



BELFAST CATHEDRAL



Services and Music List

December 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 AFTERNOON 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.

December

05 FRIDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Plainsong *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 28 (Plainsong)
Jack Wilson *Fauxbourdon Service*
Ravenscroft *Remember, O thou man*

07 SUNDAY: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Michael Haydn *Missa Tempore Quadragesimae*
Gibbons *This is the Record of John*
Preacher: Mrs Gillian McGaughey, *Diocesan Reader*
Psalm 72, vv 1-7, 18-19
Hymns 122, 136, 119 (i)
J.S. Bach *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland BWV 659*

3.30 p.m. The Northern Ireland Prison Service Carol Service

11 THURSDAY

5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Plainsong *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 61 (Plainsong)
Dyson *Evening Service in C minor*
Poston *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

December

14 SUNDAY: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Philip Stopford *Belfast Centenary Eucharist*
Poston *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*
Preacher: The Rev'd Cameron Mack, *Curate*
Psalm 146, vv 4-9
Hymns 122, 126, 124
Dupré *XIV. Ut queant laxis (Le Tombeau de Titelouze)*
- 3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Jack Wilson *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 74, vv. 1-12
Grayston Ives *The Eddington Service*
Manz *E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*
Hymn 132
Leighton *Fantasy on 'Helmsley'*
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18 THURSDAY

- 5.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG
Plainsong *Preces and Responses*
Psalm 93 (Plainsong)
Dyson *Evening Service in C*
Vaughan Williams *The Truth from Above*
-

19 FRIDAY

- 7.30 p.m. BELFAST CATHEDRAL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Experience the magic of Christmas this December with a program featuring beloved Christmas favorites alongside timeless secular classics, performed by the choir and musicians of Belfast Cathedral.
- Minimum £10 donation at the door will support the ongoing work of the Cathedral's Music Department.

December

21 SUNDAY: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST
Plainsong *Mass IX Cum Jubilo*
Hadley *I sing of a maiden*
Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Raymond Fox
Psalm 80, vv. 1-6, 16-17
Hymns 122, 125, 128
J.S. Bach *Fugue sopra il Magnificat BWV 733*

3.30 p.m. CAROLS IN THE CITY
Ledger *On Christmas night*
Vaughan Williams *The Truth from Above*
Jack Wilson *O babe divine*
Mathias *Sir Christèmas*
John Rutter *Jesus Child*

24 WEDNESDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE

8.00 p.m. FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
Ledger *On Christmas night*
Poston *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*
Vaughan Williams *The Truth from Above*
Jim Clements *Gabriel's Message*
Jack Wilson *O babe divine*
Paul Halley *Go, tell it on the mountain*
John Rutter *Jesus Child*

11.00 p.m. THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS
Neil Cox *Missa Brevis*
Kim Andre Arnesen *Even when He is silent*
Preacher: The Right Rev'd David McClay, *Bishop of Down and Dromore*
Hymns 164, 182, 179, 172
Widor *V. Finale (Symphonie VI)*

December

25 THURSDAY: CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST

Haydn *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo (Little Organ Mass)*

John Rutter *What sweeter music*

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

Hymns 160, 170, 158, 198

Widor *V. Toccata (Symphonie V)*

28 SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

11.00 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST

Shephard *The Addington Service*

Hymns 162, 194, 189, 151

04 SUNDAY: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.00 a.m. SUNG EUCHARIST

Shephard *The Addington Service*

Hymns 184, 185 (i), 178, 196

3.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Hymns 200, 199

December

11 SUNDAY: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11.00 a.m. CATHEDRAL EUCHARIST

Darke *Communion Service in F*

Gardner *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

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

Hymns 190 (i), 194, 192, 195

Dubois *Marche des Rois Mages*

3.30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG

Sarah MacDonald *Preces and Responses*

Psalm 61

Grayston Ives *The Eddington Service*

Mendelssohn *There shall a star from Jacob come forth*

Hymn 175

Messiaen *IX. Dieu parmi nous (La Nativité du Seigneur)*



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