

CHOIRNEWS



It will be most encouraging to our generous sponsors to see the numbers of choirboys increase. We now have eleven boys and hopes of recruiting a further 3 or 4 inside the next few months. Our two new probationers are Andrew Blay from Rochestown Avenue, whose brother sings in St. Patricks Cathedral and Stephen Williams from Killiney whose father Alto, Counter Tenor, Norman Williams has, on occasions, performed as a soloist in St. Bartholomews.

Over the Summer the choir was busier than it has been for many years with the following trips :-

June 22/23 Cashel (Kildare) A most enjoyable trip when once again we were extended great hospitality. Many of the boys stayed over night at out-lying farms while the men were billeted in Cashel town. A very enthusiastic report appeared in the local paper. On our way home we dropped into St. Brigids Cathedral, Kildare where we sang 'Evensong' with Dean John to end a really enjoyable expedition.

July 15th St. Patricks Cathedral. The choir are always ^htrilled to have the opportunity to sing in the National Cathedral. The acoustics of St. Patricks allow even a small choir to sing within itself and yet fill the building with sound. Many favourable comments were heard particularly concerning the devotional aspect of the particular services and the discipline of the boys. A unique fact went comparitively un noticed - we sang the Mass in Latin which was probably the first time in this century that a Latin Mass was heard in St. Patricks (Byrd Three Part Mass).

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August 19th Christ Church Cathedral. Singing in our Metropolitan Cathedral was a new experience. Initially, at practise we were disappointed with the acoustics characteristics. Greater effort is called for than in St. Patricks as the chancel area is separated by a large stone screen from the nave and glass side screens behind the choir stalls envelop the sound. We believe we eventually overcame these obstacles and the Sunday afternoon evensong was in particular a wonderful experience for us all. Dean Salmon, his Clergy, Mr Figgis and other good Cathedral folk provided the whole choir with a really tasty lunch. This great hospitality and kindness was very warmly appreciated particularly as we know Christ Church Cathedral has a major fund raising task immediately ahead.

St. Bartholomews Choir would really like to convey its appreciation to the Dean and in particular Mr Figgis for their generosity.

August 24th St. Bartholomews Day. Musically the highlight was Niall Morris' singing in the Schubert Mass in G. David Milne kept secret from the rest of the choir that he was teaching Niall the very intricate soprano solos and the beauty and excellence of Nialls performance was just as trilling to the choir as it was to the large congregation present. But St. Bartholomews Day is always far more than a beautiful musical occasion and once again it was a most uplifting and devotional service.

August 27 /31 Choirboy Course - Bray This inaugural course brought together choirboys from St. Bartholomews, The Pro Cathedral Haddington Road, Glasthule and Christ Church Bray. The course was residential, in St. Gerard's School, Bray and according to reports a great deal was achieved with the boys from St. Bartholomews giving a lead and in doing so benefitting themselves. A great feeling of warm friendliness was created between the boys from varying religious back-grounds. The course ended with sung vespers in Christ Church , Bray.

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Summer in General. Good numbers were maintained throughout the Summer and it was possible to hold a high musical standard throughout. The Select Vestry expressed their appreciation of the gardening efforts of some of the choir members who with Miss Gladys Wilson as Director in Chief took the church grounds under their care. This is a reflection of the love our choir feels for every part of St. Bartholomews.

September 26th Auxiliary Services Papal Dedication

St. Bartholomews provided the scene for a service of dedication which was attended by the Knights of Malta, St. Johns Ambulance Brigade The Red Cross, and the Civil Defence. The choir sang Wood's 'Expectans Expectavi' and 'God be in my Head' as well as some hymns.

The Bells Bravo Mr Jenkins. The choir are not the only music makers in St. Bartholomews. Our beautiful peal of bells and the Carillon were silent for too long. Sincere thanks to Mr. Jenkins for giving the beauty of the bells back to us !

Choir to sing in Holy Trinity, Dublin Castle, October 19th

The Hospitallers Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem have invited us to provide the music for their annual Investiture Service in the former Chapel Royal on October 19th. This is a lovely building and we look forward to singing there.

Choir Dinner September. 11th. Once again the Vestry entertained the choir members to a lovely dinner in the Friendly Brothers, St. Stephens Green. The occasion was saddened somewhat as we were bidding farewell to some very good friends. Reverend Richard Clarke and Linda who move down the city to T.C.D. and Mark Moloney who leaves his Alto

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berth in the choir to take up a teaching post in England. We expect to see Richard and Linda 'around' from time to time and we suggested to Mark that even though he was the recipient of a worthy gift from his fellow choristers we would be delighted if he changed his mind and came back as soon as he liked !

Choir in Southside Thanks to our good friend and fellow parishioner Andrew Whittaker a picture with an appeal for choirboys appeared in Southside in July. The photo included David Milne, Bob Barden , Andrew Stringer and Niall Morris.

You might be interested to know who our current choirboys are :-

Niall Morris.
Phillip Shields.
Andrew Stringer.
Desmond Glass.
Andrew Gallagher.
Andrew Flood.
Stephen Neill.
Martin Feakins.
Andrew Blay.
Stephen Williams.
Andrew Neill.

Nialls Dove.

Niall Morris for some years has harboured an ambition to sing " O for the wings of a dove " by Mendelssohn This is now to be achieved and on Sunday September the 30th, for the first time in 35 years " Hear my Prayer " will be sung in St. Bartholomews.

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Our Repetoire Over the next few months David Milne intends to devote particular attention to training our Junior Boys and new-comers. To do this it will be necessary to somewhat simplify the repertoire so please do not expect many new settings or anthems.

Choir Robes The new robes which Mr. Pugh designed and made for the boys have proved both attractive and practical. We have now ordered another three sets. Meanwhile probationers have been using the old cassocks.

Some parishioners remarked on a need for either a white collar or something white to show above the cape. We have ordered white scarves which should greatly improve and neaten the appearance.

Choirboy Sponsors. We are always on the look out for more choirboy sponsors. Will anyone interested please contact David Milne or Bob Barden.

More Choirboys We still would like everyone to help us in recruiting more boys. While we have eleven and hopes of 3 or 4 more the voices of some of our senior boys will break inside the next year. Please contact David Milne if you know of any prospects.

Date : OCTOBER 1 1979.