

Tour Script – 2016

This booklet is intended to assist staff, volunteers and trainee guides in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Although titled 'Tour Script', I do not expect anyone giving guided tours of the cathedral to stick to it word for word. It is rather intended to give some facts on the place and its history. Each of us interpret the building in our own way, and this is an important feature of any worthwhile tour.

While it would be impossible in a booklet like this to cover all aspects of the cathedral and its history, I have tried to cover as many of the points that I feel interest visitors in general. Please feel free to let me know of any points which you feel should be included for future editions.

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, my name is.... and I am going to give you a short guided tour around the building. We will start from here (presuming you are standing near Celtic Grave Stone at shop), walk down into the north transept or left arm of the Cathedral. We will stop again at the Choir and then loop around into the south transept finally ending up back roughly where we started. The tour will last approximately 40 minutes and if you have any questions as we go please don't hesitate.

The story of this site goes back to (possibly) the time of St Patrick himself. There is a legend that St Patrick was travelling around Ireland and he decided to stop here in this area to use a well to baptise people into the Christian faith. The west window of the Cathedral high above us over here tells the story of St Patrick in 39 pictures. It starts in the bottom left corner when he is captured as a slave and then brought to Ireland to work as shepherd. On the right hand side he escapes from captivity and returns home (we are not really sure where that was). He receives a vision in the night telling him to return to Ireland and tell people about Christianity. In the centre panes he travels around Ireland converting the pagan Irish.

There may have been a church on this site since the time of St Patrick (which was approximately 1500 years ago). In 1901 an accidental discovery was made in what is now the park next door. Six Celtic grave slabs were discovered underground, one of which is now on display beside us. These were carved around a 1000 years ago. They feature the celtic cross which is an ancient Irish version of the Christian cross.

The first recorded reference to a building onsite was in 780AD. This church was known as Saint Patrick's 'in insula', as it was located on an island between two branches of the river Poddle and this site was chosen as a result of the supposed link with St Patrick. This was probably a small wooden church.

Of course everything changed when the Anglo Normans arrived in Ireland in the 12th century. As well as being fierce warriors the Normans were experts in stone construction. In 1191 the first Anglo-Norman Archbishop of Dublin, John Comyn, raised the status of Saint Patrick's from a parish church to that of a collegiate church- that is a church with a larger body of clergy than a parish church, and one dedicated to worship and learning. The city already had a Cathedral (Christ Church Cathedral) so Comyn's motives for wanting to elevate St Patrick's are not entirely clear. The fact that the building was outside the original city walls may have been appealing to Comyn.

In 1219, Comyn was succeeded by Archbishop Henry of London, and Henry elevated the status of Saint Patrick's to that of a cathedral. In around 1220 the old wooden church was knocked down and construction in stone began and lasted for around 40 years. This work was overseen by Archbishop Luke who sadly never saw the finished building as he actually blind by the time the work was complete.

You are of course probably wondering what is still original? The basic fabric of the building is still the same from the 13th Century but much of the interior appearance of the Cathedral has changed over time. We will talk more about these changes as we walk around the building.

WEST END.

Move group over to beside the Boyle Monument if space permits

There are around 200 monuments around the building. These have been added over the course of the last 800 years. The monument behind me is called the Boyle family monument and it is the largest in the Cathedral.

The Boyle family monument was erected by Richard Boyle, the first Earl of Cork in honour of his second wife Lady Catherine in 1631, and it depicts sixteen members of her family. The figure near the top is Dean Robert Weston, Lady Catherine's grandfather and Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Below him are Lady Catherine's parents. Then on the first floor we have Richard and Catherine surrounded by their children. The boy in the middle of the ground floor level is their youngest son, Robert Boyle, the man who gave us 'Boyle's' law', and often referred to as 'The Father of Chemistry'. The Boyle Monument originally stood behind the high altar, and was moved under the orders of Lord Deputy Thomas Wentworth. This angered the Boyle family so much that they played a part in his eventual downfall and execution.

Optional material

The window above us was installed during the Guinness restoration, and was made by the firm of William Wailes and Company in Newcastle on Tyne in northern England. It depicts thirty-nine episodes in the life of Saint Patrick. This window was restored in 2004, with each piece of glass cleaned and all of the lead and iron work replaced. Wailes also made the windows in both the East end of the Lady Chapel, and the main windows in the South Transept.

North aisle (standing in front of Jones monument). SKIP IF YOU HAVE LARGE GROUP

This is the Jones monument which is from around the same period as the Boyle Monument. It remembers Archbishop Jones who appears kneeling down in prayer on the top level. Jones was an extremely influential figure and was both Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Chancellor of Ireland and Dean of this Cathedral at different stages in his life. This monument was created by Jones' son Viscount Ranelagh who also appears here as the figure lying down.

To the right of the Jones monument is a small sculpture of Carolan who was a famous musician of the 18th Century and is known as the last of the great Irish Bards (or entertainers)

North aisle sculptures Optional Stop

These statues are around 200 years old and are of a variety of different kinds of people from sailors to clergy men. The third statue in the row is probably one of the finest pieces of sculpture in the Cathedral or perhaps even in Ireland. It is by a famous Irish sculptor named Edward Smyth and is of a man named the marquis of Buckingham who was the first grandmaster of the order of the knights of St Patrick (which we will learn about later on).

NORTH TRANSEPT

We are now standing in the North Transept of the Cathedral. Behind me (presuming you are standing at the door) is one of the most famous objects in the building. This is called the door of reconciliation and it relates to a story from 1492 (the same year as Columbus found America). Here in Ireland in 1492 a feud was taking place between two families the Butlers of Ormonde and the Fitzgerald's of Kildare and were fighting on the outskirts of Dublin. The Butlers, realising that the fighting was getting out of control, took refuge in the Chapter House. (which used to be in the other transept of the Cathedral). The Fitzgerald's followed the Butlers into the Cathedral and asked them to come out and make peace. The Butlers, afraid that they would be slaughtered if they left the Chapter House, refused to do so. The head of the Kildare family, Gerald

FitzGerald ordered that a hole be cut in the door. He put his arm through the door to shake hands with the head of the Butler family, and peace was made. This door is now known as the Door of Reconciliation, and it gives to us today the phrase 'To chance your arm'.

There are many monuments and objects in the north transept which relate to military history. The flags above us are some of the regimental colours of Irish Regiments in the British army prior to Irish Independence, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers (from the Great War), The Connaught Rangers and the Royal Irish Regiment being some of them. It was customary to hang regimental colours in a church when a regiment was disbanded.

In 2014 a new monument was added to the Cathedral. The Tree of Remembrance remembers all those who have been affected by conflict. It was inspired by the centenary of World War One and features a tree which has been destroyed by war and it is surrounded by barbed wire at its base. Visitors to the building are encouraged to leave behind a message for someone who has been affected by conflict of any type.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

The window here is dedicated to Edward Cecil Guinness, Lord Iveagh and son of Benjamin Lee Guinness. Lord Iveagh continued his father's great support for the building, giving a new peal of bells to the cathedral in 1897.

A new organ and a chamber to hold it were built in 1901 above the North side of the choir. The organ contains over four thousand pipes ranging in size from a fraction of an inch, up to thirty two feet long. The stair case here leads to the organ chamber, and was designed by Sir Thomas Drew, while the organ console here is the 1901 console which was replaced in 1963 during a restoration on the Organ.

THE CROSSING:

We are now standing in the crossing of the Cathedral. This is a good opportunity to talk about the layout and history of how the building has changed over time. The Cathedral's interior design has changed quite considerably over time. The building was originally divided up into separate parts. The north transept for example was called the chapel of Saint Nicholas Without. It was used as a chapel in its own right and there was a screen which separated this area from the rest of the Cathedral. There is actually another chapel opposite Christ Church Cathedral which was called the Chapel of St Nicholas within because it was INSIDE the city walls.

The South Transept across from us was also walled off, and was used as the Cathedral's Chapter House, a place where the cathedral clergy could hold meetings, etc. Where we stand now was once part of the Choir. The Choir extended down to the two large pillars here, and a pulpitum, or screen separated the Choir from the Nave. All of these divisions were removed during what we call the Guinness restoration. In the middle of the 19th Century Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness personally undertook and paid for an enormous restoration of the building. During this period all of these internal divisions were removed creating one long clear space from one end of the building to the other.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

The State Pew is where the President sits when attending services and ceremonies here at Saint Patrick's. On the front of the pew is a royal coat of arms. The seat was previously used by the royal viceroy in Dublin, the monarch's representative. The President's seal of office of a gold harp on blue background can now be seen on the back of the pew.

The pulpit is where the preacher gives the sermon from on Sundays, usually on the Bible readings of the day. It is also a memorial to Dean Pakenham, who was Dean of the cathedral during the Guinness restoration.

The brass eagle Lectern is where passages from the Bible are read to the people. The eagle is said to be the strongest of birds, and here we see it carrying the word of God on its back above the ball which represents earth. The eagle is also closely associated with John, author of the fourth Gospel.

THE CHOIR:

This area of the building is called the Choir and of course it is used by a choir on a daily basis here in St Patricks. Our choir school was founded in 1432 by Archbishop Richard Talbot which makes it the oldest school in Ireland. The boys and girls who attend the school sing at Matins in the morning and Evensong in the evening and Saint Patrick's is the only Cathedral in Northern Europe which has morning and evening services sung each day during term time.

So of course this is still an **active** Cathedral. This often causes confusion among our visitors as they wonder why they have to pay to come in and why is there a shop in the building. Unfortunately the Cathedral does not receive any state funding so in order to meet the enormous cost of maintaining and restoring the building we must engage in commercial activity. So in short, thank you for visiting as you are helping to ensure that this building survives for future generations to enjoy!

The front two rows of the Choir stalls are used by the choir, while the back row is used by the Cathedral Chapter. The Chapter is the body of clergy who are responsible for the cathedral, and the head of the chapter is the Dean.

The Choir stalls also served as a Chapel to the Order of the Knights of Saint Patrick from its foundation by George III in 1783, to the disestablishment of the Church Of Ireland in 1871. The Banners and Hatchments above the Choir represent some of the members of the order in 1870. The order moved their services and ceremonies to Dublin Castle, and in the Castle today you can see some of the banners in Saint Patrick's Hall.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

The Altar frontals on the high altar were made by the Royal Irish School of Needlework around one hundred years ago and they are changed according to the church season. Underneath the Altar is a large vault which contains the bodies of around 50 people. Most of these people are comprised of two families, the Boyles (whose monument you have seen earlier) and the Loftus family. Adam Loftus, Viscount Lisburne is buried just to the side of the Altar and if you look up from where he is buried you will see what killed him! The cannon ball which hangs from the south wall was fired during the siege of Limerick in 1691. Adam Loftus was fighting in the Williamite army which was laying siege to the city when he struck by this cannon ball. His body was moved back from Limerick and was buried just underneath these steps.

THE LADY CHAPEL:

This part of the building is known as the Lady Chapel and it was basically an extension which was added to the East end of the Cathedral in around 1270. This is a very common feature in medieval cathedrals. This part of the Cathedral is an excellent example of how the Cathedral spends the money which it receives through tourism. Between 2012 and 13 this area was closed off from the rest of the Cathedral and the space was fully restored at a cost to nearly one million euro. This work included the cleaning of the walls and the windows and ensuring that the area was structurally sound. This is why the area now appears brighter than the rest of the building.

The Chapel was also known for a time as the 'French Chapel' as it was used by Huguenots (French protestant refugees) from 1666 to 1816. Many of the monuments in the space are dedicated to significant Huguenots such as Dr Elie Bouhereau first librarian of Marsh's Library next door.

One of the windows on the south side of the space remembers Annie Lee Plunkett, wife of Archbishop Plunkett, and daughter of Benjamin Lee Guinness. She was renowned for

her charitable work, and is remembered here with a very appropriate piece of scripture for her family 'I was thirsty and ye gave me drink'.

SOUTH TRANSEPT:

This is the second last stop on the tour. This is the South Transept of the Cathedral. This part of the cathedral has recently been transformed into an area called the Discovery Space. This part of the building provides visitors with an opportunity to learn a little more about the Cathedral's life and history. You can also do activities such as brass rubbings and jigsaws. If you like, after this tour you can come back to the space and find out more.

Behind me (presuming you are standing in front of Celtic stones) are three more Celtic grave stones of the same type which we spoke about at the start of the tour. The large wooden plaque behind the stones lists every single person who was installed in the Knights of St Patrick.

Over here attached to the wall is a statue of Saint Patrick. We have lots of images of the saint around the Cathedral but this particular statue has had a rather unusual life. We think that it was created around the time of the Guinness restoration (1860s) but that it is made up of different parts from different periods. The body is part of a 13th statue of an Archbishop, while the head is from a newer statue, probably 17th century, while the base is probably part of an old pulpit in the cathedral. Of course no one really knows what the Saint looked like anyway!

Finally, the small plaque in the corner remembers Alexander McGee who is one of the only normal (for want of a better word) men to be buried in the Cathedral. McGee received a plaque as he was the servant to an exceptionally important man, who I will finish the tour by telling you about.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

The large monument in the centre is to Archbishop Smyth and is by Van Nost. Both of these monuments would have stood in the Nave up to the Guinness restoration. Other monuments here include the effigy of Archbishop Whateley who founded the department of Economics at Trinity College.

SWIFT: (stop at pulpit)

Arguably the famous man to be buried in the Cathedral is Jonathan Swift. He is best known for being the author of "Gulliver's Travels" but most people don't realise that he was Dean (or head) of this Cathedral from 1713 until his death in 1745.

Here we have his Pulpit, which he preached from. Swift's sermons were up to four hours in length! There is an urban legend that Swift had wheels fitted to the bottom of his pulpit, this meant that Swift could call for Alexander Mc Gee, his servant, to push his pulpit over toward anyone who had fallen asleep during the sermon so that he could shout down on top of them!

Optional extra

Here we have two monuments to the two Church of Ireland Presidents since the foundation of the state. Douglas Hyde was the first President of the Republic of Ireland from 1938 to 1945, while Erskine Childers was President from 1973, sadly passing away a year into his term. Both of their funeral services took place here.

SWIFT (stand at the end of the aisle)

From this position you can see three things which relate to Jonathan Swift. Firstly, he is buried under the floor of the Cathedral to my left. He is buried alongside his great friend in life Esther Johnston or Stella as she was better known.

Secondly, in the wooden cabinet are a number of objects various Swift related items including two of his death masks. It was common practice at the time of his death to take these masks of notable public figures. Also on display are some early editions of his writings including 'A sermon upon sleeping in Church', and a cast of Swift's skull. In his later years Swift was troubled by imbalance and noises in his ears, this combined with a stroke in 1742 led many to declare him mad. Ninety years after he died, his body was exhumed and examined by Sir William Wilde, a prominent physician in the city, and also Oscar Wilde's father. Sir William discovered that Swift had a loose bone in his inner ear, and that this 'Meniere's disease' was at the root of much of Swift's problems.

It is ironic that Swift was thought mad, as he had left money in his will to found a hospital for treating those with mental illness, a hospital which still exists today just over a mile from here. Saint Patrick's hospital or "Dr Swift's" as it was also known.

Finally Swift's gravestone epitaph is on the wall here above the door. Swift actually chose to write his own epitaph **before** he died. Apparently he didn't like the idea that someone else would have the final say on his life. So we will continue this tradition by finishing the tour with his words, about himself. The translation reads,

Here lies the body of Jonathan Swift, Doctor of Divinity and Dean of this Cathedral,

Where savage indignation can no longer lacerate his heart;

*Go traveller and imitate if you can, this dedicated and earnest champion of
liberty*

He died on the 19th October 1745, aged 78

I hope that you have enjoyed the tour please feel free to ask any other questions.