

APRIL 2010





❖ APRIL DIARY

1	17.45	Maundy Thursday Sung Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
2	11.15 14.00	Good Friday Matins Proclamation of the Cross Preacher (at both services): The Rt Revd R.A. Warke
2	20.00	Carmichael Centre presents <i>Dublin's Good Friday Concert</i>
4	11.15 15.15	Easter Day Sung Eucharist Preacher: The Very Revd R.B. MacCarthy Dean and Ordinary Festal Evensong
15	17.45	Tour Guides' Evening

❖ APRIL PRAYER

Dean Fyche died on 8 April 1537. He is commemorated on a brass monument near the Cathedral's Order Door. It shows him kneeling in prayer whilst wearing a fur tippet to protect him from the cold. The scroll he bears reads Have mercy upon me, O holy King, Lord Jesu Christ.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness... (Psalm 51: 1)

Most merciful God
slow to chide, swift to bless,
look upon us in your great goodness;
that when we kneel to seek your mercy
we may know your love that cleanses our sin
and makes us whiter than snow;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CM



❖ APPOINTMENT OF CATHEDRAL AND OFFICE MANAGER

Hugh St Leger, who had been appointed Cathedral Administrator has withdrawn for personal reasons, and will not be taking up the post.

The Board, bearing in mind the *inter regnum* period, has appointed Grant Thornton to review management procedures in the Cathedral. This operation is being carried out by them at the moment. Pending their report, the Board has unanimously agreed to appoint Gavan Woods, the current Cathedral Supervisor, to take on an interim role to be entitled Cathedral and Office Manager, for a three month period commencing 30 March 2010. Gavan will be based in the office of the former Administrator, Scott Hayes, in the Cathedral Office. He will, *ex officio*, be in attendance at meetings of the Board, the Finance, Fabric, Music and all other Committees of the Board.

The Board takes this opportunity of wishing Gavan all the very best in his new role.

❖ SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

There was a service of Holy Communion in Irish at 8.30am and a well-attended Eucharist later. The Friendly Brothers of St. Patrick attended in large numbers and took up the collection. The preacher was Bishop George Cassidy who was born and grew up in Belfast and is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast. His ministry has been in England, latterly as Bishop of Southwell.

Meanwhile, on RTÉ Radio 1, there was a *Celebration of Saint Patrick's Day* led by Canon Mullen, with the Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Gentlemen of the Choir directed by David Leigh and accompanied by Stuart Nicholson. In place of a sermon Eppie Claffey, a member of the Girls' Choir, was interviewed by Canon Mullen. Readings, music and prayers were carefully chosen to suit the Patrician theme. We enjoy a good working relationship with RTÉ who afford us regular coverage: radio is a very effective medium of communication!



❖GERMAN SCHOOLS' CONCERT

Jugend musiziert is the biggest music competition for children and young people in Germany and German schools abroad, with approximately 20,000 contestants. The second round of the competition took place this year in Saint Patrick's Cathedral and was attended by students, teachers and parents from a wide range of locations in northern Europe. Beforehand a reception, attended by the Ambassador of Germany, was held in the Deanery for friends of St Killian's German School by kind permission of the Dean.

❖OBITUARY

We regret to record the death of Mrs Doris Carter. She was the widow of Canon Charles Carter and, until they entered a nursing home, they were regular members of the Sunday morning congregation in Saint Patrick's.

The funeral was held in the Mageough Chapel in which the Dean and Canon Stacey took part.

❖DEANERY ENTERTAINING

The Dean entertained the following to lunch on Saint Patrick's Day:

The Precentor and Mrs Reed, the Treasurer and Mrs Mills, the Rt Revd George Cassidy, Canon Ellis, Canon and Mrs McKinley, Mr Stuart Nicholson, and Canon Stacey.

❖LUNCH IN THE PAKENHAM HALL

On Sunday 28th March a lunch was held in the Pakenham Hall of the Grammar School to say an official farewell to Mr Barley by the choristers and their parents and to welcome the new Organist and Master of the Choristers, Mr Stuart Nicholson. Past and present choristers and parents attended to the lunch. We are grateful to members of the Choir and School Committee for their hard work in preparing and serving the delicious food.



❖ GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS

It is actually daylight when I arrive in school at 7.30am these days; a welcome change after the long, dark winter. Spring is in the air and the familiar sounds of ‘after school football’ reach my office on a daily basis.

The homework club is in full swing as is basketball for junior girls. Last week, TY students had a talk from a final year university student interested in setting up a ‘Model United Nations’ group in the school. He is to do a ‘trial’ run for 4–6 weeks next term. If all goes well he will run the group on a weekly basis next year. It is wonderful to see the increased interest in extra-curricular activities and I am grateful to the Parents’ Association who contribute generously to the cost of these facilities.

We entered two choir competitions in the Wesley College Inter Schools Music Festival last week. Our ‘small choir’ won the ‘Unaccompanied Vocal Ensemble’ competition while the ‘large choir’ came second in the 4-Part Choirs competition. This was a truly remarkable result for our small school and I was especially amazed when I realised that at least a quarter of the choir were Form I students: clearly they are a talented bunch. I congratulate all the singers and, of course, Mr Dexter who works magic with them. I think last Friday is a night they will remember for a long time!

Several other students entered solo competitions in the Wesley Music Festival. Harry Meehan, Sorina Popa and Hazel Griffin all did themselves proud and achieved very high marks in their respective competitions. However, the greatest achievement undoubtedly belongs to Eppie Claffey, who won the Over 17 Classical Singing Competition. Eppie has been a major contributor to the Cathedral Girls’ Choir since its inception, and I am delighted to see her talent rewarded.

Unfortunately the last few weeks of term do not look promising. We are to have a Whole-School Evaluation in the last week of term. The inspection covers school management, three subjects and our Transition Year programme. I think we will be glad of our Easter holidays!

Sylvia Hick



❖MICHAEL FOOT: DEAN GRIFFIN REMEMBERS.....

In 1980 I decided that we should have in Saint Patrick's Cathedral an annual lecture on Swift and I wrote to Michael Foot, one of Swift's fervent admirers. He gladly accepted and duly arrived complete with his sturdy walking stick, anorak and an enormous bundle of Sunday newspapers which he had perused on the flight to Dublin. Speaking without a note and with true Swiftian eloquence and directness, he held forth to a packed Cathedral on the challenge of Swift to churches, statesmen and politicians today.

Afterwards, Michael confided that he found it a greater ordeal to face the congregation from the pulpit of Saint Patrick's than to face the House of Commons from the opposition front bench. A fanatic bibliophile, he toured the Dublin bookshops on visits to Dublin when he always made a point of visiting Saint Patrick's Cathedral and doing homage at the grave of Swift.

Michael Foot died on 3 March 2010.

❖AGE ACTION IRELAND

Age Action Ireland is the national network on ageing and older people. Age Action promotes better policies and services for all older people....

Are you 60+ years of age? Have you a small repair job that you would like to have done for you? The Care & Repair Service (run by Age Action Ireland) uses a pool of trustworthy volunteers and handypersons to carry out minor repairs for older people. All volunteers are vetted and carry official Care & Repair identification cards. The service is free; you pay only for the materials used. For bigger jobs, they maintain a register of reliable and honest tradespersons. They will be accepting requests for gardening jobs shortly. You can arrange to have a job done by telephoning the Age Action Care & Repair number: which is 1890 369 369, or 01-4756989.



❖ MR STUART NICHOLSON – *THE BIG INTERVIEW*

Close News sent its roving (raving?) reporter, Canon Mullen, to track down our new Organist and Master of the Choristers and to ask him some awkward questions. Here are the results...

Are you finding your way round Dublin?

I haven't had much time to do any exploring yet, but I'm looking forward to discovering more of its delights when I get a few days' holiday after Easter. I've purchased lots of guide books...

Were you familiar with Dublin before your appointment as Organist?

No, I hadn't been here before my interview for the job. I worked in Saint Philip's Cathedral in Birmingham, and Saint Paul's Cathedral and the Temple Church in London before I came here, so I'm familiar with city life.

So why did you choose to come to Dublin?

I'd heard that the Choir was up to good things at Saint Patrick's, and I saw that the Cathedral was beautiful. Lots of my friends have either visited Dublin or have worked here, so there were lots of good recommendations. It's also near the coast; this is an advantage for someone who likes walking on beaches.

You're married?

Yes, to Victoria, a classical guitarist. We've been married for eight years. Vic, who hates being called 'Vicky', currently spends half of her time in Dublin and the other half in Birmingham, where she teaches music at several schools. She loves Dublin and the Cathedral and Ryanair...

Aside from Church music what are your interests?

I like baking, cooking and films. I hate playing sport, but I enjoy watching it!

Baking, you said?

Yes, I make a mean carrot cake...

What music do you listen to when you're not playing the organ or conducting the choir?

I'm reluctant to admit it, but I'm a big fan of West End music! I like all types of music, really.

So can we look forward to some West End music in the Cathedral soon?

Only when it's appropriate!

Stuart, thank you for talking to me!

CM



CANONS-IN-RESIDENCE

April 4	The Very Revd R.B.MacCarthy	Dean and Ordinary
April 11	The Revd J.M. Catterall	Prebendary of Mulhuddart
April 18	The Revd R.T. Gillian	Prebendary of Donaghmore
April 25	The Revd G.J.O.Dunstan	Prebendary of Swords

Services: *Monday to Friday*

09.40	Sung Matins (<i>during school term</i>)
11.05	Holy Eucharist (<i>said in the Lady Chapel on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saints' Days and Festivals</i>)
17.45	Choral Evensong

Saturday

11.05	Holy Eucharist (<i>said in the Lady Chapel</i>)
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Sunday

8.30	Holy Eucharist (<i>said in the Lady Chapel</i>)
11.15	Sung Eucharist / Choral Matins
15.15	Choral Evensong

Cathedral Contacts:

Dean: The Very Revd Robert MacCarthy (475 5449 / 453 9472)

Dean's Vicar: The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (453 9472)

Cathedral and Office Manager: Mr Gavan Woods (453 9472)

Vergar/Assistant Supervisor: Mr Louis Parminter (475 4817)

Cathedral Office:

Dean's Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Hickey

Tour Accounts: Mrs Joy Stewart

Organist and Master of the Choristers: Mr Stuart Nicholson

Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir: Mr David Leigh
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