



BELFAST CATHEDRAL



Services and Music List

November 2025

ABOUT BELFAST CATHEDRAL

Belfast Cathedral, (the Cathedral Church of St Anne) is a Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion (Episcopalian). It is unusual in serving two separate dioceses, The Diocese of Connor, and The Diocese of Down and Dromore; it therefore has not one but two Bishops' Seats.

The Cathedral has stood for 120 years as a place of Christian worship in the heart of the City of Belfast. Featuring the 56-metre stainless steel Spire of Hope (added in 2007), detailed mosaics by the sisters Gertrude and Margaret Martin, elaborately carved stonework by sculptors Rosamond Praeger, Morris Harding, and Esmond Burton, and beautiful stained glass windows, this Hiberno-Romanesque building is one of the ecclesiastical and architectural highlights of Northern Ireland.

The splendid acoustic of the Cathedral is the setting for our 4-manual Harrison & Harrison organ. The Cathedral Choir sings for Sunday Services and Choral Evensong each Friday, as well as large diocesan and civic occasions. Over the years the Cathedral choir have sung on national and local radio and television, and have undertaken concerts and tours.

Belfast Cathedral sits at the heart of The Cathedral Quarter, which is known for its unique and artisan shops, wide variety of restaurants, and buzzing nightlife, close to the Titanic Quarter, and the city centre itself.

The clergy, staff, congregation, and volunteers of Belfast Cathedral look forward to offering you a warm welcome.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHORAL EVENSONG

Choral Evensong is a service unique to the Anglican Church. It can be traced back to 1549 when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, combined the ancient monastic offices of Vespers and Compline into one service, to be used at the end of the working day. Cranmer's vision was to make daily prayer together, and daily exposure to the Scriptures, accessible to all people.

For nearly 500 years, Anglican cathedrals have set this service to music, which is sung by our choir and priests. Although the congregation is mostly silent throughout this service, that does not mean you cannot take part in the worship. We offer you the gift of rest and quiet reflection, and invite you to step out of the busyness of life, allowing the music and the Scriptures to transport you into a version of reality soaked in God's presence.

The service itself is centred on two canticles, or songs: the Magnificat (the Song of Mary, from the Gospel of Luke), and the Nunc dimittis (the Song of Simeon, also from the Gospel of Luke). In addition there are sung prayers (the Preces and Responses), a sung Psalm, or Psalms (from the Old Testament); and an anthem, which may reflect a particular season or Saint's Day. These choral offerings are interspersed with bible readings and spoken prayers.

We are very pleased that you are able to join us. Sacred music within the liturgy is one of the church's greatest cultural and religious heritages, and is enjoyed by those of all faiths and those of no faith. Whether you belong to our congregation, or are visiting for the first time, you are welcomed to be a part of a long tradition of Christian worship, which has lived in this building for more than 120 years.

It is our hope that you will feel a warm welcome here at Belfast Cathedral, and leave feeling refreshed and inspired.

INFORMATION

WEEKLY MORNING SERVICES AT 9.30 A.M.

- Holy Communion is celebrated in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit each Tuesday morning.
- Morning Prayer is said in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit Wednesday-Friday.

WEEKLY MORNING SERVICES AT 1.00 P.M.

- Afternoon Prayers are offered in the Nave each Tuesday-Wednesday.
- Holy Communion is celebrated in the Chapel of Unity each Thursday.
- The Churches Ministry of Healing meet for their service in the Cathedral Hall each Friday.

CHOIR

Unless otherwise specified, all choral services are sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir. Our choir sings services each Sunday and Friday in academic term-time, with our adult sopranos and choristers (boys and girls aged 7-14) rotating on a weekly basis.

COMMUNION

If it is your custom to receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive here, whatever denomination you are.

HYMNS

Hymn numbers in this publication and in orders of service refer to the Irish Church Hymnal (Fifth Edition) or the New English Hymnal (marked 'NEH', where applicable).

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

It is asked that no photography or recording of any kind may take place during services, concerts, or rehearsals without the express permission of the Dean.

November

02 SUNDAY: THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Shephard *The Wiltshire Service*
Psalm 149
Mendelssohn *O Rest in the Lord*
Preacher: The Rev'd Julie Bell, *Minor Canon*
Hymns 528, 427, 376
Dupré *XVI. Placare Christe servulis (Le Tombeau de Titelouze)*
- 3.30 p.m. The Royal Irish Regiment Service of Remembrance
Brewer Evening Service in D
Mawby *Do not stand at my grave and weep*
Hymns 647, 634, 459, 259
Elgar *Nimrod*
-

07 FRIDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
John Bertalot *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 37, vv. 1-10 (Plainsong)
David Stevens *Alternatim Service*
Guest *For the Fallen*

November

09 SUNDAY: THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Remembrance Sunday

11.00 a.m. CHORAL MATINS

Radcliffe *Preces and Responses*

Psalm 46 (from Luther)

Franklin *Urbs Fortitudinis*

Ireland *Te Deum in F*

Tavener *Exhortation and Kohima*

Preacher: The Very Rev'd Stephen Forde, *Dean of Belfast*

Hymns 366, 537, 536

Elgar *Prelude and Angel's Farewell (The Dream of Gerontius)*

7.30 p.m. COME AND SING FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

A devotional performance of Gabriel Fauré's setting of the Requiem Mass.

14 FRIDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG

Radcliffe *Preces and Responses*

Psalm 73, vv. 1-12 (Plainsong)

Sumsion *Evening Service in G*

Arvo Pärt *Da pacem domine*

November

16 SUNDAY: THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Philip Stopford *Belfast Centenary Eucharist*
Mendelssohn *Above All Praise and All Majesty*
Preacher: The Rev'd Janice Elsdon
Hymns 10 (i), 127, 671, 436 (ii)
Mendelssohn *Sonata V*
- 3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Sarah MacDonald *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 82 (Marshall)
Stanford *Evening Service in B flat*
Smith Moore *We shall walk through the valley*
Hymn 67
Parry *Tranquilly*
-

21 FRIDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Plainsong *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 106, vv. 1-10 (Plainsong)
Weelkes *Short Service*
Purcell *Thou knowest Lord*

November

23 SUNDAY: THE SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

The Kingship of Christ

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Byrd *Mass for four voices*
Jack Wilson *Do not be afraid*
Preacher: The Rev'd Cameron Mack, *Curate*
Hymns 86, 84, 90 (i), 259
Bob Chilcott *Sun Dance*
- 3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Jack Wilson *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 114 (Tonus Peregrinus)
Wood *Evening Service in D*
Wood *O thou the central orb*
Hymn 281
J.S. Bach *Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir BWV 29*
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28 FRIDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Drinkell *St Martin's Preces and Responses*
Psalm 137 (Lang)
Noble *Evening Service in B minor*
Rani Arbo *Crossing the Bar*

November

30 SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST

Philip Stopford *Belfast Centenary Eucharist*

Psalm 146 (Plainsong)

Vaughan Williams *The Truth from Above*

Preacher: The Very Rev'd Stephen Forde, *Dean of Belfast*

Hymns 122, 127, 140

Demessieux *Rorate Coeli*

8 p.m. THE ADVENT PROCESSION

Palestrina *The Matin Responsory*

Byrd *Vigilate*

Manz *E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Kim Andre Arnesen *Even when He is silent*

Biebl *Ave Maria*

Tavener *O, Do Not Move*

Langlais *Sanctus (Messe Solennelle)*



DEAN

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