

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Located in Dublin, Ireland founded in 1191 as a Roman Catholic cathedral, is currently the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland.



Unusually, St Patrick's is not the seat of a bishop, as the Archbishop of Dublin has his seat in Christ Church Cathedral. Since 1870, the Church of Ireland has designated St Patrick's as the national cathedral for the whole of Ireland. The dean is the ordinary for the cathedral; this office has existed since 1219. The most famous office holder was Jonathan Swift.

The cathedral plays host to a number of public national ceremonies. Ireland's Remembrance Day ceremonies, takes place there every November. Its carol service, celebrated twice in December, including every December 24, is a colorful feature of Dublin life.

On Saturdays in autumn, the cathedral hosts the graduation ceremonies of Technological University Dublin.

The funerals of two Irish presidents, Douglas Hyde and Erskine Childers were held in the cathedral.

Because President Childers died in office, his state funeral was a major state occasion.

The attendance included foreign dignitaries King Baudouin of Belgium, Vice-President of the United States Spiro T. Agnew (representing President Richard Nixon), Earl Mountbatten of Burma (representing Queen Elizabeth II), British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and former British prime minister Edward Heath.

In 2006, the cathedral's national prominence was used by a group of 18 Afghan migrants seeking asylum, who occupied it for several days before being persuaded to leave without trouble.

The cathedral, which generally receives no State funding, welcomes all, with a chapel for those who come simply to pray and a small fee for those who wish to sight-see.

The cathedral website mentioned in 2006 that visitor numbers had reached around 300,000 a year.

Legend has it that Saint Patrick's was the place where the expression "chancing your arm" (meaning to take a risk) originated, when The 8th Earl of Kildare cut a hole in a door there, still to be seen, and thrust his arm through it to shake hands in friendship, in an effort to call a truce in the Butler–FitzGerald dispute with James, Earl of Ormond, in 1492.



The organ of St Patrick's Cathedral is one of the largest in Ireland with over 4,000 pipes.

The cathedral is supported by a volunteer organization, with both subscribing and life members, who perform various tasks and contribute materially to the work and fabric of the cathedral.

In addition, there is a range of voluntary groups performing specific tasks, such as bell-ringing, welcoming of guests and cleaning.