



SAINT
PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL
DUBLIN

CLOSE NEWS



MAY 2020

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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*)

SERVICES & ORGAN RECITALS

At the time of going to press the Cathedral is temporarily closed for services, and to visitors. Please refer to the cathedral website for recorded services.

In addition, there are organ recitals which are available on live stream on Mondays and Fridays at 1 o'clock. The aim of the series, during the closure of the Cathedral to worshippers and visitors, is not only to provide some music for listeners' enjoyment, but also that, through the music, God's Presence and Peace may be found, and one's spiritual life uplifted and enhanced.

A SHOT FROM THE CANON

I missed singing the Eastertide hymns this year - and their words of comfort. Heaven knows, we're in need of that in these days of uncertainty and fear. The Easter story is one of confusion and uncertainty among fearful friends. Christ's resurrection, like his incarnation, turns human understanding upside down: fear becomes courage, despair becomes hope, sorrow becomes joy. Christ leads us through deep waters of fear and death in the way that the Israelites won freedom by crossing the Red Sea. Clinging to faith in Christ's victory brings us to safety and freedom even though we walk through deep waters.

CM

AN EASTER HYMN

Saint John Damascene, c.750, translated by J. M. Neale

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel
Into joy from sadness.
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters.

CM

THE DEAN WRITES

If someone, in the last few years, had forecast that in 2020 the world would end up in lockdown due to a global pandemic, nobody would have believed them! The reality, however, is that it has happened.

As I write this letter, an estimated 4,218,856 people have contracted the COVID-19 virus across all the affected countries, including 284,791 deaths. A daily feature of news bulletins here has been the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tony Holohan, reporting each evening on the number of deaths in the Republic of Ireland from the virus over the past twenty-four hours, together with the number of people who have tested positive. In the prayers, both in the Cathedral, and in private devotions, the bereaved, those who suffer from the condition, and those who serve on the frontline, are all being remembered.

This ‘microscopic monster’ has created havoc in other ways as well - through flights being cancelled, places of employment having to close (some of them for the last time) and people losing their jobs, through schools being forced to shut, and churches having to close their doors to worshippers and visitors. Saint Patrick’s Cathedral has been in that situation from Friday 27 March. Due to government restrictions, it was no longer possible for the lay vicars choral, who had been adhering strictly to all the regulations about hygiene and social distancing, to travel to and from the Cathedral, and work had also to be halted on the roof project.

I am delighted to report that over this time of lockdown, thanks to Stuart Nicholson, who has been instrumental in live streaming Choral Evensong each Sunday using some of the archived recordings of the Choir, and David Leigh who has provided an on-line series of organ recitals on Mondays and Fridays

at 1 o'clock, it has been possible to maintain contact, not only with the Cathedral congregation, but with listeners in a huge diversity of locations.

The onset of the pandemic necessitated a lot of change in that staff members were encouraged to work from home, with all the usual meetings taking place courtesy of Microsoft teams, or Zoom. I am constantly reminded that, although the cathedral is physically closed, its work, as part of the Church, continues. That is precisely what gives us hope in these bleak, strange and uncertain times – and that hope will never fade. Thank you all.

For over 800 years, Saint Patrick's Cathedral has survived forces of nature, and the elements, not to mention troubled times politically which were not without severe disruption. The original spire was blown down during a storm in 1316. In 1317, while the Bruce wars were raging, the Cathedral was set on fire and 'despoiled by the citizenry' in that many precious objects were looted amidst the confusion. After a more serious fire in 1362, Archbishop Thomas Minot built a 147 foot tower, which collapsed in 1394. The Cathedral also withstood severe flooding in the later years of the 18th century due to its location over the River Poddle and its surrounding branches. The English Reformation reached St. Patrick's in 1537 when soldiers of Thomas Cromwell, chief minister of King Henry VIII, defaced images in the cathedral. During a time when the Cathedral was closed for worship, around 1544, part of the nave is said to have collapsed. When Oliver Cromwell was in Dublin during his conquest of Ireland, he stabled his horses in the nave, showing his disrespect for the Anglican Church.

By strict adherence to the regulations enforced by government, through the co-operation of clergy, staff, volunteers, and members of the congregation, and, of course, by the help of God, I believe we will emerge from the current crisis,

and, although progress may be slow, the daily life of Saint Patrick's with worshippers, and visitors, will return. Through the kindness of our own people, and of friends, visitors, and supporters near and far, we will be vibrant once again.

If that is to happen, and happen effectively, it will be vital that, as soon as restrictions are relaxed, and the Cathedral is allowed to re-open, and services can take place, and staff can return to work, that we launch a united and generous drive, not only to complete the roof project, but also, to edify the Cathedral and what it provides, to the very best of all our abilities.

With that in mind, this year it has been decided to couple together the Dean's Gift Day with a re-ignition of a fund raising drive for the roof project. While the Cathedral remains closed to worshippers and visitors, we have relied heavily on the Live Stream system both for transmission of services, and also for the organ recitals. For some months, quite apart from the lockdown, members of the Fabric Committee had been considering the improvement of the quality of the live stream as a strong possibility as the subject of this year's Gift Day. I consider that it is an opportune time to contact our most faithful donors as usual this year, who always respond with such fantastic generosity - one of the hallmarks of Saint Patrick's – but also to combine it with a much wider appeal, through Clarissa, our marketing officer, to help raise funds to complete the roof project.

To date, we have paid €4.9 million on the roof works, out of a total expenditure of €9.2 million.

The final amount will now be more due to the covid-19 work practices the contractor will need to follow-we are discussing this with the contractor at present to see where the increase will fall.

We had to continue payments for this work right up until government restrictions caused it to cease from 27 March. We anticipate a gradual resumption of this work from 18 May, which is the date the Taoiseach has indicated construction work may resume, if all goes according to plan. While the Cathedral was closed, a severe loss of revenue has resulted. However, as I stated earlier, with the help of God we will achieve what will be dearest to so many hearts – to be able to meet together as a worshipping congregation in our beloved Cathedral.

In the meantime, until that can happen, please keep safe and well.

With prayerful good wishes,

William

CONDOLENCES

Sincere condolences are offered to Dr Jason McElligott, Director, Marsh's Library, on the recent death of his father. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jason, and his family, at this time of bereavement.

Condolences are also offered to Alice Leahy, and her husband, Charlie Best, on the death of Charlie's son, Alan. Many will remember Alan from his work with the Alice Leahy Trust. Sadly, he had been ill for some time.

We also remember the death of Dr David Connolly, Director of Music in Saint Michael's Church, Dun Laoghaire, who was well known in music circles, and who was instrumental in organising the summer series of organ recitals in Saint Michael's on Sunday evenings.

JESUS BRINGS HOPE TO OUR 'EMMAUS' ROAD

The story of Cleopas and his companion walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the evening of Easter Day has been described as 'the finest scene Saint Luke ever sketched.' The two walkers were clearly disappointed. Jesus, whom they had loved, and served, had been crucified. As they talked, and agonised, all of a sudden, a stranger, whom, we are told, they are prevented from recognising, comes up and walks with them.

They say to the stranger, 'we had hoped that Jesus would be the liberator of Israel, and they go on to tell him about Jesus' body disappearing from the tomb where it had been laid. Then, astonishingly, this stranger tells them that it is actually he to whom the Scriptures refer. It is only when night begins to fall, and they invite the stranger in for a meal, that, as he breaks bread with them, they recognise it is Jesus; and he disappears from their sight.

This is such a comforting story, not least in that, in their sorrow, in the table fellowship, they find their anguish and loneliness turned totally upside down, in that, miraculously, Jesus is alive; he has been raised from the tomb, which is now empty for the world to see.

Cleopas and his companion had wanted to get away from Jerusalem, which they associated with pain, sadness, and disappointment. In their conversation, they use words which must be the saddest in the English language, 'we had hoped.' Where once there was hope, now there is uncertainty, or cynicism; where there was faith, now there is doubt and despair. There is not any certainty as to where Emmaus was, as a place, but perhaps the elusive nature of Emmaus offers its own lesson — that what happened on that day is more important than where it happened, and that encounters with the risen Christ are not confined to one time or place. As the Presbyterian novelist and

preacher Frederick Buechner has written, Emmaus is the place we go to escape.

There will be many who feel there is not any escape – literally - in these days of uncertainty due to the pandemic, particularly from sadness, anxiety and fear. Sometimes we will find ourselves on the road to ‘Emmaus’ with hopes dashed. But even there, even then, when things are darkest, Jesus, often unrecognised, is to be found walking beside us. Jesus is the hands and the feet, the eyes and the ears of all battling with this virus head-on. He is the shining light in the darkness, assuring us of his presence, bringing beauty out of the brokenness of the current crisis.

May we listen to him, and may he stay with us always.

Written by the Dean, and published in the Belfast ‘Newsletter’.

A PRAYER OF SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

It is a long number of years ago that I first discovered a lovely old prayer which is attributed to Sir Francis Drake (1540-1596). It was when I was a curate-assistant, and my Rector used the prayer in connection with a Christian Stewardship programme:

“Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, that yieldeth the true glory; through him who, for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life for us, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.”

This prayer came to mind several times recently as we await the government restrictions being relaxed, the Cathedral opening again, and work resuming on the roof project. As you will read elsewhere in Close News the roof works, as a result of the pandemic, are going to present an even greater challenge with increased costs due to the implementation of standard operating procedures. It is certainly going to be a challenge, especially as there has not been any income from admission charges since well before lockdown. The roof project is, in the words of the prayer, a ‘great matter,’ for all of us, and it will indeed be in ‘the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, that yieldeth (will yield) the true glory.’

We are fortunate to have such a competent team, both from the Cathedral, and from the contractor, Clancy, who are highly professional, competent, and, what’s very important in our situation, accommodating, and understanding, in terms of services, and other activities, in the Cathedral.

As the work on the roof resumes on Monday 18 May, perhaps, in your devotions, you might like to pray for all who are involved with the project, and for their safety as they fully implement the standard operating procedures required in response to the pandemic, and also for the clergy, staff, volunteers, members of the congregation, and all visitors and friends, and all who support the fund raising appeal, that the project may proceed until completion, and that the Cathedral will be restored and conserved for the future. In hope, and with courage and determination, let us pray, in the words of Drake’s prayer, this ‘great matter’ will continue, ‘until it be thoroughly finished,’ and that it will yield to God the true glory in the edification of his ancient house of prayer.

WWM

THE ADMINISTRATOR WRITES

As we await the opportunity to all meet face to face again work continues to put the Cathedral in the best possible position to take advantage of whatever situation we may find ourselves in. Nobody knows, as I write, what the timetable for a resumption of normality will be but we can make some educated guesses. We presume that the roof works will recommence at some stage in May. The longer this project is paused, the longer the period of adjustment and organisation the contractor is likely to need before work can fully begin again. We remain hopeful that we can pick this important project up where it was left off and finish the roof not too long after the scheduled completion date in early 2021.

Next to recommence perhaps, will be services. The ability to resume sung services in the Cathedral with a congregation present is of the highest importance to us and we look forward to opening our doors for this purpose again soon. We are well placed to comply with whatever precautions are required to enable us to do this safely.

Finally, visitors. Full scale visitor operations would appear to be some way off, highly dependent as we are on overseas travellers. Nonetheless we will adapt our organisation to whatever situation we find ourselves in and will make the best of circumstances as they develop.

I hope by the next issue of Close News we will have a clearer picture of the timetable for the resumption of normal life and the actions and waypoints we will need to achieve to ensure that it all happens. In the meantime, thanks to all the staff and volunteers working behind the scenes and I trust you all keep safe and well in these challenging times. **GHW**

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Normally Saint Patrick's Day would mark the beginning of the busiest period of the year, and instead it marked the beginning of a period of closure that is likely to extend into the summer months. As we enter week seven of the social distancing measures, departments across the Cathedral have been working to creatively move their programming online so that audiences can continue to engage with us across our digital channels. From live-streaming organ recitals to engaging short family workshops, the programmes we have created during this time have been extremely well received and will, no doubt, give us an opportunity to think about how to continue to share the Cathedral's mission of worship to audiences who might not be able to visit in person, even long after we re-open. We have listed a number of the recurrent and once-off online experiences on our events calendar online under a new tag "Cathedral at Home," and invite you to explore these activities during this period of closure.

We've also enabled several ways for people to support the Cathedral during this difficult period. The introduction of an open date and time ticket gives people the opportunity to book for future travel- at any point in the next three years. Donations via Facebook have been enabled, and to our regular Sponsor-A-Slate appeal we have added an open donation option, so that people can give as much or as little as they feel comfortable with.

Lastly, we are utilising this time to take a step back and think thoroughly about where we might improve the visitor experience when business does resume as normal. Across departments, we are taking a top-level look at what kinds of outputs visitors receive from us and how we can ameliorate processes to better serve them. **C DeLap** - *Marketing Officer*

FAMILY ACTIVITIES ON-LINE

During the Cathedrals closure a key aim of the education department is to continue to engage with families. As we cannot meet families inside the Cathedral we have moved online. Throughout the closure we have uploaded a number of creative and innovative activities for families to do at home.

We first created a printout colouring book which follows the story of Saint Patrick which is available to download for free on our website. The images were taken from our very own West window. The colouring book was very well received by children and adults alike. One neighbour told me a friend, who works in a hospital, had printed out copies and left them in the staff-room to help the nurses and doctors de-stress.

We also put out a challenge for families to build their own Lego model of the Cathedral led by the impressive example created by Andrew Smith and his talented sons.

The biggest project we have been involved with has been our weekly 15 minute family crafts videos. In these videos I show families how to make a new craft each week using materials most of us have at home. This has been well received with many of our weekly videos getting over 1000 views. The crafts have been related to the Cathedral and vary from making paper doves, Illuminated Letters and Stained Glass chalk art. We have even received help from some of the cathedral choristers who sent in their videos of them making Bishop Hats. By being flexible and innovative the education team have worked to ensure that families are still engaging with Saint Patrick's Cathedral during this closure. We look forward to reopening when it is safe to do so, but until then our doors are open online. **K McC** - *Education Assistant*

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Well it's fair to say that this Easter will be one we won't forget in a hurry! Having completed our 5th CD recording, and just in time too, the Cathedral Choir School closed its doors and the choristers were stood



down just a few days' shy of our Patronal Festival. A couple of weeks later the Cathedral had to follow suit and all live worship came to a halt just before Holy Week.

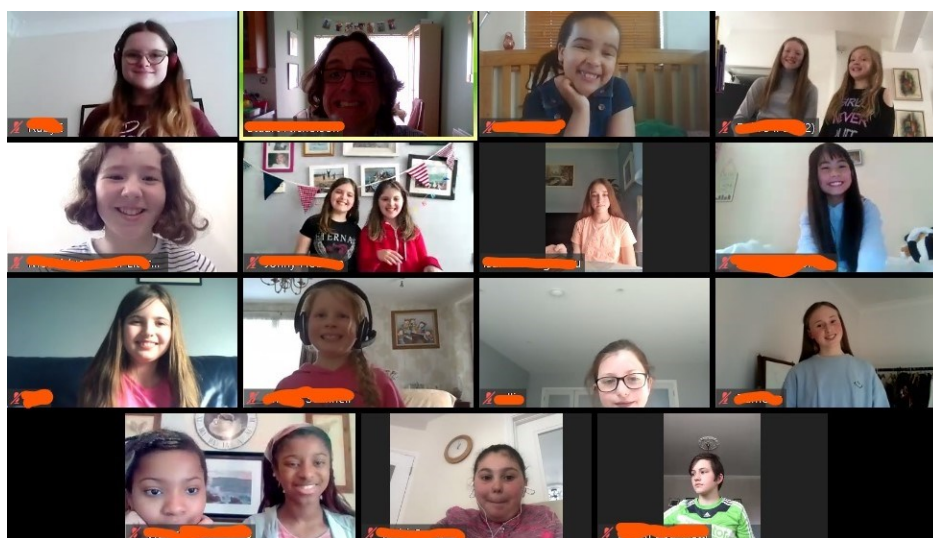
Now although we can't inhabit the stalls, we have managed to keep on worshipping via our livestreaming and facebook pages making the most of previously broadcast services and our ever growing catalogue of CD recordings. We've also managed to ensure that the training of the Cathedral Choristers continues – again relying heavily on the internet and in particular ZOOM – which like most people was something I'd never heard of until March.

Although a great way of keeping in contact with people, the internet has yet to come up with way for choral directors like myself to be able to hear more than one singer at a time. It is fine for individual tuition, which also is continuing, but not so much when trying to rehearse 30+ choristers. The only way forward is for the choristers to remain seen but not heard by anyone other than themselves – to quote a predecessor of mine, it's less than ideal! Time to brush up on my lip-reading skills – pair that with a good deal of guesswork and we can muddle through until such time as it's safe to do so. I am, despite all of the drawbacks, very much enjoying the novelty of a MUTE ALL button, if only there was a way to replicate that in the Hewson Room for a live rehearsal.

I would like to express my thanks to the staff who are embracing all the pros

and cons of online tuition/rehearsing to keep our choristers engaged during this time, to David Leigh for his ongoing twice weekly organ recitals, and finally to the parents who even without the commute are having to juggle plenty to help us keep this great tradition alive.

We will be back although life in the stalls is likely to be very different for a good while. In the meantime, we can look forward to the launch of our latest CD sometime in the autumn and when my video editing skills catch up with the musical ones I hope we'll have some other offerings from the choristers to keep us entertained.



SN— *Master of the Music*

Music at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

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 *Tocatta 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



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@stpatrickscathedral.ie
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/learn

AUDIO GUIDES

In the coming months the Cathedral is due to make a very visible change to the visitor experience in the Cathedral. Back in 2019 we were awarded a grant from Failte Ireland to provide audio guides for the visitors who travel independently of groups. This was extremely timely news as the Cathedral team had, for some time, observed the need to provide a greater provision of information to those who do not speak English. Traditionally our wonderful volunteer tour guides provide guided tours to English speaking visitors who have the time to immerse themselves in learning about the fascinating life and history of the Cathedral. However, guided tours only serve a small fraction of the visitation to Saint Patricks. At our busiest we might hope to run up to 10 tours over the course of a day, with perhaps 15-20 people on each tour. However, on some days we have welcomed over 3000 people, far more than we could ever hope to deal with individually. Our aim in the future is provide every visitor, who does not already have a guide, with a free audio guide. Work has been progressing on a script for this new experience and we now hope to be in a position to launch the facility in the coming months. Content will be available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Irish. A special children's version will also allow for use by families, or perhaps school children.

The onset of the Covid-19 crisis has of course thrown many of our plans into confusion. However, the Education Department has continued work on this project despite being confined to working from home. The general aim to have audio guides available upon reopening remains. The introduction of the audio guide may indeed prove extremely timely in the wake of the Covid crisis. It is extremely likely that very strict restrictions will be in place when the Cathedral does reopen. The audio guide may, in fact, act as an aid to social distancing.

Guided tours by nature feature groups of people in relatively tight proximity and so will probably prove very difficult to deliver. The audio guide, although never a replacement for the traditional guided tour in the long term, may act as an emergency substitute. Since the onset of the crisis the Education Department has also begun work on investigating development of bespoke audio tours which allow potential visitors to visit the area around the Cathedral. This may prove to open up a new revenue stream for the Cathedral at a time when normal visitation has become so problematic.

AS - Education Officer

ON-LINE MUSIC - AT THE CLICK OF A SWITCH!

During these days of stress and uncertainty, why not relax to the soothing strains of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Choir, and 4-manual Willis organ.

Under the direction of The Master of the Music, Stuart Nicholson, just relax and listen to the angelic voices of the choristers, together with the rich harmonies of the Gentlemen of the Choir, as heard in the following CDs: *Christmas From Dublin; A Year at Saint Patrick's*.

In addition, available are CDs featuring the spectacular playing of David Leigh, Organist & Assistant Master of the Music: *From Highest Heaven; Sounds Symphonic*.

Please also pre-book the brand new and exciting CD of Choir and organ, showcasing music for Advent. This is to be released in the autumn.

Any enquiries may be emailed to retail@stpatrickscathedral.ie where Elizabeth will be delighted to help you with any questions you may have.

WILLIAM PATRICK BERMINGHAM

Thirty years ago on April 23rd, Willie (William) Patrick Bermingham died at the age of 48. He was self-described as a family man, a proud Firefighter with his colleagues in Dublin Fire Brigade and founder of A.L.O.N.E. (A Little Offering Never Ends). In his last weeks, he telephoned his good friend Dean Victor Griffin from his hospital bed to ask if he and the Cathedral could proffer the last honours making it his last destination before burial. This was for a number of very important reasons:

- the respect that the Cathedral offers to the many elderly regardless of colour or creed, who are given the last dignity of a Christian burial from this sacred place. Each time the Dean ensured that the choir and offices of a full funeral were offered as if it were a President being buried. Often times the only attendees were Willie and his wife Marie, perhaps their children for the evening removals or on a Saturday when there was no school.
- the civic and social history within the walls.
- the great faith that Willie held in God which guided his actions, values and moral judgment.
- how the Cathedral was aligned so meaningfully down the years to protect, support and benefit society.

Liam O'Cuanaigh addressed the congregation at the ecumenical funeral and in that he addressed the question of why Saint Patrick's was chosen for his funeral *'We have come to say goodbye to Willie Bermingham. I mentioned earlier that Willie was full of surprise. Half of the city of Dublin is wondering why he is being buried from this Cathedral. Willie brought many old people here and the Dean opened up the doors for them....people that Willie felt would like the services of the Cathedral, even if they had*

no-one left, nobody else to bury them. There were twenty or more in all – Helen Murphy, Patrick O'Toole, Ruby Lucas, Joe Goulding, Mary Wilson, Jean Semple – and that's just a few. He used to love this place for its terrific architecture, a place he knew had many works of craftsmanship, very well looked after. This is the place where he wanted to say goodbye, to end his term.'



In his last interview on RTE News Willie spoke to Colm Connolly about his hopes for the future. Willie said he hoped that there would be no need for A.L.O.N.E. - that the people in our society would pick up the mantle and carry on reaching out to those who are the most vulnerable, lonely, alone or in need. His wife Marie, and 'Man-Friday' journalist / Photographer, Liam O'Cunaigh continued the work of A.L.O.N.E. following his death, for a number of years. Thirty years on we are witnessing that movement, that living legacy, as individuals throughout the community do exactly as he had wished. The attached images are courtesy of Marie Bermingham and family and especially Albert Fenton.

On his 30th anniversary, it is such a privilege for me to work in the Cathedral, carrying on the Mission of Saint Patrick's which my late father held in such high regard. I believe it was fate that Louis Parminter and I met on a course in All Hallows to discover that he was the one who had carried the cross for Willie's funeral! During my internship with the Cathedral, as part of my degree, a gift from the Bell ringers on Christmas Eve that moved me beyond words was the revelation of the list of people who had rung that day when Willie was taken on his final journey. For our family, the ringing of the bells as we departed meant so much,. During this pandemic when funerals are taking place, we are acutely aware of the challenge in facing delayed grieving, the loneliness and isolation for the bereaved is so pronounced. As a community, we can but pray for those who are suffering loss and struggling. **KB** - *Community Officer*



The Minot Tower



The Nave



Patrick Street



The late Willie Bermingham

OBITUARY - WILLIAM COOPER

William Francis Cooper was born on 15th August 1930. The eldest of six children, William was a happy child who excelled at school. William began his career in the printing industry at the age of 13 as an apprentice, eventually achieving the position of Managing Director during the 1980s.

William loved music, especially Beethoven and Brahms. He was an accomplished piano player who delighted in entertaining the family. He appreciated greatly choral music, and was very fond of the choral tradition of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

It was a dream of William's to finish his education, and in the late 1990s he attended Trinity College as a mature student. He obtained his Master's Degree in History with his memoirs as the basis of his thesis.

William married and had seven children, one of whom, Michael, sadly predeceased him in December 2019. We are greatly comforted by the knowledge that they are together, sharing a small sup of Jameson Whiskey and sharing stories of Michael Collins, The First World War, and Churchill.

William passed away in the care of Beaumont Hospital on 30th April 2020. He will be sorely missed by his wife Eileen, his six remaining children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many friends.

William was buried on 6 May 2020 in Mount Jerome Cemetery, in compliance with government restrictions regarding funerals. Dean William Morton officiated.

Adèle (daughter)

HISTORY CORNER

With all our lives being turned upside down by Covid-19, it is interesting to see the similarities and indeed differences between our situation and that of 1918. The so-called Spanish flu was the deadliest pandemic of the 20th. Century and was thought to be of avian origin. It spread world wide during 1918-20, some 500 million were infected and deaths were in the region of 50 million. Dublin was a notoriously unhealthy city at that time anyway, with very high mortality rates but deaths soared in July 1918 with the arrival of the flu. Symptoms were extremely similar to those of Covid-19. Again, just like now, there was no vaccine available and the measures advised were similar to now, isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants (though probably not as advocated by the current president of the United States!) and limiting of public gatherings. It would be interesting to know how this latter affected church services, specifically in the Church of Ireland and Saint Patrick's in particular.

Presumably there was no social distancing measures in place and we can only presume that the dean at the time, Very Revd Charles Ovenden would have just carried on as normal. His daughter, Ella Webb was a medical doctor, indeed the first female member of staff in the Adelaide Hospital, having been appointed anaesthetist there in 1918. As such, she presumably had a great deal to do with victims of the flu, as would another Church of Ireland woman, Dr Dorothy Stopford-Price, who was working in the Meath Hospital at the time. Needless to say, while as with the Spanish Flu, there is as yet no vaccine for Covid-19, the huge difference between now and then is the massive advances in medical

knowledge, equipment and expertise. The Spanish Flu infected some 800,000 people in Ireland and killed about 23,000.

One Church of Ireland woman very involved in fighting the epidemic was Dr Kathleen Lynn. She was the daughter of Revd Robert Young Lynn, rector of Cong parish, and educated at Alexandra College. Graduating as a doctor in 1899 and the first female doctor in the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital, she became a prominent member of the Irish Citizen Army, taking part in the Rising of 1916. In 1918 she was wanted by the police but,

“Because of the flu epidemic, as doctors were so badly wanted, I just decided I would go home, and I did. I was arrested immediately and brought to Oriel House [Police HQ]. I was told that I would be deported... [However as] doctors were terribly wanted at that time. I was permitted to remain in practice if I did not leave the city of Dublin”.

She and several other women, including Dr Ella Webb, had procured premises in Charlemont Street for a hospital for infants but

“Before we had time to convert it into a children’s hospital, the flu epidemic had broken out”.

This hospital in 1919 became St Ultan’s, the celebrated children’s hospital and, incidentally, it would be very fitting if the new children’s hospital was named for Dr Lynn. She was and remained a faithful parishioner of Holy Trinity, Rathmines, all her life and died in St Mary’s Nursing Home in 1955.

Just like our heroic front-line workers of today, these women risked their lives in helping their fellow citizens.

A second wave of the flu later in 1918 was even more deadly than the first, and, interestingly, as late as 1920 Dr Lynn was urging that steps be taken immediately to prevent another outbreak of influenza, a telling argument against a too hasty lifting of restrictions. While we may baulk at the disruption to our lives that Covid-19 is causing, let us be thankful that the advances in medical science, coupled with the expertise and courage of the staff of our hospitals, means that the outcome, awful and heartbreaking as it is, may not be as bad as our grandparents had to endure in 1918.

So, irksome and frustrating as these restrictions are on our lives, let us remember that our country came through similar before and will again. Meanwhile, until we can safely meet again in our great cathedral,

Keep safe & keep well.

AF



Dr Kathleen Lynn

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie who has become an Accredited Preacher in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Liz is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin where she obtained a B.A. (Hons.) in Theology and World Religions.

Her accreditation involved studying for the past three years which included practical and written assessments, a residential course at Union Theological College in Belfast, and several in-depth interviews. Liz hopes to be ordained in the near future, and to serve as an Auxiliary Minister. She has preached many times in churches in Dublin.

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 /086 6061080. Katherine McCormack has been appointed by the Cathedral Board as the 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.

SPONSOR A SLATE

The Cathedral's roof is currently under 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

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You can follow us on:

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



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The funeral cortege of the late Willie Bermingham

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