

Welcome to St Eugene's Cathedral

This Cathedral is a place for people to come and worship God, sit quietly and pray.

St. Eugene's Cathedral was solemnly opened on the 4th May 1873 by Bishop Kelly, in the presence of Cardinal McGettigan. The Cathedral cost a little over £40,000 to build.

1. Great Western Door and Porch of Welcome

The best way to enter the Cathedral is by the Great Western Door. This is the main access point to the Cathedral. The porch is now home to eight Austrian Oak statues that were originally part of the wooden pulpit (erected 1906). The verse from the Prophet Isaiah serves as a reminder that the porch is a place of welcome through which we are invited, by name, to enter the house of God.

2. The Organ Gallery

Look above you as you enter the main body of the Cathedral and you will see the organ gallery, which was extended in 1904. The slender columns are crowned by a ring of oak leaves with a dove nestling among them. These are symbols of Saint Columba, Patron Saint of Derry. The carved Latin inscription translates as 'Praise him with drum and dance, praise him with strings and pipes', calling each of us to raise our hearts and minds in praise as we enter this sacred place.

3. Rose Window

Behind the magnificent Telford & Telford Organ stands a beautiful stained glass rose window (installed 1920). Its impressive Celtic pattern points to the vast contribution made to the Christian tradition by Celtic believers.

4. Saint Columba Window

At the rear of the North Aisle is another large stained glass window, this time depicting Saint Columba blessing Derry as he embarked on his

journey to Iona. As you look upon the scene, you are invited to offer a prayer for the people of the city in our own time.

5. Baptismal Font

The white Carrara marble font is notable for its spacious dimensions. Thousands of people have been welcomed into God's family through the baptismal waters of this font. The words 'Springs of water, Bless the Lord, Give him Glory and Praise forever' circumscribe the marble and praise God for the great gift of Baptism.

6. Blessed Sacrament Altar

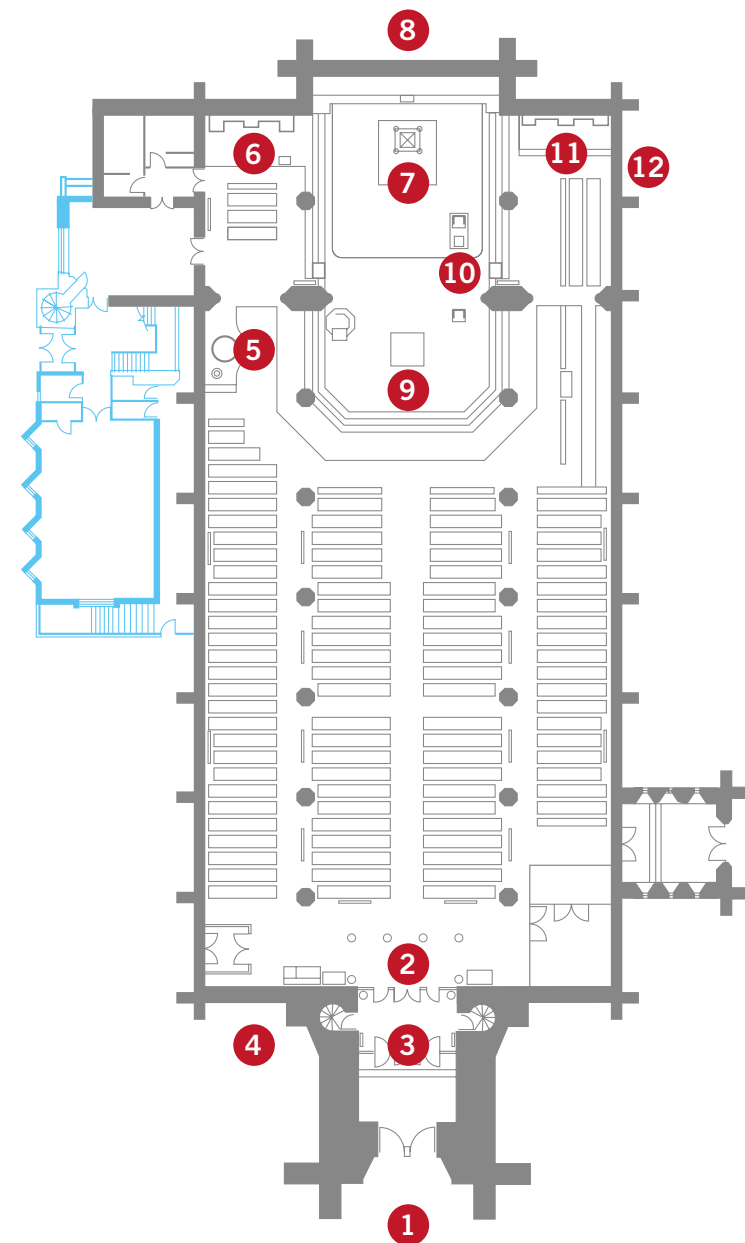
The reredos is made of Caen stone and Irish marble and is sculptured in huge relief depicting the Twenty-four Elders with crowns upon their heads, holding harps and adoring the figure of the Lamb. The two groups stand under arched and recessed canopies.

7. Tabernacle

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a silver-plated bronze tabernacle which was installed in 1989. The symbols on the door depict the Lamb of God as well as sheaves of wheat and bunches of grapes. Figures of the Twelve Apostles adorn the sides. 'This bread is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world' (John 6:51).

8. The Bishop Kelly Memorial Window

Perhaps the most arresting feature of the Cathedral is the majestic stained glass window above the sanctuary. It dates from 1891 and beautifully illustrates seven significant scenes from the life of Christ – the Nativity, the Baptism of Jesus, the agony in the garden, the Crucifixion, Jesus being taken down from the Cross, Christ's Resurrection and Ascension. Below these are depictions of prominent saints of the Irish Church – from left to right: Patrick, Brigid, Canice, Eugene, Columba, Dymnna and Mura.



■ Built 1851-1873

■ Built 1988

As well as this free short guide there is a comprehensive souvenir guide book available to buy describing the Cathedral in much greater detail.

9. Main Altar & Ambo

A major renovation undertaken in 1989 saw the installation of a new altar and ambo, constructed from Carrara and Macedonian marble. From the Table of God's Word and the Table of the Eucharist, the Faithful are nourished at each Mass.

10. Bishop's Chair

On the right side of the main altar stands the Bishop's chair or cathedra. The Cathedral, being the principal Church of the diocese, derives its name from the cathedra. A cross, mitre and crozier are emblazoned on the back of the chair as symbols of the Bishop's ministry to the people of God in the Diocese of Derry.

11. Our Lady's Altar

This small altar has been retained as a shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The statue of Our Lady was obtained from Munich in 1898. At the back of the statue is an arch of angels with the two upper angels holding a celestial crown over Mary's head. 'Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son' (Isaiah 7: 14).

12. Bust of Bishop Kelly

To the right of Our Lady's Altar is a bust of Francis Kelly, who was Bishop of Derry from 1849 to 1889. It was during his episcopate that St Eugene's Cathedral was built and opened. The project took a quarter of a century to complete, with the site being purchased in 1849 and the solemn opening occurring in May 1873. 'Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith' (Hebrews 13:7).

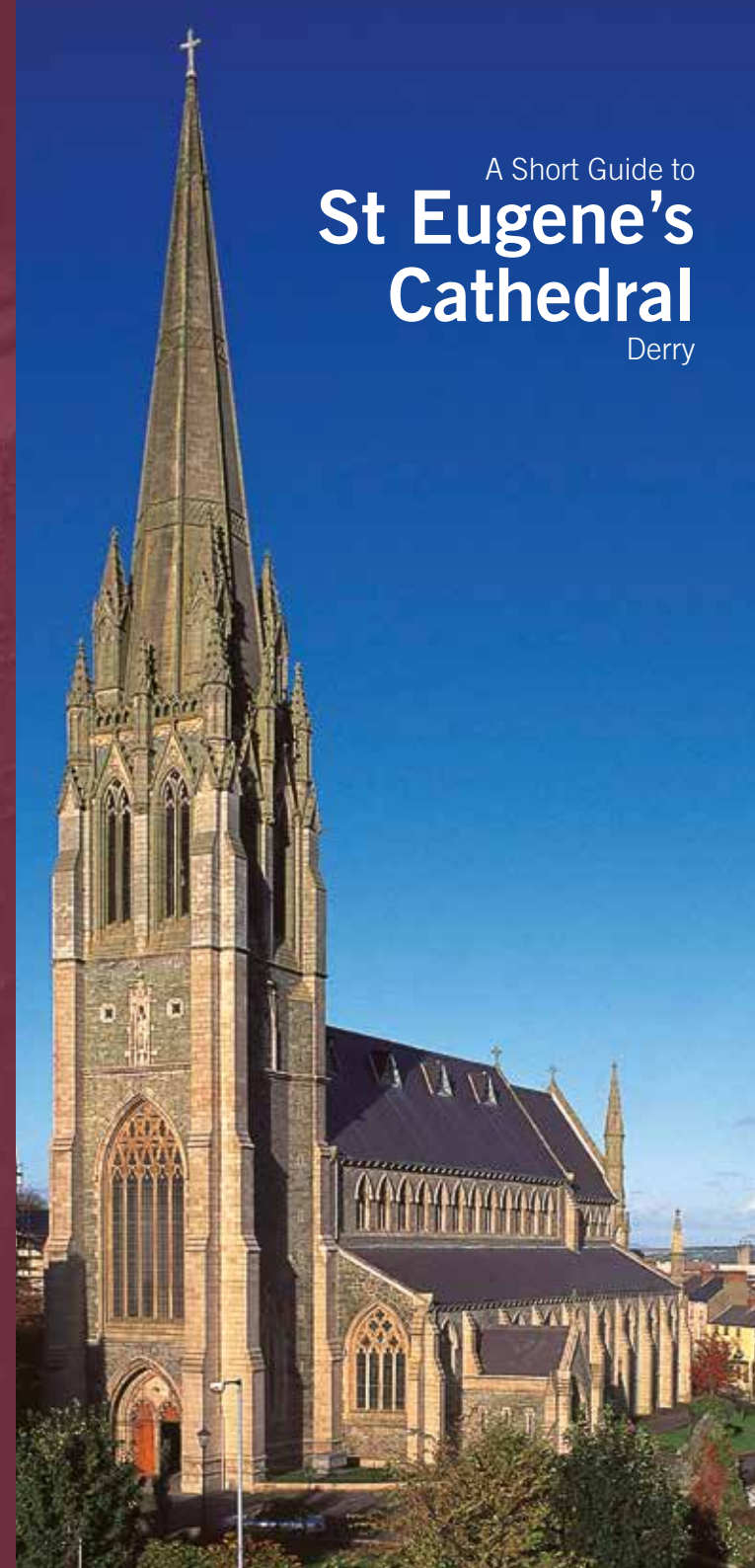
Back cover image: St Eugene as depicted on the Bishop Kelly Memorial Window.



St Eugene's Cathedral
Francis Street
Derry

www.steugenescathedral.com

A Short Guide to St Eugene's Cathedral Derry



Essential maintenance in 2015
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