

# CLOSE NEWS

March 2026 | Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin | €2.50

## PRESIDENT OPENS DEANERY MEWS



### ► **Choir Visits Paris**

The Choir visited Paris, singing in Notre Dame, La Madeleine, St Sulpice, and more. *Page 14*

### ► **New Window Book**

Discover the Cathedral's new book on stained glass. *Page 18*



## The Daily Offices & Holy Eucharist



### 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 Feast Days*)
- 17:30 — **Choral Evensong** or **Evening Prayer**

### Saturday

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

**I**N THIS CATHEDRAL, the worship of Almighty God has been offered without interruption for generations. In word and sacrament, psalm and canticle, the Church's liturgy orders our common life and gives voice to what we believe. Here, the Scriptures are read, the Sacraments faithfully celebrated, and the prayer of the Church is offered day by day according to the rhythm of the Christian year. All are welcome to join us in an act of worship. Further service information appears on *Page 7*. Those unable to be present in person may join the Cathedral's worship online at [spcd.ie/live](https://spcd.ie/live).

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*Cover: President Connolly signs the Visitors' Book during her visit to open the Deanery Mews.*



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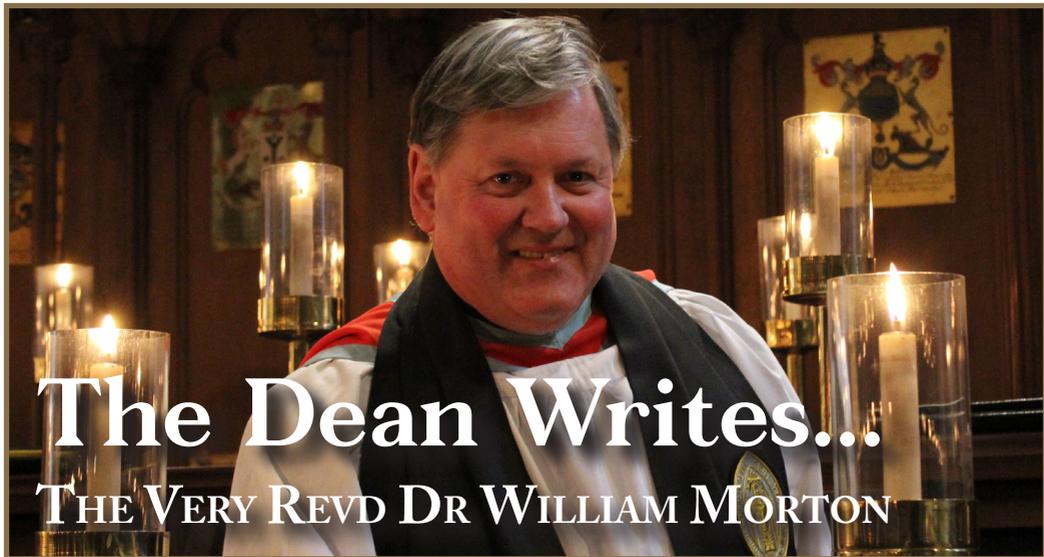
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**Mr Clark Brydon**  
*Sustainability & Engagement Coordinator*

*Close News* is the monthly newsletter of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. It is designed and printed in-house by Clark Brydon. Any views which may be expressed in the features, news reports, articles, letters, and reviews are not necessarily those of the Board and Chapter of the National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick in Dublin.

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**The deadline for publication in the April issue of *Close News* will be:  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026**



# The Dean Writes...

THE VERY REVD DR WILLIAM MORTON

ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, the President of Ireland, Catherine Connolly, formally opened the newly restored Deanery Mews — once the coach house of Dean Jonathan Swift and now providing a vibrant new dimension in the life of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

It is a building that has known many sounds. In Swift's day, the ground floor echoed with the stamping of horses and the rattle of harness, while the coachman slept overhead. In recent times, those old stones heard something very different: words of hope, laughter, and the unmistakable sound of children's voices from the top floor.

The restoration of the Deanery Mews is far more than a careful conservation project. It is an investment in welcome, in music, and in the future. The beautifully reimaged ground floor will serve as a reception space for up to 80 people. Above, where once stablemen rested, there are now four bright practice rooms dedicated to instrumental and vocal tuition. Here, Cathedral Choristers and pupils from Saint Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School will develop their gifts, their discipline, and their confidence.

The President spoke warmly of the building's potential — not only as a centre of musical formation, but as a place that might reach outward in a spirit of shared island cooperation, fostering creative connections with Northern Ireland and beyond. It is a generous and imaginative vision, and one that we are eager to explore further.

There is something profoundly moving about old stone being given new purpose. The Deanery Mews stands as a testament to continuity and renewal: heritage carefully preserved, yet confidently turned towards tomorrow. Where horses once stood, young musicians will now practise scales. Where stable lanterns once flickered, new friendships and partnerships may grow.

This is not simply a refurbished building. It is a statement — that Saint Patrick's Cathedral remains committed to excellence, to education, to welcome, acceptance, tolerance, inclusivity, as well as to the nurturing of young talent. Old stone. New song. A living legacy.

Yours, ever,  
**William**



# A Shot from the Canon

THE REVD CANON  
CHARLES MULLEN

**T**HE CHURCH, a human institution that glorifies God, always takes account of our human needs and emotions. Thus we have seasons of abstinence, such as Lent, that prepare us for (and lead us naturally into) times of celebration, such as Easter. The Church, through her liturgical calendar, recognises that human lives are lives of contrasts. Furthermore, contrasts like Lent and Easter serve to prepare us for that ultimate contrast we're certain to face at the end of our earthly lives when sorrow, weeping and death are contrasted through grace by new life in heaven, where all tears are wiped away. *CM*

## Changing scenes

Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.

*from Psalm 34, versified by Nahum Tate,  
and Nicholas Brady (1659–1726)*

Sing praise then, for all who here sought  
and here found Him,  
Whose journey is ended,  
whose perils are past:  
They believed in the Light;  
and its glory is round them,  
Where the clouds of earth's sorrow  
are lifted at last.

*from a hymn by the  
Revd William Draper (1855–1933)*

## Services & Music List

*For an up-to-date and comprehensive list of forthcoming services,  
scan the QR code or visit the monthly Worship page on our website.*



# Services & Preachers

## DAILY SERVICES

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

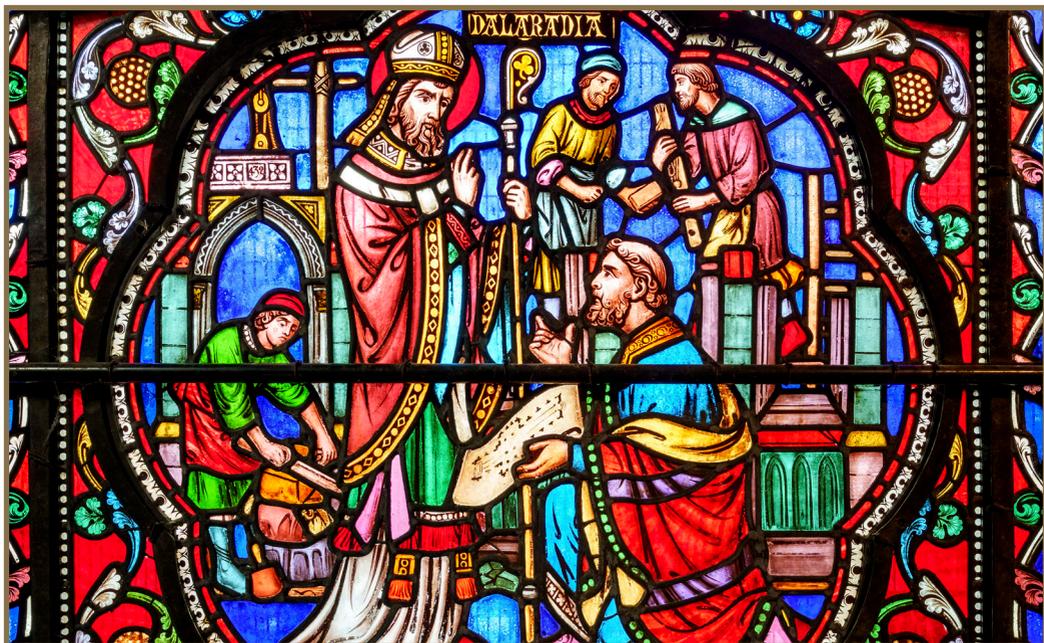
DAY	SERVICES	CANON IN RESIDENCE
<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b> Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	09:15 – Eucharist ( <i>said</i> ) 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong	<b>VEN. D. A. PIERPOINT</b> <i>Canon Treasurer</i>
<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b> Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	09:15 – Eucharist ( <i>said</i> ) 11:15 – Choral Matins 15:15 – Choral Evensong	<b>REVD S. T. R. GAMBLE</b> <i>Prebendary of Maynooth</i>
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	09:15 – Eucharist ( <i>said</i> ) 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 18:00 – The Passion of Our Lord according to Saint John ( <i>J. S. Bach</i> )	<b>REVD P. R. CAMPION</b> <i>Canon Precentor</i>
<b>EASTER DAY</b> Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	09:15 – Eucharist ( <i>said</i> ) 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong	<b>VERY REVD W. W. MORTON</b> <i>Dean &amp; Ordinary</i>

*For the service schedule for Holy Week, please see Page 8.*



## Saints & Celebrations

**M**ARCH AND EARLY April bring a sequence of commemorations that draw the Church's attention to both care and sacrifice within the Christian story. **Mothering Sunday**, has its roots in the tradition of returning to one's mother church: the church in which they had been baptised or the cathedral that serves as the spiritual centre of their region. Over time the day also became associated with giving thanks for mothers and family life. **Saint Patrick** (17<sup>th</sup> March), the apostle of Ireland, is remembered as a missionary and a pastor, whose writings reveal a deep humility and trust in God's providence. **Saint Joseph of Nazareth** (19<sup>th</sup> March) stands as a figure of faithfulness, protecting, and providing for the Holy Family. **Passion Sunday** (22<sup>nd</sup> March), marking the beginning of Passiontide, turns the Church's gaze more directly towards Christ's suffering. **The Annunciation of Our Lord** (25<sup>th</sup> March) celebrates Mary's faithful 'yes', marking the beginning of the mystery of the Incarnation.



# Patronal Festival

**T**HE FEAST OF **Saint Patrick** (17<sup>th</sup> March) marks our Patronal Festival and offers an opportunity to reflect on the faith and witness of the saint whose name our church bears. Patrick's mission in Ireland during the fifth century helped to shape the Christian identity of this island. In his own writings, particularly the *Confessio*, Patrick speaks of a calling rooted in prayer and in a desire to proclaim the gospel among the people of Ireland.

His story encourages the Church today to remain outward-looking, attentive to the needs of the wider community, and confident in sharing the hope of the Christian faith.

As we give thanks for the life and ministry of Saint Patrick, we also reflect on our own vocations. The example of our patron invites us to grow in faith, hospitality, and service, seeking to bear witness to Christ in the life of this place just as Patrick did in his own time.

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

## SERVICE TIMES

09:15  
Eucharist  
*said in Irish*

11:15  
Patronal Eucharist  
*with music by Stanford, Vierne,  
Rachmaninoff, and Desmond;  
the Revd J. R. Auchmuty is the Preacher.*

18:00  
Dublin Council of Churches Service

ישוע נצרי מלך המלכות  
IHSOVS NAZOVS BATHAENE IOYALICN  
IESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDÆORVM



## Holy Week & Easter

### **PALM SUNDAY**

*29<sup>th</sup> March*

**P**ALM SUNDAY RECALLS Christ's entry into Jerusalem, when crowds greeted him with palm branches and shouts of Hosanna. The liturgy often begins with the blessing of palm crosses.

Yet the mood quickly shifts as the Passion narrative is read, reminding the Church how swiftly praise turned to rejection. The day holds together triumph and foreboding, marking the beginning of the final journey towards the cross.

In addition to the normal Choral Eucharist at 11:15, the Cathedral Choir will sing The Passion of Our Lord according to Saint John, the music by J. S. Bach. This will take place in the context of worship at 18:00. There will be no Evensong this day.

### **MONDAY – WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

*30<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April*

The early days of Holy Week offer a quieter space for reflection as the Church continues to read the events leading to Christ's arrest.

The Gospel readings recall moments such as the anointing at Bethany and the growing tension between Jesus and the authorities.

These days encourage contemplation of Christ's steadfastness as the shadow of the cross draws nearer. They serve as a time of preparation, inviting worshippers to walk more intentionally with Christ through the unfolding drama of the Passion.

You are welcome to join us for Choral Evensong, sung by the Vicars Choral, each evening at 17:30.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

2<sup>nd</sup> April

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, when Christ shared bread and wine with his disciples and gave the commandment to love one another.

The name Maundy comes from the Latin word '*mandatum*' (commandment). It refers to Christ's words to his disciples at the Last Supper: 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another' (John 13:34).

From this phrase developed the medieval term 'Maundy', reminding the Church that the events of the evening are rooted not only in the institution of the Eucharist but also in Christ's command to live lives of humble service.

The day ends quietly, with the stripping of the altar, symbolising Christ's abandonment and arrest.

You are welcome to join us for Choral Eucharist at 17:30.

## GOOD FRIDAY

3<sup>rd</sup> April

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Christian year, recalling Christ's crucifixion and death. The liturgy centres on the Passion and on prayer for the needs of the world Christ came to save.

The origin of the term Good Friday is less certain, but it is generally understood in the sense of 'holy' or 'blessed'. Although the day commemorates the suffering and death of Christ, it is called good because the crucifixion is understood as the moment through which salvation is accomplished. In older English usage, good could also

carry the sense of sacred or solemn. The name therefore reflects the paradox at the heart of the day: that through the suffering of the cross comes redemption and hope for the world.

You are welcome to join us for Choral Matins at 11:15, featuring a setting of the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Bairstow, the *Benedictus* by Dyson, and *It is a thing most wonderful* by Moore.

Later that day, you are also welcome to join us for the Good Friday Liturgy at 14:00. This features music including *Were you there?* by Chilcott, *Ex ore innocentium* by Ireland, *Christus factus est* by Bruckner, *Agnus Dei* by Briggs, and *O vos omnes* by Casals.

## EASTER EVE

4<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Eve is a day of stillness, recalling the time when Christ lay in the tomb and the world waited in silence. Traditionally the Church keeps watch through the Easter Vigil, beginning in darkness before the lighting of the new fire and the Paschal candle.

## EASTER DAY

5<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Day celebrates the Resurrection of Christ and the triumph of life over death, marking the fulfilment of the Paschal mystery. The Resurrection stands at the heart of the Christian faith, proclaiming hope, renewal, and new life for the world.

You are invited to join us for our normal pattern of services at 09:15, 11:15, and 15:15, including music from Rutter, Mawby, Howells, and Ives.



# The Administrator Writes...

MR GAVAN WOODS

OUR EFFORTS TO conserve the Cathedral fabric continue with a significant programme of work planned for 2026. Though the upper roofs were replaced quite recently, some of the aisle and chapel roofs now need attention. The roof of the east aisle of the south transept is first on the list, and it is our plan to tackle this project over the summer. Major scaffolding will be erected for access and, while this is in place, we will take the opportunity to repair adjoining masonry that has degraded over the years.

The winter and spring we have just endured brought prolonged rainfall and a number of areas of pointing in our walls and turrets failed as a result. We will identify these and attempt to repair them as appropriate in the coming months.

A clever new scheme for improving the layout of the toilets in the Minot tower has been drawn up and will be implemented this year too, together with a new welcome desk for the south west porch. This last will be largely constructed offsite to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum. The new desk will be attractive and functional and with the cleaned and painted vaulting above will improve the look and feel of this heavily used entrance.

A considerable section of the west

wall of the Cathedral was repointed last year and we plan to continue this work as it is vital to keeping water out of the building. Inside this west wall lies our baptistry. This has had 20<sup>th</sup> century cement render removed and the newly limed walls now tell the intriguing story of interventions to the fabric from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We can see the original window openings, interior pillars and moldings overlaid by later work, possibly from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The baptistry, long thought to have been a survivor from the 1191 church, has now been clearly identified as one the newest parts of the Cathedral! We will explore the feasibility of redecorating other parts of the Cathedral this year with the choir aisles first on the list to continue the decorative scheme of the Lady Chapel into the rest of the building.

Having now received planning permission, it is full steam ahead for our memorial window. We hope to have this, the first new window installed in a century, dedicated this year.

We plan to make some revisions and improvements to our heavily used education area in the south transept over the coming months. We will also look to progress new lighting and heating schemes for the Cathedral. These last are major



projects and we may well integrate their delivery into the planned creation of new visitor facilities to the north and east of the Cathedral. It is early days, but the Board

have identified these new facilities and the subsequent removal of much of the visitor infrastructure from the building, as critical to future proofing the Cathedral.

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)



## Condolences

**A**S A CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY, we acknowledge with sadness recent bereavements. Your prayers would be appreciated for Freda Doyle and her family on the death of her brother in law, **Brian Murphy** (Drumcondra), and also on the death of **Rachel Osborne** (Celbridge), a member of Freda's wider family circle.

**O**N FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> March a group of staff from the Cathedral went by minibus to St Patrick's Church, Trim, to attend the funeral of **Willie Walsh**. His daughter, Colette, has been a verger since 2019, having worked previously on the Events team. Willie was a native of Ballinrobe and was married to Pauline; they had two daughters, Bernadette and Colette, and lived at Trim. Willie was admitted to ICU at the Mater hospital on 9<sup>th</sup> March following a heart attack and died on 10<sup>th</sup>. The Cathedral staff are a close-knit community of which I'm privileged to belong. When one suffers, we all suffer together, and we extend our condolences, our love and our support to Colette. *CM*

*In extending our sincere condolences to all who have been bereaved, we assure them of our thoughts and prayers.*



## President Opens Mews

**P**RESIDENT CATHERINE CONNOLLY paid her first official visit to the Cathedral on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February for the official opening of the Mews, a new community and education space within the deanery grounds.

The Mews occupies a site of exceptional historical significance. Formerly a coach house and stable, it stands adjacent to the building where Jonathan Swift lived during his time as Dean. The Mews was reimagined in 2025 by Howley Hayes Cooney Architects and restored by Kelbuild, the building contractor.

Speaking to the large audience gathered in the Mews, President Connolly commended all involved in the work. She said it was an honour to officially open the refurbished building and commented on

the legacy left by former Dean Jonathan Swift particularly in the areas of literature, mental health and society which, she noted, remains relevant today.

‘It’s wonderful to be here and just walking through this oasis of beauty in the middle of the city has had a calming effect on me and I hope it is something that can be shared with as many people as possible. The finished Mews is a great credit to all those involved in the project,’ she said.

The photograph on the cover of *Close News* was featured on the front page of the *Irish Times* the day after the event.

*Above: The President with her husband, the Dean, and two student organists in a practice room in the Mews. Photo and story credit: Lynn Glannville.*



# FANFARES & FIREWORKS

Great American Classics  
arranged for organ

COPLAND *Fanfare for the common man*  
 BARBER *Adagio for strings*  
 BERNSTEIN *Overture 'Candide'*  
 ARNOLD *Independence Day End Credits*  
 and more...

Stuart Nicholson & Harry Meehan *organ*

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March | 19:30  
[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/fanfare](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/fanfare)

## From the Archives

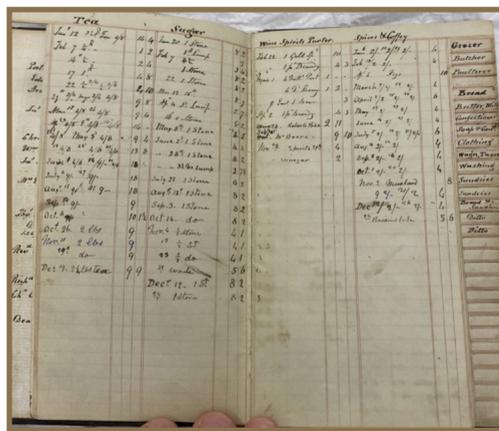
THE CATHEDRAL HAS recently acquired a historic accounts book dated from 1844. Whilst small, this document provides a unique insight into the life and economy of Saint Patrick's Cathedral on the eve of a pivotal year in Irish history.

Amongst the quagmire of numbers some names of note make an appearance, such as Reverend Robert Stevelly, Prebendary of Howth, who rented a property in Charlemont Mall. Sexton William Maguire who served in the role since 1810 following in his father's footsteps is also mentioned, along with his wife, Mary, who acted as robe-keeper.

The account provides a broad look at expenses such as food, clothing, education, and even items such as port and sherry (£1, and £1 2s respectively for those taking note). Income from various property holdings are also recorded, along with the

'poor rates' of each site, a tax or levee on property for the upkeep of work houses and outdoor work schemes which would have a significant role in Irish society in the following years.

The account book will be moved to the RCB Library where it will be available for historians and researchers to study.





## Choir Tour to Paris

**I**N EARLY MARCH, members of the Cathedral Choir travelled to Paris for a short but memorable tour that combined music, worship, and cultural exploration. Tours of this kind provide an important opportunity for the choir to sing in new contexts, represent the Cathedral and Ireland abroad, and experience the rich musical and architectural heritage of Europe's great churches.

Departing Dublin early on Tuesday morning, the group flew to Charles de Gaulle before travelling across the city to their hotel in Bagnolet. After the journey, the first afternoon provided a welcome opportunity to explore the city at a relaxed pace and enjoy dinner together, allowing both the choristers and lay vicars to settle in and prepare for the busy musical schedule ahead.

Wednesday began with a visit to the Trocadéro Gardens, where the choristers gathered for photographs overlooking the

Eiffel Tower, one of the most recognisable landmarks in the world. From there the group made its way to the River Seine for a boat cruise, offering a unique perspective on many of Paris's most famous sights, including the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, and Notre-Dame. The cruise provided a moment to appreciate the scale and beauty of the historic city before the musical work of the tour began in earnest.

The day's principal engagement took place at the magnificent Church of Saint-Sulpice, one of the largest churches in Paris. Famous for its grand classical façade and impressive organ — associated with celebrated French organists such as Charles-Marie Widor — Saint-Sulpice has long been an important centre of sacred music in the city. Following an afternoon rehearsal, the choir gave a public concert in the church, singing to an appreciative audience in a building renowned for its generous acoustic and

musical heritage. Later, the group visited the Arc de Triomphe before walking along the Champs-Élysées, enjoying the lively atmosphere of one of Paris's most famous avenues before returning to the hotel.

Thursday combined further sightseeing with additional musical activities. The morning began with a visit to the Palais Garnier, the spectacular nineteenth-century home of the Paris Opera. Known for its opulent architecture and lavish decoration, the building offered a fascinating glimpse into the history of one of Europe's great operatic traditions. For many in the choir, standing in such a celebrated musical venue provided a moment to consider the enduring cultural importance of music in Paris.

Later in the day the choir travelled to Montmartre, the historic hilltop district long associated with artists, writers, and musicians. Time was spent exploring the streets surrounding the Basilica of

Sacré-Cœur, whose striking white domes dominate the Paris skyline. The district provided an opportunity for the group to enjoy the distinctive atmosphere of this historic quarter, with its cafés, galleries, and views across the city.

That evening the group travelled to the Irish Cultural Centre, located within the historic Irish College in Paris. The Centre occupies a site with a long and significant history in the relationship between Ireland and France, originally founded in the seventeenth century as a seminary for Irish Roman Catholic priests studying on the continent. In the chapel of the Irish College, the choir gave a short private performance for the Irish Ambassador and invited guests. The event offered a fitting moment to celebrate Irish musical tradition abroad and to strengthen cultural links between the Cathedral and the wider Irish community in Paris. The Dean and Marketing Manager



also addressed the group, discussing the Cathedral's tourist operation.

For many members of the choir, the highlight of the tour came on Friday with a performance at Notre-Dame Cathedral. Singing in one of the most iconic churches in the world was a remarkable experience, particularly as the cathedral had only recently reopened

following the devastating fire of 2019 and the subsequent restoration of the building.

Later that afternoon the choir travelled to La Madeleine, another of Paris's most striking churches. The choir's performance there provided a fitting conclusion to a week that had included some of the city's most significant sacred spaces.







# The Dean's Trip to Paris

IT WAS AN enormous privilege for Rosemary and I to be part of the Cathedral Choir's trip to Paris, to where, for five unforgettable days, our choristers, vicars choral, and some friends brought centuries of sacred music and the unmistakable warmth of Ireland itself.

Their voices first soared beneath the towering columns of Église Saint-Sulpice, then lifted hearts anew in the majestic nave of Notre-Dame de Paris, where, I am sure, the best part of a thousand listeners were spellbound by treasures of the Anglican choral tradition, from, for example, the great Irish composer Charles Villiers Stanford, and works from the pen of other composers as well. Finally, their music rang through the elegant La Madeleine, leaving a lingering sense of awe in all who had gathered.

Yet perhaps the most poignant performance was at the Centre Culturel Irlandais, the historic Irish College where generations of Irish priests trained before returning home. In the centuries-old, Saint Patrick's Chapel, the choir's music seemed to bridge past and present, devotion and artistry. Each note resonated in corridors steeped in history, celebrating Ireland's living cultural heritage. Scholars, visitors, and friends of Ireland alike experienced the Cathedral's voice not just as sound, but as a connection across time — a living reminder of the depth, resilience, and joy of Irish culture abroad.

The visit was also a celebration of community and friendship. At the Centre, the choir was welcomed by members of the Irish community, officials from Fáilte Ireland, civic leaders, and His Excellency Niall Burgess, Ambassador of Ireland to France, to whom I presented a copy of *Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin: A History*.

Amongst those whom we met was Fr Jim Doyle from County Wexford, completing (by distance learning) his Doctorate in Divinity at Maynooth, whose presence reminded all of Ireland's enduring spiritual and cultural legacy.

Music has a remarkable way of building bridges. The Choir of Saint Patrick's, performing in the heart of Paris, reminds us that cathedrals are not only monuments of stone but living houses of prayer, culture, and connection. Through music, centuries-old traditions travel easily across borders.

Now, the invitation is open: the red carpet is always unrolled for all visitors here at Saint Patrick's Cathedral Dublin, the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland. I trust they will come and experience the soaring arches, the ancient stone, the glorious stained glass, and the music that carried Dublin's voice across Paris. We look forward to welcoming you, sharing this living tradition, and having you with us as part of the Cathedral family.

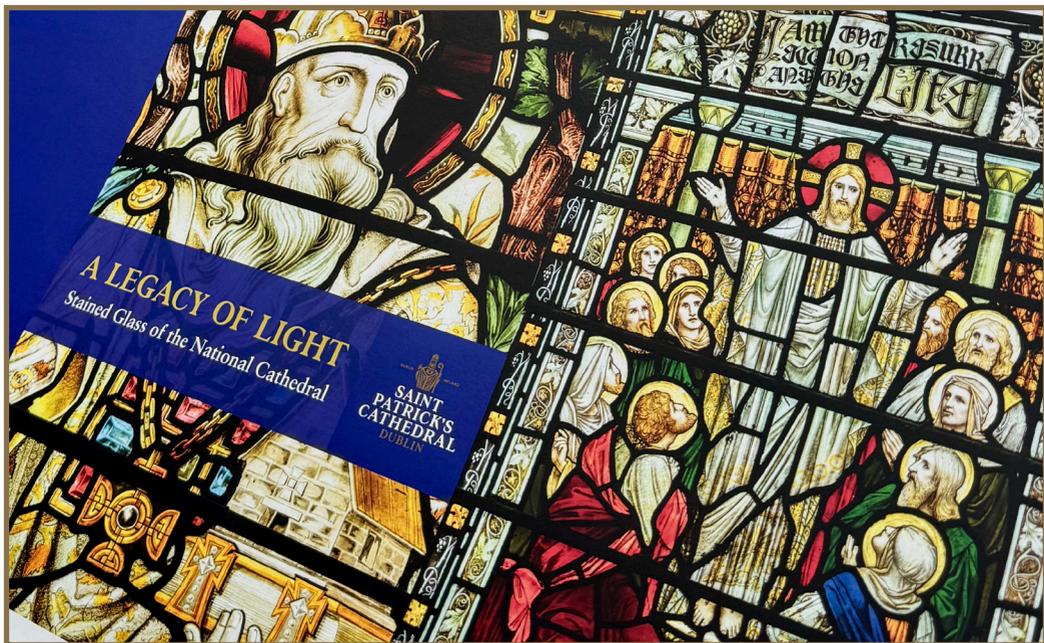
Our most grateful thanks to Mr Nicholson, Mr Leigh, the members of the Choir, the supervisors, and all who made this very special visit such an unforgettable experience.

*Read more about the Paris trip on Page 14.*



The Very Revd Dr  
WILLIAM MORTON

*Dean & Ordinary*



## Stained Glass Window Book

AT THE END of February, Clark Brydon travelled to London to finalise the printing of the Cathedral's new publication on our stained glass windows. Written by Aaron Hoey and Jack Cassidy, 'A Legacy of Light'

features over 80 pages of interpretation and images of the stained glass windows at the Cathedral, shot by Tristan Hutchinson.

Following the success of the Cathedral's souvenir guide book, produced in 2024, the Cathedral chose to re-engage publishing company *Memory Lane* to bring this new product from idea to the shelves of the Cathedral Shop.

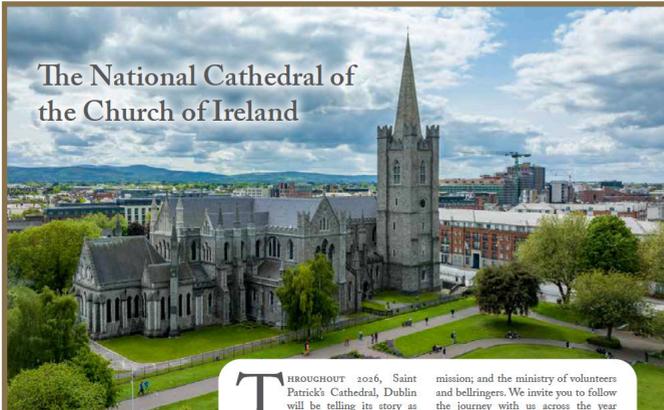
The book was edited by Clark Brydon, proofread by the Dean's Vicar and Kryzel Bonifacio, and printed by *Pureprint Group*.

You will be able to purchase a copy from the Shop from Saint Patrick's Day onwards.

*L-R: Andrew Humphries and Louise Sword from Memory Lane, with Clark Brydon at the press pass day.*



## The National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland



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**T**HROUGHOUT 2026, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin will be telling its story as the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland. Rather than attempting to say everything at once, we will explore over several issues the threads that shape the Cathedral today: community; education; liturgy and worship; music; conservation; legacy and

mission; and the ministry of volunteers and bellringers. We invite you to follow the journey with us across the year ahead. In this opening reflection, The Very Reverend Dr William Morton considers how the missionary witness of Saint Patrick continues to shape the worship, welcome, and daily life of Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

**O**VER A recent two-week period, some 700 secondary school pupils streamed through the doors of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. They came to engage with our Education Department and to learn about the story, tradition, worship, and ethos of the National Cathedral. In welcoming them, I reminded the pupils that Saint Patrick, when first brought to these shores, was not much older than they are now. Yet through courage and faithfulness to his calling, he helped shape a Christian community whose influence endured across generations. The present Cathedral of Saint Patrick — constructed between 1220 and 1260 and restored in the nineteenth century by Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness — is the third church known to occupy this site. Yet one striking truth remains: Saint Patrick himself never saw the cathedral that now bears his name. I explained

preach beyond the edges of world. Sacred space and believers gathered; it did them. Community came took shape in stone only taken root in hearts. This insight finds an ministry of Jonathan Swift, Saint Patrick's from 1713 and author of *Gulliver's Travels* understood how fragile human can be. His satire exposed power and self-importance his readers that what appears in scale may, on closer inspection, be small indeed. What, then, might Swift of the claim that Patrick the cathedral that bears his name might have appreciated the missionary who baptised a not design flying buttresses captive turned bishop did



### Lent & Holy Week Services

All are welcome to join us for our daily services or special services throughout Lent.

Tuesday 17th March —  
*Saint Patrick's Day*  
09:15 — Said Eucharist

CANONS IN RESIDENCE  
Sunday 1st March 2026 —

# CoI Gazette Features

**S**AINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL will feature regularly in the pages of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* in the months ahead, offering readers across the Church an opportunity to glimpse more of the life and ministry of Ireland's National Cathedral. Through a series of monthly contributions, the Cathedral will share stories from its worshipping community, its music and liturgy, and the many ways in which the building continues to serve both Church and wider society.

The *Gazette*, which has been the Church's principal newspaper for more than 170 years, reaches readers throughout the island of Ireland and beyond. By contributing regularly to its pages, the Cathedral will be able to highlight the breadth of activity that takes place here each week — from daily worship and major liturgical celebrations to educational work, music-making, and the welcome extended to visitors from around the world.

For many members of the Church of Ireland, the Cathedral is a familiar symbol but a less familiar community. These articles will help to bridge that gap by offering a closer view of the Cathedral's life. Sharing these moments through the *Gazette* provides a way of connecting that ministry more directly with the wider Church.

Above all, the initiative offers an opportunity for the Cathedral to tell its story in its own voice. By sharing these glimpses of its life and ministry, the Cathedral hopes to strengthen its connection with parishes and readers across the Church, inviting them to see the Cathedral not only as a historic building, but as a living community of prayer, music, and hospitality.

You can read the Cathedral's contributions in the *Gazette* each month with a subscription, available in print and online at: [coigazette.ie](http://coigazette.ie)

# Saint Patrick's Cathedral Past Choristers' and Pupils' Association Annual Reunion Dinner

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 | Wine Reception at 19:00 | Dinner at 19:30 | €65 per ticket  
Hyatt Centric, Dean Street, The Liberties, Dublin D08 W3X7

**T**HE PRESIDENT AND Committee extend a warm invitation to all Past Choristers, Pupils and Friends of the Cathedral Schools to join us at the Annual Reunion Dinner at The Hyatt Centric, The Liberties, Dublin 8. Light musical entertainment will be provided during the evening. There will be a raffle on the night in aid of the Music Scholarship. Please note that there is no parking at the hotel.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guests (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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*To help with the seating plan, please indicate date of leaving the school/choir if applicable.*

Special dietary requirements (if any). Vegetarian option available, ask your server.

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I enclose a cheque for € \_\_\_\_ in respect of myself and \_\_\_\_ guests, at €65 per person.

Cheques payable to *St Patrick's Cathedral Past Choristers' and Pupils' Association* or to the bank account at: IBAN: IE82 BOFI 9000 1716 3121 80, BIC: BOFIE2D

For direct bank payments, please reference lead contact name (essential) x no. of tickets. Ideally: DINNER. JOE BLOGS x 2 (where text limited, ensure lead name visible).

Return form before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 to: Louis Parminter, c/o St Patrick's Cathedral, St Patricks Close, Dublin D08 H6X3. Or by email to: [stpatrickscpcpa@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickscpcpa@gmail.com)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Association Secretary, Susan Ronan, at the email address above.



## President of Montenegro

ON 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, the Dean welcomed the President of Montenegro, His Excellency Jakov Milatović. It was a pleasure to host President Milatović during his time in Dublin and to share the history, heritage, and ongoing mission of the Cathedral. We are honoured to have marked this special occasion together and to continue strengthening the ties of friendship between Ireland and Montenegro.

*L-R: Stephen Farrell, Jakov Milatović, the Dean, and Louis Parminter.*

## Farewell to Shannon

A LUNCH WAS held on Tuesday 10th March in honour of our colleague for the past eleven months — Shannon Byrne — who integrated seamlessly into the wider team in the Cathedral. We are sorry to see her leaving us to return to her post with *Grant Thornton*.

Maggie has recently joined the team and has had the benefit of a comprehensive handover from Shannon in the past couple of weeks. Stacie is Finance Manager, and we know that we have a stellar team leading the way and implementing best practice for all aspects of good governance in relation to all that needs to be done from payroll to remittances and fiscal details.

*Kelley*

*L-R: Maggie, Shannon, Stacie and the Dean.*





## Garda Liam Holland

*In conversation with Kelley Bermingham from the Dublin Airport Lounge en route to Boston to march in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade.*

**When did you join up with the Gardaí?**

**I** JOINED AN GARDA Síochána in 1986, going to train in Templemore and then on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1987, I came to Kevin Street (my wife Frieda's birthday). I have served here in Dublin 8, A District, for 40 years and am retiring on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**Tell me about your family?**

Frieda and I married in 1990 and we have two sons — both grown and working away, doing well in life. One has an equine business, and the other is working in IT for Tusla. Frieda is a paediatric oncology nurse — the first in Ireland based in Crumlin

Children's Hospital. She is involved in the transition to the new children's hospital. With both parents involved in shift work, this can present challenges for rearing a family, however, we were blessed when Frieda's mother, Brenda Clinton, stepped up and played a huge part in all our lives. She made the challenges of work life balance so much easier and passed away at 94 years young.

**What are your favourite memories of working in this area?**

My fondest memories of working in the area are walking the beat on Sunday mornings through Saint Patrick's Close

— so beautiful when the sun shines; the smell of Guinness Hops being brewed, and the aroma of breads and cakes being baked in St Catherine's bakery from 4am on. Strains of Dublin can be heaven. The Dublin Saunter song goes through my mind when I think about days like that. (Liam is a singer and guitarist and has often entertained community groups including the A District Senior Citizen's Holiday Programme which ran for many years until 2025)

### **Tell us about your career progression?**

I was on the regular unit for 18 years and then joined the Community Policing Unit — I was the first Community Garda in Kevin Street. I then became a Juvenile Liaison Officer and served the needs of young people and families for 22 years from 2004 onwards. I engaged with families, schools, *YouthReach* and general community in this complex role. I served on the Liberties Festival committee for 36 years. I was involved with local organisations like Saint Patrick's and remember all the Dean's back to Dean Victor Griffin's time and I knew both his sons, one of them having also served as a member of An Garda Síochána. I worked with The Iveagh Trust and on the Cabbage Patch — myself and Noel Boland (Cathedral Lane) and Tommy Butler, local resident, organised to get the football pitch in Cabbage Garden funded by UEFA Grassroots and DCC Sports Officer at the time. We began in the late 90s and the pitch was completed in 2000. The original pitch was tarmac. UEFA Europe league was held in the Aviva in Dublin, and a small percentage the proceeds of the gate tickets went to support the grassroots project for the upgrade of the pitch. Since we were ready to go with our plans, the project got funded and that was great.

### **What will you miss the most?**

I will definitely miss the people. It is such a diverse community, and there is a great community spirit in the area. I can walk into any complex in the area, and never a bother. There is a respect and a legacy for the years I have served here. One particular home has 3 generations of individuals that I would have worked with quite a bit. It has been a privilege to serve in the community and to work in an area which is so vibrant and up and coming. Landmarks and hotels and tourism and community facilities have all improved in the area.

### **What is your wish for the community?**

Going forward, what I would wish for the area is an improvement in the community and sporting facilities — these are essential to help make people's lives better.

### **How would you like to be remembered in A District?**

I'd like people to remember that if I said I would do something for someone, that I did it.

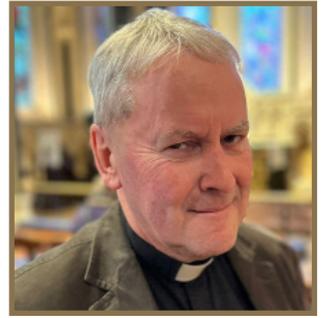
*Liam will end his service in the community on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026. We wish him well in his retirement and thank him for all his years of dedication to the safety and wellbeing of young people and their families in the community for the past 40 years.*

*Photo: Liam Holland and Louis Parminter, following a pre-opening tour of the new Deanery Mews. Credit: Kelley Bermingham.*

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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:  
[adminstrator@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:adminstrator@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

## Safeguarding

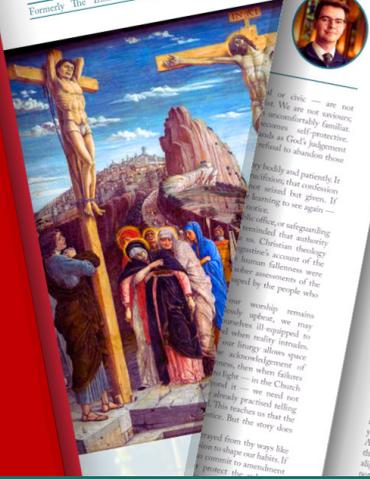
**T**HE CATHEDRAL'S SAFEGUARDING Policy can be viewed on our website. If you have a general enquiry or any concern relating to safeguarding at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, please contact the Safeguarding Officer:

**Ms Kelley Bermingham** [safeguarding@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:safeguarding@stpatrickscathedral.ie)  
COMMUNITY & SAFEGUARDING OFFICER +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.



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