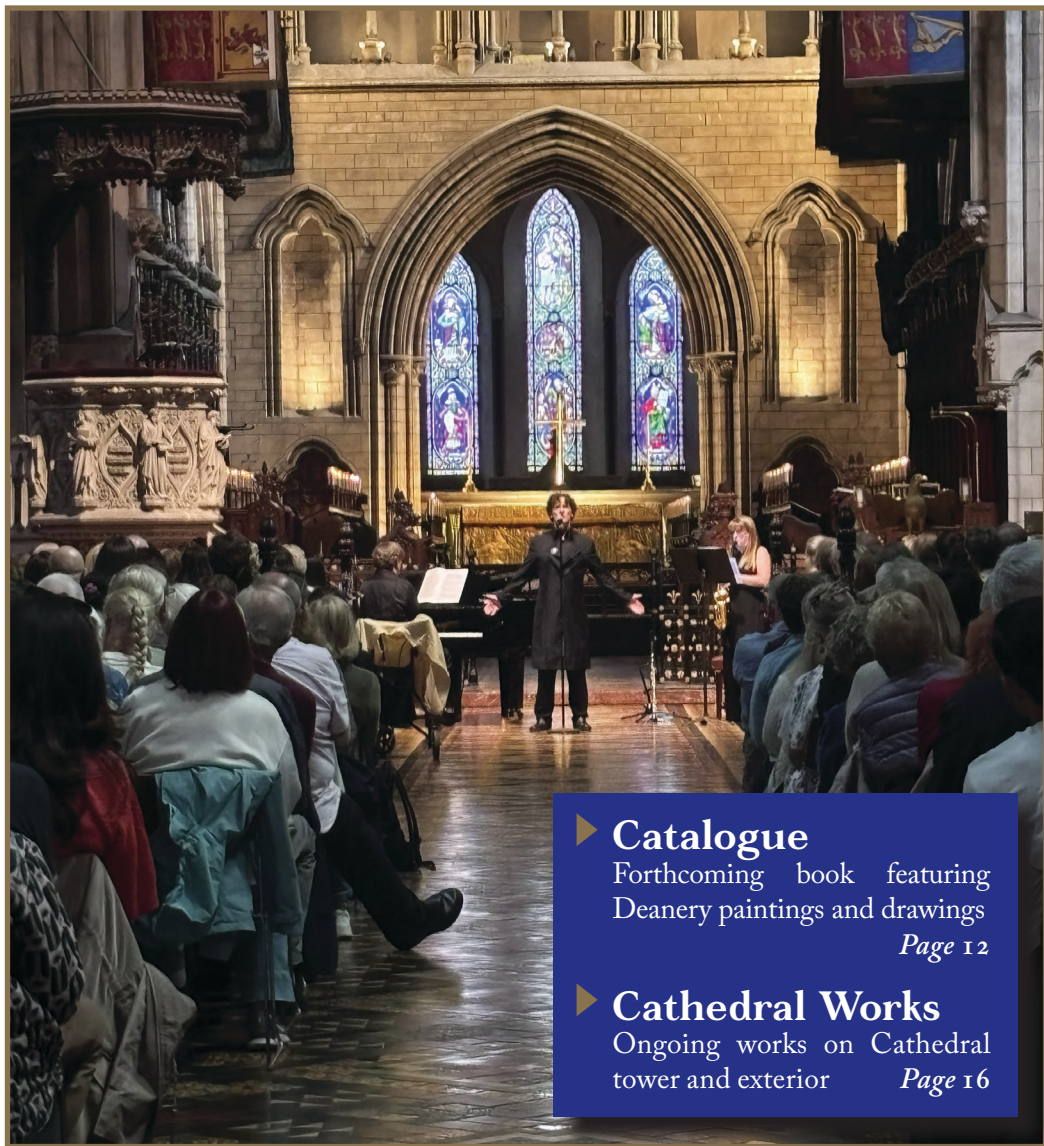


CLOSE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026 · SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN · €2.50



► Catalogue

Forthcoming book featuring
Deanery paintings and drawings

Page 12

► Cathedral Works

Ongoing works on Cathedral
tower and exterior

Page 16



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*)

IN 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 6*. Those unable to be present in person may join the Cathedral's worship online at spcd.ie/live.

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Cover: Lay Vicar Choral Morgan Crowley, Master of Music Stuart Nicholson, and Victoria Green performing for a recital during Heritage Week; see page 18.



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Dean & Ordinary

The Reverend Canon Charles Mullen
Dean's Vicar & Prebendary of Rathmichael

Mr Gavan Woods
Administrator

Mr Albert Fenton
Board Member & Chairman of The Friends

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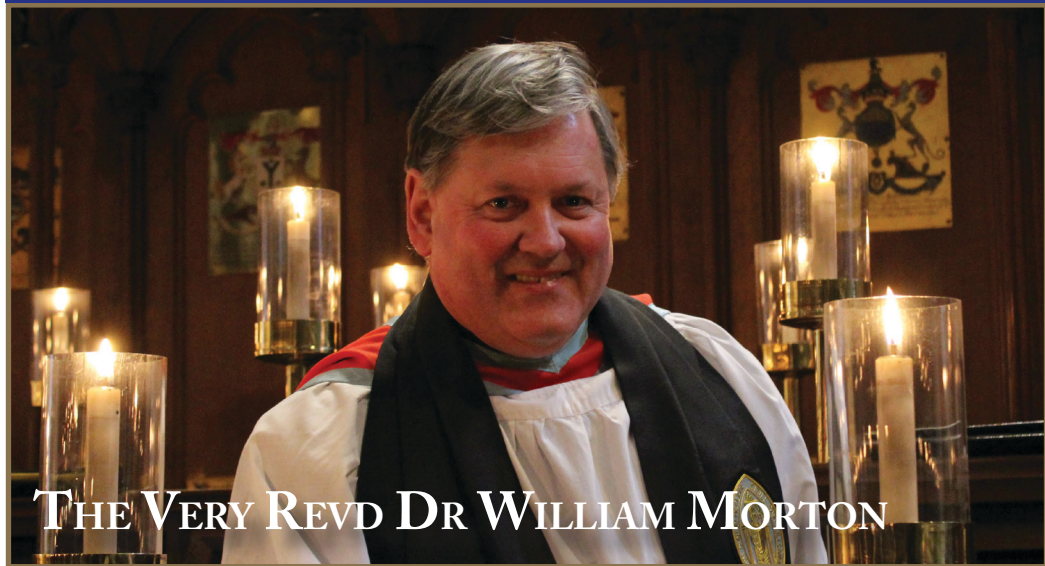
Ms Kryzel Bonifacio
Education Officer

Close News is the monthly newsletter of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. It is designed and printed in-house by the Editorial Committee. 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 October issue of *Close News* will be:
Wednesday 23rd September 2026**

The Dean Writes...



THE VERY REVD DR WILLIAM MORTON

SEPTEMBER IS A month of beginnings. The long days of summer give way to a new season: children return to school, teachers and parents settle once more into familiar routines, and here at Saint Patrick's we welcome back our choristers and begin again the great rhythm of the Cathedral year.

There is something wonderfully hopeful about September. New choristers learn their first notes; others return with greater confidence and experience. Schools come through our doors. New staff and volunteers join those whose faithful work has become part of the Cathedral's life. And all of us, in different ways, bring our gifts and talents to the common life of this place.

The season of harvest reminds us that thanksgiving takes many forms. We rightly give thanks for the fruits of the earth and for the abundance with which we are blessed, but we can also give thanks for the gifts that are less easily gathered into baskets or measured in sheaves: musical, practical, intellectual, imaginative

and spiritual gifts, and the people who generously share them with others. These, too, are blessings for which we should be grateful.

One of our hymns reminds us that "all good gifts around us" are sent from heaven above. Its familiar words invite us not simply to receive those gifts, but to recognise them, give thanks for them, and use them generously.

So, as September begins, may we give thanks for all who contribute to the life of this Cathedral and for all that lies ahead.

May the new choristers discover the joy of singing; may our schools find welcome and inspiration here; and may each of us have the courage to offer whatever gifts we possess in the service of God and of one another.

There is a rich harvest here at Saint Patrick's - a harvest of people, gifts, talents and possibilities, and for all of them we give thanks.

Yours, as ever,
William

Condolences

Glen Hansard – A friend of Saint Patrick's

THE UNTIMELY DEATH of Glen Hansard has been deeply felt by many, not least by those of us at Saint Patrick's Cathedral who had come to know him as a friend of this place.

There are some people who perform in Saint Patrick's, and there are others who somehow become part of its story. Glen was one of the latter.

Over the years, he returned to the Cathedral again and again, most often to sing for charity. He had a wonderful ability to make this great, ancient building feel wonderfully intimate — as though he were simply singing among friends.

His Christmas busk in 2021 could not be held in its traditional location outside the Gaiety Theatre because of pandemic restrictions.

Glen therefore asked if he and his friends — among them Bono, Shane MacGowan, Lisa O'Neill and others — might record the session in Saint Patrick's, without a live audience, to be transmitted on YouTube in aid of the Simon Community. What an unforgettable event it was, raising the extraordinary sum of €1.5 million for people experiencing homelessness.

It was deeply poignant when Glen's family asked if his funeral service could take place in Saint Patrick's. The Dean is most grateful to Mr Nicholson, Mr Leigh and the members of the Cathedral Choir for their marvellous contribution to the funeral liturgy, adding their voices to a farewell that reflected something of Glen's extraordinary gift for bringing people together through music.

We at Saint Patrick's will remember him with enormous affection — for his remarkable talent, his generosity, his warmth and, above all, his friendship. Glen knew that music could bring people together. In Saint Patrick's, he certainly did.

WWM



Fr Kieran O'Mahony, O.S.A

THE RECENT DEATH of Fr Kieran O'Mahony, O.S.A, is a sad loss to the Augustinian community and to the wider Church family in Dublin.

Fr Kieran was a much-valued friend of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, where he served as one of our Ecumenical Canons from 2012–2017. His commitment to Christian unity was not simply a matter of words or formal occasions; it was something

he lived with warmth, generosity and genuine friendship. He was, as Archbishop Michael Jackson has rightly described him, a fearless ecumenist.

For those of us at the Cathedral, Fr Kieran's presence brought together something very precious — a deep love of his own Augustinian tradition alongside an equally deep respect and affection for Christians of other traditions.

He will be remembered not only for his ministry and scholarship, but for his kindness, humour and the gracious spirit in which he built friendships.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his Augustinian brothers, his family and all who mourn him.

I was honoured to attend the Funeral Mass which took place on Friday, August 21, in the Church of St Augustine and St John, John's Lane, Dublin.

May he rest in peace. All who mourn are assured of our thoughts and prayers.

WWM



Chapter News

WE ARE SORRY to bid farewell to Canon Paul Thompson who, as Prebendary of Donaghmore, has represented the Bishop and Diocese of Clogher on the Cathedral Chapter since 2023. As a former prison chaplain, he would startle congregations in his sermons here by 'reflecting on my time in prison...' Canon Thompson and his wife Lorraine immersed themselves in Cathedral life in his weeks of residence, and we shall miss their company here. We wish them well in retirement.

The untimely death of Fr Kieran O'Mahony, O.S.A., following a diagnosis of cancer, brought us deep sorrow. As Prebendary of Finglas 2012–17 he was one of our oecumenical canons. He lived latterly at the Augustinian House in John's Lane, often attending Evensong on weekdays. A lecturer in Biblical Studies, he became President of the National Bible Society of Ireland. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Augustine and Saint Patrick pray for him. He rests in God's peace.

CM



A Shot from the Canon

THE REVD CANON
CHARLES MULLEN

JESUS URGES US in the Gospel to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him. By denying ourselves, Jesus isn't asking us to ignore ourselves, for our cross is made up of our own weaknesses and strengths; doubts and faith; sorrows and joys. We can try to improve, yet still we remain ourselves. Calvary's cross draws our eyes to Jesus, to his agony and death which led to his, and our, victory. We've been created in God's image, so when we examine ourselves and our experiences we see the cross of Christ revealed at the heart of God's creation.

CM

In the Cross of Christ I glory

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming
Adds more lustre to the day.

*From a hymn
by John Bowring (1792–1872)*

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

Sunday Services

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

DAY	SERVICES	CANON IN RESIDENCE
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 6 th September	09:15 – Eucharist (<i>said</i>) 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong	THE REVD J. K. McWHIRTER <i>Prebendary of Taney</i>
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 13 th September	09:15 – Eucharist (<i>said</i>) 11:15 – Choral Matins 15:15 – Choral Evensong	THE REVD H. GILMORE <i>Prebendary of Howth</i>
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 20 th September	09:15 – Eucharist (<i>said</i>) 11:15 – Choral Eucharist 15:15 – Choral Evensong	THE REVD S. T. R. GAMBLE <i>Prebendary of Maynooth</i>
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Sunday 27 th September	09:15 – Eucharist (<i>said</i>) 11:15 – Choral Matins 15:15 – Choral Evensong	THE REVD P. R. CAMPION <i>Canon Precentor</i>

Saints & Celebrations

AS SEPTEMBER UNFOLDS the Church commemorates a remarkable array of saints and sacred feasts. **THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** (8th September), celebrates the birth of the mother of Jesus, recognising her important role in the Incarnation. This nativity feast is based on early Christian traditions recounting Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, and the special grace surrounding her arrival. **FINNIAN** (10th September) was a notable scholar from Ulster and helped establish important centres of Christian learning in Ireland, including the Movilla monastery in County Down. **AILBHE** (12th September), the first bishop of Emly, was known as one of the four great patrons of Ireland and referred to as 'The Patrick of Munster' for his missionary efforts in the early sixth century. The story of **MATTHEW** (21st September) highlights the theme of mercy and calling sinners to repentance, reflecting his transformation from tax collector to disciple and evangelist. **EUNAN** (23rd September), Abbot of Raphoe, is remembered for establishing monastic life in Raphoe, County Donegal and his leadership in the early medieval Irish church. **FIN BARRE** (25th September) is patron saint of Cork City, founding a monastic hermitage at Gougane Barra and a church at Cork. Finally, the feast of **MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS** (29th September), also known as Michaelmas, honours St Michael the Archangel, recognised as the leader of the heavenly host in the fight against evil, and all angels. In British and Irish tradition, this feast also marks the start of autumn.

Courtesy of the Church of Ireland Gazette



The Administrator Writes...

MR GAVAN WOODS

THE NUMBER AND origin of our visitors can be used as a proxy for the economic sentiment and consumer behaviour in our key markets, traditionally the United States and the European Union. We saw growth year on year until early June. Seemingly overnight we experienced a significant decline in the number of visitors from the US, a trend that has deepened through the summer.

CSO figures run contrary to the pattern we are experiencing but conversations with our peers and with the state tourist bodies confirm that we are not an anomaly; indeed other attractions are seeing a more serious decline with this cohort. Even the expected bump in tourists coming to the city to attend the American football games failed to materialise in the scale that was hoped.

The US is still the single biggest market, but it has softened. Exactly why is open to conjecture, but a reduction in consumer confidence there is probably a significant factor. Our visitor figures can tell a lot; I can recall the month in 2010 when they began to rise following the world wide financial crisis, an early indicator that the worm had begun to turn. Indeed international tourism was a leader in the post-crash recovery here in Ireland.

We do not neglect our traditional markets but we have looked for new

opportunities to broaden our customer, and hence income, base. A growing engagement by the state with Canada has opened the door to the potential there. Hard work by our marketing team on the ground has assisted the increase of Canadians in our visitor mix from 2% to 12% in just over year. This tremendous result has helped offset the reduction in numbers from the US and protected our income to some degree.

Our online shop has been taken down temporarily as it is being rethought and redesigned to meet the expectations of the modern consumer. Very shortly it will be live again. A high percentage of those who buy their entrance tickets online have requested further communications from us. Reaching out to them on an ongoing basis brings our bespoke Cathedral stock to the attention of this ever expanding group. Again, this helps widen our income base enabling us to support and protect the mission and charitable goals of the Cathedral into the future.

We await the final quarter of the year with interest. The intensity of the summer may be drawing to a conclusion but the period ahead is our busiest in terms of events. Our thanks go to the teams of staff and volunteers who represented the Cathedral so well over the past months and to those who will pick up the traces now in the run up to Christmas.

GHW



Pictured L-R: Lord Iveagh, Alamo Letter Society co-founders Rosser Newton and Bill McNutt, and the Dean.

The Alamo Letter – A Bridge Across the Atlantic

THERE ARE OCCASIONS at Saint Patrick's Cathedral which remind us that, although we may be rooted in one particular place, our story reaches far beyond it. The dedication of the Alamo Letter Plaque last Friday morning was one such occasion.

The plaque commemorates the remarkable “Victory or Death” letter written by William Barret Travis in 1836, appealing for help as he and his fellow defenders of the Alamo faced overwhelming odds. Since 2023 the Alamo Letter Society have been gifting bronze duplicates of the plaque to each of the 254 courthouses in the state of Texas.

I was particularly honoured to have been asked to dedicate the plaque by the 4th Earl of Iveagh, Edward Guinness, Chairman of the Irish dimension of the Alamo Letter Society. We were delighted to welcome a wonderful group of visitors from the United States to the Cathedral for this very special occasion, the first to be gifted outside of the United States.

There is also a significant Irish dimension to this story. Ten Irish-born defenders of the Alamo lost their lives in the battle and were honoured by the Irish Government in 2023, when a plaque was dedicated at the Alamo in their memory.

The present plaque, bearing Travis's famous letter, is being gifted to Ireland — a fitting reciprocal gesture and another chapter in the long and remarkable story connecting Ireland and America.

It was therefore particularly fitting that the plaque should be dedicated in Saint Patrick's, a Cathedral whose own history stretches back more than eight centuries and which has witnessed so many links between Ireland and the wider world.

The warmth and enthusiasm of our American guests made the

occasion especially memorable. There was a wonderful sense that this was not simply the dedication of a plaque, but the celebration of a shared story of courage, sacrifice, friendship and heritage.

The plaque will now continue its journey, but the story it represents has found a meaningful Irish chapter.

On Friday morning, 28th August, in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the Atlantic seemed just a little narrower — and the enduring bond between Ireland and America a little stronger.

WWM

Visiting Choirs

DURING THE SUMMER months, while the Cathedral Choir took a much deserved break, the Cathedral welcomed a variety of talented choirs from around the world to join us for our services. Pictured below are the choir of St Ann's Church, Manchester,

who sang for our services on 28th and 30th August. We were delighted to welcome back Robin Shakespeare, former organ scholar at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, who is now Director of Music at St Ann's.

Photo courtesy of Thomas McTague.



Three Centuries on Canvas: The Deanery Collection at Saint Patrick's Cathedral



BEHIND THE FAMILIAR walls of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, lies an artistic collection that tells a remarkable story spanning almost three centuries. Displayed in the eighteenth-century interiors of the Deanery is a succession of portraits of deans and other significant figures, alongside watercolours and drawings that provide a visual record of the Cathedral and its changing surroundings.

Despite the historical and artistic significance of the collection, it has never before been comprehensively documented and published. That is now set to change with the forthcoming publication of *Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin and The Deanery: Catalogue of the Collection of Portraits, Watercolours and Drawings*, by art historian Dr Paul Caffrey.

The book will bring together approximately 33 portraits, dating from

Pictured above: Francis Bindon's portrait of Jonathan Swift. Images courtesy of Dr Paul Caffrey.

the eighteenth century to the present day, as well as the Deanery's collection of watercolours and drawings. Many of the portraits were commissioned specifically for the Deanery and remain displayed in the rooms for which they were intended. Together, they offer an unusually continuous record of both the people associated with Saint Patrick's and the development of Irish portraiture.

At the centre of the collection is one of the most recognisable figures in the Cathedral's long history: Jonathan Swift. Francis Bindon's imposing full-length portrait of Swift was painted from life in 1739, during Swift's tenure as Dean of Saint Patrick's. The Cathedral's west door appears in the background, firmly connecting the sitter with the institution he served as Dean for more than three decades.

The portrait is regarded as the finest of Bindon's paintings of Swift and is particularly significant as the Cathedral marks the tercentenary of the publication of *Gulliver's Travels*. It remains in its original carved oak frame, designed and made by Dublin sculptor and woodcarver John Houghton. The frame itself is an important work, providing art historians with evidence that has helped in the attribution of other eighteenth-century Dublin woodcarving.

Swift, however, is only the beginning of the story. The collection provides a visual succession of personalities associated with the Cathedral from the eighteenth century to the present day. It also represents an impressive cross-section of Irish artistic life, including work by five presidents of the Royal Hibernian Academy.

Among the earliest artists represented is Charles Jervas, born in Ireland around 1675 and later educated in Italy. Jervas became part of Swift's circle

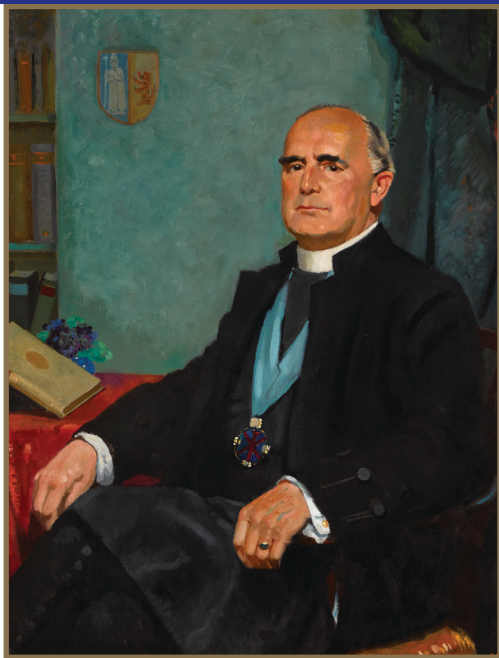
in London and rose to become principal painter to both George I and George II. His portrait of William King, Archbishop of Dublin, forms part of the Deanery collection and once belonged to John Carteret, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1724 to 1730.

Another major figure is Robert Hunter, one of Dublin's foremost portrait painters of the eighteenth century. In 1783, Hunter was commissioned to paint George Nugent-Temple-Grenville, 2nd Earl Temple and later Marquess of Buckingham. The full-length portrait depicts him in the ceremonial mantle and regalia of the newly established Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, of which he became the first Grand Master.

The Order of Saint Patrick appears elsewhere in the collection. Hunter's portrait of Dean John Cradock depicts the



Portrait of George Nugent-Temple-Grenville by Robert Hunter (1783).



L: Portrait of Dean James Verschoyle by William Cuming (1810). R: Portrait of Dean David Wilson by James Sinton Sleator (1943).

first registrar of the Order, while Stephen Catterson Smith's portrait of Dean John West was later altered to include the distinctive sky-blue ribbon and gold insignia following West's appointment as registrar in 1864.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries are equally well represented. William Cuming, one of the most popular Irish portraitists of the early nineteenth century, painted Dean Verschoyle in 1810. The work was exhibited that same year at the Society of Artists of Ireland exhibition in Dublin. Sarah Purser, one of the most important figures in Irish art of her generation, is represented by her portrait of Dean Jellett from the 1890s.

James Sinton Sleator, who studied under William Orpen and later became President of the Royal Hibernian Academy, painted Dean Wilson during the 1940s. Sleator's career provides one of the

more colourful stories behind the artists represented in the Deanery. He is said to have served as the model for the head of Cúchulainn in Oliver Sheppard's famous sculpture, now in Dublin's General Post Office, and also gave painting lessons to Winston Churchill.

The tradition did not end with the historic collection. Twentieth and twenty-first century portraits by artists including Derek Hill, Robert Taylor Carson, David Hone, Carey Clarke, Blaise Smith and Conor Walton demonstrate the Cathedral's continuing commitment to commissioning portraiture. It is this continuity, stretching across four centuries, that makes the collection particularly unusual.

Yet the forthcoming book will extend beyond portraiture. The Deanery also holds an important collection of watercolours and drawings depicting Saint Patrick's Cathedral before major

restoration work and recording aspects of its architectural history and surrounding area. Among the most significant are interior views by John Cruise, exhibited at the Royal Hibernian Academy between 1827 and 1830 and awarded prizes by the Royal Dublin Society.

Earlier still are topographical drawings by Jonas Blaymire, including depictions of the Cathedral's west front and north transept dating from 1733, as well as the tomb of Archbishop Jones. Collectively, these works provide visual evidence of how the Cathedral looked and functioned at different points in its history.

For Dr Caffrey, the project brings together several strands of Irish history: art, architecture, biography, genealogy and ecclesiastical life. A graduate in Art and Architectural History from Trinity College Dublin, he has previously catalogued private art collections as well as the collection of portrait miniatures at the National Gallery of Ireland, and has published extensively on Irish art, design and biography.

His new catalogue will include entries on the individual artists and sitters, placing both within their social and historical contexts. It will also explore the history of the Deanery itself and the interiors in which the portraits have traditionally been displayed.

The significance of the project becomes clearer when compared with other historic Dublin institutions. Portrait collections at locations such as the Provost's House and Mansion House have already been extensively catalogued and published. Saint Patrick's, meanwhile, has a substantial body of scholarship devoted to its architecture, monuments, stained glass, music, restoration and ecclesiastical history. Its paintings and watercolours

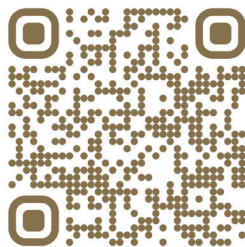
have received comparatively little attention as a collection.

The forthcoming publication aims to address that gap. All of the portraits and watercolours will be reproduced in colour using newly commissioned high-resolution digital photography. The design and production of the volume will be undertaken by specialist art publishers, with the intention of creating a book that serves both as an authoritative scholarly catalogue and as a lasting visual record of the collection.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral is also inviting supporters to become subscribers to the publication and help bring the project to completion. For a contribution of €250, subscribers will have their names permanently recorded in the book, receive a complimentary copy and be invited to a private reception in the Deanery to mark its launch alongside the author, fellow subscribers and Cathedral representatives.

For those with an interest in the Irish art or the history of Dublin, especially in the context of the Church of Ireland, the publication promises to reveal a collection that has spent centuries quietly telling its story from the walls of the Deanery. Those wishing to become a subscriber or to learn more about the project are invited to scan the QR code below or contact marketing@stpattrickscathedral.ie.

*Support the publication of
the catalogue:*





Summer & Autumn Cathedral Works

A NUMBER OF works have been taking place at the Cathedral over the summer months, including landscaping improvements, upgrades to facilities, and essential works to the fabric of the building.

Some much-needed improvements have been made to the landscaping at the North Entrance. New Yew hedging, Lavender planting, and two Holly trees in planters have given the area a wonderful lift, while the addition of a stone bench opposite the North Porch has been warmly welcomed. These works, undertaken by Garden Developments, have created a renewed sense of welcome on the north side of the Cathedral. We look forward to the installation of new welcoming signage in the coming weeks, which will complete this part of the project.

Further external works will include setting some of the St Peter's grave slabs into the north lawn, while the stone steps from Patrick Street down into the Cathedral grounds at the north-west corner will also be repointed.

Inside the Cathedral, work is nearing completion on upgrading the Minot Tower toilets. This project will increase capacity and provide individual cubicles, each with the required hand dryers, wash hand basins, and associated facilities. Other important elements have included the installation of a new extraction system and the lowering of the floor to allow for a fully compliant ramp for wheelchair users. It is expected that this project will be completed before the end of September, and we are grateful to KEL Build for their work. KEL Build also undertook last year's Mews restoration,

Above: New landscaping on the North Entrance of the Cathedral. Photo by Kryzel Bonifacio.

and we look forward to the completion of these works to a similarly high standard.

External works are also continuing, and many will have noticed two sets of scaffolding on the south of the Cathedral. The South Porch and the aisles on either side are currently being repointed. Work has progressed well: the cement pointing has largely been cut out, and repointing in lime mortar is now underway. During the works, however, it was discovered that badly rusting iron cramps had caused significant lifting of the coping stones above the South Porch entrance, while two finials had also split and will need to be replaced. These issues require some additions to the scaffolding and around four weeks of additional work, so this contract is now expected to continue until mid-October. Classic Conservation and Restoration are the contractors for this project and are well known to Saint Patrick's, having worked on the majority of our stone-masonry projects over the past 20 years.

At the south-east of the Cathedral, the east slope of the South Transept is being re-roofed. This work is also scheduled to finish in mid-October, although, as with all such projects, additional works may be required once the old slates and badly damaged lead valleys are lifted. The contractor for this



project is Rock Castle, who are new to Saint Patrick's but bring considerable experience of working on heritage buildings.

We are most grateful to all of the contractors involved in these projects, and to the Cathedral Architect, James Howley. Our own staff have also enabled much of this work, and we extend our thanks to them for their support, patience, and good humour as they have worked around disruption to canteens, WCs, and other arrangements during the summer months.

*Louis Parminster
Cathedral Manager*



Left: Scaffolding over the South Porch, which is being repointed. Above: One of the damaged finials above the South Porch. Photos by Louis Parminster.



Heritage Week 2026 Recap

HERITAGE WEEK TOOK place this year from 15th-23rd August, and once again the Cathedral participated by hosting a variety of special events including workshops, tours, talks, and recitals.

Highlights from our festival programme included five recitals featuring members of our Music Department. As the Cathedral Choir is typically on break from July to August, these were a fantastic way for summertime visitors to listen to the talented musicians at the Cathedral.

On Monday 17th August Cathedral Board Member and Chairman of the Friends, Mr Albert Fenton, shared his research about Church of Ireland women during the revolutionary period in a packed-out evening lecture in the Mews. Meanwhile, on Saturday 15th August architectural historian, Mr Adrian Le Harivel, led guided walks of the Cathedral

and surrounding areas, tracing the medieval structures still visible around Dublin.

A variety of workshops were offered throughout the festival for both adults and children. Family workshops focused on crafts such as Celtic knot artwork and medieval illumination. Arts workshops for adults included charcoal sketching inspired by Cathedral architecture and a free-form creative studio and sharing session hosted in the Mews.

We were very pleased to collaborate with other organisations for several of our Heritage Week events. A children's pop-up book workshop and a book-binding workshop, co-hosted by our neighbours in Marsh's Library, both proved to be enormously popular offerings. On Saturday 22nd August we were delighted to welcome a group organised by Places of Sanctuary, who bring refugees and asylum seekers living in Ireland on excursions to heritage and nature places. The families who joined



us on Saturday enjoyed a guided tour of the Cathedral and a hands-on object workshop led by the Chester Beatty Library in the Mews.

Heritage Week remains our most significant offering of free public programming annually. It encourages an important cohort of largely local people who might not ever visit the Cathedral to come through the doors and connect with

the history and culture of our building. This year, we had over 1800 people attend our Heritage Week events. We look forward to seeing what next year brings!

*Kryzel Bonifacio
Education Officer*

Images courtesy of Kryzel Bonifacio, Paula Garcia Ibanez, and Paddy Woodworth.

Visit of Portuguese Foreign Minister

THE CATHEDRAL MANAGER, Mr Louis Parminter, was delighted to welcome the Portuguese Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Mr Paulo Castro Rangel, to the Cathedral in late August ahead of the EU Foreign Ministers meeting on 1st and 2nd September in Wicklow.

Minister Rangel was accompanied by the Portuguese Ambassador to Ireland, Mr João Pedro Fins do Lago, along with a delegation of embassy staff. LP



Have I Got Pews for You

MARKETING MANAGER Mr Ed Coleman welcomed broadcaster Ian Hislop and BBC Radio producer Tom Alban to Saint Patrick's Cathedral on 4th August as they recorded material for an upcoming BBC programme marking the 300th anniversary of *Gulliver's Travels*.

The visit explored Jonathan Swift's extraordinary legacy as Dean of the Cathedral and the lasting impact of his most famous work three centuries after its publication. Ed had the opportunity to share the Cathedral's unique Swift story and offer a glimpse of the exciting plans being developed to celebrate the anniversary later this year.

With Ian's trademark wit and plenty of fascinating conversation along the way, it was an enjoyable visit and

another reminder that, 300 years on, Swift's influence continues to capture imaginations around the world. EC



What's On?

Dublin Festival of History 2026

EACH AUTUMN THE Dublin Festival of History brings Dublin's past to life through a programme of talks, tours, exhibitions and events taking place across the city. Organised by Dublin City Council, the festival creates opportunities to explore the people, places and events that have shaped Dublin, Ireland and the wider world.

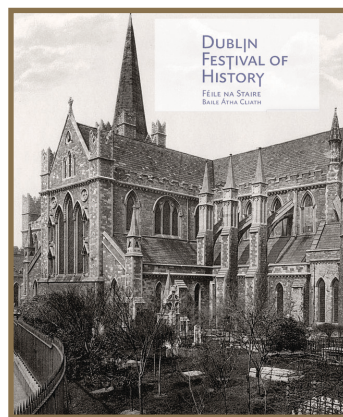
As a place that has stood at the heart of Dublin for more than 800 years, the Cathedral has countless stories to tell. This year, we will host two free lunchtime talks, taking us back to two very different moments in Dublin's past. *Both events are free but booking is essential.*

SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL 1926:

A YEAR IN THE LIFE

Thursday 1st October | 1.15pm

What was life like in the streets surrounding Saint Patrick's Cathedral exactly 100 years ago? Using the newly available 1926 Census alongside other historical sources, Cathedral Assistant Manager and historian Aaron Hoey will uncover the people who lived and worked in the shadow of Saint Patrick's a century ago. From local families and tradespeople to clergy and civic figures, the talk will paint a fascinating picture of this historic neighbourhood and the community that called it home.



JONATHAN SWIFT IN 1726: THE ROAD TO *GULLIVER'S TRAVELS*

Saturday 10th October | 1.15pm

In 1726, Jonathan Swift was preparing to publish a book that would become one of the most celebrated works in English literature: *Gulliver's Travels*. Exactly 300 years later, acclaimed author and 18th-century historian Hester Grant joins us to explore those crucial months. Where was Swift? Who surrounded and influenced him? And how did his experiences find their way into the extraordinary world he was creating? Hester will also discuss her acclaimed historical non-fiction book, *The Twitnam Summer*, which reconstructs Swift's final months before the publication of *Gulliver's Travels*.



Book tickets at stpattrickscathedral.ie/events

Who's Who?



**The Very Revd Dr
William Morton**
DEAN

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**The Revd Canon
Charles Mullen**
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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: 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.

Saint Patrick's Cathedral Dublin Organ Recitals

AUTUMN 2026 SERIES

Sundays at 7.00pm

It was the Irish poet, Nicholas Brady who coined the phrase "The Wondrous Machine" to describe the organ, and with over 4,000 pipes, 80 speaking stops spread over 4 manuals and pedals, the organ in St Patrick's is no exception.

13 September

DAVID LEIGH

20 September

TRISTAN RUSSCHER

27 September

SIMON HARDEN

4 October

ALEKSANDR NISSE

11 October

DAVID LEIGH

Admission Free

Further information available from
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/org26

