic celebration.'

Bishop of Salisbury says violation of city is still unfolding

The Bishop of Salisbury has said the consequences of the 'violation' of the city are still unfolding and that international tensions are rising in a way he's never seen before.

Almost a month after Sergei and Yulia Skripal were found on a park bench in Salisbury, poisoned by a nerve agent, the Bishop says Salisbury "has had a very strange few weeks"

At the Diocese's Maundy Thursday Chrism Mass, the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam said: "It was an attack not just on them but a violation of the city in which other people got caught up."

"The consequences are still unfolding."



He added how it had led to a lack of confidence in each other: "Who can we trust and how are we to live together? The implications have gone way beyond Salisbury. Twenty countries are sending home Russians from their embassies and tensions have risen in a way I cannot recall."

In his welcome to the service, the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam said:

“Coming to Salisbury in present circumstances feels like a very strong affirmation of belief in the Christian story on which this cathedral city was founded nearly 800 years ago. When things go wrong we believe in new life, hope and resurrection. What we do here and in our churches in the next few days attests that truth, love and justice matter in the way in which we live with one another.

“The Christian story is what Salisbury was built on nearly 800 years ago. It is still the organizing principle of the city now. In Holy Week we remember that Christ came into Jerusalem as messiah and king, had supper with his friends, was betrayed, denied, falsely accused, tried by earthly powers and crucified and on the third day rose again. You can’t keep a good God down.”

C of I Communications competition

For the Church, Easter is the ultimate ‘good news time’ and so it is an appropriate occasion for the Central Communications Board to announce details of its annual Communications Competition. Entries are invited from Church of Ireland parishes, dioceses and affiliated organisations, in the categories of Diocesan Magazine, Parish Magazine/Newsletter, and Church of Ireland affiliated organisation Magazine/Newsletter. Quality of presentation, strength of content and outreach potential are once again to be the standards of excellence against which entries will be judged. The closing date is Friday, 27 April. Winners will be announced at the General Synod which will be

held in the Armagh City Hotel on 10–12 May 2018.

Magazines and newsletters are important for the exchange of news and views in Church communities and printed media continues to play a vital role within the life of the Church of Ireland. The Central Communications Board has decided to alternate between print and websites/digital media from this year onwards, and this year's competition will focus on print media.

News briefs

+++ On Easter Tuesday, Belfast Cathedral will host the '**Biggest Easter Egg Hunt in Belfast**'. The Cathedral invites families to call in from 11am until 3pm so children aged 0–12 can explore all the Cathedral's nooks and crannies in the search for those hidden eggs. In addition, there will be an Easter Trail inside the Cathedral, and arts and crafts to stimulate young minds. Entry will be £2 per child, with a prize for all successful egg hunters while adults will be free to look around or relax while the children are occupied with the serious task of egg hunting.

+++ A new series of free lunchtime concerts will begin next Wednesday at 1.15pm in **St Mary's cathedral, Limerick**. In the opening recital Sarah–Ellen Murphy (alto) and Peter Barley (piano) will perform works by de Falla and Brahms.

+++ On Friday evening at 7pm St Katharine's church, Dunlambert Park, Belfast, will host the first performance in Ireland of a dramatized staging of **Handel's Messiah by the Merry Opera Company** which has already completed eight tours in Britain – St Katharine's is part of the group's 2018 tour. Tickets are available from the rector, Canon William Taggart, on 07933 588355. They can also be bought online from the Merry Opera Company website. A limited number of seats will be available on the night.

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