

OCTOBER 2011





❖ THE OCTOBER DIARY

1	20:00	Hewson Recital
2	11.15	Installation of Revd P.K. McDowell as Prebendary of Clonmethan
2	15.15	Huguenot Service Preacher: Dr Jean-Paul Pition, Formerly Professor in the University of Tours
15		DIT Graduation Ceremony Cathedral Closed
15	20.00	Past Pupils Wine & Savoury Evening At the Deanery
16	15.15	Past Choristers Evensong
22	14.00	Swift Symposium in the Deanery
22	20.00	Concert: Jan Gabarek & The Hilliard Ensemble
23	15.15	Installation of Revd Canon H.E. Finlay as Treasurer
23	15.15	Annual service in Commemoration of Jonathan Swift Preacher: Revd Canon H.E. Finlay, Treasurer
27	18.30	Liberties College Graduation Ceremony
29		DIT Graduation Ceremony Cathedral Closed
30	15.15	Installation of Revd S.E. Doogan as Prebendary of Wicklow



❖ THE OCTOBER PRAYER

Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, was born on 13 October 1566. The Boyle Monument beside the west door of the Cathedral contains kneeling family figures to remind observers of the need to remain constant and faithful in prayer.

Jesus told them a parable to show that they should keep on praying and never lose heart... (Luke 18: 1)

*Blessed be your love, Lord Jesus,
Opening our hearts to yours
Yesterday, today, for ever!
Lead us by your Holy Spirit
Ever to be watchful and faithful in prayer. Amen*

CM

❖ DEANERY ENTERTAINING

On September 17 the Dean entertained the following to lunch:
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, H.E. the Argentinian Ambassador, Mr & Mrs Eamon Delaney, Professor & Mrs Ronan Fanning, Dr & Mrs Jean-Paul Pittion.

❖ DEAN'S GIFT DAY

Following his appeal for funds for the restoration of the Lady Chapel as this year's project for Gift Day, to date the Dean has received €28,386. The Dean wishes to thank all who have contributed. The Gift Day fund is still open and should anyone wish to make a donation, please send your donation to the Cathedral Office.



❖END OF SEASON

We are just about at the end of our second busiest summer season ever in the Cathedral, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have worked so hard to ensure that visitors are given such a warm welcome to Saint Patrick's.

This year we increased the number of guided tours available to visitors, and a big thank you has to be given to all who made this such a success. Staff, volunteers and clergy, as well as some very welcome help from the Dublinia Heritage Project helped ensure that from the middle of May until the end of September, we were able to guarantee guided tours of the Cathedral every day. We are going to continue this work to a lesser extent during the winter months with a guided tour every afternoon at 14.30 from 1 October.

Of course, the guided tours are just one aspect of the great work in the Cathedral. Welcoming thousands of visitors through the doors each day, keeping the shop well stocked, and answering the same questions over and over again are just a few of the many other tasks undertaken, and all of this done with an unending cheerful welcome. Our colleagues in the Cathedral Office also play a huge part in the life of the Cathedral, many of their tasks are of the variety that are only noticed when they are not carried out well. The fact that this simply doesn't happen is a credit to them.

So well done to all involved, and many thanks for your continued great work.
LP

❖CULTURE NIGHT

The Cathedral was empty for Sung Matins on Friday September 23 and the nave was full for Choral Evensong. This probably had something to do with a concert by the Cathedral Choir, the Georgian Choir and the Latvian Choir which immediately followed the service and the Cathedral was thronged with people for the rest of the evening.

The Latvian and Georgian Ambassadors were present at the concert.



❖ HARVEST FLOWERS

Once again we are grateful to Mrs Pat Kane and her helpers for decorating the Cathedral for the Harvest Thanksgiving. This year some visitors from the Netherlands were among the helpers and were much appreciated.



Mrs Pat Kane and members of the Dutch Flower Guild

❖ NEW TREASURER APPOINTED

Canon Hueston Edward Finlay M.A., B.A.I., B.Th., Ph.D. has been appointed Treasurer by the Dean and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has consented to this appointment.

Canon Finlay was born and brought up in Portlaoise where his parents still live. He was educated at Wesley College, Dublin and Trinity College, Dublin. His initial degree was in Engineering and he then turned to the study of theology – his doctorate is from King's College, London for a thesis on the German theologian, Schleiermacher.



Ordained in 1989 for the curacy of Kilkenny, he was then curate of Great St Mary's Cambridge. From 1995 he was Fellow and Chaplain and then Dean of Magdalene College, Cambridge. From 2004 he has been canon of the Queen's Free Chapel of St George within Windsor Castle. There is he also warden of St George's House which was founded by the Duke of Edinburgh as a staff college for the Church of England.

In 2006 he preached on St Patrick's Day at St Patrick's. His sermon on that occasion may be read in "A year of sermons at St Patrick's".

Aged 47 he is married to Anne and they have three children.

The installation will be at Evensong on Sunday 23 October.

❖NEW CHANCELLOR'S VICAR

The Chancellor has appointed the Revd Paul Arbuthnot B.Th., M.A., M.Litt. as his Vicar. Paul was ordained in 2010 as curate of Glenageary. Previously, he was a member of the choir as vicar of the Prebendary of Swords. He was installed by the Succentor on September 26.

❖HOLY BAPTISM

Sam, Peter, son of Sean and Inez Osborne of Temple Bar was baptised by the Dean in the Lady Chapel on August 27.

❖INSTALLATION OF THE CHANCELLOR

The Very Revd Dr Stephen White was installed by the Dean at Evensong on September 11 in the presence of a number of members of the Chapter. Present were Canons Reed, McKinley, Stacey, Mullen, Kennedy, Warren, Knowles and Gardner.



❖NEW CHORISTER

At Evensong on Sunday 26 September, Rian Middleton was admitted to the choir as a chorister. He was presented by Mr Stuart Nicholson, Organist and Master of the Choristers and admitted into the choir by Revd David Oxley, Succentor.



Mr Stuart Nicholson and Rian Middleton

❖FAMILY FUN-DAY

Join us this Halloween (31st October) at Saint Patrick's Cathedral for family fun, colourful characters from the past and free tours of our ancient graves and tombs. Learn something about a few of the hundreds of historical figures who rest beneath the Cathedral floor or in our adjoining grave yard

Experience dramatic organ music by candle light and have a go at making your own mask. For details of times and booking check out our website www.stpatrickscathedral.ie (All events are free but standard admission charge still applies).



❖NOTES FROM THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Christmas term at the Grammar School is in full swing again. The new form one students are settling in and we have some new students in several other classes too. Extracurricular activities are gradually starting and hockey, rugby, football and basketball are all underway. Students are also involved in drama, fashion and jewellery club, computer club, green schools, student's council and Gaisce. Homework club is open again on three evenings a week from 4-6pm and I am pleased to note an increased enrolment this term.

The Leaving Certificate results were very pleasing with 37.5% of students obtaining 400 or more points, 515 points being the highest. Students have progressed to many colleges in Ireland and abroad including TCD, UCD, DIT, Griffith College, Inchicore College. They are studying a wide range of subject areas including philosophy, social work, arts, drama, veterinary nursing, accounting and finance, hotel management, landscape architecture and photography.

Just before the summer the Board of Governors applied to Dublin City Council for planning permission for our proposed building development on Kevin Street. I am delighted to report we received full permission. While there is still much to be done, we are definitely moving closer to the 'building' stage!

SH

❖VOLUNTEERS EVENING

The annual gathering of the volunteers took place in the Lady Chapel on September 26. They were addressed by Dr Paula Murphy on the monuments particularly those of the Nineteenth Century. At a reception afterwards in the Deanery David Millar, Chairman of the Volunteers and The Dean, spoke.



❖ PAST CHORISTER'S & PUPILS ASSOCIATION

The President and committee of the Association ask for the support of members for the following events to be held over week-end 15/16 October 2011.

Harvest Wine & Savoury Evening

This event will be held in the Deanery (by kind permission) on Saturday 15th October commencing at 8.00 pm. All past pupils and their friends are invited to come to what should be a most enjoyable and relaxing evening in the magnificent surroundings of the Deanery. There will be a fine spread of attractive goodies on offer and many raffle prizes to be won. Please do your best to attend.

The charge per person is €15 (payable at the door) and the proceeds will be used to help subsidise the costs of the annual reunion dinner of the Association.

Past Choristers Reunion Evensong

Sunday 16th October has been set aside for our Reunion Evensong. This event was introduced, as an experiment, some years ago and has now become a popular annual occurrence. All past choristers of both choirs (boys and girls) are invited to join with the cathedral choir to sing evensong. It is a lovely opportunity to be, once again, part of the choir and relive memories of bygone years spent as a chorister of Saint Patrick's. The music is always specially selected for the occasion and never too difficult so there is no pressure on anyone.

You are asked to meet in the cathedral at 2.00 pm for rehearsal prior to the service which commences at 3.15 pm.

Refreshments will be served in the Hewson Room after the service.



❖SWIFT SYMPOSIUM

The Tenth Jonathan Swift Symposium will take place at the Deanery on Saturday 22 October at 2pm. Speakers on the subject 'Swift and the Church' are Christopher Fauske, Salem State University, Brendan Twoomey, Allied Irish Bank, Regina Janes, Skidmore College, New York, Marcus Walsh, University of Liverpool and Louise Barnett, Rutgers University, New Jersey. To register for this event, please telephone Saint Patrick's Cathedral office, 01- 453 9472 or email: dean@stpatrickscathedral.ie

The Annual Service of Commemoration of Jonathan Swift, Dean of Saint Patrick's 1713-45 will take place on Sunday 23 October at 3.15pm. The address will be given by the Revd Canon H.E. Finlay, Treasurer.

❖SERMON PREACHED BY THE REVD CANON M.C. KENNEDY ON SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Romans 1: 20 "Ever since the creation of the world God's invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made." I must admit that, living as I do in Armagh, the first I heard of a World Atheist Convention having taken place in Dublin was when I read about it in the Irish Times. And I noticed that along with some of the usual suspects, including the ubiquitous Richard Dawkins, who I suppose could be called the contemporary high priest of atheism - that is denial of God - was one Ivana Bacik, Professor of Law in Trinity College Dublin and a well-known political activist. She had, in fact, sent out to me as to other Trinity graduates, a request to vote for her for election to the Irish Senate. Although I had found her ideas stimulating (I don't think she actually mentioned her atheism) I felt there were other candidates also worthy of one's consideration!

Clearly one did not have more than a very brief summary of the principal speakers' remarks in the report given in the Irish Times. But there was enough there to go on, and having read what Dr Bacik was said to have said I felt she should not get



off scot-free for having said it! And I wrote to her. I'm going to give a synopsis of what I said to her as a Christian believer and as a priest of the Church, in a minute, but before doing so I really want to nail the widespread supposition that there are no rational grounds for belief in God. There seems to be an idea that one has to choose, for example, between science - based on evidence - and religion, supposedly a matter of blind faith. That is in fact a nonsense, as demonstrated, for example, in the long series of carefully written and intellectually challenging books by Dr John Polkinghorne. Dr Polkinghorne is a world-class physicist and a Fellow of the Royal Society - the most prestigious scientific body in the United Kingdom - perhaps the world - and was until recently, President of Queens' College Cambridge. He is also an ordained clergyman of the Church of England and his autobiography is entitled "From Physicist to Priest". He continues to fulfil both roles, one of his most recent books being entitled "Theology in the Context of Science". He actually shows that there is a sort of convergence between scientific modes of thinking and the work of theologians although there are obviously some significant differences as well.

Well, if I understood her correctly, Dr Bacik was arguing that it was perfectly possible to be a morally sound person and also a non-believer - fair enough. My own very highly esteemed elder brother, Denis, whom I buried some years ago in the churchyard in Kildarton, was baptized in infancy, but apart from that had no church connection, not even with a Sunday-School when he was growing up, and was a lifelong atheist - and also a good person. I miss him very much. But what really riled me was Dr Bacik's assertion that atheism, per se, is "profoundly moral and that its central tenet is respect for other's beliefs, with an emphasis on combining reason and compassion". This seemed to me, as a general statement of truth, demonstrably divorced from reality. I said that if it was necessary for Christians to come to terms with uncomfortable truths such as the anti-Catholic Penal Laws in Ireland, or, to take another example, the Spanish Inquisition I did not see how atheists could be excused for ignoring some of the horrendous misdeeds perpetrated by their fellow disbelievers. I pointed out the obvious, that three of the most powerful and wicked figures of the mid-twentieth century, Hitler, Stalin and Mao, espoused ideologies of which atheism was a central tenet, and their crimes and those of their atheistic regimes were so monstrous as very nearly to surpass human comprehension. And all three were, quite specifically, anti-Christian. I noted that I was, of course, familiar with Richard Dawkins' attempt to explain this phenomenon away in his "The God Delusion." I said I did not think



many people who were aware of twentieth century history would find his special pleading any more convincing here than in any other aspects of his anti-religious writings. The problem of evil, I said, exist for atheists as well as for theists and had to be faced honestly by both. As against her assertion of "respect for other people's beliefs with an emphasis on combining reason and compassion" I pointed out that every possible effort had been made, for example in the former Soviet Union, not only to deny religion but to indoctrinate pupils in atheism for the entire seventy years of the existence of that unhappy state.

She also alleged, if I understood her correctly, that people only believed in religion because they took it on the authority of other people and the institutions in which religion was embodied. That didn't, as I pointed out, actually fit my own situation since I came from a non-churchgoing family although my mother and father were favourably disposed to religion and in their private capacity were Christian believers. It was my tormenting my mother at the age of seven or eight to allow me to join a church choir that led to my going - on my own, Sunday by Sunday - to All Saints' Blackrock (whose vicar was the Precentor of this Cathedral Church) and this set me on the road to where I now am. Whatever pressures towards churchgoing that existed in society then did not apply to me personally, and I would reckon there are very few people, either in my own two parish churches in the Diocese of Armagh or, for that matter in the nave of this Cathedral Church this morning who are there because anyone has made them come. In today's secular world and in a country where there has in fact been a massive falling away from church attendance it is the person who practices their faith who is the against the stream.

I finished my letter by pointing out the glaring gaps in the arguments of several very distinguished people who have declared themselves publicly as atheists. I took as an example Stephen's Hawking's view that everything goes back (variously, it's not clear) to the existence of gravity and put in capitals the word WHENCE? after this with a question mark) or to the laws of nature (I put in another WHENCE? for where did these come from?) and said he leaves actually unanswered the question of WHY is there a universe (or multiverse if such it be), and ended "Why is there SOMETHING rather than NOTHING?!" Ever.

I could have pointed out that the world's most academically prestigious atheist philosopher, Dr Antony Flew, who had written over 50 books and articles against belief in God, changed his mind some years ago, no longer being convinced by his own arguments and wrote (with a collaborator) a book explaining why. The cover of his book amusingly has "There is no God" with the "no" crossed out and the



word "a" put in: "There is a God", with the subtitle, "How the world's most notorious atheist changed his mind"! He was even convinced by the weight of evidence that Our Lord Jesus Christ did actually rise from the dead. He died himself a year or two ago.

By the way, I am still waiting for a reply to my letter to Dr Ivana Bacik.



Sunday

08.30 The Holy Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)
11.15 Sung Eucharist / Choral Matins
15.15 Choral Evensong

Monday to Friday

09.00 Sung Matins (*during school term*)
11.05 The Holy Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel on
Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saints' Days and Festivals*)
17.30 Choral Evensong

Saturday

11.05 The Holy Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)

❖ CATHEDRAL CANONS-IN-RESIDENCE

October	1	The Revd P.K. McDowell	<i>Prebendary of Clonmethan</i>
October	8	The Revd P.H.A. Lawrence	<i>Prebendary of Monmohenock</i>
October	15	The Revd I.M. Ellis	<i>Prebendary of Newcastle</i>
October	22	The Revd J.P.O. Barry	<i>Prebendary of St Audoen's</i>
October	29	The Revd C.W. Mullen	<i>Prebendary of Rathmichael</i>

❖ CATHEDRAL CONTACTS

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

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

Administrator: Mr Gavan Woods (453 9472)

Cathedral Manager/Vergger: Mr Louis Parminter (475 4817)

Cathedral Assistant Manager: Mr Colin Chadwick (475 4817)

Cathedral Office: Tour Accounts: Mrs Joy Stewart

Dean's Secretary and Office Manager: Mrs Jennifer Hickey

Education Officer: Mr Andrew Staunton Smith (453 9472)

Organist and Master of the Choristers: Mr Stuart Nicholson (453 9472)

Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir:

Mr David Leigh (475 3298)

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