



SAINT  
PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL  
DUBLIN

# CLOSE NEWS

November 2020



Some of the slates removed from the roof.

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

17.30	Choral Evensong / Evening Prayer
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### *Wednesday*

17:30	Evening Prayer
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## NOVEMBER PREACHERS

November 1	The Very Revd C. McMullen	<i>Prebendary of Finglas</i>
November 8	The Revd J. K. McWhirter	<i>Prebendary of Kilmactalway</i>
November 15	The Revd D. W. Oxley	<i>Prebendary of St. Audoen's</i>
November 22	The Revd P. R. Campion	<i>Precentor</i>
November 29	The Revd B. M. McKay	<i>Prebendary of Clondalkin</i>

## A SHOT FROM THE CANON

This new lock-down is like a desert wrote a friend to me in an email. It's certainly arid and disorienting. Experts advise us to cope with it by keeping in touch by 'phone, email or letter and by focusing on the things we can change. Most of us have at some point spent time in a desert of grief, pain, or disappointment. Possibly we emerged refreshed only when we resolved to change the things we could change. Do you know someone to whom you can bring refreshment? Yours is the message that could change the wilderness and the solitary place.

CM

## THE NOVEMBER PRAYER

*Jesus returned from the Jordan, and for forty days was led by the Spirit up and down the wilderness...* (Luke 4: 1)

Lord Jesus, by your loneliness bring comfort to those who despair;

Lord Jesus, by your fasting be sustenance to those who grow faint;

Lord Jesus, by your temptation give courage to those who feel lost;

make us generous in giving,

make us strong in service,

make us faithful in following,

for your Name's sake. Amen.

CM

## CHAPTER NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER CLERK

The Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe has appointed the Revd Roderick Smyth as Prebendary of Taney in succession to the late the Ven. Wayne Carney at whose sudden death in August we grieved. Canon-designate Smyth is Rector of Nenagh. We look forward to welcoming him.

We're sad to say farewell to two long-serving Chapter Canons. Canon Ian Ellis was installed in 2001 as Prebendary of Newcastle: by happy coincidence he was also Rector of Newcastle in the diocese of Down and Dromore. He served also as Editor of The Church of Ireland Gazette. Canon Ellis has for many years been a Chapter representative on the Cathedral Board and has served on its Fabric Committee.

Canon Gregory Dunstan was elected Prebendary of Swords in 2005 when he was Rector of Saint Matthew's Church, Belfast. He subsequently became Dean of Armagh. In early life he was a chorister at Saint George's Chapel, Windsor. With his experience of church music Canon Dunstan was generous in encouraging and supporting our choral tradition and our musicians.

**CM**



## LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD- ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The services listed will be live streamed from the Cathedral website:  
[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/worship/video-stream).

Attendance in person is subject to Church and State guidelines in place on the day of the service. When guidelines permit limited attendance in person, priority is given to regular members of the Cathedral congregation.

**Sunday 8 November** - Remembrance Sunday - Matins 10:55; Evensong 15:15

**Sunday 15 November** – 15:15 Actors' & Artists' Memorial Evensong

**Sunday 29 November** – 15:15 Advent Carol Service

**Sunday 20 December** – 15:15 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

**Friday 25 December** – 11:15 Christmas Day Festival Eucharist



## SAVE OUR ROOF

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.

To get involved or to donate today, visit: [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)

## THE BELLS OF SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

The bells of Saint Patrick's Cathedral have been ringing out over Dublin for hundreds of years. They have marked time for successive generations, especially with the invitation to worship, but also, with suitable adjustment as required, for weddings, and funerals, times of national gladness, or sorrow, and, in more historic times, to indicate danger or invasion.

Distinctive sounds characterise a place: like the sound of the old tram system, traffic on Grafton Street, or the old Docklands – all now a phenomenon of the past. Thankfully, however, the sound of the bells of Saint Patrick's is still with us, despite serious incidents in earlier centuries – like when an accidental fire started in an adjoining house and led to the destruction of the tower and the western part of the nave in 1362, and again, in 1394, when the tower, rebuilt by Archbishop Thomas Minot, collapsed, bringing with it a substantial portion of the north-western part of the nave and north aisle.

The fascinating articles about the bells in this edition of Saint Patrick's People relate much about how the ringers control the sequence of the bells, and how each bell sounds at a specific pitch. Twelve of the fifteen bells in the tower can be rung at the one time, each bell representing the note of an instrument, thus permitting the creation of a melody. In the course of time, when the precision of change ringing was devised, the ringing of the bells produced a pattern in the sounds produced.

Often, when I walk along Saint Patrick's Close on the way to divine service in the cathedral, I always find the sound of the bells – the call to worship - very emotive, and very powerful. The invisible waves of sound energy are sent out

for all to hear. It is a sound which links heaven and earth, and claims our attention, from far beyond us. The bells call us to something greater than ourselves. The evocative call resonates deep within us because our hearts recognise that the call is from God, who, although beyond us, is also with us at the heart of our communities and lives, calling us to respond.

The bells remind us that we are called by God as members of the worshipping community in this place. In these days, however, due to the current restrictions as a result of Covid-19, the response of the congregations to worship has been forced to take on a different dimension. At the time of writing, it is not possible to have a live congregation in the cathedral, and our services are being streamed. The bells, which call us to worship, unfailingly, have fallen silent as it is not possible for ringers to come together under the guidelines. Even before the current restrictions, only a small number of ringers could be accommodated in line with social distancing.

As Saint Paul wrote to the early Christians at Corinth, however, ‘we do not lose heart.’ The bells call us to face the brokenness of our world, our land, our communities, and ourselves, and to pray for God’s blessing, and his healing grace to rest upon us.

Some years ago, I met a visiting bell ringer who had many decades of experience tucked under his belt. He was describing for me the bells which he and his colleagues rang Sunday by Sunday back home in Canada. He was able to provide accurate information as to how many bells are in the tower of the church, their respective weights, and the respective notes, together with details of the ringers, and when they practise!

He said to me: “I really enjoy ringing the bells back home. As I co-ordinate my ringing, I feel each bell has a personality. I consider all of them my friends.”

In the stressful times in which we live, there is a sense in which we are called, in fact, to become like bells so that our lives speak clearly, in harmony with others, that we choose the way of Christ, the way of love.

The uniqueness of each bell, and, consequently, the uniqueness of each one of us in the Christian life, was brought home for me recently in a letter sent to me by a lady in County Wicklow. She happened to be going through some of her papers when, in copper plate writing on the two sides of an A4 page, she found some information dating from 1897 about the bells of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. It would appear that the handwriting is that of Dean Henry Jellett.

*Jellett - Sursum corda*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> - Venti adhauc et*  
*De laudibus*  
*Sibi laude*  
  
*Te glorificamus*  
*In singulis diebus laudamus te*  
*Omni spiritus laudet Dominum*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
*Ad majorem Dei gloriam*  
  
*This peal of the bells was rung*  
*at the expense of*  
*Edmond Cecil Down Smith, L.P.*  
*A.D. 1897*  
  
*Henry Jellett - Dean.*  
  
*And on the half ten bell*  
  
*Noted from the Queen. 1897.*

*The following*  
*is the*  
*the paper peal of the*

<i>Shell</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>10<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Major</i>
<i>Shell</i>	<i>2. 5. 6</i>	<i>0.</i>	<i>7. 0.</i>
	<i>2. 7. 8</i>	<i>0.</i>	<i>4. 0.</i>
	<i>2. 10.</i>		<i>9. 1. 10.</i>
	<i>2. 11.</i>		<i>11. 3. 20.</i>
	<i>3. 2.</i>		<i>11. 0. 21.</i>
	<i>3. 4.</i>		<i>14. 2. 11.</i>
	<i>3. 11.</i>		<i>15. 3.</i>
	<i>4. 17.</i>		<i>22. 0. 3.</i>
	<i>4. 7.</i>		<i>24. 3. 7.</i>
	<i>5. 2.</i>		<i>25. 1. 14.</i>
<i>Henry Jellett</i>			
			<i>6. 1.</i>

The lady stated: “Years ago, I, and a school friend, used to ring the (10) bells in Saint Patrick's Cathedral after school on Fridays. We had a lot of fun, and my friend kept in contact with Charlie Reede, (‘The man in the Tower’) all his life. She told me (it was believed) he sometimes slept in the Tower!”



The information consists of details of the diameters, notes and weights of the respective bells, and, very importantly, lists the respective inscription on each bell. I have not the slightest doubt that these stressful days will pass, and like ourselves, the bells will ring again, and raise the voice of the Church to heaven. This cathedral will be given back its ancient voice and will take its place once more in the soundscape of this city.

At the same time we are reminded that the bells are only bells and that the voice of the church, the battering of the doors of heaven with prayer, the missionary call that brings our brother, our sister, to Jesus, the sound of joy, the call of warning, the sombre call of lamentation, that is for the church, for us.

We must never be silent, never be silenced; the voice is that of the Church. The bells amplify and echo it, and each of us, thrilled by their sound, must speak up for justice, mercy and peace, for inclusion, and welcome, and acceptance, and everything that this cathedral stands for, and has stood for, over the generations.

My deepest thanks to our dedicated team of ringers; but, most especially, thanks be to God who has blessed us in this holy place, yesterday, today and, we pray, for ever.

**WM**

## THE ROOF PROJECT

One of the privileges of being involved in the current roof restoration project is the opportunity to observe skilled Irish craftspeople deliver highly accomplished work in a wide range of different fields. In the photograph opposite, Evan Connon, of Connon Stained Glass is refitting the beautifully restored clerestory windows into their openings on the north side of the nave. Five clerestory windows on either side of the nave have been installed over the past few weeks allowing the scaffolding to be fully removed from the west end of the Cathedral. The silver lining of being closed to visitors under the level 5 restrictions is that we can use the a mobile electric work platform (MEWP) instead of scaffold towers to undertake and speed up this delicate work. The pandemic has caused a significant delay to the project but such practices as outlined above will hopefully enable us to bring the completion date forward. In other work, the slates are now largely stripped from the crossing and transepts roofs. It is envisaged that the new slates will be installed after Christmas. Conservation specialists from the department of heritage visited the project recently and described the work as ‘exemplary’, a great tribute to the contractor and architect.

As previously mentioned the Cathedral is currently closed under the level 5 restrictions and the date of reopening for worship and for visitors is as yet unknown. However, in the medium term we are hopeful for the future. Ireland has adopted the EU commission's guideline ‘traffic light’ system for international travel and we appear to be edging ever closer to the adoption of an effective vaccine for COVID-19.

We hope with some confidence that this pandemic will subside over the next year and we will have the opportunity to welcome you all back to the Cathedral in one way or another in the months ahead. We are very much look forward to better days to come.

**GHW**





## 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](mailto:music@stpatrickscathedral.ie)  
[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/learn](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/learn)

## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR STALLS

### **Hark The Socially Distant Herald Angels Sing.**

Normally by now we would be planning for the Festive Season. This year, short of a miracle, it would seem that Christmas will be rather different, not that we'll let a pandemic stop us. It might not be Christmas as we know it, but we will celebrate in the best possible way. Details of services and events throughout Advent & Christmas will be posted on the website as soon as they are known: [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/christmas](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/christmas) All services and events will take place in conformity to State and Church guidelines

## **Hark! What a Sound - MUSIC FOR ADVENT**

In this extraordinary year for the whole world it is inspiring to reflect on the Advent journey from darkness to light. The Cathedral Choir's latest recording, made just before the pandemic-imposed lockdown began in March, includes beautiful Advent carols and anthems, interspersed with the traditional O Antiphons. There is a selection of well-established and more recent works for Advent, giving an approachable programme blending the familiar and the unfamiliar.

With the ongoing roof works in the Cathedral we had to look for an alternative venue to record in and thus the recording was made in the radiant acoustic of The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel following a very kind and welcome invitation from their Prior, Fr Simon Nolan to whom we're especially grateful.



## CD LAUNCH ON-LINE



The CD will be launched formally in 2021 when we hope that social distancing will be a thing of the past. The disc will be available for purchase directly from the Cathedral shop for the pre-launch price of just €10 (plus P&P).

Visit [www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/advent-from-dublin](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/advent-from-dublin) or email [retail@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:retail@stpatrickscathedral.ie) for more details or to place an order.

REGENT REGCD556

Total Playing time: 77:03

DDD

## Hark! What a Sound | ADVENT FROM DUBLIN

The Choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

directed by Stuart Nicholson and David Leigh



- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 1  | Drop down ye heavens – Judith Weir †  | 1:43 |
| 2  | O come, O come Immanuel – 15th Century French arr John Rutter ‡   | 3:56 |
| 3  | Adam lay y'bounden – Philip Ledger †  | 2:06 |
| 4  | O Sapientia – Springfield Antiphonal °  | 0:47 |
| 5  | A Song of Wisdom – Charles Villiers Stanford †  | 4:38 |
| 6  | O Adonai – Springfield Antiphonal °   | 0:54 |
| 7  | Hail to the Lord's anointed – Trad English arr Ralph Vaughan Williams ‡                                       | 3:47 |
| 8  | A tender shoot – Otto Goldschmidt †   | 1:47 |
| 9  | O Radix Jesse – Springfield Antiphonal °  | 0:51 |
| 10 | Lo, how a rose e'er blooming – 14th Century German arr David Blackwell †                                      | 3:35 |
| 11 | Jesus Christ the apple tree – Elizabeth Poston §  | 3:29 |
| 12 | O Clavis David – Springfield Antiphonal °   | 0:57 |
| 13 | Come my way – David Cooper §  | 3:06 |
| 14 | Never weather beaten sail – Richard Shephard §  | 2:15 |
| 15 | O Oriens – Springfield Antiphonal °   | 0:50 |
| 16 | Hark what a sound – Richard Terry ‡   | 2:24 |
| 17 | O Rex Gentium – Springfield Antiphonal °  | 0:51 |
| 18 | Tomorrow shall be my dancing day – Trad English arr Stuart Nicholson†   | 2:54 |
| 19 | O Emmanuel – Springfield Antiphonal °   | 1:01 |
| 20 | There is no rose – Jack Oades ††  | 2:54 |
| 21 | O Virgo virginum – Springfield Antiphonal °   | 1:01 |
| 22 | Magnificat (Gloucester Service) – Herbert Howells †   | 6:50 |
| 23 | O Virgo virginum – Springfield Antiphonal °   | 1:03 |
| 24 | Lo he comes with clouds descending – Thomas Olivers, Introduction Stuart Nicholson<br>V4 arr Martin J R How ‡ | 5:22 |

\* Premiere recording, † Choristers, § Schola Patricii, ° Lay Vicars, ‡ Tutti

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## 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.

## SPONSOR A CHORISTER- BURSARY APPEAL

This autumn's appeal isn't in aid of a tour, alas we've a while to wait before those are possible again. Instead it's to help fund the choristers' tuition. As part of their Choristerships, the Cathedral funds instrumental, vocal and theory tuition for the choristers, most of that is delivered via in-house lessons given by a team of visiting tutors. In addition to that, generous bursaries are available for choristers studying privately.

With finances being as they are at present, we are having to scale back our operations in a big way. We still hope to be able to provide around 70% of the in-house lessons and are asking for help from the Cathedral community and beyond to help fund the remainder. Sadly, music lessons are often a casualty of hard times, and given the talent in the front row of the stalls we want to do everything we can to continue nurturing that.

If you can help us, then please send your donation to the Cathedral Office, and mark the reverse of the cheque "Sponsor a Chorister" and send to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8. Do please include your name and email/postal address so we can thank you properly.

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/chorister-bursary-appeal](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/chorister-bursary-appeal)

SN

## ***THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL***

*THE SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED IN 1945 TO ASSIST WITH  
THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FABRIC OF THE CATHEDRAL  
AND TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE CATHEDRAL AND ITS  
COMMUNITY.*

*THE SOCIETY ALWAYS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS.*

*FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:*

*FRIENDS@STPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.IE*

Dear Friend,

This year, owing to Church and State restrictions relating to the Coronavirus pandemic, I am unable to invite you to apply for tickets for the Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols. No-one can predict what restrictions will apply at Christmas, nor indicate that restrictions will have been removed by then.

Our chief concern remains, as always, the safety of worshippers and staff at the Cathedral. The Service will be streamed live, and available on the Cathedral's website; my hope is that it will be broadcast live by RTÉ Radio at 4pm on Christmas Eve. I pray you will understand the challenges we face, and that we may together in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

**CM**



## LOOKING SERIOUSLY AT THE LIGHTER SIDE OF FAITH

I was honoured – for a number of reasons - to be invited to launch No 11 in the Braemor Studies Series at The Church of Ireland Theological Institute here in Dublin.

First, the author, The Reverend Dr Ian Mills, presently serving as curate in the parishes of Larne and Inver, Glynn and Raloo, in Connor Diocese was Organist & Master of the Choristers in Saint Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry during many of my years as Dean; secondly, I found the subject of Ian's book both interesting and fascinating; and thirdly, I always like to go back to the Theological College where I really enjoyed my time as a student far more years ago than I care to remember!

The book's title is *The Hermeneutics of Humour: A Serious Look at the Lighter Side of Faith*, and, as I said at the launch, the relationship of humour in relation to the practice of the Christian faith is appealing, and, indeed, in the times in which we live, essential and necessary. This book prompted me to think of the indispensability of humour in Church life – in all kinds of situations. Someone remarked to me the other day: 'Sure, if we couldn't laugh, we'd have to give up!'

Before teasing out the title, I mentioned at the launch a couple of amusing illustrations about humour. About 32 years ago, a few months after ordination, while attending a diocesan conference of clergy in Dunfanaghy Parish Church, in north-west Donegal, I read the following inscription on a small wall tablet close to where I was sitting: 'In loving memory of ....., 'Safe in the arms of Jesus From her family and friends' (!!)



The city of Rawalpindi was conquered by the British Raj in 1849 and a few years later a burial took place in a local cemetery. The inscription on the headstone read; 'In loving memory of Commissioned Officer, ....., a valiant soldier, faithful unto death; killed by the accidental discharge of his batman's weapon. And beneath, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

Following the Institution of, as he then was, The Reverend Noel Willoughby, later Bishop Willoughby, to the Parish of Delgany, a man asked him this question at the door of the Church: 'Do you realise there are several DDs here!?' The new Rector, not knowing what to make of a host of eminent theologians in his parish, was somewhat dismayed. Observing this, the man said, 'they are all desperately difficult!'

I believe it is possible to discover the real essence, and purpose of humour, in live situations, among them, in the Church, and involving the Christian faith. I came across the following rather interesting piece a few days ago. A man called Arthur Koestler, a Hungarian British author and journalist, who died in 1983 wrote about a rather amusing account of a Marquis at the court of Louis XIV who entered his wife's bedroom to find her in the arms of a bishop. He walked to the window, threw it open and started blessing the people in the street below! 'What are you doing?' cried the anguished wife. 'Monseigneur is performing my functions,' replied the Marquis, 'so I am performing his!' The Marquis' unexpected reaction relieves the tension in an explosion of amusement and even laughter. The amusement and the laughter, ok!, but I'm sure the bishop, and the Marchioness, had a few questions to answer into the bargain!! By telling this story, however, the author has put his finger on the essence of humour – it arises from an incongruity; it is the concept of humour, as a sabbatical from reality, that is profoundly attractive.

In how many situations is not this so true? How dull life would be if this were not so! It certainly true in many instances of pastoral ministry. Some time ago I celebrated the Holy Communion at the bedside of a gentleman who was 80 that day, and who was dying, and yet, as Ian references in his chapter, 'Ministerial Framework for Humour in the Church of Ireland', humour crept in. The patient began ministering to me, and to those of his family, through humour, which somehow alleviated the difficulty of the situation, not so much for him, but for all of us. I'm sure many could witness to awkward moments in meetings being diffused by the introduction of humour.

This is a well-researched, beautifully produced book, extremely well planned and written, documenting how humour was regarded through the different ages of the Church, and, very appropriately, providing, in a dedicated chapter, a 'Ministerial Framework for Humour in The Church of Ireland.'

I have not the slightest doubt that God has a darned good chuckle to himself at times at our failure to see the funny side in matters of faith, and even to laugh at ourselves. I think the advice at the end, 'Towards a Theology of 'Humour?' is very apt indeed! You can read it for yourself, but basically it is this: Look for humour in everyday situations – in the incongruities and surprises of daily life. Enjoy spending time with those who have a healthy sense of humour, and learn from their perspective of faith. We should pray humorously. Incorporate laughter and humour into our time of spiritual discipline. We should read Scripture with an openness to God revealing all things to us, including, very importantly, the humour which is present in his character, present in the life and witness of Jesus Christ, and present with us through the gift of His Holy Spirit.

If we do all these, I think the Church, and life, and so much of our world would take on a whole new meaning; we would view things differently. And, do you know what, we would be a lot happier – and God would have the last laugh! I'm not joking!

I commend 'The Hermeneutics of Humour: A Serious Look at the Lighter Side of Faith.' Have a good read – and a good chuckle!

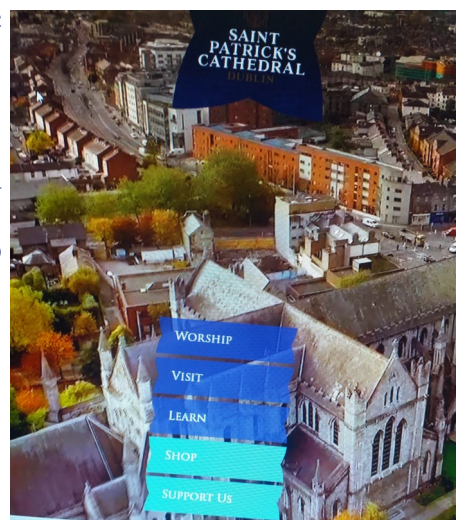
WM

## ON-LINE GIFT SHOP

The Cathedral Gift Shop has gone 'On-line'. Owing to a severe reduction in visitors to the Cathedral we have had to consider alternate ways of selling our products to those who can no longer visit in person. The marketing and development of the products sold from the on-line shop is being changed and updated daily, with a view to building a good selection of products to cater for everyone. Many of our bespoke products are displayed in the on-line shop and the button to visit is on the 'Home' page of the Cathedral website.

The on-line shop is easy to navigate and remember, each purchase goes toward the upkeep of the building. Do, please, visit us on-line.

Happy shopping!



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



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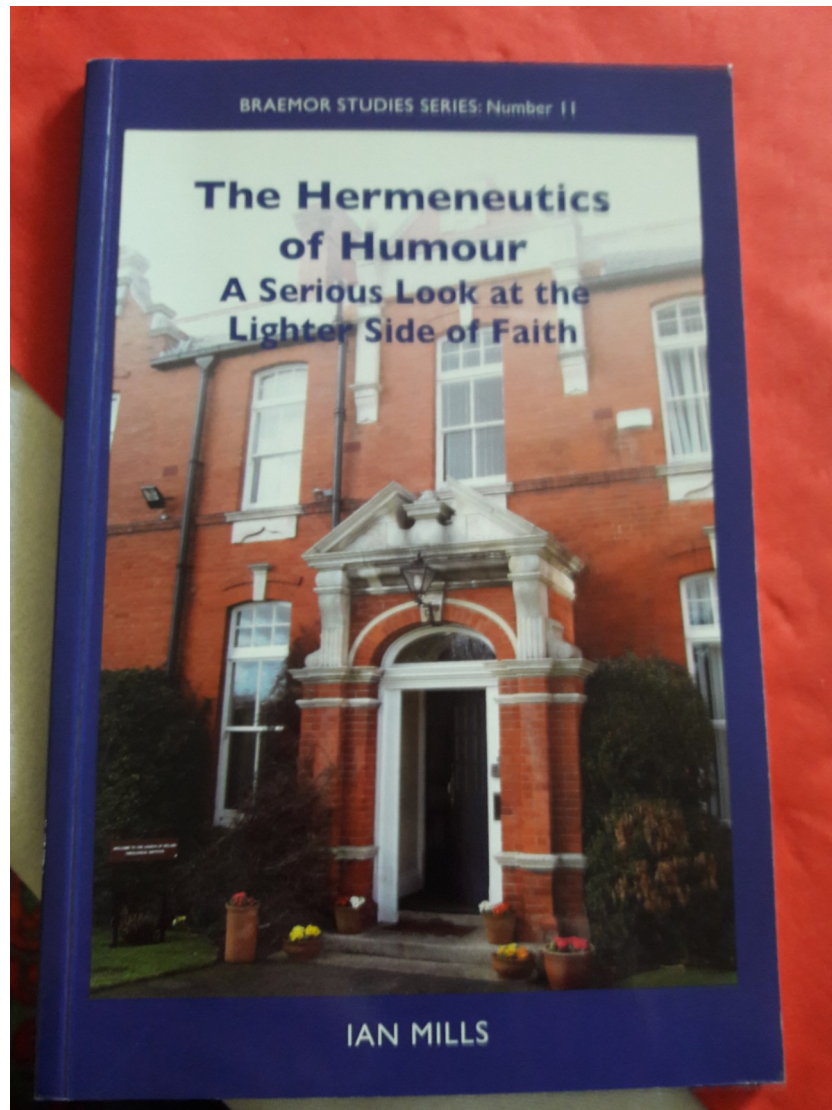
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A book written by Ian Mills reviewed in this edition

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