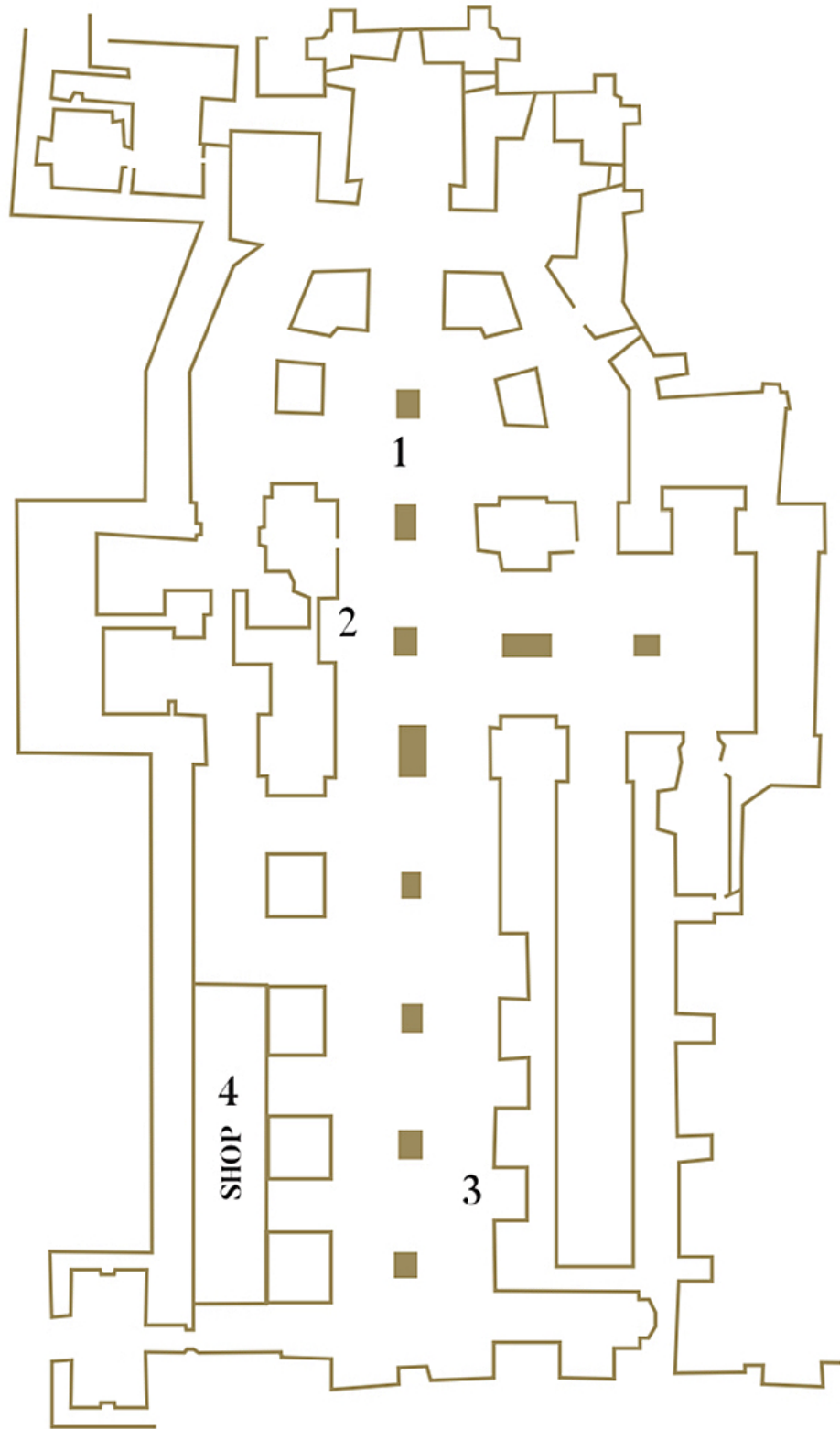


The Crypt

Welcome to Christ Church Crypt. It is the largest crypt in Ireland and the oldest working structure in Dublin. It was built in the late 12th-century with parts of it possibly dating from the 11th-century.



1. The Treasury

In the Treasury you can discover our priceless collection of manuscripts, books and silver, including Christ Church's copy of Magna Carta.

2. Stocks

These stocks date from around 1670 and once stood outside the cathedral in Christ Church Yard. The Dean and Chapter could sentence anyone who committed a crime in the 'Liberty' of Christ Church (the area around the cathedral) to a period in the stocks, where they would be pelted with rotten fruit and vegetables.

3. Cat and Rat

The mummified remains of this cat and rat were found inside one of the cathedral's organ pipes around 1870.

4. Shop

Come and discover our great range of Christ Church souvenirs and Irish gifts. All proceeds from the shop support the work of the cathedral.

Please join us at one of our services. All welcome.

Weekday Services

10.00	Morning Prayer
17.00	Evening Prayer

Weekend Services

11.00	Sung Eucharist (<i>Sunday</i>)
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Please note: The cathedral choirs are on vacation in July and August. Please check christchurchcathedral.ie for details of visiting and voluntary choirs singing services during these months.

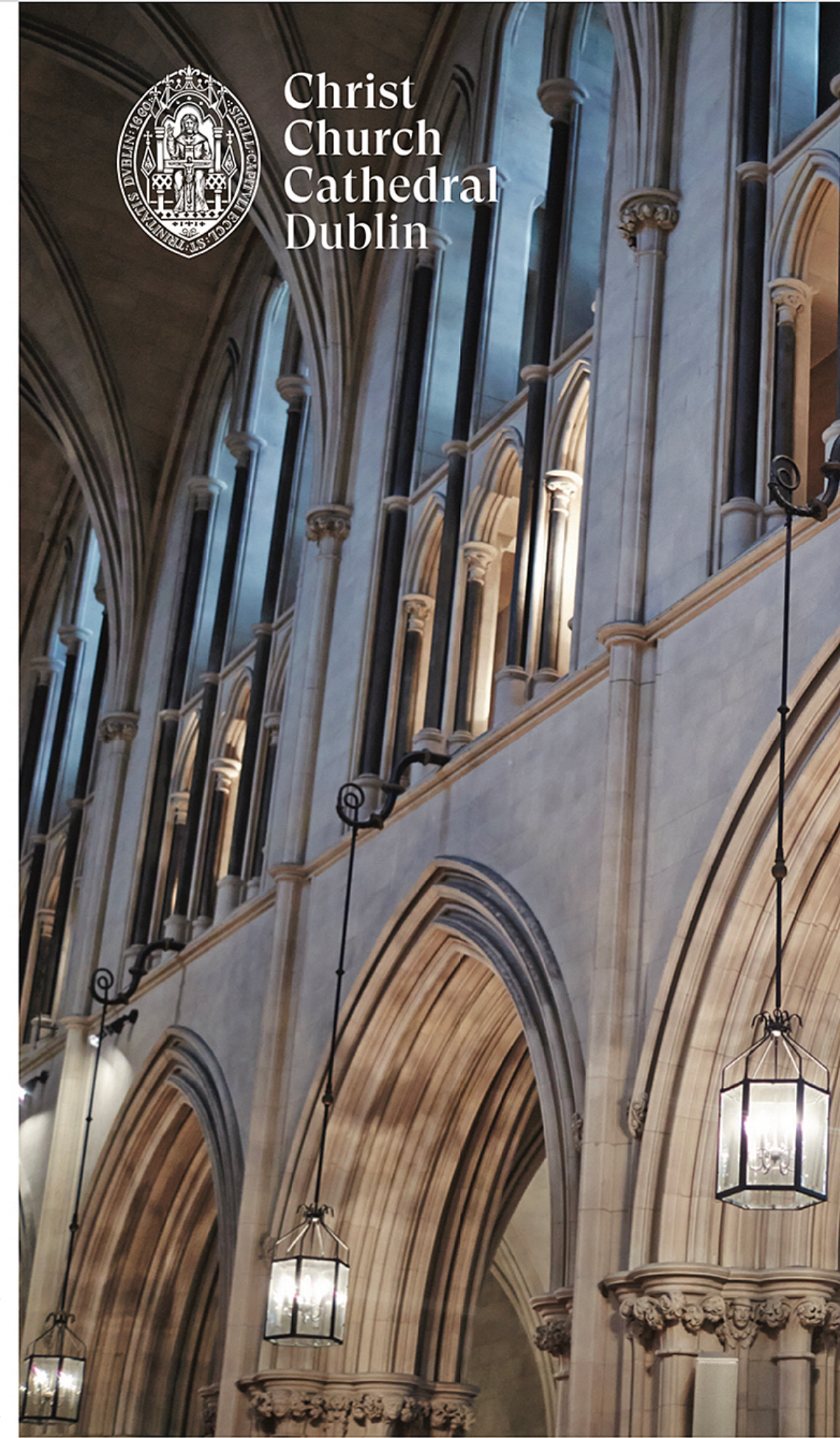
We hope you enjoyed your visit.
Thank you for supporting the cathedral.

The cathedral in numbers: It costs €1.8 million a year to run Christ Church Cathedral Dublin. We welcome 240,000 visitors a year. We have 19 bells and 10 bell-ringers. The height of the nave is 14.8m. The choir sing 1,670 'Amens' every year. The cathedral organ has 2,224 pipes. 9,216 sips of altar wine are taken every year. Our Christmas tree is 9 metres high.



Christ
Church
Cathedral
Dublin

September 2019 | Revision Number 1



Visitor Guide



Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral Dublin from our Dean and Chapter. You are now standing in the oldest building in continuous use in Dublin. The story of the cathedral begins almost a thousand years ago, when the Hiberno-Norse King, Sitriuc Silkenbeard, built the first church on this site in about 1030. The Anglo-Normans rebuilt the cathedral in the 12th and 13th centuries and this is largely the building you see today, though it was heavily restored in the 1870s.

This leaflet highlights some of the cathedral's most interesting stories and features. We hope you enjoy exploring this unique and special place.

1. Chapel of St. Laud

Most of the medieval tiles that remained unbroken after the roof collapse of 1562 were re-laid here in the 19th-century. Christ Church is one of only a small number of churches in Ireland to retain any of its original floor.

2. Lady Chapel

This chapel is a favourite spot for quiet reflection and prayer. Feel free to take a seat.

3. North Transept and Ambulatory

If you look up here, you will find some of the cathedral's finest medieval stone carving at the top of the columns. Among the designs are a pair of attacking griffins, fruit pickers, sheep and shepherds, and a group of dancing musicians. They date from the late 12th-century.

4. Heart of St. Laurence O'Toole

Here you will find the heart traditionally associated with St. Laurence O'Toole, patron saint of Dublin. Laurence was buried in France in 1180 and his heart was reputedly brought back to Christ Church soon afterwards. It was stolen in 2012 but recovered in 2018 and restored to its home in the cathedral.

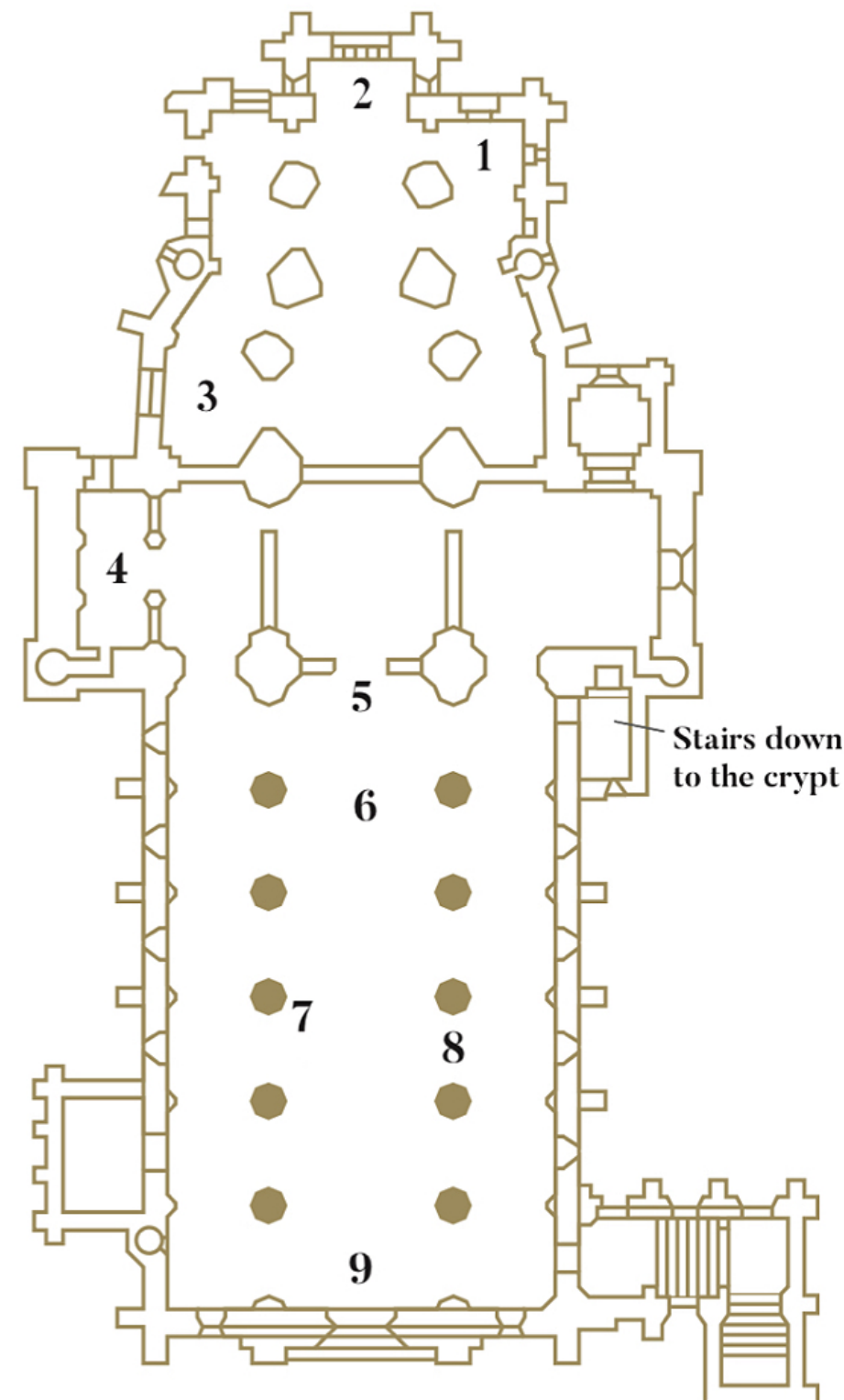
5. Screen

If you stand with your back to the screen you can see that the original medieval wall to your right leans out by about 45 centimetres (18 inches) as a result of the roof collapsing in 1562. The wall to your left is a 19th-century replacement.

Quire

These carved oak stalls are where the celebrated Christ Church Cathedral choir sit. Their most famous performance took place in April 1742 when, with the choir from St Patrick's Cathedral, they sang the very first performance of Handel's Messiah. On the right-hand side of the quire stands the tall gothic *cathedra*, the seat of the Archbishop of Dublin, which makes Christ Church a cathedral.

Main Cathedral



6. Floor Tiles

At your feet you will notice the cathedral's floor tiles. Most of the medieval tiles were broken when the roof collapsed in 1562, so these are 19th-century copies of the originals. There are 64 different designs and approximately 84,000 tiles.

The 'Foxy Friars' tile design is unique to Christ Church and shows foxes dressed up as pilgrims, with hats, walking sticks and back-packs.

7. Medieval Carved Monkey

Look up and on top of one of the pillars you will see a grinning 13th-century stone monkey; one of Christ Church's many decorative animals.

8. Strongbow's Tomb

Richard de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, better known as Strongbow, was leader of the Anglo-Normans who captured Dublin in 1170. He is said to have played a part in the building of the medieval cathedral and was buried here in 1176. Strongbow's original tomb was destroyed when the roof of the cathedral collapsed in 1562. It had, however, become a central part of Dublin business life, where contracts were agreed and rents were paid, so a new 'Strongbow' tomb was quickly found. This 14th-century replacement depicts an anonymous knight in full armour.

9. Stained Glass

Our beautiful stained-glass windows mostly date from the 1870s and are based on medieval designs.

**Please continue your tour downstairs in our crypt.
Stairs are marked on the map.**