



SAINT  
PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL  
DUBLIN

# CLOSE NEWS

JANUARY 2020



*Visitors from Venice*

*Liturgy*

*Diary*

*News*

*Music*

*Events*

*Contact Us*

*Page 2*

*Page 4*

*Page 5*

*Page 7*

*Page 11*

*Page 18*

## 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*)

## JANUARY PREACHERS

January 5	The Revd S.E. Doogan	<i>Prebendary of Wicklow</i>
January 12	The Revd R. Warren	<i>Prebendary of Tipperkevin</i>
January 19	The Revd M.D. Gardner	<i>Prebendary of Maynooth</i>
January 26	The Revd J. K. McWhirter	<i>Prebendary of Kilmactalway</i>

## A SHOT FROM THE CANON

Lollipop sticks, bottle-tops and sticky-back plastic were components for all sorts of ‘exciting’ creations when I was a child. Making something new out of old stuff is now widespread, and necessary. Jesus said, *Behold, I am making something new.* That new thing is us. When we offer our faults and failings to him he forgives us and opens the way for us to start afresh and try to do better next time, having been given a chance to learn from past failings. New Year’s resolutions help us to think along these lines. And they can be new all year long...

CM

## THE JANUARY PRAYER

Lord God,  
in mercy and grace you make us new  
and open for us the way of salvation;  
forgive our failings,  
perfect our faith,  
and grant us patience and hope to await your fulfilment;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CM

## THE CATHEDRAL DIARY - JANUARY 2020

Sunday 5 January

15.15 Epiphany Procession

by candlelight

Sunday 5 January

Organ recital: 16:30

David Leigh

*La Nativité du Seigneur*

## CHRISTMAS WITH THE DEAN

The Dean and Mrs Morton, in a spirit of welcome and hospitality, opened up the Deanery to guests on the four Saturdays of Advent. Guests were given a tour of the Deanery and they were served mince pies and mulled wine. All who visited were thrilled to have seen the Deanery.



## CONDOLENCES

We offer our condolences to Marcel Jacques, one of our stewards, on the sudden death of his wife, Margaret. We will continue to remember Marcel, and his family, in our prayers.

## THE FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas evening event took place on Saturday 7th. December 2019. The very large attendance, more than 60 people, easily the biggest in recent years, was able to meet and chat in the dining room while being served with wine, soft drinks, savouries and, of course, mince pies. We were very grateful to the Dean and Mrs Morton for supplying very welcome hot mulled non-alcoholic wine which was warmly received by those Friends who were designated drivers for the evening.

We then went upstairs to the drawing room for the entertainment part of the evening. In the absence this year of Alison Young, we were delighted to have the Dean (ably assisted by Elizabeth Lowrie) accompany the Dean's Vicar, who began with an hilarious comic song about David and Goliath. This was followed by Senator David Norris with a wonderfully entertaining, if sometimes and somewhat outrageous talk. Charles took centre stage again with the lovely *Linden Lea*, music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and then finished with

the marvellous and so funny Flanders and Swann classic, *Have some Madeira, m'dear*. We ended the evening with our usual medley of Christmas Carols and the raffle. We are extremely grateful to Senator Norris, Charles and the Dean for making the evening what I think everyone present thought a huge success.



Thanks to our council who provided the goodies and helped on the evening and, of course, as always we are as enormously indebted to the Dean and Mrs Morton for not only allowing us use their lovely home but also for the warmth of their welcome and their hospitality.



## THE SNOWMAN

The Cathedral Choristers performed a concert version of *The Snowman* on Monday 23 December, narrated by Michael Lee with the wonderfully eclectic ensemble of Eoin Conway (keyboards), Harry Meehan (organ), Victoria Green (flute) and Stuart Nicholson (piano). The concert was free with a retiring collection in aid of the LauraLynn Foundation which raised over €1,200.



### SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

*Choristerships available for boys and girls aged 7/8*

BECOMING A CHORISTER OPENS A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING

*Broadcasts · Concerts · Recordings · Tours*

As well as being educated in the only Choir School in Ireland, benefits of being a Cathedral chorister include  
**GENEROUS BURSARIES FOR INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS, FREE VOCAL TUITION & THEORY & AURAL TRAINING**

*Want to learn more? Drop us a line!*

Telephone: 01 453 9472 Email: [organist@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:organist@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

*[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)*

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERMON PREACHED BY THE DEAN

*I am delighted you have come to Church today, and I wish you every blessing for this great Festival of Christmas. I greatly appreciate the tremendous efforts of everyone associated with the Cathedral throughout 2019: the Dean's Vicar, Canon Charles Mullen, for his conduct of daily worship, and his skilled and indefatigable production of service sheets, the Precentor, Canon Peter Campion, the members of the Cathedral Chapter, the Master of the Music, the Organist & Assistant Master of the Music, and the lay vicars and members of all the choirs for their superb, and indispensable, contribution to the worship at all times; the Cathedral Board and its sub-committees, the staff in the Offices, and in the Cathedral, the bell ringers and all volunteers including the stewards, and those who provide the tea and coffee following the Eucharist; the Friends of the Cathedral, and all who in any way continue to contribute so enthusiastically to the life of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. I thank you, and assure you of my deepest appreciation. As well as this, I wish to put on record my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Roof Appeal. The work is progressing extremely well, but, without your donations, it would not be possible: so, please accept my deepest gratitude.*

‘The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.’ (St John 1: 14)

What we are remembering is the absolute, pivotal moment in history. It is the moment that God - immortal, invisible, he whose robe is the sky, and ‘whose chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form’ - stoops to embrace the world he has made, in all its pain, its hopes, tears, and dreams, and is born in human flesh.



And of course there are those who do not notice....

Two days ago, listening to a news programme on the car radio, I heard the results of a vox pop from people who were asked how they were coping with plans for Christmas. One man said, 'I haven't heard God mentioned once! I hear about turkey, and Christmas lunch, and bargains in high street stores, and when those stores open again after Christmas, but I haven't heard anything to do with the Christian faith,' he said.

No one much noticed, then, either, of course, on the night of Christ's Birth. The attention was focused elsewhere - at Herod's palace, at the temple, or wherever. Not at Bethlehem. Not a stable. So, who did notice? Well, Mary obviously, and Joseph - in confusion, and fear, in someone else's cattle shed, as it were; and some shepherds, again seized with mighty dread; and, if you believe the gorgeous but incredible rural tradition, perhaps the cattle who still, at least according to Thomas Hardy's poem, drop to their knees at midnight on Christmas Eve in honour of the master who once shared their strawy home.

Let's hold on, though. Is not this precisely how grace works? It comes to us, even though we are at times looking in the wrong direction. We are looking, quite understandably, at ourselves, or at one another. We are looking at our lives, we are wondering how we are to move forward, how we are to succeed, or survive, or start again. We are infinitely distracted. And yet grace comes anyway. In fact, grace comes because of all of that, because we need it as never before.

There are many signs of darkness in our world today, a time of upheaval and fear, as shown on television, and through social media: homelessness, human trafficking, the plight of migrants and refugees, the persecution of Christians

and other minorities, the disregard for human life – including that of the unborn – and the general atmosphere of political uncertainty, not to mention the daily stresses and anxieties of life?

The reality is that into the fear, into the loneliness, into the darkness comes Christ. Did not the angel say to Mary, “Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favour with God”.

“What, me? I’m not even married. How can this work? How can this possibly work, Mary must have thought.

Well, because “nothing will be impossible with God.” Nothing will be impossible with God.

So into the world comes Christ, not in triumph, like in the last verse of ‘Lo! He comes with clouds descending,’ but rather, ‘how silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.’ King David didn’t get it either. He wanted to build God a palace. But what God wants is a tent. A Tabernacle. “Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, I have been with you wherever you went.”

God comes into a human being, into the womb of a young peasant girl from Palestine who is chosen to be the God bearer, reminding us always that we’re not supposed to be ready, we’re not supposed to be finished, we are supposed to say “how can this be?” How is it possible that God would come to me, I’m too weak, I’m too sad, I’m too sinful, I’m too tired and too lazy.

But that’s only half the conversation. We are supposed, also, to be alert enough to try to hear the response “I have been with you wherever you went”, for “nothing will be impossible with God.”

What a tremendous encouragement to us not only this Christmas Day, but every day: that God turns the values of the world upside down, and communicates with those whom others would so easily despise, and that God may remind us that He has been with us always, and always will, and that, no matter what our trials and difficulties in life, “nothing will be impossible with God.”

So, let us take heart this Christmas Day, and every day. Emmanuel, ‘God with us’, is our divine gift, not only today, but for ever. So let us love him, serve him, and put all our trust in him.

‘What shall I give him, poor as I am; if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give my heart.’

WM

## ITALIAN VISITORS

The Dean was delighted to welcome to the Cathedral on New Year’s Eve The Reverend Father Francesco Andrighetti, and a group of forty students, from the Parish of San Giovanni Battista, in Jesolo, Venice, Italy.

The visitors enjoyed a short tour of the Cathedral before concluding their visit with some prayers in the Lady Chapel.



## THE ROOF PROJECT



Despite the fact work on the roof has ceased over the holiday period great progress is being made erecting the scaffold. Work re-commences early January and further updates will be reported in next months *Close News*.



## **SAVE OUR ROOF SPONSOR A SLATE**

The Cathedral's roof is in urgent need of 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](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)**

## THE NEW YEAR

Twenty members of the Society of Bell Ringers of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, rang in the New Year, upholding a very long-standing tradition. The Dean and Canon Mullen visited the ringing chamber and the Dean said the midnight prayers.



## 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 our 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](mailto:manager@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

## BOARD MEETING

The Cathedral Board will meet on Monday 27th January 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. The polar bear is dismayed that Canon Mullen's car is too small for its parking space



## **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.

## **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.

## **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.



## **CAN YOU HELP?**

An art teacher from NCAD working in CBS James Street is looking for scraps of fabric and materials in Dublin 8 for a public-art weaving project. Do you have any lying around? "I thought it would be great for the students to get some local materials and learn about the Liberties rich weaving history. Any help would be greatly appreciated," she writes in. Got some? You can reach Kate Cunningham on [kate\\_cun@hotmail.com](mailto:kate_cun@hotmail.com) and 0873485190, or leave material in the Cathedral for the attention of Community Officer, Kelley Bermingham.



## 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.

## 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](http://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@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:officemanager@stpatrickscathedral.ie).

## 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. A deputy Designated Liaison Person will be appointed by the Cathedral Board in the near future.

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.

## CATHEDRAL CONTACTS

Saint Patrick's Cathedral  
Saint Patrick's Close  
Dublin  
D08 H6X3

Tel: 00353 1 453 9472.

**Office:** Telephone: 453 9472

**E-mail:** [info@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:info@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

### **CLERGY:**

#### **Dean**

The Very Revd Dr William W. Morton  
[dean@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:dean@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

#### **Dean's Vicar**

The Revd Canon Charles W. Mullen  
[deans.vicar@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:deans.vicar@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

### **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)



### **Administrator**

Mr Gavan Woods, M.B.A.

administrator@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Dean's Secretary and Office Manager**

Mrs Rowena Janota

officemanager@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Administration Assistant**

Ms Sinéad Merrigan

tours@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Education Officer**

Mr Andrew Smith

education@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Community Officer**

Ms Kelley Bermingham

community@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Master of the Music**

Mr Stuart Nicholson

music@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Organist and Assistant Master of the Music**

Mr David Leigh

### **Cathedral Manager and Dean's Verger**

Mr Louis Parminter

manager@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Cathedral Assistant Manager and Safety Officer**

Mr Kenneth Hartnett

safety@stpatrickscathedral.ie

### **Vergers**

Mr John Kinirons;

Mr Derek Tobin; Mr Aaron Hoey;

Mrs Collette Garry; Mr John Reardan.

vergers@stpatrickscathedral.ie





*Boy choristers carol singing at Teeling Distillery*

Editorial & Circulation

The Deanery Office

Kevin Street Upper

Dublin

D08 H6X3

Telephone: 453 9472

**Editors:**

The Revd Canon Charles Mullen

Mr Gavan Woods

**Features Editor:**

Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie