

CLOSE NEWS

May 2022



Moving up in the world...

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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

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*)

MAY PREACHERS

May 1	The Revd D. W. Oxley	<i>Prebendary of St. Audoen's</i>
May 8	The Revd D. W. T. Crooks	<i>Prebendary of Howth</i>
May 15	The Very Revd R. L. Smyth	<i>Prebendary of Taney</i>
May 22	The Revd M. T. Kingston	<i>Prebendary of Yagoe</i>
May 29	The Revd A. W. A. Mayes	<i>Prebendary of Newcastle</i>

A SHOT FROM THE CANON

On Thursday 26 May we celebrate The Ascension Day. While we're awaiting the day of the final appearance of Jesus we must remain united to him through faith, seeking the things that are above, as Saint Paul put it. To know about the ascension of Jesus - that in his ascension we ascend - is to grasp something of our own redemption. For the ascension teaches us that in our waiting for the return of Jesus, God has given you and me the potential for transformation: from earth to heaven, from despair to hope, and from sadness to joy.

CM

PRAYING WITH THE PREBEND

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4: 12)

In 1678, on 31 May, Vicars were forbidden to wear swords in the Cathedral precincts by order of the Dean and Chapter (Including, presumably, the Prebendary of Swords ...).

O God, our defender and helper,
sustain us by your mighty power;
that we may stand firm in your name,
strive for truth in your strength,
and rest secure in your protection;
now and for ever. Amen.

CM

OBITUARY - ALAN HUGH THOMPSON

It is only now and again that one meets a person of the outstanding calibre of Alan Thompson, a much loved husband, father and grandfather, and, with his wife Ruth, and daughter, Ruth, was a most supportive member of the congregation of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Alan was a real gentleman and true friend, sincere and genuine, who was respected for his honesty, integrity, kindness, friendship, reliability and uprightness.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral was very special to Alan in that he was born and reared within the sound of her bells. He was, what he termed, "a Liberties boy." He received his early education in Kildare Place Schools, off Kildare Street. Since Alan's father, who was a soldier, and later a builder, had to be away often, many of Alan's formative years in life and in Church circles were spent with his uncles and mentors, Ernie and Sam, who introduced him to Mill Street Sunday School and the YMCA where he was known as a superb gymnast, footballer, cricketer. Alan always considered that it was important to give back, as well as to receive, so first came learning, and then playing, but Alan responded by serving as an instructor, manager and coach.

After beginning work as a messenger boy with Goodbody and Webb Stockbrokers when aged only 13 years, Alan progressed to the accounts department of Ever Ready (Batteries), studying part-time for a six-year course leading to a qualification in economics and accountancy, before progressing to nationwide sales, working in many professional firms in England and Ireland, including Barclays Banking Group London, and as Managing Director of Toyota Ireland to 1987.

Always a leader and a mentor, and self made from humble beginnings, Alan started his own company FACTS (Forklift, Advisory, Consultancy and Training Services), in 1987, employing seven full time and twelve part time specialists. Being a great judge of character, he always strove to train those who had misfortune in life, and find them a job. He was National Chairman of the Irish Institute of Materials Handling in 1975/76 and on the National Irish Safety Organisation Council 1988-2005, serving as President in 2000/2001 and later as acting CEO.

Alan, and his wife, Ruth, who were married in Dublin in 1966 but returned to London, were bereaved by the death of their baby boy, Hugh, in 1967, at less than four weeks old. It was a devastating loss for them both and they returned to live in Dublin in 1969 and lived in Rathcoole, where their daughter, Wendy, was born, and where Alan lived for the rest of his life.

Alan supported many charities including The Salvation Army, the YMCA, The Royal Hospital, and with his great friend, raised in excess of €600,000 over 21 years for St Luke's Hospital. True to his character, he did it all quietly, modestly, and with impeccable organisational skills. He did not want any limelight or thanks.

Alan loved his retirement in 2007 and the freedom it gave him to golf, travel all over the world and regularly to his home from home in Spain and just enjoy his life with Ruth. In 2018, the arrival of his long awaited grandson, Jaime, "to carry on the Thompson name", as he said, brought him his greatest joy in life. He had over three and a half years of loving and teaching Jaime and told everyone that he would not have survived the lockdowns without his "best pal".

We offer our sincere condolences to Alan's wife, Ruth, to Wendy, and Jaime, and to his brothers Billy and David, sisters-in-law Eleanor, Hilary and Miriam, brother-in-law Alan, nephews, nieces, the extended family and a very wide circle of friends. We shall all miss Alan from our midst. We will miss his empathetic and kind presence, as we will his graciousness, friendship, warmth, and words of encouragement. We thank God for his life, witness and example.

For Alan, life has changed, not ended. We believe that he is now more alive than ever before, rejoicing in that happy reunion in those heavenly places, in the Nearer Presence of his Lord and Saviour. May he rest in peace, may light perpetual shine upon him, and may he be raised in glory.

WWM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SAT 14 MAY 19.30

Guinness Choir 'Sing Again' Concert

SAT 21 MAY 20.00

Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*

SAT 28 MAY 20.00

Culwick Choir Spring Concert

SAT 18 JUN 20.00

Dublin Choral Festival at St Patrick's Cathedral

EASTER LILIES

A display of these lilies was arranged in the Cathedral for Easter Sunday in memory of family members and friends:

Edith Wilkinson; Judith Wilkinson Arthur Moyse; Len and Melbie Mills; Mary and Harry Bruce; Gillian and David Yeo; Clive Penman; Freddy Condell; Kieran O'Kelly; Doreen and Reg Kerr; Baby Lily James; Canon Bob Reed; Terry O'Connor; Betty Dalton; June McDonald; John O'Connor; Anne O'Connor; Maura O'Connor; George Stephenson; Mary Stephenson; Ann Budd; Robert Kirkpatrick; Cecil Sparks; Gladys Sparks; Philip Jackson; Richard Todd; Frederick Mullen; Christine Mullen; Maurice and Norah Walker; Raymond Walker; Bill Anderson; William & Vicky Coulter; Irene F. Wilson; Tommie Wilson; Josie Power; Leo Power; Mrs Joyce Wynne; Charlie Best; Alan Best; Willie Bermingham; Thomas Bermingham; Mary & Bill Bermingham; Tom & Maura Bermingham; Karl Bermingham; Brodie & Cecelia Kelly; Elizabeth Anne Carter; Leona Kelly; Adrienne Kelly; Aimée Abela de Giovanni; Joe Cooney; Liam O'Cunaigh; Wilfred H.B. Holmes; James Hollowed Josie Hollowed; Jimmy Hollowed; Hugh Thompson (infant); Dean Victor Stacey; Anne Richardson; Patrick Richardson; Marjorie Hampton; Canon Cecil Bradley; Bill Magowan; Lily Laing; Canon Sydney Laing; Rose Maher; Noel Miller; Meaghan Miller; Annie Miller; Ron Milne; Anna Duggan; J. Byrne; Christina Dury; John & Mary Osbourne; Cara Stokes; Charlie Reede; Conor O'Riordan; Siobhan Doyle; Brenda Smyth; Laurence and Audrey Merrigan; Mary D'Alonzo; Thomas Jester; Agnes Jester; Antonio D'Alonzo; Richard Armstrong; Irene Armstrong; Norman Williams; Neil Williams; Michelle Williams; Teresa Crowley (Mammy); Patricia Woods; Larry O'Connell; Basil Grace; Ewart Grace; Mary Grace; Heather Hewson; The Revd Canon Bill Browne; Liam Kenny; Mary O'Sullivan; Maura Morton James Morton.



EASTER SERMON PREACHED BY THE DEAN

We cannot even imagine the bewilderment and the fear which gripped those first on the scene at the tomb in the darkness of that first Easter morning.

In the Gospel reading, we learn of the experiences of Mary Magdalene, Peter and John. Mary sees the disturbed grave, but doesn't venture in. Instead, she runs to tell Peter and John. They come running, probably suspecting a criminal religious or political plot, and Peter goes into the empty tomb, followed eventually by John. Mary waits outside, distraught, distressed. She only looks in. And none of them suspected resurrection.

They look, and they see, but what they see makes no sense. So, Peter and John leave, and go back to their homes. I have always wondered about their decision. Back to their homes? Not even to their other friends to tell them the bad news? Not to the authorities to ask what they have done with Jesus' body? Not to the equivalent then of our newspapers to report the scandal? No. They go back home. Presumably to the familiarity of home, where life is what passes as 'normal', where they have some control, where there are no surprises. Perhaps it may have been due to fear – that they would be the next to be crucified?

Mary, on the other hand, stayed around in her grief. In the Gospel reading for today, we read of Mary, when she discovers who Jesus is, trying to hold on to him, to reassure herself that everything is back to normal again and has turned out all right, and that things will be as they were before the terrors and the horrors of Good Friday.

Indeed, she can forget about Good Friday! Jesus tells her not to cling on to him, that he must travel on further, travelling on to his Father and her Father, to his God and her God. Easter, for you and me as for the first disciples, is not about having Jesus back again with things as they were in the past. We are told very clearly in those resurrection stories that when we think we have Jesus all worked out, when we think we have him where we want him, he moves on further and goes away ahead of us. This is part of the excitement of the Christian journey, the pilgrimage that every one of us is called to join.

This Easter Day we are being invited to meet the Risen Christ, and, like Mary, to live out our resurrection faith in a world which, now more than ever, is dominated by the darkness of war and conflict and catastrophic loss of life, as witnessed over the last six weeks in Ukraine and not forgetting areas of perpetual conflict like Yemen, Ethiopia, Syria and Afghanistan. The Risen Lord is calling upon us to flex the muscles of our Easter faith: by offering the refugee and asylum seeker the hope that there is a future to be lived and a new life to be enjoyed; he is calling us to question the political priorities of leaders whose vision dehumanises or breaks people down; he is calling us to challenge injustice and any practices which exalt the mighty and denigrate the meek. After all, let us not forget that the Risen Jesus is the same Jesus who challenged the religious insecurities of Pharisees who were content to use excluded and abused people to make theological points in their petty little power games. The Risen Jesus is the same Jesus who exposes our insecurities and fears, offering freedom in the company of others and the healing that comes from mercy and love.

It was the experience of Mary that the Risen Lord is moving on, going ahead of us, and calling us to new opportunities. Would to God that that sense of vision, and of moving on, even in the secular sense, would grip those who have the power to make decisions on behalf of nations, and by some miracle find cessation to the appalling conflict in Ukraine.

Would to God that in Northern Ireland, with an election due in less than three weeks, those elected would maintain an openness, and initiate dialogue with those from whom they differ politically, so that, instead of threatening not to return to the Stormont Assembly if things do not go ‘their way’, they would at least discuss their problems and difficulties. Through the building up of dialogue, even faint bonds of trust can be established, to avoid the ultimate danger of slipping back into a situation of violence which we trust will never return.

Faith that is insular, and inward-looking, and confined to the individual, is not true to the concept of faith; faith is only faith when it is lived out, and shared with others. The Risen Jesus sends us out – like Mary Magdalene – with vision, with hope, with the possibility of transformation, into a world of challenge and opportunity. May we accept his call, and his challenge, willingly.

The Dean

DONA NOBIS PACEM



Rosemary Morton, The Dean, Olga and Charles Lamson

The Dona Nobis Pacem Concert which was staged in the Cathedral on Good Friday evening raised over €12,000 to alleviate suffering in Ukraine. The programme featured the Cathedral Choir directed by the Master of the Music, Mr Stuart Nicholson, the Organist and Assistant Master of the Music, Mr David Leigh, and soloist Mr Jeffrey Ledwidge, one of the lay vicars choral, who were joined by the internationally renowned opera singer, Olga Chubareva, who is regarded as the People's Artist of Ukraine.

The audience, which included the respective ambassadors of the United Kingdom, Poland and Nigeria, was welcomed by the Dean who expressed deep gratitude for the magnificent support the event was receiving in solidarity with our neighbours in Ukraine, remembering the bereaved, the injured and refugees in our own and other lands. He explained that the money raised would be directed through the good offices of The Irish Red Cross.

Dean Morton continued: “On this day, we remember God’s love for us through the death of his Son on the Cross, a day which speaks of suffering, of sacrifice, love, compassion and empathy, while, in this Cathedral, over the 800 years of its existence, people have come together in times of crisis to remember the plight of others, to seek solace, and to bring God’s love, through faith in action, to those whose need is greatest.”

A minute’s silence was observed at the beginning of the concert in memory of those who have lost their lives in the conflict in Ukraine, and of those who are suffering due to the humanitarian crisis there. This was followed by a rendition by Olga of the national anthem of Ukraine.

At the conclusion of the concert, the Dean expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to those, without whose tremendous work, the performance would not have been possible. He said that the event was the brainchild of Mr Stuart Nicholson, who deserved great credit for co-ordinating the performance, and directing the Choir. Gratitude was also expressed to Mr David Leigh, to the members of the Choir, and to Mr Jeffrey Ledwidge.

The Dean continued: “To our guest, Professor Olga Chubareva, who has simply stunned us with her immense talent, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Olga, and another member of her family, had to flee her home in Bucha, in the epicentre of the devastation in Ukraine; they arrived here in Ireland, and by a stroke of genius it has been our wonderful privilege to have her singing for us this evening. Thanks also to Olga’s host family here in Dublin for their support; also to Clare Garvey Couture for providing Olga’s couture, and also to her publicist, Teresa Kurylo. We are most grateful as well to Adonis Florists for their contribution in terms of floral arrangements, as we are to one of our supervisors, Mrs Freda Doyle, for her floral arrangements.

The Dean also expressed thanks to those who had been generous in their publicity of the concert: Mr Bryan Dobson, radio news presenter at RTE, and Ms Sinead Crowley; Mr Marty Whelan of Lyric FM.

We thank as well Mr Mick Hughes at Neogen for the printing; Mr Joe Gavin for his beautiful photography; O’Byrne Hire for the additional seating; and Mr Allan Gannon of Frontline Security for providing the security staff this evening free of charge, in the interests of our safety and wellbeing.

The Dean thanked Mr Charles Lamson, Head of Fund Raising with The Irish Red Cross, for attending, and commended the organisation for its vital and tireless work in Ukraine. The Dean said he was delighted that, as a result of the marvelous support which the concert received, a very generous amount of money would be made available to aid alleviation of the suffering in this humanitarian crisis.

The event could not have happened, the Dean said, without the support and input of the staff of the Cathedral, and of the Deanery offices: Mr Gavan Woods, Administrator; Mr Louis Parminter, Cathedral Manager; Mr Ken Hartnett, Deputy Manager, and Health & Safety Officer; our Verger team; and our Events Team, and he extended his sincere thanks to all concerned.

Crucial to the success of the evening was the marvellous input from Ms Louise Donnelly, our recently appointed marketing officer, and her assistant on the digital side of the operation, Ms Katie Conway, both of whom deserve great praise.

In conclusion, Dean Morton reminded the audience that since Ash Wednesday some Books of Peace were available in the Cathedral for signing in the expression of solidarity with those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, in Ukraine. These books will be remaining for another few weeks for those who wish to sign.

WM



Olga with choristers



Charles, Olga's father, Charles Lamson,

SPONSOR A CHORISTER

I am delighted to report that this year we will once again be going on tour! Firstly, the choristers have been invited out to Westport to sing for Canon McWhirter's parish celebrations at the end of May. Then towards the end of the summer holidays, members of Schola and the Senior Girl Choristers have been invited to travel to Roskilde in Denmark to join with their girls and celebrate their Cathedral's Jubilee in the presence of the Queen. This trip was scheduled to take place at the end of January but with rising case numbers the celebrations were postponed until August at which point we very much hope to be jetting off, second time lucky.

For both of these trips we would very much appreciate any help and support that members of the Cathedral Community can give, they are wonderful experiences and offer great boosts of confidence, especially given the last couple of years.

Please make your cheques payable to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, marking the reverse "Sponsor a Chorister". Thank you for all your generosity both now and 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...

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. 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@stpatrikscathedral.ie Would you like to organise a voice trial? – Fill out a REGISTER OF INTEREST FORM and email it back to us at music@stpatrikscathedral.ie and we'll contact you to arrange an audition.



The Safeguarding Handbook, as well as Safeguarding Trust, can 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.

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Among the delegates who were attending a special reception in the Lady Chapel, under the auspices of Marsh's Library, in connection with the 68th annual meeting of The Renaissance Society of America, were Dr Daniel Tierney, and Mr Mark Tierney, and their extended families, both of whom are direct descendants of Dr Élie Bouhèreau, the first Librarian of Marsh's Library. The reception was organised by Dr Jason McElligott, Director of Marsh's Library, who addressed the gathering. The Dean, who was invited to meet the delegates, spoke with delegates about how the Huguenots, French Protestant refugees who were forced to flee France following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, worshipped in the Lady Chapel from 1666-1816 and that Dr Bouhèreau's remains are interred there.

The Renaissance Society of America is the largest international organization devoted to the critical study of the world from 1300–1700 and its importance today. The RSA fosters initiatives that feature innovative, multidisciplinary research and pedagogical approaches together with well-established methodologies. It sponsors digital and print publications to disseminate knowledge, organizes in-person and virtual events to bring together diverse communities of inquiry and practice, and promotes the works of its members in the field of Renaissance Studies.



At the reception (from left to right) were: Professor David van der Linden; Professor Jean-Paul Pittion; Dr Dan P.N. Tierney; The Dean; Mr Mark Tierney; Dr Jason McElligott. Dan and Mark Tierney are descendants of the 1st Keeper of Marsh's Library, Dr Élie Bouhéreau, who is buried in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Officer, Kelley Bermingham continues to support local residents, especially the most vulnerable by linking them with the Dublin Care & Repair Team. This team is a SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) funded initiative through the Ballyfermot and Chapelizod Partnership. A number of supervised and Garda vetted Tús workers support residents by clearing gardens, repairing railings, painting and general maintenance.

Rebuilding the trust and relationships with local residents is essential to the success, and were most unfortunate that Covid interrupted the significant progress that had been made. We continue to work on more events and the work that has taken place over the last 4+ years. Stakeholders include: DCC Area Management under direction of Brian Hanney, DCC Community Team, DCC Parks, DCC Public Domain, DCC Waste Management, RADE (Recovery through Arts Drama and Education), YMCA Dublin, 61st Merchants Quay Scouts, The Iveagh Trust, An Garda Síochána, local City Councillors and recent meetings have been attended by TD's Chris Andrews, Ivanna Bacik. Chris has a longstanding relationship with the project and has been proactive on events as well as litter-picking days and public consultations.

Other committees to which the Cathedral is associated are:

- Membership and active participation in the PPN (public participation network) as LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) community representative. Part of the Community Enhancement Programme funding subcommittee and commencing work on the LECF (Local Economic and Community Plan).
- Membership of the CORN (Community Organisations and Residents Network) in Dublin 8 and on the steering committee.
- Membership of the Child and family Support Network for Dublin South Central (a Tusla led network) focused on the lives of families in the city area.
- The CRiTiCall project (Community Response Team Call) initiated by the Cathedral and run in partnership with Dublin City Volunteer Centre to benefit women and children who experience domestic abuse.

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



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*The newly weds:
Patrick and Natasha Morton*

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