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JUNE 2024

# CLOSE NEWS



## ► JERUSALEM

Report about the visit of the Archbishop in Jerusalem to the Cathedral. *Pg14*

## ► CONCERT

Details of our annual *Stars & Stripes Forever* concert on Wednesday 3rd July. *Pg16*

## ► SERVICES

Information about our daily services, forthcoming feasts, and preachers. *Pg7*



# SERVICE TIMES



## Sunday

- 09:15 Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)
- 11:15 Choral Eucharist *or* 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, and Festivals*)
- 17:30 Choral Evensong *or* Evening Prayer

## Saturday

- 11:05 Eucharist (*said in the Lady Chapel*)

God has been worshipped in this place through the prayers and praises of countless generations. Worship lies at the heart of our life as Christians and we express our theology and belief through our liturgy. It is through these liturgical patterns of words and actions that we are formed and transformed.

We invite you to join us for any of the services here this month. If you are unable to join us in person, you can tune in to the online live stream of all services: [spcd.ie/live](https://spcd.ie/live)

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*Cover image: The Administrator and the Education Officer with the Cathedral's new minibus, after the application of its attractive stained glass livery.*

## **THE CLOSE NEWS EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

The Very Revd Dr William Morton (DEAN)

The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (DEAN'S VICAR)

Mr Gavan Woods (ADMINISTRATOR)

Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie (RETAIL MANAGER)

Mr Albert Fenton (BOARD MEMBER & CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS)

Mr Ed Coleman (MARKETING MANAGER)

Mr Clark Brydon (EDUCATION & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER)

**T**he publication of *Close News* is made possible only as a result of the dedication of a number of people within the Cathedral Community. The Editorial Committee wishes to thank all those who have submitted content for publication. If you would like an item to be featured in the next edition of *Close News*, please contact Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie before the middle of this month.





## THE DEAN WRITES...

THE VERY REVD DR WILLIAM MORTON

A cavalcade of official limousines arrived at Saint Patrick's Cathedral for the top security visit of His Excellency the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella. Accompanying the President was de facto the First Lady, his daughter Laura. The delegation also included the Italian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Ruggero Corrias, the Irish Ambassador to Italy, H.E. Patricia O'Brien, the Chief of Protocol, Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Paul Kavanagh, and several others from The Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Dean and Ordinary, Dr William Morton, received and welcomed President Mattarella in a few sentences in Italian before introducing him to Mr Louis Parminter, Cathedral Manager

and Dean's Verger, and to Mr Gavan Woods, Administrator. Mr Parminter then brought the President and the members of the delegation on a guided tour, mentioning key points in the history of the Cathedral, the benevolence of Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness in the 19th century restoration, the development of the musical and choral tradition, the development of the Choir School, the use for worship of the Lady Chapel by the Huguenots for 160 years, and many other aspects as well culminating with reference to Dean Jonathan Swift and his famous self-composed epitaph. Following this, President Mattarella was invited by Dean Morton to sign the Visitors' Book.

President Mattarella – through an interpreter – said he considered



the Cathedral to be ‘enthalling’ and ‘absolutely fascinating.’ He greatly enjoyed learning how the Cathedral has developed through the centuries, reflecting the course which Irish history has taken. The President said he dearly wished he had more time ‘to stand in front of every memorial, learn about its history, and absorb the wonderful ambience of such a magnificent cathedral.’

In welcoming the visit of the President of Italy, the Dean said he regards it as very positive and significant that Saint Patrick’s Cathedral should be included in the itinerary of the visit, illustrating the degree to which the Cathedral is prominently established in the religious, historical, cultural, and artistic trail in Dublin and further afield. Dr Morton was delighted that the President and his party had richly enjoyed their visit. *WWW*





## A SHOT FROM THE CANON

THE REVD CANON  
CHARLES MULLEN

Spotting a butterfly sunbathing on my kitchen windowsill, I recalled a Robert Graves poem I learned as a child: 'Flying Crooked'. Though this is not the most efficient form of flight, Graves praised the butterfly for lurching by guess: for not having mastered the art of flying straight. We spend much time lurching by guess, sometimes feeling hopeless. When we feel that we're failing we're easily tempted to think that God isn't on our side. God blesses us in ways we often don't recognise, listening to those who call on him in hope, having blessed us with a flying-crooked gift.

CM

## GUARD US, GUIDE US

Lead, kindly Light,  
amid the encircling gloom,  
Lead thou me on.  
The night is dark,  
and I am far from home,  
Lead thou me on.  
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

*From a hymn  
by Saint John Henry Newman (1801–90)*

Father-like, God tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes:  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.

*From a hymn  
by Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847)*

# SERVICES & PREACHERS

## SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)

11:15 – Choral Matins

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE VERY REVD K. R. J. HALL**

*Prebendary of Tassagard*

## SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 2024

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD J. K. McWHIRTER**

*Prebendary of Taney*

## SUNDAY 23RD JUNE 2024

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)

11:15 – Choral Matins

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE VEN. J. M. GODFREY**

*Prebendary of Kilmactalway*

## SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 2024

09:15 – Eucharist (*said*)

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

*Canon in Residence:*

**THE REVD C. W. L. McCAULEY**

*Prebendary of Tipperkevin*

▶ LIVE

STREAM

Can't make it in person to our services this month? Remember: you can tune in for free online.

## DAILY SERVICES

Please see Page 2 for our normal pattern of daily worship.

## FORTHCOMING FEAST DAYS

The Feast of Saint Columba is celebrated on Sunday 9th June 2024.

The Feast of Saint Barnabas is celebrated on Tuesday 11th June 2024.

The Birth of Saint John the Baptist is celebrated on Monday 24th June 2024.

## CATHEDRAL CHOIR HOLIDAY

The Vicars Choral sing their final service of the academic year on Sunday 30th June 2024. The Cathedral Choir will return in September. During the summer vacation, a number of visiting choirs will join us from across the world to offer sung worship in the Cathedral.

# SERVICES & MUSIC LIST

For an up-to-date and comprehensive list of forthcoming services, please visit the monthly Services & Music List on the website.







## THE ADMINISTRATOR WRITES...

MR GAVAN WOODS

This week, we invited five contractors to tender for the Mews Community and Education Centre project. This is a substantial undertaking involving the complete refurbishment of a dilapidated stable block, reordering the yard to the east of the building, and new access through the Deanery garden.

A major challenge is the tightness of the site. Access will be difficult for large commercial vehicles, materials, and equipment. Added to this is the complicating factor that the work must take place within a largely domestic complex of buildings adjoining the Grammer School. Nonetheless, we are confident that we can get it done with the right contractor and the skill and experience of our architects, Howley Hayes Cooney, and our project managers, Interactive Project Management.

We estimate that the project will take up to a year to complete. Considerable disruption will occur during the works,

which must be managed. Nonetheless, in this case, the end justifies the means. The completed project will bring a building back into meaningful use and transform a neglected part of the Deanery curtilage.

The top floor of the Mews will contain state-of-the-art individual music tuition rooms for our choristers and a classroom fitted with the technology required to facilitate modern teaching. Downstairs we will create a large single space, capable of accommodating up to seventy seated persons, again with all modern IT infrastructure installed to allow for maximum flexibility of use. There will be a small kitchenette within the building and an external covered space leading to a separate services block adjacent to the main Mews building.

The Mews will allow us to accommodate a wide array of community, church, and education groups that we struggle to welcome today, given our lack of suitable spaces and the increased business of the Cathedral. *GHW*



# SUPPORT US

If you would like to support the Cathedral's mission and work, please consider donating securely online. You can scan the QR code or visit: *[spcd.ie/support](https://spcd.ie/support)*





# CELEBRATING SUCCESS



## Managers and Supervisors Enjoy Exclusive Guinness Storehouse Tour

**O**n Monday 27th May, our dedicated people managers and supervisors were treated to an exclusive tour of the iconic Guinness Storehouse. This special event, which included a visit to Arthur's house, where artifacts linked to Saint Patrick's

Cathedral are housed, was a gesture of appreciation organised by Gavan and Barbara.

The tour was a way to honour the invaluable contributions of this group, whose efforts have earned us the prestigious gold standard 'Great Places to Work' certification and a nomination at the annual awards for Best Visitor Attraction.

EC



# BELL RINGING NEWS



Congratulations to Cormac, the youngest member of our bell ringing team, for his outstanding achievement at the *Jump Cuts Youth Film Festival!*

Cormac's documentary, *'The Ultimate Ring'* received special recognition, highlighting his passion for bell ringing.

At just thirteen years old, Cormac meticulously crafted, directed, and starred in his film, capturing captivating footage of his bell ringing journey.

## BELL RINGING

Bell ringers meet for weekly practice on Tuesday evenings, and also meet to ring before Sunday services, as a traditional call to worship. They take regular day trips to other towers in Ireland and to ring at towers abroad.

Contact Clark Brydon for more information: [clark@spcd.ie](mailto:clark@spcd.ie)

# NEW DIGITAL ORGAN



Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, we recently acquired a second-hand digital organ for the Hewson Room.

It has only been in its new home for a matter of weeks, but it is already in daily use as a secondary teaching and practice instrument when the Cathedral's wonderful Willis – or the Cathedral itself – is otherwise busy.

We have several choristers – former and serving – who have taken up the organ having reached a suitable level of proficiency on the piano first, and we hope this will further encourage more to follow in their footsteps.

Pictured here are current Winstanley Chorister Lenny, Dean William Morton, and the Chair of the Friends, Albert Fenton. SN



*The Dean, a distinguished organist, playing the new digital organ.*

# DEAN'S GIFT DAY APPEAL

The subject of this year's Gift Day Appeal is strongly related to worship, in fact at its very heart – the magnificent Willis organ, the Wondrous Machine. Together with our choirs, it is the heartbeat of our liturgical life, forms part of our identity, our reputation as a centre of excellence for musical and choral tradition, and into the bargain is a world-class instrument.

The reality is that over and above the annual budget of maintenance, tuning, and routine repairs (for which the Board allows in the annual budget), the organ requires a new console, pedal board, and bench.

It's a bit analogous to how a vintage car has to receive constant attention and maintenance; the organ, whilst a musical instrument, is also a complex machine with very many moving parts, and many of them date from its installation in 1902 and are therefore over 120 years old, and many other components were new in the restoration of 1963 and are still working.

This is precisely why the organ requires more major work in certain areas. Since the late 1990s, the organ has been in the excellent care of organ builder from County Kildare, Trevor Crowe, who has been responsible for maintaining the instrument, and for many improvements in enhancing sound quality, rendering the organ the most important romantic instrument in Ireland, and attracting international attention.



This year's Gift Day takes place on Saturday 15th June 2024. For more information about the appeal and to donate, please scan the QR code:



You can also visit this link: [spcd.ie/giftday](https://spcd.ie/giftday)

To donate by EFT, use these *new* details:

Account Name: Saint Patrick's  
Cathedral, Dublin

Account Number: 27467145

Sort Code: 900017

IBAN: IE57 BOFI 9000 1727 4671 45





## DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM VISIT

We were honoured to welcome to Saint Patrick's for Evensong recently Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem and his clergy, who were spending a few days on retreat with Archbishop Michael Jackson and some of his clergy from Dublin & Glendalough. Dean Morton assured Archbishop Naoum, and the clergy and the people of his diocese of our prayers for a just and lasting peace in the countries of our Lord's earthly home. The Diocese of Jerusalem includes Gaza and the West Bank.

In the run-up to Easter we were delighted to make a major donation of €20,000, as part of our charitable giving from money donated at the candlestands in the Cathedral, to the Appeal of The Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough for the Diocese of Jerusalem: *Shine A Light* for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza which strives

to treat the wounded, and console the dying, at the heart of this humanitarian crisis on a world scale. Valuable links have been established over several years between The Diocese of Jerusalem and The Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough, and it is the hope of the Archbishop of Dublin that the appeal will reach a target of €250,000. *WWM*





The Archbishop of Dublin asked if he could borrow our minibus (and me!) to transport the clergy between the airport, the theological institute, and various other locations around the diocese. I thought I would be merely the taxi driver; however, I ended up developing wonderful friendships, and learned so much from the group.

Highlights of their trip included an impromptu football game (Dublin vs Jerusalem!) at a Ukrainian refugee centre, a wonderful lunch at a Lebanese restaurant in Greystones, eating *Leo Burdocks* in the Christ Church Chapter Room, a roof tour of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and – as you can see from this photo – confusing tourists by parking our wonderful rolling advertisement outside the small church up the hill...! *CDJB*



**CLARK BRYDON**

Education &  
Safeguarding Officer

@ClarkBrydon  
clark@spcd.ie





## THE WONDROUS MACHINE: STARS & STRIPES FOREVER

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 | 19:30

Join us on the eve of Independence Day for our annual star-spangled spectacular concert performed on the mighty 1902 Willis Organ. all 4 manuals, 82 stops, 4,000+ pipes of it. You'll certainly have no problem hearing it, and, thanks to our big screen, you'll be able to enjoy watching too.

In addition to some of the greatest film scores ever written, arranged for and performed on the 'King of Instruments', we're delighted to welcome the Touring Choir and Folk Trio of Grace Church, Rutland, Vermont and their organist, Alastair Stout, who will also be lending his feet and hands up in the organ loft.

Over the last decade, this concert has raised many thousands for local and national charities. This year, we're delighted to be supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities, who offer accommodation and support to families of seriously sick children receiving care in Children's Health Ireland, Crumlin. Suitable for all ages, and all are very much welcome.

*Free admission!*



[stpatrickscathedral.ie/stars24](http://stpatrickscathedral.ie/stars24)



# PAST CHORISTERS' AND PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is that time of year when annual subscriptions are due! Membership of the Saint Patrick's Cathedral Past Choristers' and Pupils' Association is a very reasonable €25 per annum, and may be paid by bank transfer to the Association Account at:

Account Name: St Patrick's Cathedral Past Choristers and Pupils Association

IBAN: IE82 BOFI 9000 1716 3121 80 | BIC: BOFIE2D

Please reference your name and 'subs' on the bank payment description. Subscriptions are also payable by cheque, and these may be sent to Mr Louis Parminter.

## CAKE SALE

The committee have organised a cake and goodies sale for **Sunday 9th June 2024** in the Cathedral. If you are in the area, why not pop in and treat yourself! The sale will take place from 09:30–11:00, and again after Matins from 12:30–15:00. Funds raised go to support the Grammar School Music Bursary which will, in time, provide music tuition to students per annum.

## MUSIC BURSARY DONATIONS

We were delighted to present the Grammar School with a cheque for €5,000 last September for the Grammar School Music Bursary and we are nearing the same target for next September. Also, in this past year, we gave grants to the Cathedral Schools, and supported the Cathedral Choir trip to New York through the 'Sponsor a Chorister' initiative. If you can offer any additional financial support for the work of the Association, please contact Mr Louis Parminter.

## ASU ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Calling all golfers! Every year the Association of Secondary Schools (ASU) holds a Golf Outing which a competition between past pupils of the respective schools. This is a social day, and golfers of all standards are welcome. Mr Wally Blennerhassett is kindly responsible for organising the team from Saint Patrick's. The venue this year is once again Rathfarnham Golf Club, and the event takes place on **Friday 5th July**. The inter schools' competition is decided by the best 4 Stableford scores from each school. There are several other prizes, including a perpetual cup for the best score from Saint Patrick's. It would be great to have a large team from Saint Patrick's this year and it's a great opportunity to meet up with old friends. If you are interested in attending or finding out more information, please contact:

Wally Blennerhassett | wallyblennerhassett@gmail.com | 0872487666

# CATHEDRAL CONTACTS



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DEAN

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Charles Mullen**  
DEAN'S VICAR

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CATHEDRAL MANAGER

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**Administrative Assistant**  
Mr James Phelps  
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## WILL US WELL

**W**hen 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, at *adminstrator@stpatrickscathedral.ie*

## SAFEGUARDING

The Cathedral's Safeguarding Policy can be viewed on our website.

If you have a general enquiry or any concern relating to safeguarding at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, please contact the DLP:

**Mr Clark Brydon**  
Education & Safeguarding Officer

*safeguarding@stpatrickscathedral.ie*  
+353 (0) 86 103 0931

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 +353 (0) 1 856 6856.



## SUPPORT US



The ministry of Saint Patrick's Cathedral is made possible entirely through the support of individuals like you. The donations which we receive from people all over the world support our worship and music tradition, education programmes, and community outreach work, as well as contributing towards the vast cost of maintaining this historic building.

If you would like to support the Cathedral's mission and work, please consider donating securely online. You can scan the QR code or visit: [spcd.ie/support](https://spcd.ie/support)



## STAY IN TOUCH

You do not have to wait until the next edition of *Close News* to see the latest updates from the Cathedral! Why not follow us on social media or visit our website for up-to-date news and information? From our website, you can also sign up to our digital newsletter in order to receive news straight to your email.



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