



SAINT  
PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL  
DUBLIN

# CLOSE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021



Sing, Sing, Sing!

*Liturgy*  
*Page 2*

*News*  
*Page 6*

*Music*  
*Page 12*

*Contact Us*  
*Page 17*

## SERVICE TIMES

### *Sunday*

09.15	Eucharist (said)
11.15	Choral Eucharist / Choral Matins
15.15	Choral Evensong

### *Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday*

09:00	Sung Matins (during school term)
-------	----------------------------------

### *Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday*

17.30	Choral Evensong / Evening Prayer
-------	----------------------------------

### *Wednesday*

17:30	Evening Prayer
-------	----------------

## FEBRUARY PREACHERS

February 7	The Revd M. D. Gardner	<i>Prebendary of Maynooth</i>
February 14	The Revd T. C. Kinahan	<i>Prebendary of Monmohenock</i>
February 21	The Revd P. A. Harvey	<i>Prebendary of Stagonil</i>
February 28	Vacant	<i>Prebendary of Yagoe</i>

## A SHOT FROM THE CANON

*Thou also shalt light my candle: the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be light.  
(Psalm 18: 28)*

February 2nd falls mid-way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox: it marks the gradual return of sunlight and warmth. Celtic rituals included the ceremonial lighting of fires to welcome this return, and the Church adopted these celebrations by blessing and lighting candles, giving us Candlemas as a celebration of Christ bringing the light of salvation and the warmth of love. Candle-light, though it can chase away the darkness, is fragile - somehow human. The delicate shift from winter to spring is a symbol of a human spiritual journey from darkness to light, from the ordinary to the sublime.

**CM**

## THE FEBRUARY PRAYER

Almighty God and Father,  
you appoint the moon for certain seasons  
and you turn the night into the morning;  
give us eyes to see the shift from winter to spring as a sign of your love;  
that we may commend to your transforming power  
those who, in pain or sorrow, cannot feel your warmth;  
through him who was buried and who rose to new life,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS

### **Grant we may not faint nor fail.**

Examining your inner feelings is fundamental to the practise of confessing. Like confessing, though, it's difficult and costly. It's not a question of making a list, but an honest attempt to find out why you've fallen short, or missed the mark. We Anglicans are accustomed to hearing about erring and straying, and of offending against God's holy laws. We're called to examine our conduct in the light of God's commandments that we, as penitents, may be restored to newness of life. We need to make time, and Lent is a golden opportunity to think on ourselves in the knowledge that our sins are purged away. Bless me, Father, for I have sinned...

### **Strong with thee to suffer pain.**

Having to say sorry to someone's face is difficult, costly, embarrassing even. When I make my confession at the Eucharist, or at Sunday Matins, I'm often left feeling that it hasn't been sufficiently costly. But when I've something on my mind that prompts me earnestly to seek God's forgiveness my confession feels the same as time spent in the dentist's chair. I know in my heart that confessing to God must be done in conjunction with making amends to those I've wronged – which in itself is difficult, costly, embarrassing – yet confessing to God lifts a burden. It has true value and genuine simplicity.

## **Holier gladness ours shall be.**

At baptism we're called to shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father. This calls us to magnify the light, rather than the darkness, yet we often fail to see the light because we don't trust fully in God's mercy and forgiveness, or we make ourselves feel that we don't deserve it, so why bother confessing? We find forgiveness only when we go looking for it. Sometimes it's easier to live amongst the shadows of shame and guilt, because the light might blind us and show us up. The light should draw us by dispelling our shadows, but this happens only when we keep our eyes fixed on God's mercy.

## **So shall we have peace divine.**

'Keeping it real' can often be a challenge to us who belong to the Church. I once heard an atheist claiming that there are two types of Christian: those who don't appear to believe, and those who are disfigured by their belief. I'm not sure where you or I fit, but I know that beauty isn't flawless: a real flower always trumps the plastic version because the former's beauty is fragile and fleeting. In the Gospel story the wheat and the weeds grow together. I'd prefer to concentrate my mind on the peace brought about by God's forgiveness, rather than on the turmoil of life without it. Plastic flowers, anyone?

**CM**

## CHAPTER NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER CLERK

On 18 January the Chapter made history by meeting through Zoom, rather than by gathering in the Deanery. Whilst Zoom eliminated journey times and costs it also eliminated the Dean's delightful hospitality...

We elected the Revd Aonghus Mayes, rector of Moy (Armagh), as Prebendary of Newcastle; and the Revd Katharine Poulton, rector of Julianstown (Meath and Kildare), as Prebendary of Swords; we elected Canon McWhirter as Chapter representative to the Cathedral Board (half of whose members are Chapter members) to succeed Canon Ian M. Ellis, former Prebendary of Newcastle. The Dean paid tribute to the ministry of Canon Shane Forster, who has been appointed Dean of Armagh, and has resigned as Prebendary of Yagoe. He will be succeeded here by the Revd Malcolm Kingston, rector of Armagh. The newly-elected and appointed have joined a disorderly queue for the ceremony of Installation.

**CM**

## SERVICES ON-LINE

Owing to the continuation of Level 5 restrictions, all services are currently being live streamed from the Cathedral website:

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream).

We are sorry that we are unable to welcome you to the Cathedral in person but do hope you will join with us on-line.

## EASTER LILIES

### Remember a loved one with flowers

At Easter we are again planning a display in the Cathedral of individual lilies in memory of family members and friends. The names will be read during the Prayers on Easter Sunday; and again on All Souls' Day.

Cards with the name of the person remembered and the sponsor will be placed with the lilies.

If you would like to participate please send your name, and the name of the person you wish to remember, and €5 per lily to:

'Easter Flowers', c/o Saint Patrick's Cathedral Office, The Deanery Basement, Upper Kevin Street, Dublin 8.

I would like to remember a loved one with flowers this Easter.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose € \_\_\_\_\_ (€5 per lily) to sponsor a lily/lilies in memory of

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please have the information and payment with us by 23 March 2021.



## THE ADMINISTRATOR WRITES

As we continue through this prolonged period of lockdown it is important to reflect on the activities occurring within the wider cathedral organisation. Over the past few months every effort has been made to place the Cathedral in the strongest possible position to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Though the pathway to ultimate recovery is clearer than it was just a short time ago the timing of this recovery, and what form it will take, are still impossible to ascertain. The ongoing challenge of funding the roof work remains, and this has consumed a lot of our energies since March. We are confident that this challenge will be met. The recent grant from the Department of Heritage and Housing in the last days of 2020 was timely and welcome, as indeed is the continued stream of donations coming in from so many individuals, for which we are very grateful.

At times like these it is important to focus on the purpose of the organisation and so we endeavour to continue worship in whatever way we can given the circumstances we find ourselves in. We are aware too of the great need amongst those who live near the Cathedral, exacerbated by the pandemic. It is our intention to resume over the course of 2021 our community and outreach programs under the leadership of the Dean and the community officer, Kelley Bermingham.

Of course, so much depends on our ability to resume generating income at some stage over the course of 2021, continuing into 2022. Traditionally our income has come in the main from overseas tourism. There is little doubt that in the future this will continue to be the case. In the near term we must be more innovative and look to maximise those opportunities within our reach.

We expect the resumption of small scale events in 2021, particularly in the third quarter, followed by limited overseas travel within the European Union community of nations and the UK towards the end of the year. Only in 2022 are we likely to see a strong and sustained recovery in tourism. We will of course focus on the limited domestic market this summer. We continue to liaise very closely with Fáilte Ireland and other state bodies and marketing organisations to this end.

The marketing officer, Clarissa Delap, will resume her duties shortly and will work with me to ensure the relationships across the business tourism, inbound tour operators and event sectors are maintained and strengthened as we look towards recovery. We know that initially opportunities to generate income will be limited so we must be placed in the best possible position to ensure we access a significant share of what is available.

The recent lockdown once again stopped construction work across the state. The roof project paused for one week. However, with 70% of the slates missing from the roof, together with the associated guttering, pausing the roof works created a potentially emergency situation. Our temporary roof was designed to protect the structure and operatives during ongoing work, it was never designed to mothball the project for a prolonged period of time. We are acutely aware that, if water were now to penetrate the temporary roof, the results could be catastrophic. We have liaised with various government departments with a view to ensuring that the necessary elements of the project to secure the Cathedral from the weather continue, whilst all other work is paused until general construction commences again. At present the slating of the transepts and crossing continues.

The Cathedral staff and volunteers continue to display a high degree of professionalism though working under what can be, at times, difficult conditions. All of us here look forward to the brighter days that will come soon. Until then we endeavour to keep the Cathedral secure, the organization intact, the finances on track and everyone safe and well until we have the opportunity to meet face to face once again.

**GHW**

---

## THE DEAN WRITES

---

I cannot pay tribute warm enough to those through whose concerted efforts our pattern of worship has been maintained through lockdowns past and present. There is not any certainty in these stressful times as to when normality will return, and our complete liturgical regime be restored. However, the fact that our daily offering of worship has been able to continue is due in no small way to the ingenuity of our Master of the Music, Mr Stuart Nicholson, who, with the willing co-operation of the choristers, and the lay vicars choral, has done tremendous work in providing recordings for the services. Not only this, Stuart has also displayed his expertise in technology by producing the 'broadcasts'.

The Dean's Vicar, Canon Charles Mullen, is also to be commended for his faithful contributions to the Evensongs, not to mention his help in contacting the Chapter with regard to the preaching rota and the recording of sermons

remotely. For this, and for his work in many other ways, I offer him my sincere thanks.

Grateful thanks and appreciation are also extended to our Organist and Assistant Master of the Music, Mr David Leigh, for his recitals on the Willis organ twice weekly. These recitals provide not only enjoyment through the music, but also enhance the spirit for those who are ill or self-isolating. Mr Leigh also very kindly plays the organ for the live streaming of the Sunday morning service.

Vital in the daily running of Saint Patrick's are Gavan, Louis, Ken and their wonderful teams in the Cathedral, and in the office. To all of them I offer my sincere thanks for their superb work. I know that during the course of the year, they, like all of us, will be pleased to welcome some of our staff back as conditions allow.

I am most appreciative of all that is being done to provide worship over this time of lockdown. As the signs of restrictions being lifted become more encouraging, I long for the day, hopefully in the near future, when we shall be able to open our doors again to worshippers and visitors alike.

Until we can meet again in person, please keep safe and well.

**WWM**

## SINGING IN A TIME OF PESTILENCE

After a rather “different” Christmas, we were looking forward to getting back into the Cathedral and singing again – sadly, at least for the present, that hasn’t been possible. Currently our worship is being maintained with daily webcasts using a mixture of new recordings and our CD archives. In addition to this, David Leigh has resumed his online organ recitals adding to the 50+ recitals performed during the various lockdowns of 2020. Likewise, training of the choristers continues, in fact it has never stopped, even mid-pandemic. Once again we’ve moved back online both for rehearsals and for their instrumental and vocal tuition. I would like to thank all staff involved without whose invaluable help over the last 10 months we wouldn’t have been able to maintain the levels of training that the choristers benefit from on a daily basis. I’d also like to thank those of you who have kindly donated to our Sponsor a Chorister scheme this last year which is helping us continue the choristers’ instrumental and vocal tuition during a time when finances are particularly tight.

Whilst we don’t know quite what the future holds, we do hope to return to the stalls soon and resume our daily worship. As always, all of our services are streamed live via our website along with a number of special musical events throughout the year.

Hopefully as things improve, we’ll be able to bring you more – so keep a close eye on Close News, the website or our FACEBOOK pages and hopefully we’ll see you in the Cathedral before too long.

## **Daily Worship Webcasts:**

Weekdays at 5.30pm Evening Prayer/Choral Evensong

Sundays at 3.15pm Choral Evensong

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream)

Online Recitals (Monday & Friday at 1pm)

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/recitals2021](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/recitals2021)

Stars & Stripes Forever (July 4 at 6.15pm)

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/july4](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/july4)

Saint Patrick's Cathedral: After Dark (October 31 at 6.15pm)

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/after-dark](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/after-dark)

## **SPONSOR A CHORISTER 2021**

In previous years we have run these schemes to help fund the choristers' tours, and thanks to your generosity we've enjoyed some fabulous trips to sing in Edinburgh, Gloucester, Chester, Chichester, St Alban's & Durham Cathedrals as well as our most "recent" tour to Sweden back in 2019. This year, we asking for donations to help continue funding the choristers' instrumental and vocal tuition. In any normal year, the Choristers enjoy access to free tuition with our visiting music staff as well as generous bursaries for those studying privately. Sadly, we've had to limit this due to financial restraints. Your donation will help us keep this vital training going until such time as a little normality returns.

Please make your cheques payable to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, marking the reverse "Sponsor a Chorister". *Thank you for all your generosity over the years, it is always very much appreciated!*

**SN**

## CAN YOUR CHILD SING?

Is your child starting 3rd or 4th class this September? Do they enjoy singing?

Would you like to open up a world of amazing opportunities and experiences for them?

A Choristership could be just the thing...

*My experience at Saint Patrick's gave my life as a musician a positive sense of direction and purpose it could not otherwise have had. I'd do it all again in a flash!"*

*Peter McMahon, chorister (1979-82),*

*Theatre director, Hamburg, Germany.*

Becoming a Cathedral Chorister opens a world of exciting performing opportunities including regular broadcasts, concerts, recordings & tours.

The choristers are educated at the Cathedral Choir School (a Co-educational National School) which is renowned for the excellence of its teaching staff, and for its friendliness: small classes mean a real focus and care for each child. It is also unique in being the only choir school in the country, as well as being the oldest school in Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir School was founded in 1432 by Archbishop Richard Talbot to provide for the education of the choristers and was originally housed in what is now the robing room of the Cathedral.

The Cathedral Choir School has had an almost continuous history since its foundation, the two interruptions being the Reformation and Cromwell's Commonwealth.

Nearly 600 years on, the choir school continues to educate the choristers and is now a two-teacher, co-educational school under the patronage of the Church of Ireland providing education to pupils from third to sixth class.

Admission into the school is via a voice trial – for details, please email

[music@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:music@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

Becoming a Cathedral Chorister opens a world of exciting performing opportunities including regular broadcasts, concerts, recordings & tours. Want to learn more? Visit the cathedral website: [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)



SN

Admission into the Choir School is via a voice trial/audition (a very simple one to determine vocal potential, we normally get them to sing something very simple like ‘Twinkle little star’) and an informal chat with the parents and Principal if they show the potential to be a Cathedral Chorister and these are open to boys & girls currently in the 2nd year. Whilst they would usually start in the Choir in the September of 3rd class, it is possible to start at other times depending on places available. Auditions are available throughout the year, and the staff are always happy to meet prospective parents informally, especially if they would like guidance about their child’s potential for a Choristership.

During the last few years, the choristers have performed regularly live on TV and Radio, in front of VIPs including the President and His Holiness The Pope, on the stage of Gaiety Theatre and the National Concert Hall with both the RTÉ Symphony and Concert Orchestras, have toured extensively and recorded 5 critically acclaimed commercial CDs the most recent of which was released in 2020. Would you like to organise a voice trial? – Fill out a REGISTER OF INTEREST FORM and email it back to us at [music@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:music@stpatrickscathedral.ie) and we’ll contact you to arrange an audition.

Useful contacts:

**Jennifer McCormack**, Principal, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral Choir School, Saint Patrick’s Close, Dublin 8.

Email: [admin@saintpatrickschoirschool.com](mailto:admin@saintpatrickschoirschool.com)

**Stuart Nicholson**, Master of the Music, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Saint Patrick’s Close, Dublin, D08 H6X3

Email: [music@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:music@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 please telephone the office on 01-453 9472. The temporary Dedicated Liaison Person is Mr Gavan Woods and the temporary Deputy Dedicated Liaison person is Mrs Rowena Janota. 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.

## 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.

## 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).

## 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.

administrator@stpatrickscathedral.ie

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

Mrs Rowena Janota

officemanager@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;

Mr John Reardan.

vergers@stpatrickscathedral.ie





## **The Choristers**

Editorial & Circulation

The Deanery Office, Kevin Street Upper

Dublin, D08 AW65

Telephone: 453 9472

### **Editors:**

The Revd Canon Charles Mullen

Mr Gavan Woods

### **Features Editor:**

Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie