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JULY/AUGUST 2025

CLOSE NEWS



► COMMUNITY

Updates on
community projects

pg 22

► CONSERVATION

New Cathedral
Conservation Plan
launched

pg 16

► HERITAGE

Heritage Week 2025
events

pg 18



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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| The Dean Writes... | 4 |
| A Shot from the Canon | 6 |
| Sunday Services & Preachers | 7 |
| The Administrator Writes... | 8 |
| Condolences | 9 |
| Cathedral News | 10 |
| Friends' Evensong | 13 |
| The French Connection | 14 |
| Conservation Plan Launch | 16 |
| Heritage Week 2025 | 18 |
| Council of Nicaea Anniversary | 21 |
| Community News | 22 |
| Cathedral Contacts | 26 |

Cover image: Students enjoying the Choir School summer party, which was held last month in the Deanery garden.

THE CLOSE NEWS EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The Very Revd Dr William Morton (DEAN)
 The Revd Canon Charles Mullen (DEAN'S VICAR)
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 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

In keeping with tradition, the lay vicars choral and the deputies who sang Evensong on Monday 30 June, finished the Office with a rendition of the dismissal, I have done my duty, music by Barry Ferguson.

It is a fitting, poignant choice marking the end of the Choir's academic year. Its message of completion and faithful service mirrors the dedication of the Choir throughout the year, while it's a spiritual and communal hallmark, aligning with the Cathedral's mission of worship and duty to God.

We wish the lay vicars choral and deputies a pleasant and relaxing summer recess, and we look forward to their return at the beginning of September.

It was in a more permanent sense that we said farewell to our Organ Scholar for the last ten months, Robin Shakespeare, who is taking up an organist's post at Saint Anne's Church, Manchester. We thank Robin for all she has contributed to Saint Patrick's during her time in the joint post shared between Saint Patrick's and The King's Hospital School, and we wish her every blessing and success for the future.

As we embark on the summer, our sense of duty to the conduct of worship continues with the help, in July, of some visiting choirs whom we are always delighted to welcome. The life of Saint Patrick's Cathedral continues with its steady rhythm of daily worship, rooted in centuries of Anglican tradition,

and the contributions of visiting choirs enrich our worship and ensure that music remains a living part of our liturgical life.

The pattern of worship – choral or said – continues, maintaining the dignity and reverence that characterise the daily offering of prayer, ensuring that the worship of Almighty God remains at the very centre of what we do. The stillness and simplicity of these services invite all who attend to find a moment of peace and reflection in the midst of busy lives.

We are also encouraged by the steady flow of worshippers and visitors to the Cathedral during this time, and we are delighted that Saint Patrick's continues to attract people, whether

they come to worship, to learn about our history and architecture, or to offer a quiet prayer. We are grateful for each one who enters these ancient doors.

We give sincere thanks to the dedicated team—clergy, vergers, staff, volunteers, and guides—whose faithful work ensures that the Cathedral remains true to its primary calling: the worship of Almighty God. Their behind-the-scenes efforts, day in and day out, help to preserve the sense of sacred space that so many encounter when they step inside. I trust that you will find time over the next two months to find rest and relaxation.

Yours ever,
William

CHURCH OF IRELAND

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A SHOT FROM THE CANON

THE REVD CANON
CHARLES MULLEN

The solstices are an example of the Church adapting the customs and imagery of what was once termed 'Pagan' culture. John the Baptist said of Jesus, 'He must grow greater: I must become less'. Therefore the Church observes the birth of John the Baptist just after the summer solstice when the daylight hours become less: that process which continues until the winter solstice when they grow greater, coinciding with Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Observing nature has always enriched our understanding of the faith, and of the ceaseless mutual relationship between God, us, and all of creation.

CM

24 JUNE, 25 DECEMBER

Summer suns are glowing over
land and sea,
Happy light is flowing
bountiful and free.
Every thing rejoices in the mellow rays,
All earth's countless voices
swell the psalm of praise.

*From a hymn by William Walsham How
(1823–97)*

In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

*From a hymn by Christina Rossetti
(1830–94)*

SUNDAY SERVICES & PREACHERS

SUNDAY 6TH JULY 2025

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD B.M. MCKAY, O.CARM.

Prebendary of Clondalkin

SUNDAY 10TH AUG 2025

11:15 – Eucharist (*said in the Nave*)

15.15 – Evening Prayer

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD C.W. MULLEN

Resident Preacher

SUNDAY 13TH JULY 2025

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE VEN. J.M. GODFREY

Prebendary of Kilmactalway

SUNDAY 17TH AUG 2025

11:15 – Eucharist (*said in the Nave*)

15.15 – Evening Prayer

Canon in Residence:

THE VERY REVD S.A. FARRELL

Prebendary of Monmohenock

SUNDAY 20TH JULY 2025

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15:15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD J.E.T. YENDALL

Prebendary of Mulhuddart

SUNDAY 24TH AUG 2025

11:15 – Eucharist (*said in the Nave*)

15.15 – Evening Prayer

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD H. GILMORE

Prebendary of Howth

SUNDAY 27TH JULY 2025

11:15 – Choral Eucharist

15.15 – Choral Evensong

Canon in Residence:

THE REVD C.W.L. McCAULEY

Prebendary of Tipperkevin

SUNDAY SAID SERVICE

Eucharist at 09:15 (Lady Chapel).

FORTHCOMING FEAST DAYS

The Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene is celebrated on Tues 22 July 2025.

SUNDAY 3RD AUG 2025

11:15 – Eucharist (*said in the Nave*)

15.15 – Evening Prayer

Canon in Residence:

THE VEN. P. THOMPSON

Prebendary of Donaghmore

The Feast of Saint James the Apostle is celebrated on Fri 25 July 2025.

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated on Wed 6 Aug 2025.

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

Fáilte Ireland launched its five year strategic vision for Dublin City in Bewley's café on Tuesday evening. As a member of the working group charged with assisting the formulation and delivery of this plan, I was invited to speak at this launch on behalf of the Cathedral, together with Liz Halpin, head of Dublin with Fáilte Ireland, Ailish Carew of EPIC, the Chief Executive of Dublin City Council, Richard Shakespeare and the new Lord Mayor, Ray McAdam.

It is my firm belief that this Dublin City Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) 2025–2030 is excellent news for attractions like Saint Patrick's Cathedral, as the plan provides a road map to enhance cultural tourism, diversify visitor experiences, and promote sustainable, year-round tourism. The plan benefits the Cathedral through positioning cultural institutions at the heart of tourism, with a focus on working closely with organisations like us to develop both



Gavan pictured at launch with new Lord Mayor, Ray McAdam and key individuals involved in the strategic vision plan.

innovative programming and immersive experiences.

Interestingly the plan includes the expansion of the Dublin trail into new areas and neighbourhoods, connecting more visitors to cultural and historical landmarks. As a key stop on the existing trail, Saint Patrick's Cathedral may benefit from increased footfall through improved signage, storytelling, and wayfinding infrastructure and inclusion in new thematic routes or digital guides.

The plan details Fáilte Ireland's aim to extend the tourism season and promote evening and off-peak experiences, potentially giving us greater visibility in domestic and international marketing campaigns.

Critically, Fáilte Ireland is investing

over €14.5 million in tourism projects in 2025 alone, with a focus on enhancing visitor experiences and infrastructure. This suggests a potential for funding for accessibility improvements, support for conservation or interpretation projects and inclusion in broad visitor experience strategies.

The plan considers tourism and economic development through the prism of sustainability, accessibility and community which, I believe, are likely to provide better long-term outcomes for the sector and is a view that comfortably with our own perspective as a mission focused organisation.

The full plan can be accessed on Fáilte Ireland's website: failteireland.ie

GHW

CONDOLENCES

Condolences are expressed to Keith MacCarthy on the death of his mother Dorothy (née Warner), Ferns, County Wexford, who died suddenly but peacefully on 27 June at Wexford General Hospital. Mrs MacCarthy and her late husband Denis, (who died in July last year) often worshipped in Saint Patrick's Cathedral when they were visiting Keith. The funeral service took place at Saint Brigid's Church, Kilbride. Kilcrone, Bray, County Wicklow, followed by interment in the adjoining churchyard.

We remember also Reg Deane, former honorary secretary of the Council of Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, who was bereaved on 21st May by the death of his mother, June Maeve (nee McGuinness), late of Ranelagh and

Ballyroan, Rathfarnham, in the loving care of The Wicklow Hospice. The funeral service took place in Rathfarnham Parish Church on 22nd May, followed by cremation at Mount Jerome Crematorium.

Fellow and Professor Emeritus of Trinity College, Dublin, Dermot McAleese, Booterstown, County Dublin, who often worshipped at Evensong in Saint Patrick's, and loved the rich tradition of music and singing, died peacefully on 26th June. His funeral mass was held in the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown Avenue, on 28th June, followed by cremation at Mount Jerome Crematorium. Sincere condolences are expressed to his wife and family.

All who mourn are assured of our thoughts and prayers.

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

On Friday 4th July, the Cathedral hosted A Night at the Oscars, welcoming nearly 750 people into the nave for an hour of memorable film music.

The evening began outside with the Dublin Fire Brigade, who drew a curious crowd on Patrick Street with a skill demonstration at 6:30pm. Inside, event staff ensured a smooth welcome as guests took their seats for the 7:30pm concert.

Morgan Crowley served as compère, introducing each piece with a mix of humour and context. On the organ, Stuart Nicholson and Alastair Stout delivered a varied programme spanning

well-known classics and more recent film scores. Victoria Green's saxophone added warmth and colour to several pieces.

Highlights included the familiar strains of "Moon River," the gentle charm of "Pure Imagination," and lively performances of "The Magnificent Seven" and "Back to the Future." The concert closed on a fun note with "Ghostbusters," sending the audience off in good spirits.

The event was free to attend, with a retiring collection held in aid of Oscar's Kids, a children's cancer charity. With the help of the Dublin Fire Brigade collecting donations, funds were raised to support families facing childhood cancer both in Ireland and abroad.



Pictured after the concert L-R: Alastair Stout, Judith Lyons, Morgan Crowley, Victoria Green, Stuart Nicholson. Photo courtesy of Stuart Nicholson.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

On 8 June members of the Royal Army Medical Corps attended Evensong to commemorate members of the Corps whose lives were lost in conflicts past and present. This annual commemoration concludes with an act of remembrance at the RAMC memorial in the North Transept which was led this year by the Revd Peter Rutherford who also preached at Evensong.



Pictured L-R: The Dean, the Dean's Vicar, Brigadier John Graham OBE (Retd) Royal Army Medical Corps, and the Revd Peter Rutherford, Chaplain to The Royal British Legion, Republic of Ireland District.

GRAND LODGE ANNIVERSARY

On 22 June around six hundred Freemasons gathered to mark the 300th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The preacher was Canon Kenny Hall, Prebendary of Tassagard and Junior Grand Chaplain

at the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Prayers were led by the Revd Edwin Hunter, Senior Grand Chaplain, and The Revd Kenneth Gamble, Junior Grand Chaplain at the Grand Lodge of Ireland. *CM*

CEREMONY OF INVESTITURE

On 29 June members of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, and members of Saint John Ambulance, Ireland, attended Evensong and then a ceremony of investiture following Evensong in the Lady Chapel. There is a long-standing connection between the Cathedral and the Order. The preacher was Canon Paul Arbuthnot, Prebendary of Castleknock, and readings were done by members of the Order. *CM*



Pictured from left to right are Professor James O'Higgins Norman, Head of Chancery, Order of Saint John; the Dean, Dr William Morton, (who was invested as a Member of the Order of Saint John); Susan le Jeune d'Allegrebecque CMG OStJ; Professor Patrick Plunkett KStJ; Hilary McBain, Chair St. John Ireland; and Rev. Fr. Kieran Cronin OFM MStJ.

CHOIR SCHOOL SUMMER PARTY



In June an end-of-year party was held for the pupils of the Choir School and their parents. It was a great opportunity to welcome in the summer holidays with music, food and of course a giant panda. The party was also a great way to welcome our incoming students while also saying farewell and good luck to the students going up to secondary school.

FRIENDS' EVENSONG

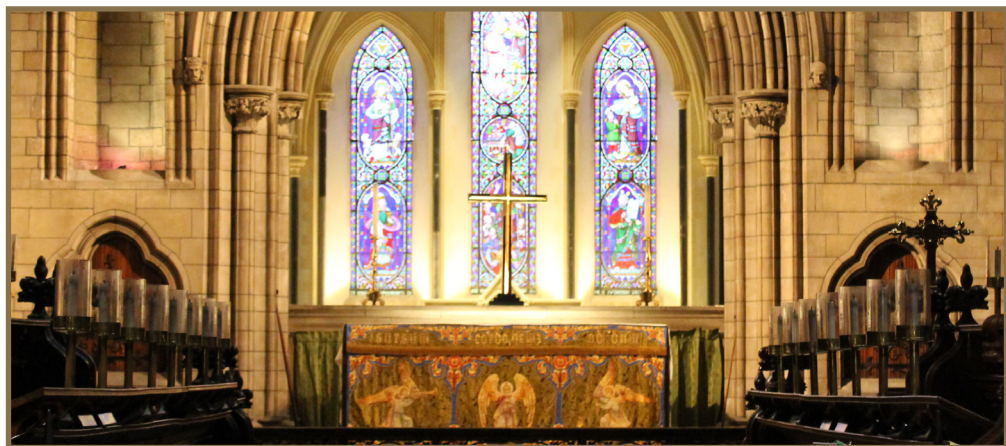
The Society of Friends of Saint Patrick's Cathedral Festival Evensong took place on Trinity Sunday, the 15th June 2025 and the large congregation had the pleasure of seeing the freshly restored banner of Saint Patrick carried in procession by the Dean's Verger, Mr Louis Parminter, who is also a member of the Council of the Friends. This historic banner, dating from the early years of the 20th century, was restored this year courtesy of the Friends.

The preacher at the service was the Prebendary of Swords, Rev Canon Katherine Poulton, to whom we are very grateful. The Lessons were read by members of the council, Mrs Irene Wilson Power and Mr Eric Wolfe. The canticles, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Charles Wood (1866-1926) and the anthem, Blessed City, heavenly Salem by Edward Bairstow (1874-1946) were beautifully sung by the Cathedral choir under the direction

of the Master of the Music Mr Stuart Nicholson. At the end of the service the organ voluntary, the 1st. movement of his Symphony No. 6 by Charles-Marie Vidor was superbly played by the assistant organist Mr David Leigh with all his usual virtuosity.

Regrettably this year, because of the on-going work on the Deanery Mews building, entry to the Deanery garden from The Close was impossible and other means of entry being deemed impractical, we could not hold our usual and much enjoyed garden party. It is hoped that next year, with the completion of the Mews building, the garden party will return better than ever.

We are very grateful to all those who took part in the Service, The Dean, the Dean's Vicar, Canon Katherine Poulton, Mr Eric Wolfe, Mrs Irene Wilson Power, Mr Stuart Nicholson and Mr David Leigh.



THE FRENCH CONNECTION

My name is Gabrielle Marie, I'm 21 years old, I'm from France, and a few weeks ago, I began an internship at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. I'm currently in my third year of studies in Applied Foreign Languages at the University of Caen in Normandy. Passionate about digital communication and marketing, this professional adventure allowed me to discover the behind-the-scenes of one of the most iconic landmarks in Ireland.

I must admit that at first, I had a few apprehensions, as I had never done an internship in the field of marketing before. But thanks to the kind support of my supervisor Melissa Carton, my manager Ed Coleman, and the entire team, I quickly found my place in the office.

I then had the chance to explore the Cathedral in more detail and was amazed by its Gothic architecture, its magnificent stained-glass windows rich with history, and unique features like the famous Door of Reconciliation. Even after several weeks, I continued to be in awe of the beauty of the place.

Later on, I was lucky enough to work two days a week inside the Cathedral itself, where I took part in welcoming visitors from all over the world — especially French-speaking tourists. I felt naturally integrated into the Cathedral team, who welcomed me warmly from day one.

One of my favorite moments at



Marketing interns Gabrielle Marie and Connor Dixon at the Choir School summer party. Photo courtesy of Melissa Carton.

the Cathedral is when I meet French visitors. I often recognize their accent right away, and when I start speaking to them in French, they're both surprised and delighted! They ask me what I'm doing here, we exchange a few words about their trip, and they tell me about their holidays in Ireland. They also share how beautiful they find the Cathedral and how happy they are to hear someone speaking their language. These spontaneous, simple, and warm exchanges are among my most treasured memories.

Alongside my work in the Cathedral, I contributed to various communication and marketing projects, bringing an external perspective: writing posts, creating content for social media, and more. Every task offered a new opportunity to learn and improve. I never imagined going abroad for such an experience, let alone feeling so at home. Life in Dublin has been enriching—full of energy, culture, and history. Today, I leave this internship with new skills,

unforgettable memories, and stars in my eyes. Contributing each day to such an iconic place, while working within a close-knit team, has brought me both professional and personal growth that I'll always treasure. This internship, filled with discoveries and meaningful, inspiring encounters, gave me the motivation to keep learning every day. It will undoubtedly remain forever etched in my memory.

Merci beaucoup pour cette fabuleuse expérience, à bientôt. *GM*

CATHEDRAL FAREWELLS

In June we also bade a fond and heartfelt farewell to Andrew Stokes, Assistant Front Desk Supervisor. Andrew has been a valued member of the Cathedral staff for over a decade, and his dedication, warmth, and professionalism have left a lasting impact on colleagues, volunteers, and visitors alike. His friendly presence at the Front Desk, his deep knowledge of the Cathedral and his unwavering commitment to service made him a valued part of our community.

Over the years Andrew has gone above and beyond to support the daily operations of the Cathedral, always ready with a kind word, a helpful gesture, or a reassuring smile. His contributions have helped shape the welcoming atmosphere that so many have come to associate with our front desk. While we are saddened to see him go, we are also excited for the new opportunities that await him. We extend our deepest

gratitude for his years of service and wish him every success and happiness in his future endeavours. *MC*



Andrew and Gabrielle, who are both leaving the Cathedral this month. Photo courtesy of Melissa Carton.



NEW CONSERVATION PLAN

Saint Patrick's Cathedral has officially launched its Conservation Plan 2024, a forward-looking strategy aimed at preserving one of Ireland's most iconic landmarks for generations to come.

The plan was unveiled at a special event in the Deanery, with Christopher O'Sullivan, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, in attendance. The 112-page document outlines how the Cathedral will safeguard its historic fabric, cultural legacy, and role as a place of worship and welcome in the heart of Dublin.

The Dean gave a welcoming speech highlighting the Cathedral's enduring importance: "Saint Patrick's Cathedral matters, to our history, to our present identity, and to future generations... We are guardians for only a brief time... Our duty is not only to preserve what has been handed on to us, but to pass it on, enriched."

Developed by Grade 1 conservation architect James Howley of Howley Hayes Cooney, alongside Cathedral Archaeologist Linzi Simpson and heritage expert Mary Hanna, the new plan builds on the original 2006

Above, L-R: Christopher O'Sullivan, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage, and Biodiversity; the Dean; James Howley, Cathedral Architect; and Gavan Woods. Photo courtesy of Ed Coleman.

framework and documents significant progress made over the last 18 years. These include vital structural repairs, enhanced fire safety measures, and growing visitor engagement, all achieved while remaining true to the cathedral's heritage and mission.

Supported by the Community Monument Fund 2024 through Dublin City Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the plan adopts an integrated approach to stewardship. It balances the preservation of medieval stonework and stained glass with the demands of a modern visitor experience, as Saint Patrick's welcomes over 600,000 people each year. Sustainability and environmental responsibility also play a central role, with the plan advocating for the use of eco-conscious materials and practices throughout future conservation work.

Key highlights from the Conservation Plan include:

- A full assessment of the Cathedral's historical and cultural value
- An updated archaeological inventory featuring 30 new entries
- A strategic approach to managing change while respecting heritage
- Enhanced guidance for deepening community and visitor engagement
- Recognition of collaboration between Church, state, and wider stakeholders

As the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, Saint Patrick's is not only a holy place, but also a symbol of civic pride and cultural identity. With this new plan in place, the Cathedral is firmly focused on the future, preserving its legacy, enriching its story, and continuing to serve as a place of reflection, music, history, and hope. *EC*



Speakers at the launch event included the Dean (left) and Minister Christopher O'Sullivan (right). Photos courtesy of Ed Coleman.

HERITAGE WEEK 2025

This year, National Heritage Week will take place from **Saturday 16th August to Sunday 24th August 2025**. While we are still putting the finishing touches on our programme, we are pleased to announce a busy schedule of over 30 events throughout the week, with some highlights featured below.

From special themed tours to evening concerts to drop-in family workshops, we hope that this year's diverse programme has something exciting for everyone. And of course – every event in Heritage Week is completely **free** to attend. *KB*

*Tickets can be reserved on our website from mid-July:
stpatrickscathedral.ie/events*



FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Join us for some arts, crafts, and family fun in these creative workshops.

Treasure Hunt Tour

Thursday 21st August

11:00, 12:00, & 15:00

Music in the Cathedral

Friday 22nd August

12:00 – 14:00 (drop-in sessions)

Pop-up Cathedral Cards

Saturday 23rd August

12:00 – 14:00 (drop-in sessions)

CHILDREN'S CONCERTS

Musical fun for the whole family! This year's programme offers two child-friendly musical events:

Disney Sing-along Spectacular
with Judith Lyons

Saturday 16th August | 12:30 & 14:30

Concert: Peter and the Wolf

Saturday 23rd August | 18:30

JOINT TOURS

Tour two sites on one tour! Learn about the Huguenot heritage that connects Saint Patrick's Cathedral and our neighbours, Marsh's Library.

Wednesday 20th August &

Friday 22nd August | 14:00

**Seachtain Náisiúnta
na hOidhreacht**

Clár den Chomhairle Oidhreacht





BELFRY TOURS

A chance to visit the Ringing Room and learn how to ring one of the bells, taught by our expert ringing team.

Saturday 16th August

10:00; 11:00; 14:00; 15:00

Saturday 23rd August

10:00; 11:00; 14:00; 15:00

CHURCHYARD TOUR

Spend an evening exploring the history of the Cathedral Churchyard, newly opened to visitors, with Education Officer, Kryzel Bonifacio.

Thursday 21st August | 18:30

SKETCHING SESSION

Appreciate the beauty of the Cathedral in a new light by joining a tranquil evening sketching session.

Tuesday 19th August | 18:30

IRISH SERVICE

Join us for Evening Prayer in Irish, led by Canon David Oxley.

Sunday 17th August &

Sunday 24th August | 17:30

EVENING CONCERTS

Highlighting the Cathedral's talented musicians.

The Wondrous Machine
with David Leigh

Saturday 16th August | 18:30

Mezzo Soprano and Piano
with Sarah Thursfield & David O'Shea

Wednesday 20th August | 18:30

Saxophone and Piano Duo
with Victoria Green & Stuart Nicholson

Friday 22nd August | 18:30

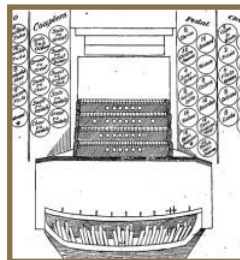


HERITAGE WEEK MUSIC

THE WONDROUS MACHINE

Saturday 16 August at 6.30pm | Admission Free

With 4,000 pipes, 4 manuals & 80 speaking stops, the Willis Organ is one of the largest instruments in Ireland even though most people walking around the building wouldn't be aware of its existence. Once it begins to play though, there's no escaping as it was designed to fill every corner of this magnificent building especially when in the hands of Cathedral Organist, David Leigh.



MEZZO SOPRANO & PIANO

Wednesday 20 August at 6.30pm | Admission Free

Our second recital features the stunning vocalist that is Sarah Thursfield. Originally from Dublin, Sarah studied with the late Judith Mok, her recent solo performances include Elgar's *The Light of Life*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Bach's *St John Passion*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Bach's *Mass in B minor*, Handel's *Messiah* and Stanford's *Stabat Mater* with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra.

SAXOPHONE & PIANO

Friday 22 August at 6.30pm | Admission Free

This recital features saxophonist Victoria Green & pianist Stuart Nicholson playing a varied programme including music by Gershwin, Piazzolla & Debussy. The programme also includes a performance of Canadian composer Denis Bédard's *Sonata for Saxophone and Organ*, a pairing you wouldn't hear too often.



PETER AND THE WOLF

Saturday 23 August at 6.30pm | Admission Free

Our last concert includes a performance of Prokofiev's much-loved *Peter & the Wolf* heard here in an arrangement for narrator (Morgan Crowley) and organ (Stuart Nicholson). In the original, Prokofiev used various instruments to represent the characters including the strings for Peter, horns for the menacing wolf, flute for the bird, oboe for the ill-fated duck, and clarinet for the cat. Thankfully the Cathedral organ, one of the largest in the country, is more than a match for a symphony orchestra, all 4,000 pipes of it. A perfect concert for the young and the young at heart.



NICAEA 1700

The Council of Nicaea (325) was the first ecumenical council in the history of the Christian Church. The meeting of Bishops and Church leaders at the direction of Emperor Constantine the Great resulted in the affirmation of the Holy Trinity and the formation of what would be known as the Nicæan Creed, which has been affirmed by Christians worldwide for 1700 years.

On 26 July Dr Dafydd Mills Daniel, Lecturer in Divinity at the University of St Andrews and regular contributor to BBC Radio 4, will deliver a talk on the legacy of this pivotal event in the history of the Christian Church. Contributions and responses from Dr Janet Rutherford and Dr Alexander O'Hara will follow the key lecture, concluding with a reception of tea, coffee, and refreshments.

26 July 2025 | 1pm

Location: Deanery, Kevin Street, Dublin 08



COMMUNITY NEWS

The last week of June saw the reciprocal visit of the delegation from Cyprus to Ireland. They had a jam packed week of cultural immersion, exploration and learning. Reuniting with their Irish counterparts in the Belvedere Youth Club, the young people really had a very special experience. Due to the differences in the community based on parental heritage, young people had to travel separately based on whether they were Turkish or Greek origins. The first group arrived early on Sunday morning and checked in to their accommodation

in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. The accommodation far exceeded any expectations they had, and full compliments to Lynda, Jane and all the team there for making their stay so special! A shopping excursion to a local supermarket exposed the group to what they described as 'a very highly diverse array of produce.' They got to sample the Irish brands – Brennans, Jacobs biscuits and crackers, Irish chocolate and Irish cheeses and then had the experience of an 'Irish BBQ' sheltering from the light showers under a tree in the grounds of the college.

Pictured above: Members of the youth groups enjoying a night out at the Cobblestone. Photo courtesy of Kelley Bermingham.

On Monday after a day engaged with Belvedere Youth Club, North East Inner City, on campus in Dublin City University with a virtual reality workshop, both groups came to the upstairs venue of The Cobbelstone in Smithfield, Dublin 7. Proprietor, Tom Mulligan had renovated the room especially to host our cultural exchange night. The room was last used for gigs many moons ago, and had become more of a storage facility in recent decades. 15 volunteer Irish Traditional musicians who regularly gather in The Wren's Nest on the Strawberry Beds to play, came along to play, sing, perform and recite tunes, songs and tales for the young people. In return, the young people sang, and even danced the zorba

to Irish polkas! The evening meal was sponsored by Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and we were joined by Revd Peter Campion, Precentor in the Cathedral.

The following day, all the young people went to Glencree Peace and Reconciliation Centre for a series of focused workshops and presentations. Afterwards the delegates travelled on to Glendalough to visit the ancient monastic site before returning to CITI. Wednesday was spent immersed in the world of Google's European Headquarters in Dublin, exploring the global connected communities and how technology advancements support the flourishing of communities. The group then went on to take the DART south to the seaside village of Bray.



Dean Morton with youth delegates and leaders from north and south of Cyprus – both Turkish and Greek along with Det Chief Supt Brian Woods. Photo courtesy of Kelley Bermingham.



A day out in Patrick's Park. Photo by Kelley Bermingham.

Some adventurous souls even managed to take a dip in the Irish Sea... For Cypriots, their visit to Ireland was like their version of winter, so swimming in 'freezing cold waters' wasn't exactly on the agenda!

Thursday saw them travel north to Belfast where they experienced tours from different tour guides, with narratives from different perspectives shared. This experience stirred quite the reaction from the group, and the realisation that they have so much in common with Irish / Northern Irish peers. The post-Brexit lack of investment in peace-building and maintenance appeared an obvious gap to the young people who were taken aback at the varying stories they heard from the people they had the chance to meet.

Their Friday was full of fun and adventure with a city scavenger hunt, gala dinner and an evening at a football match in Dalymount Park where the home team of Bohemians played Sligo

Rovers, resulting in a 1:1 score.

Their last full day was spent in Saint Patrick's Cathedral where a tour was undertaken and an audience with Dean Morton in the Lady Chapel. We lunched in Patrick's Park, sheltering from squally showers before undertaking a walking tour of mostly unseen parts of the city, discussing social history and contemporary issues. Several of the group wanted to see and experience the Pride Parade in Dublin City centre in the afternoon, and the remainder of the group travelled to Dundrum on the LUAS for some shopping and free time before heading back to the accommodation to prepare for a relaxed night in the Glenside Bar for dinner and entertainment.

Sunday morning the parties were escorted to Dublin Airport, tired, happy, some not wanting to go back to the 'hotbox' temperatures of Cyprus, but overall, glad of the experience. Their heads were full of so much new information, it will no doubt take some time to digest.

We were really delighted, that on Friday, we received an update in relation to the documentary 'A Town Called Pyla' which premiered in the Cathedral, will be scheduled in the autumn. Keep an eye to our social media for the date to be announced!



**KELLEY
BERMINGHAM**

Community &
Safeguarding Officer



LIBERTIES' FESTIVAL

Saint Patrick's Cathedral is delighted to take part once again in the Liberties' Festival, running this year from 21st to 27th July 2025.

As one of Ireland's oldest and most cherished community festivals, the Liberties Festival has been a much-loved tradition since its modest beginnings in 1970. Over the decades, it has blossomed into a vibrant celebration of local culture, heritage, and creativity—bringing together people of all ages through a diverse mix of family-friendly activities, sporting events, community gatherings, and an exciting multicultural arts programme.

We're thrilled to be contributing to this year's festival with two special events, a Tower Tour on July 24th and a Family Workshop on July 25th.

These events are part of our ongoing commitment to community engagement and to celebrating the rich cultural fabric of the Liberties area, which we are proud to call home.

The full festival programme is available on their website. We look forward to welcoming both locals and visitors alike to join in the celebrations.

Visit thelibertiesfestival.com for more details.

CATHEDRAL CONTACTS



**The Very Revd Dr
William Morton**
DEAN

dean@stpatrickscathedral.ie



**The Revd Canon
Charles Mullen**
DEAN'S VICAR

deans.vicar@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Mr Gavan Woods
ADMINISTRATOR

administrator@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Mr Ed Coleman
MARKETING MANAGER

marketing@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Mr Stuart Nicholson
MASTER OF THE MUSIC

music@stpatrickscathedral.ie



Ms Kelley Bermingham
COMMUNITY &
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

kelly@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

Education Officer
Ms Kryzel Bonifacio
education@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Schools Assistant
Ms Paula Garcia Ibanez
edassist@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Retail Manager
Mrs Elizabeth Lowrie
retail@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Events Officer
Ms Eppie Claffey
events@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Administrative Assistant
Mr James Phelps
info@stpatrickscathedral.ie

Marketing Assistant
Ms Melissa M Carton
melissa@stpatrickscathedral.ie

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, 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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stpatrickscathedral.ie



The Deanery Office
Kevin Street Upper
Dublin D08 AW65

