

CLOSE NEWS

February 2022



*Canon Mullen with the newly installed lay vicars,
Clarke, Sarah and Jeff.*

Liturgy
Page 2

News
Page 4

Music
Page 14

More News
Page 16

Contact Us
Page 22

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

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

Tuesday - Thursday

- 09.00 Sung Matins (*during school term*)

Monday - Friday

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

Saturday

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

FEBRUARY PREACHERS

February 6	The Revd S. E. Doogan	<i>Prebendary of Wicklow</i>
February 13	The Revd P. K. McDowell	<i>Prebendary of Clonmethan</i>
February 20	The Revd M. D. Gardner	<i>Prebendary of Maynooth</i>
February 27	The Revd T. C. Kinahan	<i>Prebendary of Monmohenock</i>

A SHOT FROM THE CANON

George Herbert, the Anglican priest-poet, described prayer as ‘heaven in ordinary’. It’s not an obvious parallel: ‘ordinary’ is unexciting, unappealing, dull. Heaven can’t be like this. Yet consider the ways in which we come close to God, and God comes close to us. Christ makes himself known in the breaking of bread. Bread? How very ordinary! God comes close to us in the smile, the listening ear, the quiet word of support or reassurance, the promised prayer: these ‘ordinary’ things show that God is near at hand. When we pray faithfully, we find God transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary.

CM

PRAYING WITH THE PREBEND

God our Father,
you made us and called us to be your own;
give us a fresh perspective and a new perceptiveness;
forgive us when we expect to find you only in life’s big things,
while missing your still, small voice,
never absent from us in the cares and delights of daily life;
these things we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CM

THE NEW PREBENDARY OF CASTLEKNOCK



The newly-elected Prebendary of Castleknock, the Revd Paul Ian Arbuthnot, was installed at Matins on Sunday 9th January. A former choral scholar and lay vicar, we welcome him back to the Cathedral, in his new role. Canon Arbuthnot is rector of Cobh and Glanmire in the united dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. We wish him well.

THE CATHEDRAL DIARY - FEBRUARY 2022

Tuesday 8 February

John Williams 80th Birthday concert.

19:30 - 21:00

Wednesday 2 March

Ash Wednesday Eucharist

09:00

DUBLINBUSK



Glen Hansard, Bono, Damien Rice, Mark Logan, and more Irish performers performed at the Cathedral in a life-streamed event on Christmas Eve, to plug the €1.5 million fundraising gap for Dublin's Simon Community. The Dean was interviewed about the project and is pictured with the crew.

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

TRIBUTE

At one of the first events held in the Deanery after Rosemary and I arrived here well over five years ago two, a couple came forward, welcomed us most warmly, and said that, while they were not Sunday by Sunday worshippers in Saint Patrick's, they had strong links with the cathedral and always looked forward to attending on special occasions. It was always a pleasure and privilege to meet up with Blair and Florrie Halliday who never failed to offer show kindness and offer great support to Saint Patrick's in a whole host of ways.

Often, I would meet Blair at diocesan events, and, of course, he served for many years as a diocesan reader. Florrie, whose spiritual home before marriage was Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and who latterly volunteered in the cathedral, sadly died in August 2018. It was with equal sadness that we heard of Blair's passing, after a time of serious illness, on 21 November last. It was a wonderful privilege to have known Blair and Florrie, and I thank God upon every remembrance of them, and of what they did for his Church in this ancient place.

We offer our sincere condolences to Albert and Rosemary Fenton and family as we bid earthly farewell to Blair, Albert's brother-in-law, and as we remember him, and Florrie (Albert's late sister) with thanksgiving. May they rest in peace and be raised in glory.

WM

CYRIL GALBRAITH

Cyril Galbraith, who died on 1 December last, aged 98, Ireland's oldest bellringer, generously gave many of his years of expertise and experience to ringing the historic bells in the tower of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. His interest in campanology began in 1939, when, as a 15-year-old boy in the city of Limerick, he wandered into Saint Mary's Cathedral and enquired how the bells worked! Almost immediately, the art became a passion, one which lasted for more than eighty years.

A new job brought Cyril to Dublin in 1968 where he soon found himself ringing in St Patrick's Cathedral. It was to the huge benefit of Saint Patrick's, and his colleagues here, that Cyril maintained his strong and loyal links here over several decades, until climbing the stairs started to prove tricky.

Cyril was a most kind, friendly and welcoming gentleman, whom it was always a joy and privilege to meet. We thank God upon every remembrance of him, and for all that he contributed, with such loyalty and dedication, to the life of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

Sincere condolences are expressed to Cyril's family in their time of bereavement and loss. The Dean attended Cyril's funeral service in Taney Parish Church.

WM

CONDOLENCES

Several members of the congregation have been bereaved recently by the death of loved ones:

Pat Kane Carson, and her husband Ron, on the death of Pat's sister, Joy Alford, Goatstown; Robin Gordon, on the death of his cousin, Angela van Aardt, Glenarm, County Antrim; Canon Peter Campion, his wife Rebecca and family, on the death of Peter's aunt, Elizabeth Yates, (mother of Ivan Yates, broadcaster, and former TD); also Dr Kerry Houston, and his brother Dermot, on the death of their mother Joy, a resident of The Mageough, Rathmines.

At the time of going to print, we have just learned of the death of Larry O'Connell, who, with his wife, Betty, was a most faithful attender at Saint Patrick's. We pray that Betty and her family will experience God's comfort, strength and peace in their time of bereavement. Larry's obituary will follow in the March issue of Close News.

We remember also in our prayers our good friend and neighbour, Alice Leahy, whose husband, Charlie Best died in the last week. This was a double bereavement for Alice in that Charlie's son, Alan, died only last year.

Sincere condolences are expressed to all who mourn; we assure them of our thoughts and prayers.



THE ADMINISTRATOR WRITES

Christmas 2021 is behind us now and despite the threat of a new, more transmissible, variant of Covid 19 the Cathedral remained open for both worship and visiting. It is easy to forget during such a setback that for some time things have been improving for most of us, thanks in part to the state's successful vaccination programme.

November brought strong numbers of international visitors to the Cathedral followed by a dramatic curtailment in December as more stringent testing for inbound travellers was introduced. Now, in late January, we see numbers recovering. Following the Taoiseach's announcement of the lifting of most restrictions we can dare to be hopeful again.

Our immediate focus is growing visitor numbers and hosting events through delivering an effective marketing and communications strategy. Ms Louise Donnelly, formally of the National Gallery of Ireland, leads the charge here as our new marketing officer and head of department, assisted by Ms Katie Conway who has joined us recently from the Hunt Museum. Ms Susan Barrett has made the move from the Cathedral shop to the office as administrative assistant and bookings officer. We wish them all the very best in their new roles.

Though as always there is the potential for upsets along the way we are determined to put the Cathedral in the best possible position to benefit from the reopening of society and the anticipated re-emergence of significant international travel. At present the indicators are positive and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a strong performance in the year ahead.

GHW

A MINISTERIAL VISIT



*Pictured from L - R: The Dean; Mr Tim Gill (Principal); Mr Simon Harris, TD;
and Dr Kerry Houston (Board of Governors).*

Mr Simon Harris, TD, visited recently Saint Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School to view the school buildings and meet with students. He was made welcome by The Dean, Principal Mr Tim Gill and Dr Kerry Houston.

ADMISSIONS AND INSTALLATIONS



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany was a far busier one than one would normally expect this early in the year. The morning saw the admission of 6 new choristers by the Dean, including a rather belated admission of a rather more senior chorister, whose admission was delayed due to the pandemic. Our new choristers pictured here from left to right; Adam, David, Torin (back), Hart (front), Guss and Nathan. At Evensong 3 lay vicars, again all rather belatedly, were installed. Namely, Jeff Ledwidge as Vicar of the Prebendaries of Castleknock and Rathmichael, Clarke Brydon as Vicar of the Prebendary of Monmohenock, and Sarah Thursfield as Vicar of the Prebendary of Swords.

We extend to them and their families a very warm welcome, even those who have been singing with us already for a few years! Looking forward to hearing them all properly, together in the stalls in the not too distant future.



SN

NEWS FROM THE CATHEDRAL

At the time of writing this we have had the very positive announcement from An Taoiseach in relation to the lifting of restrictions. What this actually means for worship and what may change is unclear at this time. We will provide information in terms of our requirements to take contact tracing details and matters such as the administration of communion and hymn singing as soon as possible, but we will certainly be continuing to ask that all attending services or visiting the cathedral wear masks for the time being.

The conclusion of the roof works last autumn was an incredible achievement during extremely challenging times. The completion of this project together with the gradual rise in visitor numbers, the return of events, and an increase in those attending services have all combined to give a sense of normality returning to the cathedral community. We are very positive about the months ahead and hope to see a continued increase in the numbers visiting Saint Patrick's.

In preparation for this, we have just reinstalled the additional WC facilities at the West End of the cathedral and are planning to improve access to this over the course of the year. We hope to re-engage with all of our volunteers in the coming weeks and reintroduce guided tours at the earliest opportunity. While our new Audio Guides have given additional choice to those visiting, and in particular those for whom English is not their first language, we do not underestimate the value of the 'human touch' and the wonderful ministry of welcome provided by our dedicated volunteers and staff.

In late February we will have significant works carried out to the Public Address system. As well as improving the reliability of the system, these works will also enable us to introduce improvements to the quality of our live streaming facility in the coming months. This was the Dean's Gift Day project for 2020 and was very generously supported. The pandemic and issues with the existing system have delayed this project and we are looking forward finalizing it and to hearing the improvements.

Other works planned for 2022 include repairs to the Nave floor tiles which suffered damage during the summer of 2021. The rise in temperatures are usually very welcome, but do not suit the tightly fitted Victorian tiles which have little room to expand! Anyone who has been in the cathedral recently will have seen the large area impacted this time, and the project will include the manufacturing of identical tiles along with cleaning and relaying of those salvaged last summer.

LP



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

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



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 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@saintpatrickschairschool.com

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

Email: music@stpatrickscathedral.ie



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 Dedicated Liaison Person is Kelley Bermingham. 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.

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

CLERGY

Dean

The Very Revd Dr William W. Morton

dean@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Dean's Vicar

The Revd Canon Charles W. Mullen

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

Marketing Officer

Louise Donnelly

Marketing @stpatrickscathedral.ie

Community Officer

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; Ms Colette Garry;

Mr John Reardan.

vergers@stpatrickscathedral.ie





Choristers waiting to be admitted into the Choir

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