**€2.00** 

# MAY 2025 CLOSE NEWS



#### REUNION

Past choristers' association annual reunion dinner \_\_\_\_\_pg 12

#### **ORGAN**

Works recently undertaken on the Willis organ

#### **EVENTS**

Upcoming events this summer

pg 18

pg 20



## **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)

G od 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* 

The Dean Writes	4
A Shot from the Canon	6
Sunday Services & Preachers	7
The Administrator Writes	8
Tributes	10
Laying Up Ceremony	11
PCPA Reunion Dinner	12
Cathedral News	13
Chivalric Order Investiture	15
Christus Performance	16
Organ Works	18
Upcoming Events	20
Cathedral Contacts	26

**Cover image:** A display of lilies was organised this Easter to remember friends and family members. Photo courtesy of Ed Coleman.

#### 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) Ms Kryzel Bonifacio (Schools Officer) Ms Melissa M Carton (Marketing Assistant)

The 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.



## THE DEAN WRITES... THE VERY REVD DR WILLIAM MORTON

s you will be aware, the Gift Day Appeal for 2024 focused on raising funds to carry out much needed work to update the magnificent Willis organ, the Wondrous Machine. With our choirs, it is the heartbeat of our liturgical life, identifies us as a centre of excellence for the musical and choral tradition, and is a world-class instrument.

I am delighted to report that there was an excellent response to the appeal as a result of which a new console and a new pedalboard have been fitted, replacing those which have served us well from the early 1960s. The work has been expertly carried out by organ builder, Mr Trevor Crowe, and his assistant, Mr Adam Nuzum.

I wish to record my deepest and most sincere thanks to all who responded so generously to the Gift Day Appeal, and to those who have contributed to it more recently.

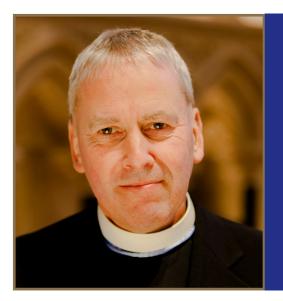
In addition to the many opportunities of hearing the organ in the worship offered in the Cathedral, there are also many occasions when it can be heard in recitals and concerts. We are delighted that the organ is preserved for the offering of worship, and to the glory of Almighty God, for many years to come.

> Yours sincerely, William



Work has been undertaken on the organ as a result of the Dean's annual Gift Day Appeal. Photo courtesy of Stuart Nicholson.





### A SHOT FROM THE CANON

#### THE REVD CANON CHARLES MULLEN

S tories of 'rags to riches' are popular. Yet Jesus took the opposite route, laying aside his divine glory to be a baby laid in a crude manger, and to be put to death on a cross. On Ascension Thursday Jesus is received back into his divine glory, through which he opens the kingdom of heaven to us believers. The ascension of Jesus exalts us because he opened the heavenly way through his suffering and death. At no other point in the Church's year do we see more starkly the contrasts between cross and crown, crib and cross, rags and riches.

CM

#### NOT IN THAT POOR, LOWLY STABLE

He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all, And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Saviour holy. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love, For that Child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.

> From a hymn by Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)

## **SUNDAY SERVICES & PREACHERS**

#### $SUNDAY\,4\text{TH OF MAY}\,2025$

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 09:15 – Eucharist (said) 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong Canon in Residence: THE REVD G. V. WHARTON, B.TH., M.PHIL. Prebendary of Dunlavin

#### Sunday 11th of may 2025

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 09:15 – Eucharist *(said)* 11:15 – Choral Matins 15:15 – Choral Evensong *Canon in Residence:* THE REVD P. M. WILLOUGHBY, B.A. *Prebendary of Tymothan* 

#### Sunday 18th of may 2025

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 09:15 – Eucharist (said) 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong Canon in Residence: THE REVD J. K. MCWHIRTER, B.Sc., B.TH., M.TH. Prebendary of Taney

## ► LIVE

If you can't make it in person to our services this month, remember: you can tune in for free online.

#### $SUNDAY\,25\text{TH of May}\,2025$

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 09:15 – Eucharist (said) 11:15 – Choral Matins 15.15 - Choral Evensong Canon in Residence: THE REVD M. T. KINGSTON, B.Sc., M.Sc., B.TH. Prebendary of Yagoe

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

#### FORTHCOMING FEAST DAYS

The feast of Saint Matthias is celebrated on Wednesday 14th May.

The feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on Saturday 31st May.

## **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

The Cathedral has seen a lot in its 800 years, including many repairs and improvements, most notably of course, the significant work carried out to save the building in the 19th century by Dean Packenham, Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness, and Lord Ardilaun. The first quarter of the 21st century has seen a similar scale of interventions under the direction of John Beauchamp, Cathedral architect and now his successor, Mr James Howley.

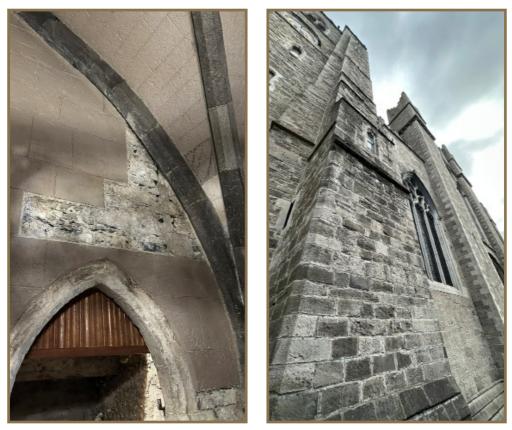
The techniques used reflect the thinking and technologies of their times. Once seen as a wonder product, concrete is now viewed as a major enemy of historic fabric. This, paradoxically, is due to its twin virtues of impermeability and strength. Historic buildings need to breath to avoid the evils of damp and their fabric is often softer than the concrete used in their repair, making them, rather than the cement, a potential point of failure.

With this in mind, James

applied on our behalf to the Community Monuments Fund for financial help to remove some of this modern cement pointing from the stonework facing the west end of the Cathedral. This had become urgent due to the ingress of water through failed pointing and its subsequent entrapment within the walls which caused considerable damage to the ceiling of the Dean's robing room.

I am delighted to report that the Cathedral has been awarded €100,000 under the Community Monuments Fund by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. We are very grateful to the Minster, James Browne TD, for this support and to our architect for making a compelling application resulting in this excellent outcome.

This grant, along with a pervious one of €37,000, will allow us, in addition, to remove modern plaster from the medieval vaulting of the baptistry just inside from the south west porch. This area is of great interest given its striking character, so different to the rest of the Cathedral. For years it was assumed to be an incorporation of an earlier church dedicated in 1191. Current thinking is that is may in fact be a more recent insertion dating to the 15th century. More study is required to arrive at a definitive answer on this. In other news Ms Dymphna McHugh, who headed our accounts function for 11 years, is leaving us for pastures new. We thank her for all her work and support over this period and wish her the very best in her future career. *GHW* 



Work is planned for the baptistry (left) and the stonework on the west end of the Cathedral (right). Photos courtesy of Ed Coleman.

## **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* 



## **A TRIBUTE: VICTOR BLACK**

t was with great sadness and shock that we heard of the death of Victor Black on the 17th April 2025. Victor was elected to the council of the Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral in 2013 and remained. with his late wife Irene, a deeply committed member of the Council until his death. His funeral took place in St Mary's Church, Shinrone, Co Offaly and the Society of Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral was represented by chairman Albert Fenton and treasurer Rosemary Fenton. We will miss him greatly and extend our heartfelt condolences to Iain, Karl and the family. May he rest in peace. AF

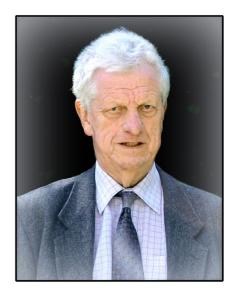


Photo courtesy of Albert Fenton.

## A TRIBUTE: JOHN KILGORE

had the honour of preaching at John's Funeral. It was Tuesday in Holy Week.

John was larger than life, both metaphorically and physically. A native of Hamilton, Ontario, he moved to England and came to live in Ireland in 1968.

He taught French in England; he was fluent in German too and familiar with a host of other languages – an interest he inherited from his mother. John was widely travelled, thereby amassing a vast collection of coin and stamps. most of the Churches that make up the Anglican Communion, and that he made a point of worshipping everywhere he visited to experience the broad spectrum of Anglican styles.

John and his partner Basil were very supportive of the Cathedral's music and worship, and they were immensely kind and loyal people whose witness made us rejoice in our Church's teaching about blessed reunion in heaven.

We bade farewell to John rejoicing in recalling his friendship, his gentleness and his superlatively effortless style. May he rest in peace.

He told me that he'd visited

## CONDOLENCES

S incere condolences are expressed to our colleague Violetta Novella Dalmau on the death of her uncle, Toni. We also remember Kelley Bermingham and her family, on the death of her aunt, Dolores, and Colette Garry, one of our vergers, and her family, on the death of a close friend, Brenda. All who mourn are assured of our thoughts and prayers.

## LAYING UP CEREMONY

t Choral Evensong on Sunday 6 April members of the Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland branch laid up their Dublin district standard. Their colour party slow-marched to the high altar where the standard was received by the Revd Peter Rutherford, RBL chaplain and, since retirement, a regular worshipper here. Representatives of other districts gathered to dip their branch standards as the colour party marched past. The Dublin district standard will be laid up in the north transept along with other laid-up standards. *CM* 





Photos courtesy of Derek Tobin.

## PAST CHORISTERS' REUNION DINNER

n Friday 11th April, the Past Choristers' and Past Pupils' Association held their annual reunion dinner at the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. Pictured below is PCPA President, Victor Coe, addressing guests as they enjoyed the night's festivities.





Photos courtesy of Louis Parminter.

#### **EASTER LILIES**



The Cathedral had a beautiful display of lilies for Easter in memory of family members and friends, as seen on the cover image.

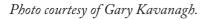
Many thanks to Ms Freda Doyle for making the arrangements for the display.

Photo courtesy of Rowena Janota.

### WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

e extend our warmest congratulations to our colleague, Mrs Laura Lowe (née Coyle), on the occasion of her wedding to Dr Ciarán Lowe.

Laura has been one of our Front Desk Supervisors since 2017. The ceremony, at which the Dean was the officiant, was held on Tuesday 29th April in the Cathedral nave. We wish Dr and Mrs Lowe all the best for their future together. KB





#### **NEW STAFF UNIFORMS**



he Cathedral staff are wearing new uniforms. Mr Parminter, the Cathedral manager, oversaw this project. Blue was chosen again in keeping with the Saint Patrick's 'blue' and all staff are delighted with the choice. We are conscious that being front-of-house, a high dress code is important to visitors and, as the photograph shows, we all scrub up well!

EL

Photo courtesy of Kryzel Bonifacio.

## POLISH DELEGATION VISIT



The Dean and Rosemary, with their grandson, Alfie, pictured (under the watchful eye of Dr Swift!) with the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Ireland, His Excellency, Mr Artur Michalski, and the Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Malgorzata Kidawa-Blonska, who visited Saint Patrick's Cathedral, the Deanery, and Marsh's Library on Saturday 12 April.

Photo courtesy of The Very Reverend William Morton.

## **UPCOMING FAMILY WORKSHOPS**

The Education Department is offering the following free family workshops. Please visit stpatrickscathedral.ie/events for more information.



#### CLAY FLOWER IMPRINTS

Saturday 3rd May 2025 | 11:00 & 12:00

Celebrate spring with this workshop! Enjoy a guided walk around the Cathedral grounds, explore nature, and create a beautiful naturethemed medallion to take home.

#### **Outdoor Sketching** Monday 5th May 2025 | 11:00 - 13:00

Join us for a creative outdoor sketching workshop! Explore the beauty of the Cathedral grounds, and let your creativity flow as you sketch the stunning architecture and natural surroundings.





### CHIVALRIC ORDER INVESTITURE

e were delighted to welcome back to Saint Patrick's Cathedral members of The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem for their Service of Admission and Investiture. The Grand Priory of Ireland (often abbreviated to OSMTH Ireland) is an interdenominational association of active Christians, with both clergy and lay members from all walks of life. The Order follows the highest chivalric ideals of the medieval Order of Knights Templar, which was founded by Hugh de Payens in 1119, but does not make any claim to a direct link with their noble history. OSMTH Ireland is a modern Order, built on fundraising,

charitable, cultural and advocacy activities, which aim to improve society, not only in Ireland but throughout the world.

As in 2023, the Archdeacon of Derry, the Venerable Robert Miller, coordinated the service with the willing and helpful assistance of the Dean's Verger, Mr Louis Parminter, to whom I extend my deepest thanks. Thanks also to Mr David Leigh, the Organist and Assistant Master of the Music, and to the four lay vicars choral, for the very high standard of music and singing.

It was good to welcome the Grand Master of the Order, the Deputy Grand Commander, and the Grand Prior.

Photos courtesy of OSMTH Ireland.

### CHRISTUS – A PASSION SYMPHONY FOR ORGAN BY FRANCIS POTT

n Saturday 19 April (Holy Saturday) I was privileged to be able to perform this extraordinary work in the cathedral. It is an attempt to trace the Passiontide and Easter story all the way though from the world before Christ, via Gethsemane, the way of the cross, and ultimately the resurrection.

Τ first encountered this gargantuan piece as an 18 year old organ scholar, at Lichfield Cathedral, when I was present and turning pages for the second ever performance (the premiere having taken place a few months earlier in Westminster Cathedral). T was immediately struck not only by its scale and difficulty, but also by its taut construction, coherent harmonic language, and its full use of the resources of a large instrument. As it happened, several of my early important influences were determined advocates of Francis' music, and so the piece remained fixed in my consciousness as a challenge to be undertaken at some future date. I even got to know the composer himself slightly in Oxford (he was then a tutor at one of the colleges).

Fast forward to 2003, and I eventually took the plunge, ordered the scores, and committed myself to playing the piece, which I first did, in the composer's presence, in June of that year. A performance "up the hill" in Christ Church Cathedral followed the next year, and a third in 2011, back in Saint Patrick's, as part of the Pipeworks festival of that year. After a gap of more than ten years, I felt that it was time the work had another outing – if only to prove to myself that I was still up to it! I was also keen to perform the piece again following all of the work that has been undertaken on the instrument since last time. I shall be repeating the performance in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, on Monday 5 May.

The work is physically and emotionally demanding – even the challenge of playing solidly for that long takes its toll, and to this day only eight people, as far as we are aware, have performed it (I was number 5). I was delighted to have had the opportunity to play it again, especially at such an appropriate time. My sincere thanks go to all in the Cathedral who made this event possible. David Leigh

Those wishing to listen to Mr Leigh's performance again can access a recording by scanning the QR code below.



AT SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL

oristerships

## Is your child in 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> class? Do they enjoy singing?

#### If yes, then why not consider them becoming a chorister at Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

In addition to their school education in the Cathedral Choir School, they will receive free comprehensive musical training. We offer generous bursaries for instrumental tuition plus the chance to sing with one of Ireland's best-known choirs in concerts, broadcasts, recordings & tours (including most recently, New York City and Madrid)

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/sing





## **ORGAN WORKS**

he history of our Cathedral organ is complex. In many respects the most significant date in its history is 1902, which marks the completion of the organ in its Willis incarnation, although even that instrument contained a good deal of older pipework reused by Willis. But the organ has been constantly evolving since that time. The hydraulic blowing apparatus with which it was originally fitted was replaced by electric blowers as early as 1910 (and, incredibly, those blowers remained in service until 2002!). Pipes were replaced following fire damage in 1940, but the next hugely

significant date was 1963, when the instrument was substantially rebuilt by the firm of JW Walker. As part of this rebuild a new console (where the organist sits to play the instrument, comprising keyboards for hands and feet, and stops to control sounds etc) was supplied. Unsurprisingly, after sixty years of heavy, virtually daily use, it has recently been showing considerable signs of wear – "dishing" on the more frequently pressed keys, contacts becoming unreliable, lateral movement in keys, worn pedals etc.

A decision was therefore taken to renew the components which

were showing signs of excessive wear, to ensure the instrument's wellbeing for another sixty years or more. The pedalboard was removed and completely refurbished, and new manual keyboards were commissioned from P and S Systems, a specialist firm who supply components to most of Europe's leading organ building firms. Stuart and I headed over to their workshops in Suffolk last summer to view samples and draw up specifications. They were then manufactured, shipped to Dublin, and installed over the course of Easter week. So, fittingly, the last occasion on which the old keyboards were used was Evensong of Easter Day.

Another enhancement was the replacement of the old bench (off which bits had started to fall) with a new one; the old system of adjustment, which involved turning a wheel underneath the bench 140 times to get from the lowest to the highest setting, has been replaced with an electric motor. At time of writing, no fewer than five organists will most likely play the organ during the course of a full week, so this is a very considerable relief!

I should like to record my heartfelt thanks to those who have given generously to the cost of this project – it will ensure that the "user interface" of the instrument remains in tip-top condition for many years to come. I should also like to express my appreciation to the Dean for his indefatigable support of the project, and to Trevor Crowe, our organ builder, for his skill and dedication in realising it.

#### David Leigh Organist and Assistant Master of Music



Photos courtesy of Stuart Nicholson.

## **CULTURE DATE WITH DUBLIN 8**

S aint Patrick's Cathedral is delighted to once again take part in Culture Date with Dublin 8. This year we will be hosting a variety of events with everything from children's art workshops to historical and cultural talks.

#### Secret Stories from Saint Patrick's Cathedral | May 9th | 2.30pm

Join expert tour guide Geraldine Moran for an exclusive journey through one of her favorite Dublin 8 landmarks—Saint Patrick's Cathedral. As she leads you through this iconic site, Geraldine will unveil fascinating hidden stories, littleknown secrets, and captivating historical insights that bring the cathedral to life in a whole new way.

#### Let's Draw Lugs! Kids Cartoon Workshop | May 10th | 2.00pm

Join author and illustrator Aidan for 'Lets Draw Lugs!'a cartooning workshop in the Cathedral's south transept.

#### A Pint of The Past: Tales from Dublin 8 May 10th | 7.00pm

Join historians, musicians and storytellers as we wander through tales of price-fixing cartels, explosive distillery disasters, and the intoxicating legacy of Dublin's Liberties. Hosted by Donal Fallon, with Macdara Yeates, Stephen James Smith, Helena Byrne and Padraig O'Lionsaigh.

For more details or to book tickets visit www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/events/



The launch of Culture Date with Dublin 8 photocall in the Lady Chapel. Photo courtesy of Marc O'Sullivan.



## **STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER**

Join us on 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 our talented organists performing too.

Over the last decade, this concert has raised many thousands for local and national charities.

Suitable for all ages, and all are very much welcome.

Tickets available at

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/events/

## CATHEDRAL CONTACTS



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Mr Ed Coleman MARKETING MANAGER marketing@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Mr Stuart Nicholson MASTER OF THE MUSIC music@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Ms Kelley Bermingham Community ど Safeguarding Officer kelley@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Mr Louis Parminter DEAN'S VERGER & CATHEDRAL MANAGER manager@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Mrs Rowena Janota Dean's Secretary & Office Manager officemanager@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Cathedral Assistant Manager & Safety Officer Mr Kenneth Hartnett safety@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Vergers Mr John Kinirons Mr Derek Tobin Ms Colette Garry Mr John Reardon Mr Aaron Hoey vergers@stpatrickscathedral.ie

H.R. Manager Ms Barbara Whelan humanresources@stpatrickscathedral.ie Welcome Desk Supervisors Ms Freda Doyle Mrs Laura Lowe supervisors@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Organist & Assistant Master of the Music Mr David Leigh

Schools Officer Ms Kryzel Bonifacio education@stpatrickscathedral.ie

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Events Officer Ms Eppie Claffey events@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Administrative Assistant Mr James Phelps info@stpatrickscathedral.ie

## WILL US WELL

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 Safeguarding Officer:

Ms Kelley Bermingham Community & 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* 

## **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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The Deanery Office Kevin Street Upper Dublin D08 AW65

