



SAINT
PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL
DUBLIN

CLOSE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020



A bird's eye view!

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

- 09.15 Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)
- 11.15 Choral Eucharist / Choral Matins
- 15.15 Choral Evensong

Monday to Friday

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

Saturday

- 11.05 Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)

FEBRUARY PREACHERS

February 2	The Ven. R. W. Carney	<i>Prebendary of Taney</i>
February 9	The Revd P. A. Harvey	<i>Prebendary of Stagonil</i>
February 16	The Revd W. P. Houston	<i>Prebendary of Castleknock</i>
February 23	The Revd T. S. Forster	<i>Prebendary of Yagoe</i>

A SHOT FROM THE CANON

February 26th is Ash Wednesday. What will you give up for Lent this year? Drink? Puddings? Cigarettes? _____? Could you give up something that can't be seen, namely those things that are unhelpful to yourself and others? Suggestions might include gossiping, being 'economical with the truth', or being too ready to find fault with others. Lent could give us a chance to give up something in order to prove to ourselves our amazing will-power. But it would be better for us, and others, to use Lent to focus less on ourselves by giving up those things that can't be seen.

CM

THE FEBRUARY PRAYER

A window in the north choir aisle by C E Kempe (1907) depicts, in its top half, the sacrament of baptism.

Jesus arrived at the Jordan from Galilee, and came to John to be baptised by him. (Matt 3: 13)

Almighty God,

at the baptism of your Son you revealed your own Godhead in him;

Shed the light of his presence in our hearts,

and give us strength to be faithful to our own baptism,

that we may show your glory in our lives;

Through the same, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CM

THE CATHEDRAL DIARY - FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday 22 February

DIT Graduation

Cathedral Closed

Wednesday 26 February

Ash Wednesday

Eucharist

09:00

SPONSOR A CHORISTER



A donation of €50, or whatever you can afford, will contribute towards the cost of sending the Cathedral Girl Choristers and Scholars on their respective tours this year. These tours are a fabulous experience for the Choristers but can happen only with your support, so please give generously.

Contact details : Name:

Address:

Email:

Amount Pledged: € _____

Please make any cheques payable to “St Patrick’s Cathedral” marking the reverse “Sponsor a Chorister” and return to The Master of the Music, c/o Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Saint Patrick’s Close, Dublin 8.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

FORGET-ME-NOTS



How exciting it was to hear from Kelley Bermingham, that we were to participate in a special Dublin 8 Christmas community event - the countdown began! Our Musical Director-Norah Walsh, and Piano Accompanist-Emmet O'Connor, were thrilled to set to work on a Christmas repertoire worthy of this historic venue. "We'll actually be singing in Saint Patrick's Cathedral?" choir members asked, (squealed!), when given the news!

Kelley and her team worked with the local Gardaí, Dublin Bus, local schools, and even roofers from Wales, working on the roof restoration, to make it happen.

The day arrived and we were ready to go when the bus wheelchair ramp got stuck! But our intrepid driver found a replacement and we made great headway until the quays... the Farmers' Protest was in full swing! As a result, we arrived late, but Kelley managed a smooth re-ordering of the programme and, in no time, we were seated and ready for this magical experience. We sang at the top of our voices, from the bottom of our hearts, to fill the whole cathedral. We included classics like *The Holy City* sung by Michael Holohan (whose grandfather had been one of the original cathedral roofers), *Mile Cherubini in Coro* sung by Dermott Clery (who had once accompanied Pavarotti) and *O Holy Night* sung by Claire Scanlon (our top soprano). No-one knows to look at the members of our Forget-Me-Nots Choir who has a dementia condition and who does not. It's not relevant. What matters is the sound we make singing together and the joy this brings to us and to the people for whom we sing. Thank you for inviting us to this most special place at this most special time of year! We will never forget it!

Orla Horn, Forget-Me-Nots Choir

Music at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Sunday 5 April at 6.00pm

BACH Saint John Passion

Holy Week begins with the Cathedral Choir's annual performance of Bach's *Saint John Passion*, seen as one of the great towering achievements of western music. It tells the story of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

Friday 12 June at 6.15pm

CHORAL FOUNDATION CONCERT

Join us for our annual summer concert packed full of great music sung by the Cathedral Choir. Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of the Choir Tour Fund.

Saturday 4 July at 6.15pm

THE WONDROUS MACHINE at the movies

This year's Independence Day concert given by organists of Saint Patrick's takes us back to a little 1980's movies nostalgia. Admission free with a retiring collection in aid of STEWARTS CARE. (Promoting meaningful and fulfilling lives for people with intellectual disabilities). <https://www.stewartscare.ie/>

Saturday 31 October at 6.15pm

THE WONDROUS MACHINE after Dark

This year's ever popular All Hallows' Eve concert includes Bach's *Toccata and Fugue* in D minor, Saint-Saens' *Danse Macarbe* and Dukas' *Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Admission Free with a retiring collection in aid of the IRISH CANCER SOCIETY.

Friday 18 December at 7.30pm

HANDEL by CANDLE

Following its success last Christmas, the Cathedral Choir will be giving another performance of part one of Handel's *Messiah* (alongside other seasonal offerings) in aid of the Cathedral Roof. Tickets €30-€50 available shortly from www.stpatrickscathedral.ie



CHORISTER MEDALS



Every year medals are awarded to senior choristers for their services to the Cathedral Choir. This year's worthy winners are: Victor Oxley who was presented with the Gordon Medal for making the most progress since entering the choir; Sean Lyden who was awarded the Roger Medal for punctuality, good attendance and reliability and the Dean's Prize; Edward Harte who was awarded the Saint Peter's Medal presented to an all-round musician, combining good singing and instrumental playing; Art Wrixon who was awarded the Marchant Medal for good enunciation and the Verso prize. Felix Champion is this year's recipient of the Winstanley Medal for the Senior Solo Chorister, the Lyster Prize, the Dr George Hewson Memorial Prize and the Murphy Prize. Raul Imbrisca is this year's Mullen Medalist awarded for deputy head boy, and finally this year our new Head Chorister is Matthew Antochi pictured here with the Reed Medal and Miller Cup.

CHORISTERSHIPS



Can your child sing?

We have places in the Cathedral Choir School for children going into 3rd and 4th class this September.

BENEFITS INCLUDE

- first rate education in Ireland's only specialist choir school
- free instrumental tuition
- unrivaled performance opportunities including concerts, tours, recording and broadcasts.

Want to learn more?
music@stpatrikscathedral.ie
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/learn

SOCIETY OF BELLRINGERS' AGM

At the Annual General Meeting of The Society of Bellringers of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, appreciation was expressed that the new training bell, which was recently dedicated at Choral Evensong by the Dean, is proving most beneficial in imparting the ancient art to potential ringers, among them transition year students from Saint Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School.

It was noted with great interest that a picture of the training bell in the Ringing Chamber adorns the front cover of the November 2019 issue of *The Ringing World*, the official publication of bellringers in these islands, and beyond. The photograph was taken by David Soanes, a member of the Cathedral's Society of Bellringers. As well as this, the magazine also carried a full A4-size page tracing the development of bell ringing at Saint Patrick's which was written by Richard A. Smith.

The article, well-researched and presented, documents the history of the bells from before the fire of 1362 up to the present day, and highlights the generosity of the Guinness family, not only in restoring the Cathedral, but also in providing for the casting of 'the back ten' bells in 1897, which were opened on Friday 20th August that year by a band of mostly visitors from England.

The article states: "They attempted a peal two days later, during which 'a long sleek rat...crept from behind the 7th box and into the ring; ...and disappeared behind the ringer of the treble.' Evidently this did not faze the band, as the next week's *Bell News* reported a successful peal of Kent Royal, called by James Washbrook from the tenor. But it was not to be: two years later, amidst much acrimony, and stoney silence from Washbrook, the composition was found to be false."

“The first true peal was scored in 1900 by a local band: Stedman Caters composed and conducted by Gabriel Lindoff, who had been brought over to Ireland to teach a band on Lord Iveagh’s new ten. It was the first peal for most of the band, including the tenor ringer. The ninth was rung by Lord Chief Justice Richard Cherry, who in 1909 paid to augment the bells to twelve, and have the flat sixth, which Lord Iveagh had donated for the chime, hung for full-circle ringing to provide a light eight.”

The Dean thanked the ringers for their dedication and commitment in ringing twice on a Sunday, and also at the other practices as well, and congratulated them on their achievements in bellringing competitions.

Gratitude is expressed to The Ringing World, and to Richard Smith, author of the article, for kindly permitting excerpts to be published in Close News.

WM



The Practice Bell in the ringing chamber

THE ROOF PROJECT

The temporary roof over the nave is now complete. The design of this structure was not without its challenges. These included dealing with rainwater run off during its construction and the weathering in of the gables to ensure the roof is sealed from the elements once the slates are removed. Now that the covering is in place and sealed work has begun on repairing the external masonry of the nave walls down to the first string course. Internally, below the roof and just above the vaulted ceiling, a very robust net has been spread over the entire span of the nave to protect the vulnerable ceiling below and to ensure no debris or scaffolding can crash through into the Cathedral nave.

The ceiling itself has been cleared of the debris of decades which had accumulated above it, greatly reducing the loading on this structure. This was very tricky work as access into the lowest points of the vaulting where it meets the nave walls required the design and construction of a bespoke scaffold. This was dismantled and reconstructed for each bay on both sides.

As the slating commences, internal work continues as the contractor begins the creation of new, safe walkways and an upgrading of the fire alarm system through the roof space. In the midst of all this activity planning goes on for the second phase of the works which will involve the repair of the crossing and transept roofs. This phase will dwarf the current one in terms of scale with the scaffold standing several metres higher than that above the nave.

By early summer the scaffold should be coming down over the nave as the slating here is completed and we are looking forward to the return of the restored clerestory windows, currently being worked on by York Glaziers' Trust. Our hope is that the beautiful and pristine glass will allow considerably more light into the Cathedral.

The design team, led by Niall Meagher and John Beauchamp, continue to do sterling work on our behalf, for which we are very grateful. As always if you would like more information or feel you can support this project please don't hesitate to contact me or the Dean. Our heartfelt thanks to all of those who have given so generously to date. GHW

SAVE OUR ROOF



SPONSOR A SLATE

The Cathedral's roof is currently repair. We need to raise €9 million to facilitate this work. Can you help us? You can become a part of the living history of Saint Patrick's Cathedral by sponsoring a slate for the roof.

BRONZE €50

Sponsor quarter of a slate and receive:

A mention on social media on our weekly sponsors post.

SILVER €250

Sponsor a slate for the roof and receive:

A mention on social media on our weekly sponsors post.

A name in our "book of thanks" (displayed in the Cathedral)

A certificate of thanks.

GOLD €1,000+

Become a "keystone" of the roof works!

If you are interested in supporting this historic project then please make contact with the Cathedral's Administrator, Gavan Woods.

To get involved or to donate today, visit www.stpatrickscathedral.ie

BOARD MEETING

The Cathedral Board will meet on Monday 24th February at 15:30. Please note that the Dean's yard will be in use on this day and people are requested to park their vehicles sensibly to make best use of the very limited space. But please don't park in a reserved space...



SUNDAY STEWARDS

We are looking to recruit some additional volunteer stewards to our Sunday morning 11:15 service roster. Stewards play a vital role in welcoming people to worship, handing out service sheets and arranging the collection. We currently rely on sixteen dedicated volunteers but would love to see some more people involved.

As per the Cathedral's Child Protection Policy, all volunteers are asked to apply for Garda Vetting but this is a very straightforward process and assistance is available if needed.

If you are interested in joining the stewarding roster, please speak to Louis Parminter or email manager@stpatrickscathedral.ie

JOB OPPORTUNITY



The Board of Trustees of Mothers' Union Dublin & Glendalough are seeking to appoint an Honorary Secretary to work as part of the Dublin & Glendalough Mothers' Union team. The post holder will support the work of Mothers' Union throughout the diocese.

The successful candidate will be required to work flexibly from their home base and closely with the Board of Trustees and Diocesan President.

The successful candidate will need to be able to work on own initiative and have:

- Strong communication, written and verbal skills
- Excellent presentation and interpersonal skills
- Competent in Microsoft Office / Excel

Reasonable office and travelling expenses will be paid.

Further information, a job description, and the application form are available from

Presidentdgmu@gmail.com

EVENING PRAYER READ IN IRISH

Under the auspices of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise, a service in Irish will be read in Saint Patrick's Cathedral in the Lady Chapel on the second Sunday of every month at 16.30. All are welcome.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

Under data protection regulations (GDPR) it is no longer possible to ascertain information about patients and so it would be helpful if you, or a relative, are admitted to hospital please let the Dean or Canon Mullen know if you would like to be visited in hospital.

WILL US WELL

When making, or amending, your Will please consider including a legacy bequest to the Cathedral. If you are interested in supporting us in this way, let your solicitor or Will-writer know that you wish to make provision for the Cathedral in your Will. For more information please contact the Cathedral Administrator, Mr Gavan Woods.

THE CATHEDRAL'S CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Safeguarding Handbook, as well as Safeguarding Trust, may be viewed on the Cathedral website. If you have a general enquiry or any concern relating to safeguarding at Saint Patrick's Cathedral contact Kelley Bermingham, Designated Liaison Person, on 01 453 9472. Katherine McCormack has been appointed Deputy Designated Liaison Person. If you recognise a safeguarding emergency in which a child or vulnerable adult is in danger, Tusla Child and Family Agency can be contacted on 01 856 6856.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kelley Bermingham, Community Officer, is actively recruiting for Community Volunteers to assist in a variety of roles.

- Coffee morning events such as Hospice, Giggle Fund and similar
- Community Events such as stewards/support for LoveD8, Cabbage Garden Community Park Events, Street Feast, Community Clean-up Days
- Welcome at community events

Hours /times

- Flexible depending upon volunteers availability

Requirements

- Garda Vetting
- A pleasant manner and good communication skills
- An interest in community and charitable works
- Some proficiency in spoken English is necessary

If you are interested please apply to community@stpattrickscathedral.ie

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

The Cathedral's Data Privacy policy has been updated to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. The updated policy is available to view on the Cathedral's website at www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/privacy-policy.

To exercise all relevant rights, queries or complaints please, in the first instance, contact the Cathedral Office Manager by phone at 01 4539472, or by email at officemanager@stpattrickscathedral.ie.

TEA AND COFFEE ON SUNDAYS

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the Cathedral after the Eucharist on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month, September - June, thanks to our wonderful coffee-roster volunteers. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship.



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You can follow us on:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stpatrickscathedral>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/stpatsdub>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/stpatrickscathedral1>

Instagram: [@stpatrickscathedraldublin](https://www.instagram.com/stpatrickscathedraldublin)



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