



**SAINT
PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL**
DUBLIN

CLOSE NEWS

February 2024



The Dean and bell-ringers on New Year's Eve

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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 - 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*)

FEBRUARY PREACHERS

February 4	The Revd D. W. Oxley	<i>Prebendary of St. Audoen's</i>
February 11	The Ven. P. Thompson	<i>Prebendary of Donaghmore</i>
February 18	The Revd C. W. Mullen	<i>Prebendary of Rathmichael</i>
February 25	The Revd J. D. M. Clarke	<i>Prebendary of Tipper</i>

A SHOT FROM THE CANON

Foolishly, I seldom call to the doctor's, waiting initially to see how I fare. Despite my infrequent visits I'm pleased to have my doctor to hand: sometimes I just know I need her. Watching my diet and taking exercise are healthy, daily disciplines but sometimes I just know I need extra help. Lent is a combination of diet, exercise and extra help: beneficial, perhaps, because it takes extra planning and effort. I always read a little more Scripture in Lent and, for help, I've the Cathedral's worship and music. Sometimes just knowing we need help is of itself a help.

CM

A VERSE FROM THE HYMNS OF LENT

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.

St Synesius of Cyrene (375–430)

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.

Isaac Williams (1802–65)

Lord, give us self-control that springs from discipline of outward things,
That, fasting inward secretly, the soul may purely dwell with thee.

St Gregory (540–604)

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free;
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room in my heart for thee.

Emily Elliott (1836–97)

THE DEAN WRITES

I was delighted to hear at the recent meeting of the Cathedral Board that last year was our best year to date in terms of the number of people visiting Saint Patrick's Cathedral, both worshippers and tourists. Up until now, the year 2018 held this record, and this latest achievement represents a major swing from the dismal situation we faced during the first lockdown due to Covid. I remember looking across at the Cathedral one wet and depressing Saturday afternoon in July 2020 without a single person evident and wondering how we would ever manage, without income, to complete the roof project, and pay for it.

It is encouraging that, as a team, we have never been complacent in terms of footfall but, instead, continue to push out the proverbial net by heightening awareness of Saint Patrick's, primarily as a place of worship, but also as a place of interesting and fascinating history and antiquity. That is why I, and all who are involved with it, are beyond enthusiastic about the forthcoming chorister trip to New York City.

As you will be aware, the choristers will be singing in two of the city's principal churches – Saint Thomas's, Fifth Avenue, and the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, reputed to be the largest cathedral in the world – and also performing a concert in our namesake cathedral, Saint Patrick's, also in Fifth Avenue.

The trip has been arranged on the strength of friendships which were established when Mr Gavan Woods, the Administrator/CEO, and I visited New York in the fall of 2022. As then, we are hoping to meet with relevant tourism stakeholders there in the hope of them being able to encourage people from the US to come to Ireland, and particularly to Saint Patrick's Cathedral. It is also hoped, in parallel with that, to aim to source potential donors for some of our initiatives.

Much closer to home, I was privileged to receive an invitation to The Shelbourne Hotel to meet the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Michael Mainelli. An American-born British scientist, economist, and accountant, he is the 695th holder of that highly prestigious office, and is an international ambassador for the UK's financial and professional services sector.



It was a very interesting meeting and The Lord Mayor has extended an invitation to a small group from the Cathedral to visit London and has promised that he will heighten awareness of Saint Patrick's among the members of all the organisations with which he is associated in the hope that we can boost the number of visitors, from not only London but the United Kingdom as a whole, to Dublin, and to its veritable hub – Saint Patrick's! Needless to say, we are looking forward to availing of the Lord Mayor's kind offer, and, again, as with the US trip, casting wide our net, magnetizing more people, and enhancing revenue.

As I write these notes, I have just returned from the Cathedral in which Louis and I met Irish Times journalist and Chief Writer of An Irish Diary, Mr Frank McNally, who with his daughter Roisin, was about to embark on a roof top tour. It was gratifying to learn that I am not the only person meeting a deadline in writing articles – so was he! By the time this appears in print in Close News (if it gets past the editorial team!) I trust there will have been An Irish Diary article by Frank in The Irish Times about the cathedral roof! Our most grateful thanks are extended to Frank for promoting our cause.

Finally, I wish to offer a very sincere word of thanks for all the kind and generous people who support Saint Patrick's not only by their presence but also by their donations. I mention this with reference to the entire spectrum of good causes they support and among them the choir trip to New York City.

William

THE ADMINISTRATOR WRITES

As many of you will be aware, we are running an oral history project in collaboration with the folklore department of University College Dublin. I have recently been interviewed as part of this initiative and I found it a most interesting experience. Looking back over the years I have witnessed many changes here. Today the Cathedral fulfils its primary purpose as a church, first and foremost, as it always has. It would be naive, however, not to acknowledge that these days it plays other roles too.

One of the things that it is easy to lose sight of when you are engaged in the every day round of tasks is how much this building and institution means to so many people in so many different ways. Dr Deirdre Nuttall, who conducts the interviews, told me of someone who had lived their entire lives in the Iveagh Trust flats who had never been in the Cathedral but who had a framed photograph of it on the wall of their living room, or of another older person, also in the flats, who timed their telephone calls so that our bells would toll during the call, such was their pride in living so close to the Cathedral!

Looking forward, there are certainly more changes and developments to come. We hope to go to tender for the Mews conservation and refurbishment project. As previously mentioned this will both significantly improve conditions for our choristers and provide a new space for many community and education events.

In the Cathedral, too, we plan to be busy. New wheelchair ramps, significant upgrades to the shop, refurbishment of the toilets and a programme of repair to masonry and windows are all planned to occur through the year. Already we have carried out major work to areas where the floor tiles have lifted and as I write this, the roof spaces of the chapels at the east of the building are being insulated.

This year we are planning to host a significant number of concerts and recitals, including many at a reduced rate to support the wider community associated with the Cathedral. However, we have made changes to our rates to ensure that the Cathedral benefits sufficiently from events and I am pleased to say that we now receive a significant income from this source.

2023 saw record numbers visiting the Cathedral. 576,000 individuals paid an entrance fee to visit us last year with a further 40,000 attending events and educational activities. Well over 20,000 came to worship with us too. New protocols were introduced to allow us to cope safely with such numbers and I am pleased to say that they have worked very well. This year we hope to welcome a similar number of people. Considering that half our visitors come from North America and with new air routes opening this summer, our marketing team are putting a special emphasis on securing as much of this lucrative market as possible in the months ahead.

Speaking of North America, as is reported elsewhere in this edition, our choir are travelling to New York at the end of February. Great credit is due to Stuart, our Master of the Music, as he has secured a number of wonderful engagements in the city. It will do no harm at all either in terms of our profile in this, our key visitor market, and we will certainly use this wonderful opportunity to that end too.

So, to conclude, we have a very full year to look forward to. As always, none of this is possible without income and so I thank all of those who work with our visitors and provide a never failing welcome to those who come to experience our wonderful Cathedral. Thanks, too, to the vergers and those in the administrative side of things without whom very little could happen. Hopefully we will accomplish all we plan to in 2024. Finally, anyone who would like to be involved in our oral history project mentioned at the beginning of this article, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or the Dean.

Happy New Year!

Gavan Woods

EASTER LILIES

Remember a loved one with flowers

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

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

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

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

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

My Name: _____

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please have the information and payment with us by Monday 11th March 2024



WESTMINSTER ABBEY



(L-R) Louis Parminter, The Dean, Mr Simon Jones, Ms Charlene Jones

The Dean and Louis Parminter were delighted to welcome Simon Jones, and his wife Charlene. Simon is Deputy Head of Visitor Experience at Westminster Abbey and was given a tour of the Cathedral by Louis, including a visit up the Minot Tower.

SCHOOL VISITS

Does your child or grandchild's school class want an unforgettable school tour? Tell the teacher about Saint Patrick's Cathedral!

The Cathedral Education Department provides students of all ages an interactive encounter with this sacred space. We are, of course, one of Ireland's most popular tourist attractions and one of Dublin's most admired places. But step inside and you will discover that the Cathedral is a centre of imaginative and immersive learning for all people, regardless of their background.

We offer a wide range of thematic guided tours and workshops, which can be tailored to any chosen learning objectives and the school curriculum. All of these activities are free for Irish school and university students who attend as part of an organised education visit.

The Education Department is currently trialling free roof tours for older primary school and secondary school students. Now is the time to get in touch and book a school trip for the new year!

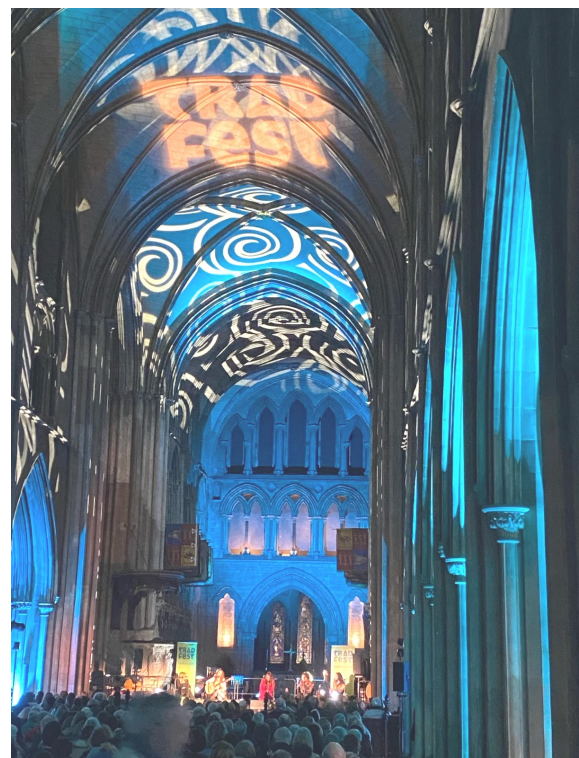
Not in Dublin? Fear not! We are often able to support those schools further away with transport subsidies.

For more information about workshops on offer, visit stpatrickscathedral.ie/learn/schools-universities/

or contact Clark Brydon (Education & Safeguarding Officer) at schools@stpatrickscathedral.ie

EVENTS - TRADFEST '24

A participant said "We were thrilled to participate in the recently concluded TradFest from January 24th to 28th, 2024. Saint Patrick's Cathedral took centre stage, hosting a series of enchanting musical events that celebrated the rich heritage of Irish traditional music. The performances were truly exceptional, featuring outstanding artists such as Julie Fowlis, Carlos Núñez, Allison Russell, and Women of Note. Some notable guests included President Michael D Higgins and former French Minister who attended the Carlos Núñez concert on Sat 27th even making time to meet with the musician after the concert. It was a wonderful experience being a key venue for this fantastic festival, creating a season filled with extraordinary musical moments at the cathedral."





(L-R) President of Brittany Ferries (Jean-Marc Roue), Mdm Le Drian, Brendan Begley, Carlos Nunez, President Michael Higgins, Minister Le Drian, Sabina Higgins.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

Our volunteers and work experience students are an essential part of our community. They undertake a variety of roles and play a vital part in the successful running of the building.

There is a role for everyone at the Cathedral. Some of our volunteers and work experience students conduct guided tours, while others ring our bells, and we appreciate the input made by all.

Are you interested in any of the following roles?

Tour Guide

Bell Ringer

Educational Workshop Facilitators

Welcomer

Church Steward

If so, you can find out more online at stpatrickscathedral.ie/volunteering or contact Clark Brydon (Education & Safeguarding Officer) at:

education@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Volunteers must be fluent English speakers. They must be able to communicate clearly with our visitors. They must have an interest in learning and sharing information about the Cathedral. Training is provided for all roles. Safe Recruitment protocols are required.

PAST CHORISTERS' AND PUPILS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

The Association Committee are organising several events over the coming months to maintain our support of the Cathedral, Choirs, and the Cathedral Schools. Please note these forthcoming events and dates for your diary!

Quiz Night:

Wednesday 21st Feb 7.30pm

To be held in The Grammar School

Annual Reunion Dinner:

Friday 26th April 7.00pm

To be held in the Royal Irish Yacht Club –

Booking form and details will follow in the March edition of Close News.

Cake Sale:

Sunday 9th June

To be held in the Cathedral

from 10.15am-11.00am, and after Matins.

Annual Garden Party

Date to be confirmed.

We are most grateful to Dean Morton, Canon Mullen, and Mr Tim Gill for allowing these events in the Cathedral and Grammar School.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Annual membership runs from May to April each year, and the subscription is €25.00 per year. If you have not already done so, please do renew and help us continue supporting the Cathedral, Choir and Cathedral Schools:

Payment may be made by automatic bank transfer (please include your name as a reference when renewing!).

ACCOUNT: St Patricks Cathedral Past Choristers and Pupils Association
(bank's punctuation!)

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE82 BOFI 9000 1716 3121 80

If you prefer to pay by cheque, please make the cheque payable to "Saint Patrick's Cathedral PCPA" and send it to our treasurer at the following address.



St Patrick's Cathedral Past Choristers' and Pupils' Association

Quiz

Date: Wednesday 21st February, 2024.

Time: 7.30 sharp (get there a little early to get seated ☺)

Venue: St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School
St. Patrick's Close, Dublin, 2.

Cost: €40.00 per table of 3/4
Raffle on the night (loads of great prizes)
Payable in cash or by card
Price includes a glass of wine, nibbles, and fun!
Snacks and soft drinks available for purchase.

FRIENDS' NEWS

Our annual Friends' Christmas Evening 2023 took place on Saturday 2nd December in the unusual setting of the South Transept of the Cathedral. We were in some dismay when told that the Deanery would be unavailable due to building works, but then up stepped the Cathedral Manager Mr Louis Parminter, with the suggestion that we use the Cathedral, something that we eagerly accepted. We thank Louis and the Dean for their kind permission. (Very useful having the Cathedral Manager on the council of the Friends!).

A large attendance gathered in the South transept of the Cathedral to enjoy wine, soft drinks, savouries, cocktail sausages (thanks, Victor!) and non-alcoholic mulled wine (thanks, Ruth!), very popular for those people driving. From there a short journey to the nave where Victor Coe and Bryan Dobson entertained us, Victor with some lovely popular Christmas songs, ably accompanied by the Succentor, Canon David Oxley, and Bryan, with very relevant Christmas readings from authors as diverse as Patrick Kavanagh and Charles Dickens. Our usual raffle then took place, followed by the traditional communal carol singing, led by the Dean.

Huge thanks to Victor, Bryan, David, the Dean and members of the council who donated the food and wine, and who helped out on the evening.

Our first event in 2024 will be on Wednesday 21st February when we visit the Monkstown Parish Church, built by John Semple in 1831 and described variously as a "glorious extravaganza", "the Sponge Cake" and "the cruet stand". Equally loved, admired and denigrated, this should be a most interesting event and we are most grateful to Canon Roy Byrne for enabling us to visit this unique building. **Albert Fenton**

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LIVE STREAM SERVICES

A reminder that if you are unable to attend worship, we invite you to tune in to our live stream online. The system has recently undergone some major upgrades and it is much improved.

All choral services are streamed online and can be accessed from wherever you are in the world.

Link: <http://stpatrickscathedral.ie/livestream>

If you have any questions about, or problems with, the live stream please contact Clark Brydon: education@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Clark Brydon

RECRUITMENT

Community Officer

We are looking to recruit a Community Officer will work closely with the Cathedral management to develop and implement an integrated policy of engagement, including with other charities, denominations and community organisations.

The successful candidate will deliver the Cathedral's annual charity support programme through the provision of grants to service providers within the charity sector. The role also involves working on activities with a range of partners to seek to improve the quality of life for those in the Cathedral's vicinity and beyond.

MAIN DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Community Officer will work with the Dean and Administrator (CEO) to:

Review and deliver the Cathedral's community engagement strategy.

Identify projects or organisations that would benefit from the Cathedral's support.

Promote, resource and oversee the Cathedral's outreach initiatives.

Develop initiatives designed to build community within the Cathedral congregation.

RECRUITMENT

Community Officer cont.

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

A confident, positive and professional approach to the role.

An inclusive outlook with a strong sense of social justice.

A belief in the concept of human dignity.

An understanding of, and regard for, the Cathedral's Christian mission.

Excellent project management abilities, organisational skills and attention to detail.

Be a self-motivated team player, displaying enthusiasm and initiative.

Demonstrable commitment to the community and voluntary sector

Experience managing confidential information.

IT and social media skills

Relevant third level qualification and/or experience

A Team Player

Satisfactory Garda Vetting will be required in order to qualify for this role

TOUR GUIDES' EVENING

On the evening of February 8th, we are delighted to announce that the Dean will graciously host our much-anticipated annual Tourism Partners Pre-Season Welcome. This exclusive event is designed to extend our heartfelt appreciation to tour guides nationwide. Attendees will be treated to a mesmerising performance in the Cathedral, followed by an exquisite reception in the Deanery.

The primary objective of this occasion is to express gratitude to our invaluable industry partners for their unwavering support. We wish to acknowledge their role in consistently recommending the Cathedral to their clients and bringing groups to enjoy its splendours throughout the year. Beyond mere appreciation, this gathering provides a unique platform for us to engage with tour guides, allowing us to glean insights and feedback that will contribute to the continuous enhancement of the visitor experience. Your presence and input will undoubtedly make this evening a truly enriching and collaborative celebration.

Edmund Coleman

CONSERVATION



Work has been proceeding in the Lady Chapel to repair some of the tiles that were damaged during the summer time. This is now complete and the Lady Chapel is fully open to visitors.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

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 Clark Brydon. 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.

TEA/COFFEE ON EUCHARIST SUNDAYS

There has been an overwhelming response to the provision of tea/coffee and biscuits in the south transept following the Eucharist. At present we are appealing for volunteers to administer the refreshments. All that is required is for you to be there to assist with handing out the tea/coffee.

If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Ms Laura Coyle at the Welcome Desk, Supervisors@stpatrickscathedral.ie so that a rota can be drawn up. With grateful thanks.

CATHEDRAL CONTACTS

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D08 H6X3

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The Revd Canon Charles W. Mullen

deans.vicar@stpatrickscathedral.ie

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



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