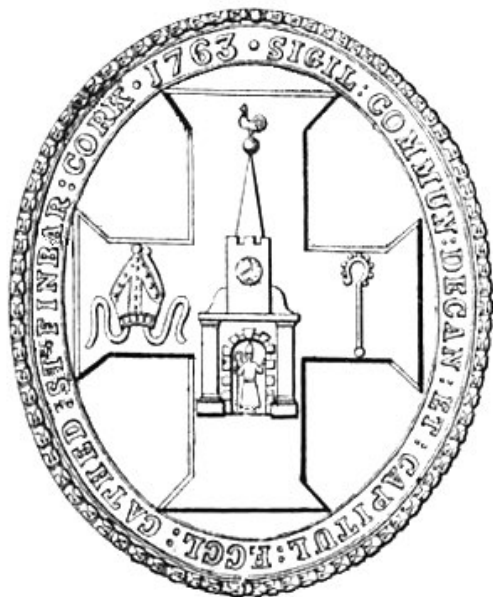




SAINT FIN BARRE'S

CATHEDRAL + CORK



**THE FESTIVAL  
OF  
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Sunday 22nd December 2024  
and  
Tuesday 24th December 2024

both at 4.00pm

# Welcome to Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral

## LIVE-STREAMING

In line with the first of the Five Marks of Mission ('To proclaim the good news of the kingdom') this service is being live-streamed and recorded via [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv). The camera is at the back of the Cathedral and covers the Nave, Crossing, Choir Stalls and High Altar. It does not cover the North and South Aisles, Dean's Chapel and Ambulatory. If you do not wish to appear on camera please consult the churchwardens/stewards and they will guide you to a seat out of shot.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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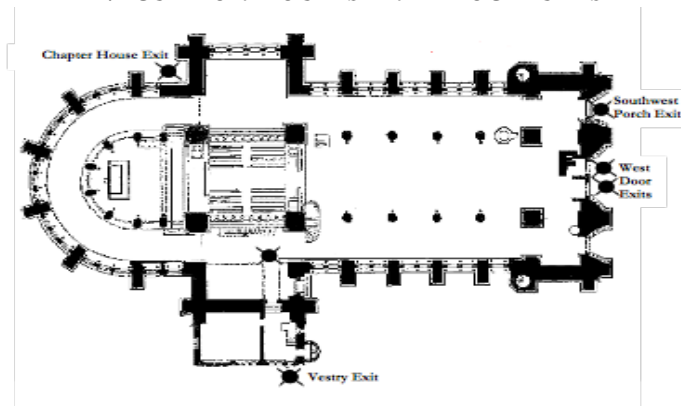
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Should there be anyone near you requiring assistance, please help them, or draw the matter to the attention of the stewards. Please remain in your place until you are instructed by the stewards to leave the Cathedral by one of the Fire Exits. Keep calm and quiet so that additional instructions can be heard. Once outside make your way to the assembly points in the Cathedral forecourt or on the lawn at the East end of the Cathedral grounds where further instructions will be given.

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## LESSON READERS

Lesson	Sunday 22nd December	Christmas Eve
1	A Minor Canon	A Chorister
2	A Chapter Canon	A Junior Lay Vicar Choral
3	The Principal of St Fin Barre's National School	An Adult Lay Vicar Choral
4	The Chairman of the St Fin Barre's Quarter Development Group	A Midday Eucharist Intercessor
5	A Representative of Cork Simon Community	A Bellringer
6	A Representative of St Vincent de Paul	The Artist in Residence
7	A Representative of the Diocesan Sierra Leone Project	A Member of the Cathedral Board
8	The Lord Mayor of Cork	The Dean's Vicar
9	The Bishop	The Bishop

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### *Bishop*

The Rt Revd Dr. P. Colton

### *Dean*

The Very Revd N. Dunne

**Precentor:** The Very Revd S. Green

**Treasurer:** The Revd Canon P. Willoughby

**Chancellor:** The Very Revd C. Jeffers

**Archdeacon:** The Ven A. Orr

### *Prebendaries (Canons)*

**Dromdaleague and Kilnaglorry**  
**St. Michael's and Inniskenny**  
**Kilbrittain and Holy Trinity**  
**Desertserges and Killanully**

The Revd Canon A. Marley  
The Revd Canon Dr. D. Nuzum  
The Revd Canon D. MacCarthy  
The Revd Canon E. Murray

### *Honorary Canons*

**Lay Ecumenical Canon**  
**Canon Missioner**  
**Canon for Vocations**

Mrs. G. Kingston  
The Revd Canon R. Ferris  
The Revd Canon J. Ardis

### **Dean's Vicar**

The Revd M. Steele

### **Minor Canons**

The Revd J. Ardis, The Revd E. Hunter, The Revd A. Skuse

### **Lay Local Minister (Pastoral)**

Mr Howard Dunne

### **Director of Music**

Mr Peter Stobart

M.A. (Hons) (RAM), B.A. (Hons) (Dunelm.),  
A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., L.T.C.L., L.L.C.M., A.R.A.M., A.R.S.C.M.

### **Assistant Director of Music**

Mr. Matthew Breen  
B.Mus. (Hons) (Dubl.)

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*All stand as the choir process to the West End of the Cathedral and sings*

**THE INTROIT**

**Gaudete**

*Words and music: : Piaae Cantiones 1582, arranged: Suzzie Vango*

**THE HYMN OF THE PROCESSION**

*Solo*

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

*All sing*

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden  
in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
for that Child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)*

**THE GREETING AND BIDDING PRAYER**

*The people are greeted and led in prayer*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Sit*

### CHOIR

**Ding dong! merrily on high**

*Words: G. R. Woodward*

*Music: 16th century French arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)*

Ding dong! Merrily on high,  
in heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! Verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.

*Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below,  
let steeple bells be swungen,  
and "Io, io, io!"  
by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime  
your matin chime, you ringers.  
may you beautifully rhyme  
your eve time song you singers.

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 3: 8 - 15*

The Fall

### CHOIR

**Adam lay ybounden**

*Words: 15th century English; Music: Boris Ord (1897 - 1961)*

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;  
four thousand winter thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
as clerkès finden written in their book.

Nè had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,  
ne had never Our Lady abeen heavenè queen.

Blessèd be the time that apple taken was;  
therefore we moun singen  
Deo gracias!

*Stand*

**CHOIR AND CONGREGATION**

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour  
was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father  
a blessèd angel came,  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings  
rejoicèd much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding  
in tempest, storm and wind,  
and went to Bethlehem straightway  
this blessèd babe to find.

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
all other doth efface.

*Traditional*

*Sit*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Genesis 22: 15-18*

The Promise to Abraham

### CHOIR

#### In dulci jubilo

*Words: Heinrich Seuse (1295-1366); Music: Carl Thiel (b. 1965)*

In dulci jubilo,  
nun singet und seid froh!  
Unsers Herzens Wonne  
lies in praesepio,  
und leuchtet als die Sonne  
matris in gremio,  
Alpha es et O!

O Jesu parvule  
nach dir ist mir so weh!  
Tröst' mir mein Gemüte  
O puer optime  
durch alle deine Güte  
O princeps gloriae.  
trahe me post te!

Ubi sunt gaudia  
Nirgend mehr denn da!  
Da die Engel singen  
Nova cantica,  
und die Schellen klingen  
In regis curia.  
Eia, wär'n wir da!

In dulci jubilo, (*In quiet joy*)  
*now sing and be glad.*  
*Our heart's joy*  
lies in praesepio, (*in a manger,*)  
*and shines like the sun*  
matris in gremio, (*in the mother's lap.*)  
Alpha es et O! (*thou art Alpha and Omega.*)

O Jesu parvule (*O tiny Jesus*)  
*I yearn for thee always.*  
*Comfort my soul*  
O puer optime (*O best of boys*)  
through all your mercy  
O princeps gloriae. (*Prince of glory,*)  
trahe me post te! (*draw me unto thee.*)

*Ubi sunt gaudia (Where there are joys)*  
*nowhere more than there.*  
*There angels are singing*  
Nova cantica, (*new songs*)  
*and there the bells are ringing*  
In regis curia. (*at the king's court.*)  
*O that we were there.*

*Stand*

### CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*  
*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*Sing through all Jerusalem,*  
*Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who throned in height sublime  
sits amid the cherubim.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this.

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
by thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble Thee,  
in thy sweet humility!

*Edward Caswall (1814-78) based on Luke 2: 1-20*

*Sit*

### **THE THIRD LESSON**

*Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7*

The Prophecy of the Messiah's Birth

### **CHOIR**

#### **Masters in this hall**

*Words: William Morris (1834 - 1896); Music: Marin Marais (1656-1728)*

*Arr. Jerrick Cavagnaro*

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today  
Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray.  
Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow,  
heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow.

*Nowell, sing we clear!  
Holpen are all folk on Earth,  
born is God's Son so dear  
Nowell, sing we loud  
God today hath poor folk raised  
and cast a-down the proud.*

Shepherds many an one sat among the sheep,  
no man spake more word than they had been asleep.

Quoth I, "Fellows mine, why this guise sit ye?  
Making but dull cheer, Shepherds though ye be?"

"Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,  
thus to see ye sit, is a right strange thing".



Quoth these fellows then, "To Bethlem town we go,  
to see a mighty lord lie in manger low".

"How name ye this lord, shepherds?" then said I,  
"very God," they said, "come from Heaven high".

This is Christ the Lord, Masters be ye glad!  
Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.

*Stand*

**CHOIR AND CONGREGATION**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord, Emmanuel.

*Philip Brooks (1835-93); based on Micah 5: 2; Luke 2: 4-7*

*Sit*

**THE FOURTH LESSON**

*Micah 5: 2-4*

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

**CHOIR**

**And the glory of the Lord**

*Words: Isaiah 40: 5; Music: from 'Messiah' - G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

**THE FIFTH LESSON**

*Luke 1: 26-38*

The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

**CHOIR**

**Nova, nova**

*Words: traditional 15th century; Music: Iain Farrington (b. 1977)*

Nova! Nova! [News! News!]

Gabriel of high degree,  
he came down from the Trinity  
from Nazareth to Galilee,

He met a maiden in a place;  
He kneeled down before her face;  
He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"

When the maiden saw all this,  
she was sore abashed, ywis,  
lest that she had done amiss.

Then said the angel: "Dread not you,  
you shall conceive in all virtue  
a child whose name shall be Jesu."

Then said the maid:  
"Verily, I am your servant truly,  
Ecce ancilla Domini." [Behold the handmaid of the Lord]

*Stand*

**CHOIR AND CONGREGATION**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down, (*Twice*)  
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he; for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind,  
‘glad tidings of great joy I bring (*Twice*)  
to you and all mankind.

To you, in David’s town, this day  
is born of David’s line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; (*Twice*)  
and this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands, (*Twice*)  
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels, praising God, who thus (*Twice*)  
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace!  
Goodwill, henceforth, from heaven to men (*Twice*)  
begin, and never cease.’

*Nahum Tate (1652 - 1715)*

*Sit*

**THE SIXTH LESSON**

*Luke 2: 1-7*

The Birth of Jesus

**CHOIR**

**All the stars looked down**

*Words: G. K. Chesterton (1874 -1936); Music: John Rutter (b.1945)*

The Christ-child lay on Mary’s lap,  
his hair was like a light.  
(O weary, weary were the world,  
but here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast,  
his hair was like a star.  
(O stern and cunning are the kings,  
but here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,  
his hair was like a fire.  
(O weary, weary is the world,  
but here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee,  
his hair was like a crown.  
and all the flowers looked up at Him,  
and all the stars looked down.

### **THE SEVENTH LESSON**

*Luke 2: 8-16*

The Shepherds go to the Manger

#### **CHOIR**

**Who is this baby?**

*Written by Peter Stobart to celebrate 25 years in the Episcopate of the Right Rev'd Dr Paul Colton. The words are taken from a sermon preached by the Bishop on Christmas Day 2016.*

These stories were told and recorded to answer the question 'who is this Jesus born in Bethlehem?'

There is no shell hole or hell hole where the love of God cannot reach. There is no darkness too dark; for he is the light who 'shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' Alleluia.

Who is this baby, and what does he mean for us in our time?

He is Jesus, Saviour, Messiah and Lord. He is 'the Christ.' He is son of man, and son of God. He is Lord, Redeemer, the Way, Truth and Life; the light of the world; the star of Bethlehem, and Prince of Peace. Alleluia.

*Stand*

#### **CHOIR AND CONGREGATION**

The first Nowell the angels did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far:  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night:

And by the light of that same star,  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went:

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought:

*Traditional*

*Sit*

## **THE EIGHTH LESSON**

*Matthew 2: 1-11*

The Magi are led by the star

### **CHOIR**

#### **The three kings**

*Words: Peter Cornelius, transl. H. N. Bate; Music: Peter Cornelius (1824 - 1874)*

*Arr. Ivor Atkins (1869 - 1953)*

Three Kings from Persian lands afar  
To Jordan follow the pointing star:  
And this the quest of the travellers three,  
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*How brightly shines the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heaven afar  
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
And there in worship they bend the knee,  
As Mary's child in her lap they see;  
Their royal gifts they show to the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
The Kings are travelling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

*Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

*All stand and face the reader of*

**THE NINTH LESSON**

*The Gospel - John 1: 1-14*

The Incarnation of the Word of God

*Before the Gospel*

*Bishop:* Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to  
Saint John, chapter one, beginning at verse one.

*Choir:* Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*After the Gospel*

*Bishop:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Choir:* Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

A Collection is taken during the singing of the next carol for Cork Simon Community, St Vincent de Paul, and the Diocesan support of the *Liloma: Partnership in Hope with Sierra Leone* project in partnership with Christian Aid Ireland. Contributions to the three local charities will be distributed via the Bishop of Cork Pastoral Care Fund.

*Please give as generously as you can afford.*

**CHOIR AND CONGREGATION**

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born, the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:

See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense,  
gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child  
bring our heart's oblations:

Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
in the highest:

*18th century Latin: tr.. Frederich Oakeley (1802-80),  
Abbee E J F Borderies (1764-1852) & Latin: tr. W T Brooke (1848-1917)*

*The Bishop says*

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,  
we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our judge:  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child,  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem':

*Hark! the herald angels sing -  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored!  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb;  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
mild, he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata from Symphony no. 5 - *Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*