

SAINT FIN BARRE'S

CATHEDRAL + CORK



CHRISTMAS DAY

THE DEDICATION OF THE CRIB
THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

AND

FESTAL CHORAL EUCHARIST
OF THE NATIVITY

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2025
11.15am

Musical Setting of the Eucharist

Missa brevis in B flat (Little organ) - *Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)*

Bishop

The Right Revd Paul Colton B.C.L., DipTh., M. Phil., LL.M., Ph.D.

Dean

The Very Revd Nigel Dunne B.Th., M.A., M. Phil.

Dean's Vicar

The Revd Martin Steele B.D., M.Th.

Lay Pastoral Assistant

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.)

LIVE-STREAMING

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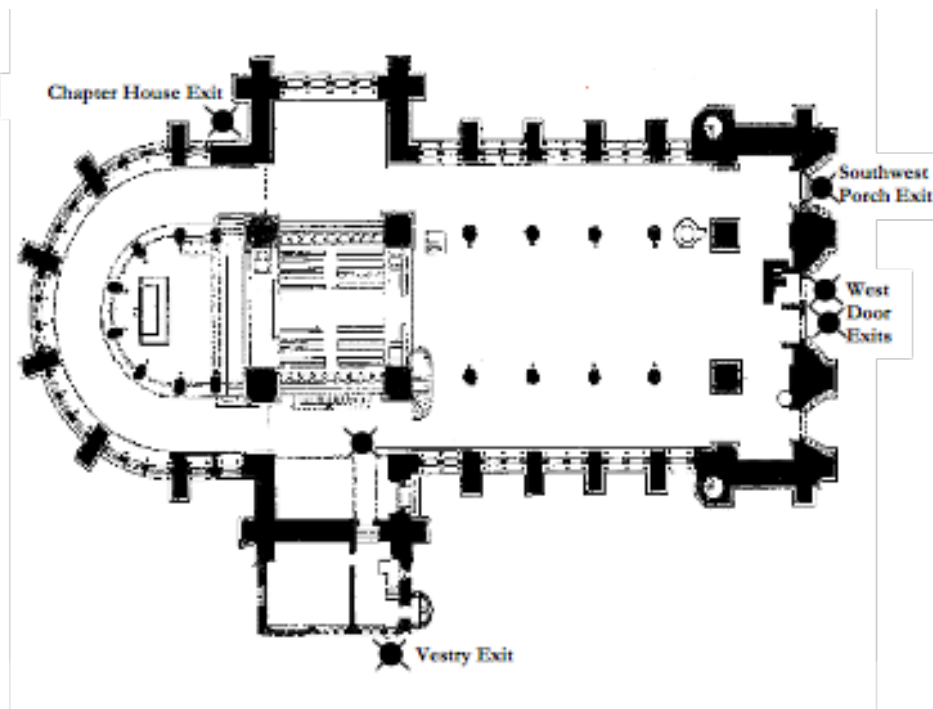
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Should there be anyone near you requiring assistance, please help them, or draw the matter to the attention of the stewards. Please remain in your place until you are instructed by the stewards to leave the Cathedral by one of the Fire Exits. Keep calm and quiet so that additional instructions can be heard.

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THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand as the procession begins in silence.

The choir sings

THE INTROIT

Hodie Christus natus est;
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia.

*Today Christ is born;
today the Saviour has appeared;
today the Angels sing,
the Archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

J. Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562 - 1621)

HYMN OF THE PROCESSION

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:

The Bishop and clergy gather at the Crib

GREETING

I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people: for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ our Lord.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THE DEDICATION OF THE CRIB

The Christ-child is placed in the crib.

Hear the words of Saint Luke: When the angels had gone from them, the shepherds said, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

We worship and adore him! Alleluia!

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory:

God our Father, on this day your Son Jesus Christ
was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation;
bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith,
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring;
who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

The service continues as all sing:

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?

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

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

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

*Latin 18th century Latin:
tr.. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

The Christmas candle on the Advent Wreath is lit and the choir sings this prayer:

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, King of Peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
The new light of your incarnate word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.
Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

PENITENCE

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him,
our greed and our rejection of your ways,
that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself
and cleanse you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The choir sings **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

THE COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD *is sung*

Almighty God,
you have given us your only begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

Please sit for

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 52: 7-10

At the end of the reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

Remain seated to meditate on the words of the Psalm as they are sung by the choir.

1. Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
2. His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
3. The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4. He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
5. Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.
6. Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
7. With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
8. Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.

9. Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
10. In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 1: 1-12

At the end of the reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN OF THE GRADUAL

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round the virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quail at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born

Please remain standing and face the reader for the reading of

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

John 1: 1-14

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

Choir: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the Gospel

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Choir: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The hymn continues:

Silent night, Holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*G.B. Timms (1910-1997)
based on J. Mohr (1792-1848)*

Sit for

THE SERMON

The Bishop

All stand for

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father,
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Kneel or sit for

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father, on this holy day your Son our Saviour was born as a child among us.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy day there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy day Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy day the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'.
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice here and throughout all the world.

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy day heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.
Keep in safety all those who have passed through death in the hope of heaven.
Holy God,
hear our prayer.

On this holy day Christians the world over celebrate his birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God,
hear our prayer.

Father, on this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and all the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Stand

THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and his name is called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

A collection is taken up during the singing of this hymn.

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.

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

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts:
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God,
at all times and in all places
it is right to give you thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us
that we might become one with you
in your glorious kingdom.

And so with all your people,
with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

The choir sings the **SANCTUS** *and* **BENEDICTUS**

Blessed are you, Father,
the creator and sustainer of all things;
you made us in your own image,
male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you,
you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy
you freed us from the slavery of sin;
giving your only begotten Son to become man
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world:
he instituted,
and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death
until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he gave it to them, saying,
Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we do as Christ your Son commanded:
we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit
that we may be made one in your holy Church
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,
that he may dwell in us and we in him;

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
Our Father who art in heaven ...

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ
We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.

The choir sings **AGNUS DEI**

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

*Communicant members of all Christian traditions
are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION MOTET

A babe is born all of a may,
to bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni creator Spiritus. [*Come creator Spirit*]

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
The child of bliss now born he was;
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas. [*O Trinity of blessed light*]

There came three kings out of the East,
To worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frank incense,
A solis ortus cardine. [*From the rising of the sun*]

A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine. [*Glory to you, o Lord*]
Noel!

- William Mathias (1934-1992)

After Communion
THE GREAT SILENCE
for thanksgiving is kept

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Stand

POST COMMUNION HYMN

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star.

Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear.

Though an Infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

James Montgomery 1771 – 1854

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

All say

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
all things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

*The Bishop, Dean, Cathedral Chapter, Dean's Vicar and Minor Canons
wish you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.*