

**CATHEDRALS  
PLUS**

Engaging Visitors in Places of Christian Worship



## **INSPIRING LIVES**

People of Faith at the  
Heart of the Community



**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

and

**SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL**



Dublin, Ireland

13th January — 15th January 2026

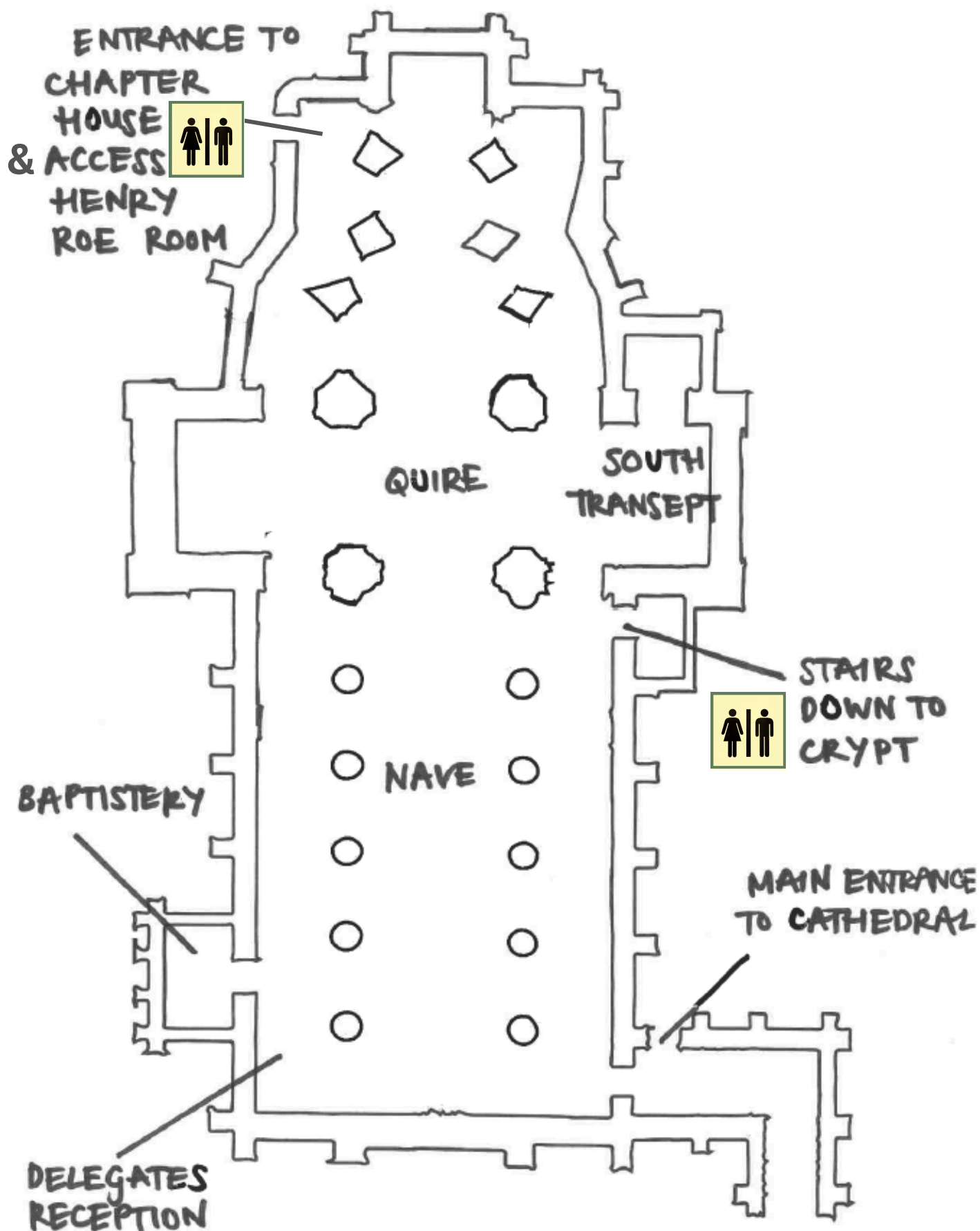
**CONFERENCE  
PROGRAMME**

# Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin (CCC)

Christ Church Place, Dublin D08 TF98 | +353 1 677 8099



Christ  
Church  
Cathedral  
Dublin



# PROGRAMME

## DAY 1

Tuesday 13th January 2026  
at **Christ Church Cathedral (CCC)**

[ 11:30 *Council Members to help with set up at the* **Welcome Desk** ]

- *from* 12:30 **Arrivals and Registration** **Welcome Desk (Main Entrance)**

- Baggage store available in the **Baptistry**
- Sign up for tours and workshops
- Distribution of delegate packs

**Lunch** (coffee/tea) **Henry Roe Room**

- Resources and displays available to peruse
- Guest partners available to chat

- 14:00 **Welcome** **South Transept**

- **The Very Revd Dermot Dunne** (Dean of Christ Church Cathedral)
- **The Very Revd Dr William Morton** (Dean of Saint Patrick's Cathedral)
- **The Very Revd Dr Anthony Cane** (Dean of Portsmouth & Chair of Cathedrals Plus)

- 14:30 – 15:30 **Cathedral Tour**

- 15:30 – 16:30 **Free Time and Hotel Check-in** (map at back of booklet)

- 16:45 – 17:45 **Keynote Speaker** (**The Rev Dr Alex Wimberly**) **Nave**
  - 'At the Heart: Corrymeela as a Community of Reconciliation'

- 18:00 – 18:40 **Evensong** **Nave**

- 19:00 – 19:45 **Regional Hubs** **Crypt**

- 19:45 **Fish and Chip Supper** **Crypt**

- *from* 21:00 **Free Time and Social Time**

# DAY 2

Wednesday 14th January 2026  
at **Saint Patrick's Cathedral** (SPC)

- 08:00 – 08:30 **Eucharist** Lady Chapel
- 09:00 – 09:20 **Sung Matins** Nave
- 09:30 – 10:30 **Speaker 2** (The Revd Abigail Sines) The Mews
  - 'The Power of Quirky: Connection, Creativity and Craft'
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break** South Transept
- 11:00 – 11:45 **Cathedral Tour**
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Workshops 1**
- 13:00 – 13:15 **The Westhill Project** The Mews
- *from* 13:15 **Lunch** The Mews
- [ *Council Meeting Working Lunch* Prescott-Stewart Room, The Mews ]
- 14:15 – 15:00 **Panel Discussion** The Mews
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break** South Transept
- 15:30 – 17:20 **Optional Trips and Tours** (or free time)
- 17:30 – 18:10 **Evensong** Nave
- 19:00 – 19:30 **Drinks Reception** The Deanery
- *seated by* 19:45 **Conference Dinner** Lady Chapel
  - **Sponsor's Talk** (Mr Andrew Ware, Commercial Director of Hayes & Finch)
- *from* 22:00 [optional!] **Pub** Various Locations
  - Live music is often at many local venues
  - See list provided by hosts

## Workshops 1 (Wednesday 14th January 2026)

G — General interest

E — Education & Learning

C — Community

O — Outreach

Keeping Our Cathedrals Alive (G)	Susanne Reid & Gavan Woods
Sacred Space: Common Ground Programming and Adjacency (E)	Ruth Kenny
The Gathering Grounds (C)	Julie Clemets
Music Outreach (O)	Tom Little & Tomos Watkins

- **Keeping our Cathedrals Alive**

- **Susanne Reid** (CEO of CCC)
- **Gavan Woods** (CEO of SPC)

Dublin's sister cathedrals: vibrant spaces in the heart of the city. Susanne and Gavan will explore how we enable these cathedrals to thrive for the whole community and fulfil their charitable purpose (including funding possibilities and income-generating ideas).

- **Sacred Space: Common Ground — Programming and Adjacency**

- **Ruth Kenny** (Head of Learning and Interpretation at CCC)

Ruth will talk about the challenges and opportunities of programming for visitors of different or no faith, within an Irish context.

- **The Gathering Grounds**

- **Julie Clemets**

Julie Clemets from Kiltarnan Parish in Dublin will share her experience of setting up *The Gathering Grounds*: a voluntary community honesty box café — supported and run by two part-time staff members — that provides a wide range of services every week to families, at-risk communities, and social outreach projects.

- **Music Outreach**

- **Tom Little** (Director of Music at CCC)
- **Tomos Watkins** (Music Outreach Coordinator at CCC)

Tom and Tomos will speak about their work establishing a 200-strong Community Choir from scratch, which invites local people to come and sing together in the cathedral every week; plus their music outreach to schools.

# DAY 3

Thursday 15th January 2026  
at **Christ Church Cathedral (CCC)**

- *from* 08:00 **Bag Drop** Baptistry
  - 08:30 – 08:50 **Morning Prayer** Quire
  - 09:00 – 10:00 **Sharing Sessions** Henry Roe Room (E) & Chapter House (V)
  - 10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee Break** South Transept
  - 10:30 – 11:10 **Cathedrals Plus Annual General Meeting** Henry Roe Room
  - 11:10 – 12:10 **Workshops 2**
  - 12:15 – 13:15 **Speaker 3** (Kelley Bermingham) Henry Roe Room
    - 'Faith in Action: Engaging, Listening and Leading'
  - 13:15 – 13:25 **Farewell and Evaluations** Henry Roe Room
  - *from* 13:30 **Collect Packed Lunches and Depart** Chapter House
- [ 13:35 – 13:50 *Council Members Debrief and Feedback* Henry Roe Room ]

**Westhill**  
make things happen



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GOOD INVESTMENT



## Workshops 2 (Thursday 15th January 2026)

G — General interest

E — Education & Learning

C — Community

O — Outreach

Conserving the Intangible Heritage of Churches in Times of Diversified Use (G)	Aaron Hoey
Inspired Classrooms (E)	Saul Penfold
Invitation to a Sacred Pause (C)	Lydia Monds
Bells & Smells: Effective Outreach for Cathedral Learning Programmes (E)	Kryzel Bonifacio

- **Conserving the Intangible Heritage of Churches in Times of Diversified Use**

- Aaron Hoey (Verger at SPC)

Aaron will explore concepts of heritage, from the tangible church structures and artefacts to the intangible stories, music, and rituals they house.

- **Inspired Classrooms**

- Saul Penfold

*Inspired Classrooms* was established nine years ago as an online resource offering creative ways for schools to deliver RE, English, Science, Maths, Humanities, the Arts, and PSHE through visits to their local parish churches. Saul will lead an interactive deep dive into the world of *Inspired Classrooms* and test out some of its key resources — all freely available to members of Cathedrals Plus.

- **Invitation to a Sacred Pause**

- Lydia Monds

Lydia is the Ministry Leader for the Church's *Ministry of Healing* in Ireland. This charity, founded in 1932, works to resource the Church of Ireland in healing ministry and in creating spaces for all to find rest and open themselves to God's healing love. Lydia will lead a 'shortened' version of the *Sacred Pause*, focusing on spending time in nature and returning to a sense of ourselves and of God's presence with us.

- **Bells & Smells: Effective Outreach for Cathedral Learning Programmes**

- Kryzel Bonifacio (Education Officer at SPC)

Whether in a busy city centre or a rural parish, we've all pondered how to get more people (both in numbers and diversity) engaged with our programmes. Kryzel will discuss the ups and downs of outreach for schools, festivals, and family workshops.

# GUEST SPEAKERS

**corrymeela** 



**The Revd Dr Alex Wimberly** is Leader of the *Corrymeela* Community in Northern Ireland. Corrymeela was founded in 1965 as a way of building a more peaceful Northern Ireland through Christian community. *Corrymeela* continues to work alongside people of all faiths and none to live out reconciliation in our daily lives. Alex is a minister originally from the United States. His doctorate from the University of Notre Dame examined themes of reconciliation in the American Presbyterian Church. Alex is married to Kiran, also an ordained minister, who is currently serving with the Moravian Churches in Northern Ireland.



**The Revd Abigail Sines** has recently been appointed Dean of Clonmacnoise. She was Associate Minister in the Carrigrohane Union of Parishes since September 2022. Her responsibilities there focused on children and family ministry in the parish and creative outreach centred on the Church of the Resurrection, Blarney. She initiated the *Mindful Makers* craft group. From March 2024, the group took on an ambitious project: creating a knitted Bible display, which made its debut in Blarney during Holy Week this year, drawing hundreds of visitors from the local area and beyond. This is on display in Christ Church Cathedral for us to see. Abigail previously served as Dean's Vicar in Christ Church Cathedral from September 2016 to August 2022. She is a member of the Church of Ireland's Liturgical Advisory Committee and the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, serving as the convenor for the Interfaith Working Group. She is a trustee of *Places of Sanctuary Ireland* and the *Church Mission Society Ireland*.



**Kelley Bermingham** is the Community Officer and Safeguarding DLP (Child and Adult) at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. As a social care worker, Kelley has formal training in social care, community work, mental health, youth work, and facilitation. Kelley also has a long history of voluntarism, beginning at home, where the A.L.O.N.E. organisation was started by her parents. Active involvement in the Irish Red Cross, the annual Kildare Derby Festival, Kilmainham Arts Festival, Community Radio, and youth mentoring are examples of the breadth of approaches to community connection and activity. Kelley is elected as a Representative on the Public Participation Network, sitting on the Local Community Development Committee for Dublin City, as well as holding a seat on the Secretariat for Dublin City.



## Optional Tours

- Teeling Whiskey Distillery
- Marsh's Library
- The Trinity College Long Room and the Book of Kells
- The Chester Beatty Library
- Dublinia
- Cathedral Tower Tours (of both cathedrals)



## INSPIRING LIVES: SAINTS, MARTYRS & MISSIONARIES

Our two-year project, 'Inspiring Lives: Saints, Martyrs and Missionaries', will create a digital and in-print resource about people of faith at the heart of the community, historically or currently. By collating the shared knowledge and experience of our members, and researching further examples of inspiring individuals, we will curate and create a range of materials for cathedrals and churches to use in their outreach work and to share with local communities, schools, families and individuals.

Part of the funding received from Westhill has supported phase one of the project: our conference theme and activities. As we now embark on phase two, we invite you to share the stories of people who inspire you.

We need you and your cathedral or sacred space, as members of Cathedrals Plus, to participate in this important work. Tell us your stories: those of the saints to whom your buildings are dedicated; those in your community who inspire you and your work each day; those people of faith who have touched your lives in whatever way; tell us the stories of shared beliefs and of the passion with which people inspire others around you.

See the project leaflet in your delegate folder for further information, email us, or scan the QR code below. We look forward to hearing about your Inspiring Lives!

**Westhill**  
make things happen



Email: [sarah.page@cathedralsplus.org.uk](mailto:sarah.page@cathedralsplus.org.uk)

## Map of Dublin (Conference Area)

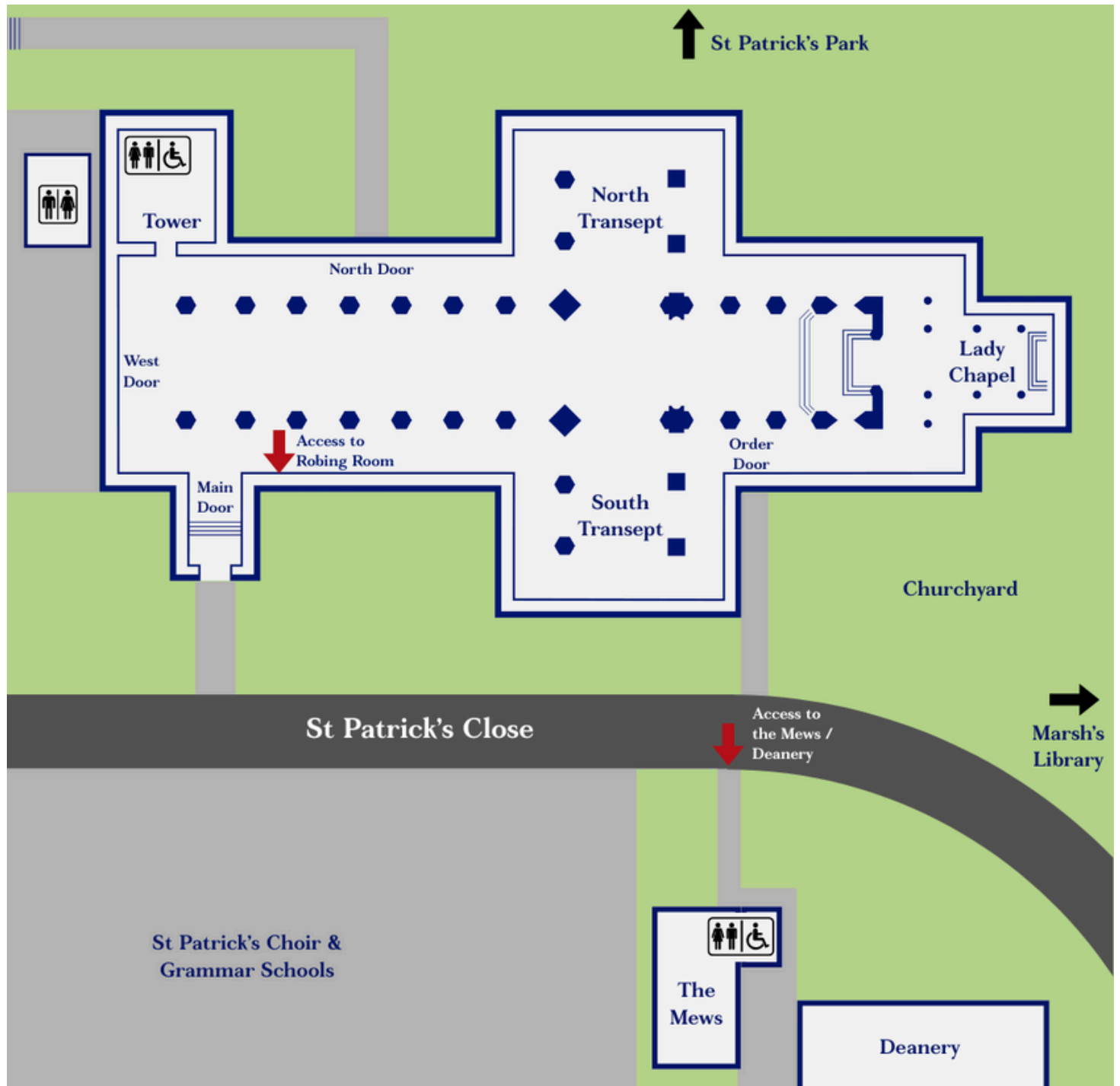


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# Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin (SPC)

Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin D08 H6X3 | +353 1 453 9472



Thank you for attending the 2026 annual conference in Dublin. During the conference, please use the following numbers to contact a member of the organising team.

**Jackie Holderness** (Secretary of Cathedrals Plus)

**Sarah Page** (Co-Secretary of Cathedrals Plus)

**Clark Brydon** (Saint Patrick's Cathedral & Treasurer of Cathedrals Plus)

**Louis Parminter** (Saint Patrick's Cathedral)

**Ruth Kenny** (Christ Church Cathedral)

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The Cathedrals Plus trustees would like to thank  
all our sponsors and supporters for their generous contributions.



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