

FEBRUARY 2011



❖ THE FEBRUARY DIARY

2	17:30	Choral Eucharist of Candlemas sung by the Cathedral Choir (<i>Schola Patricii</i>)
12	17:30	Evensong sung by the choir of Saint Anselm's Preparatory School
17	18:00	Service of thanksgiving for the life of Miranda, Countess of Iveagh
19		Graduation Ceremonies: Cathedral closed for visits.

❖ THE FEBRUARY PRAYER

2 February is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, sometimes called The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or Candlemas. The Presentation is depicted in a panel in the centre light of the south transept window.

'Suddenly the Lord whom you seek will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight is here, here already, says the Lord of Hosts.'
(Malachi 3: 1)

Almighty God,
as your Son was presented in the Temple of the old covenant
and acclaimed by Simeon as the Light to lighten the nations;
grant that we, who are the temple of the Holy Spirit,
may bear witness to that light with pure hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CM

❖ DEANERY ENTERTAINING

In January the following were entertained to lunch:

HE the Ambassador of Romania and Mrs Buga, Dr & Mrs Nigel Buttimore, Mr Stephen Carson, Dr James Clinch, Dr Kerry Houston, Bishop S.G. Poyntz, Bishop & Mrs R.A. Warke, Mrs Valerie Willoughby.



❖NEW YEAR'S EVE

The members of the Saint Patrick's Amateur Society of Change Ringers gathered as usual in the ringing chamber on New Year's Eve. After ringing out the old year, Canon Mullen led the traditional Belfry prayer, and at midnight the New Year was rung in with a peal of ten.

❖CLOSE NEWS VIA E-MAIL

In order to reduce the cost of publishing and distributing Close News, we are endeavouring to e-mail *Close News* to as many readers of this publication as possible. We request that should you wish to receive a copy of *Close News*, send an e-mail to the following address; elizabeth.lowrie@stpatrickscathedral.ie and a copy of each month's version will be sent to you until you wish to be taken off the mailing list.

❖MIRANDA, COUNTESS OF IVEAGH

The Precentor, Canon R.C. Reed, represented the Dean & Chapter and Board of Saint Patrick's Cathedral at the funeral of the late Countess of Iveagh. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Countess of Iveagh will take place in the Cathedral at 6pm on 17 February.

❖EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

The Epiphany Carol Service took place on 9 January. Canon Mullen cajoled seven people to read the lessons; each reader was a representative of a particular constituency in the Cathedral community: Chapter, Board, Cathedral, Office, Music, Volunteers, Bell-ringers. The candles borne by members of the congregation glowed in the nave as the choir sang music from the Epiphany repertoire. *Videntes stellam magi ...*



❖ CHORISTERS' TRIP TO FUNDERLAND



With kinder weather, the choristers were able to enjoy the Precentor's treat to Funderland this year, courtesy of William Bird & Son. While there may have been some tonal issues, the volume of their voices broke many decibels! All had a great time. Thank you to the parents for their supervision.



❖ LEGACY FROM KEVIN HEALY

The Cathedral Board wishes to note its grateful thanks for the receipt of a legacy of €1,500 from the will of the late Mr Kevin Healy. Mr Healy left the bequest to *the Treasurer for the time being of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir.*

❖ THE PREBENDARY OF DONAGHMORE

I have been informed by the Bishop of Clogher that Canon R.T. Gillian has surrendered his licence as from 9 January and this means also his resignation as the Clogher diocesan canon.

We thank him for all that he has done for Saint Patrick's since he joined the Chapter in 2005.

RM



❖ A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CATHEDRAL ARCHITECT

Continuing our series, we caught up with John Beauchamp, the Cathedral Architect.

John, at what time does your day begin when you visit the Cathedral?

My day begins with a flight from Bristol to Dublin. I prefer flying to Dublin for my summer meetings as it is a 5:30am start those mornings whereas, any meetings I attend during the winter months means a 4:00am start. That makes for a very long day! My visits are normally planned 2-3 months in advance and are no longer than one to two days.

How do you plan your time here?

My day at the Cathedral is usually prioritised into three different stages. I arrange to see any contractors who are on site, during the morning. I then meet with the Administrator to discuss work in hand and any future work. And finally, I meet up with Tony Ennis and tour the Cathedral to inspect current repairs and any problems relating to the fabric that have arisen since my last visit.

How do you prioritise the Fabric plans?

There is an on-going 3-to-5 year plan relating to the upkeep of the building and there is also a rolling programme of work. In November each year the work for the following year is prioritised and placed in order of Health & Safety, protection of the fabric, and the improvement of facilities in the public part of the building.

My attendance at the monthly Fabric Committee meetings is mandatory. This is my opportunity to report back to the committee about projects in hand, any problems that have developed and future projects for consideration.

What is the biggest project undertaken in your time as Cathedral architect?

I was appointed to the Cathedral in 2002 and by far the biggest project undertaken since then was the repair to the Minot Tower. This involved removing cement pointing and comprehensively cleaning the Tower and the Spire.

The next major project to be undertaken is the Lady Chapel. We are currently preparing a planning application for the internal cleaning and repair of the Lady Chapel. The aim is to start work in 2012 or 2013.

With the day drawing to a close, I usually arrive back home via Bristol airport by 9:30pm. And then the rest of the day is my own.....



❖ TRUST

The Cathedral is keen to build up its relationship with a local charity, Trust. Trust helps homeless men, and is reliant on donations and fund-raising. The Cathedral is taking the initiative of advertising this and is accepting donations of items from the public, especially men's clothes that can be given to the charity which is located around the corner from the Cathedral. Please leave any items that you may wish to donate with a member of the Cathedral staff at the Welcome Desk and these items will regularly be delivered to the offices of Trust.

❖ THE ADMINISTRATOR WRITES...

2010 proved to be a difficult year for those sectors reliant on tourists in Ireland. Visitors, especially those from overseas, were thin on the ground. In Ronan McGreevy's article in *The Irish Times* of 12 January he pointed out that visitor numbers to Ireland were down 15% in 2010 on the previous year and are now back to 1998 levels. This of course has serious repercussions for the Cathedral as our main source of income is visitor related. Our outgoings, not least the very necessary funding required to maintain the fabric of the building, are still very substantial.

Particularly badly hit were the UK and Continental markets which make up the majority of visitors to Saint Patrick's Cathedral. According to Mr McGreevy, the Dublin region was the worst affected. While still disappointing, the Cathedral's performance has been creditable in the face of these statistics. In 2010 there was a reduction of 8% in the number of paying visitors, amounting to a total of 259,000 individuals for the year. The average spend of our visitors actually increased resulting in a drop of just 2% in the turnover of our shop. Income from events, concerts and graduations also held up well, as have the kind and generous contributions of so many of those who worship here.

There is no room for complacency in these figures as the future is still far from certain and, as mentioned above, our need to maintain the fabric of the Cathedral, its music and worship, never diminishes. Still a great deal of credit is due to the staff and volunteers who work at the 'coal face' and those supporting them who, day in and day out, do more than their best to ensure that visitors to Saint Patrick's have a wonderful and interesting visit here. In the coming year we hope to improve on the visitors' experience of the Cathedral and maintain the excellent welcome they receive.



❖ **SERMON PREACHED BY THE CHANCELLOR ON 16 JANUARY**

Ashmahan is a young mother with two children, pupils in Taney School. A Maronite Christian from the hills above Beirut, she is married to an Irish man whom she met while he was working on ESB contracts in Lebanon. Like many young people from countries across the Middle East she is well educated, informed, and articulate; she has an appetite for freedom and meeting with other people of different cultures and experiences.

Recent attacks on Christians in Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, and Pakistan have left minority Christian communities dwindling in number and troubled over their future in a predominately Muslim region. Over this past year at least eleven Christian locations across Baghdad were struck by synchronized bombings, killing six people and wounding more than thirty; those strikes appeared to be directly connected to a vicious invasion of Baghdad's Church of Our Lady of Salvation that left at least fifty people dead. The New Year's Day attack a few weeks ago on Egyptian Coptic Christians in the midst of a special service in Alexandria left twenty one people dead and provoked widespread condemnation across the world from all faiths, and not least from the Christians of the Middle East. Orthodox Archbishop Theophilus George Saliba said ... "The Copts are the true children of Egypt and an integral part of their country. They comprise almost 20% of the 80 million population of their country, a sizeable minority."

Lebanon's unique confessional system of governance guarantees that regardless of numbers, the representation of each community in government will remain the same, states Odon Vallet, a French historian and specialist in Middle East religions. Lebanon is the only country in the region with a Christian President and has long prided itself as an example of pluralism and coexistence. Christians make up 34% of the 4 million population with Muslims and Druze accounting for the rest. According to Odon Vallet, their percentage and significance is on the decline. Once a force to be reckoned with, Christians' political leverage has steadily eroded as high emigration and low fertility takes its toll.

Much of this uncertainty and anxiety is reflected by Palestinian Christians as, in the land of Christ's birth, they see their numbers reduced to less than 2% of the population. Bethlehem, once a majority Christian city, is now 35% Christian, such has been the impact of emigration due primarily to the Occupation of their



country. Their frustrations and their hopes were clearly enunciated during the visit to Ireland last month of three Palestinian Christian leaders.

The Orthodox Patriarch, Attullah Hana, Monsignor Musallam of the Roman Catholic Church, and Constantine Dabbagh, Director of the Middle East Council of Churches Relief work with Refugees in Gaza, all stressed the necessity of a resolution, peaceful and with justice to the crux issue in the Middle east, the Israeli-Palestinian impasse and particularly to its devastating dehumanising impact upon all who live there whether Christian, Muslim or Jew. This is a region, where for centuries, people of the Abrahamic faiths have lived together as neighbours with respect borne out of friendship for the integrity of each others faiths. They have shared each other's faith festivals; they have joined in each other's celebrations of family life; they have taken part in the ancient traditions of each others weddings; and they have grieved with each other at funerals.

The three Christian leaders spoke at various receptions: before the President at the Aras, at meetings with the Taoiseach and Minister of Foreign Affairs, in Stormont with the First and deputy First Leaders, and they spoke movingly of the suffering of their people and their need for freedom from Occupation.

Here is the powerful plea made on behalf of all the Christians of Palestine to which they referred. It is contained in a document written by Palestinian Christians, 'Kairos Palestine: A moment of Truth'. It speaks a word of faith, hope and love

from the heart of Palestinian suffering. All the Christian leaders in Palestine came together to hear the cry of hope from their children in faith. It is the Christian Palestinians word to the world about is happening in Palestine. It is written at this time when we want to see the glory and the grace of God in this land and in the sufferings of its people. It requests the international community to stand by the Palestinian people who for more than six decades have 'faced oppression, displacement, suffering and clear apartheid'. That suffering continues while the international community almost silently looks on – at the occupying state, Israel. In the document they state, 'Our word is a cry of hope, with love, prayer and faith in God. We address it first to ourselves, then to all churches and Christians in the world, asking them to stand against injustice and apartheid, and urging them to work for a just peace'. It calls on them 'to revisit theologies that justify crimes perpetrated against people and the dispossession of their land'. It asserts that true



Christian theology is one of love and solidarity with the oppressed, a call to justice and equality among peoples.

Will this be the turning point to focus the efforts of all peace-loving peoples, like the South African Kairos Document of 1985 which proved in its time to be a tool in the struggle against oppression and occupation for them?

Last summer I spent some time in Palestine, mainly in the area around Bethlehem and Jerusalem. I also went to Gaza and visited there Constantine Dabbagh and his family, and Middle East Council of Churches' work projects in the Gaza Strip. It is plain to see the strains under which they live: checkpoints hindering their travel and movement, hours of delay and constant humiliation; poverty with unemployment at 80% in Gaza. Under occupation, there is a blockade on import of many basic goods including medicines and medical equipment, and of materials which would allow for improvement of facilities; thus, for example, water supplies are scarce and often polluted with untreated sewage.

But I also gasp at the indomitable faith and courage of a people who are trying to overcome the handicap of living in a 'prison', and to improve the quality of their conditions, albeit it with some practical help from the international community and from aid agencies and other NGOs. New infrastructures covering various aspects of life in a society broken by uncertainty, occupation and war are in the process of being established. Things which we take for granted like employment and training schemes, refuse collection, keeping the streets clean, repair of roads and footpaths,

help restore some degree of dignity. But the refusal of the occupying authorities to allow the import of basic humanitarian medical supplies and equipment, building materials for restoration of property damaged during the last invasion add further to the malaise. For real peace, the key issues have yet to be addressed: the occupation by Israel of the Palestinian territories; the right of return for refugees – internationally the largest and the most long-lasting refugee problem; the prisoners, thousands of them in Israeli prisons; the continuing confiscation of Palestinian land; the building of settlements; and the status of Jerusalem, the historic city sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews.

It is within this context of an unsettled and turbulent Middle East – with violence against Christians who are sometimes wrongly perceived as being pro-Western, a more radical extreme Islam, which in itself is a real problem for the majority of



Muslims, and a Western policy of building one-sided security in the region – that the International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place.

There will be many united community services. The liturgy for the service throughout Christendom has been composed by the Palestinian Christians. This week as we enter into the ambiance of their suffering, pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli; but pray rather for ourselves, that we may not divide them in our prayers, but keep them together in our hearts.

Prayer may move us to action and what better way than that which Archbishop Desmond Tutu has commended –

‘We should put out a clarion call to the government of the people of Israel, to the Palestinian people, and say: Peace is possible, peace based on justice is possible. We will do all we can to assist you to achieve this peace, because it is God’s dream, and you will be able to live amicably together as sisters and brothers.’

❖ JOHN RORY BAILEY

We record with regret the death of John Rory Bailey whose wife, Joan Murphy, is President of Saint Patrick’s Amateur Society of Change Ringers.

The minor bells were rung on Sunday 30 January as a mark of respect.

We express our sincere condolences to Joan Murphy in her bereavement.



❖ CANONS-IN-RESIDENCE

February 6	The Revd A.H.N. McKinley	<i>Prebendary of Dunlavin</i>
February 13	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Prebendary of Tassagard</i>
February 20	The Revd M.C. Kennedy	<i>Prebendary of Yagoe</i>
February 27	The Revd K.J. Symth	<i>Prebendary of Wicklow</i>

❖ CATHEDRAL SERVICES

Monday to Friday

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

Saturday

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

08.30	The 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)

Administrator: Mr Gavan Woods (453 9472)

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

Cathedral Assistant Manager: Mr Chris Nicholson (475 4817)

Cathedral Office:

Dean's Secretary and Office Manager: Mrs Jennifer Hickey

Tour Accounts: Mrs Joy Stewart

Organist and Master of the Choristers: Mr Stuart Nicholson

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