



# Armagh Cathedrals Partnership

[www.stpatricks-cathedral.org](http://www.stpatricks-cathedral.org)

[www.armagharchdiocese.org](http://www.armagharchdiocese.org)

[www.irishpeacecentres.org](http://www.irishpeacecentres.org)

*This partnership has been facilitated by the Irish Peace Centres, with financial support from the EU's PEACE III Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. The implementation of the project will be managed by a steering committee of representatives from each cathedral, and will also include representatives from the Irish Peace Centres, Armagh City and District Council and the Centre for Celtic Spirituality.*



## In Step with Patrick



A project supported by the EU's PEACE III Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body



**Armagh Cathedrals' Partnership** between Saint Patrick's Catholic Cathedral and Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral is rooted in our common discipleship of Jesus Christ. Scripture and the writings of Saint Patrick are our shared texts, constituting a strong and unbreakable bond between the two traditions.

Both Cathedrals are iconic buildings and 'living spaces' to various groups; worshippers, pilgrims, visitors and local community.

The Cathedrals dominate the City skyline as a clarion symbol of our common Christian heritage. Thus we have the privilege and responsibility of maintaining them as a legacy from the past and as 'significant places' for present and future generations in the Ecclesiastical Capital of Ireland.

The Partnership aims at strengthening and extending the bonds of unity and love which exist between the two Cathedral communities. The fruits of our journey will be manifest as we find ourselves meeting more often, in confidence and trust, in each other's place of worship and at community and social events. Through this Partnership we strive to make our two Cathedrals symbols of mutual understanding and reconciliation in our City, Community and Country.

## OUR VISION

### WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY

- Closer co-operation around the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- Initiating conversations relating to religion and cultural identity through visits to the two cathedrals.
- Invitation to share in significant events and services at both Cathedrals.

### DIALOGUE

- A meal on the Eve of St Patrick's Day at which there will be some sharing around our respective cultures and traditions.
- Meeting together for dialogue in the context of a walk, a pilgrimage or other event.

### PUBLIC EVENTS

Actively co-operate together with Armagh City and District Council in its festival plans around St Patrick's Day.

### OUTREACH & HEALING

- Exploring together how the 'Morning on the Hill' school visits might be expanded to include both Cathedrals.
- Initiating through visits to the two Cathedrals conversations relating to religious and cultural identity.

### MINISTRY TO PILGRIMS & VISITORS

- Explore together new ways to enhance the visitor experience to both Cathedrals from the Patrick perspective.
- Joint visitors' information leaflets.
- A 'Pilgrims' Trail' marked in the pavement between the two Cathedrals.
- Take a lead in supporting Armagh City and District Council in promoting Armagh as a 'significant place'.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF EACH CATHEDRAL



**The Church of Ireland Cathedral**, which stands on Ard Macha or Sally Hill, is believed to be built on the site of the first stone church founded by Patrick in 445. The existing Cathedral was built in the thirteenth century, but in its present refurbished form dates from the eighteenth century.

**The Catholic Cathedral** stands on the adjacent Sandy Hill. Begun in 1840, the work was interrupted by the Great Famine. Building recommenced in 1854, with a new neo-Gothic design, including the twin spires. The Cathedral was opened in 1873 and internal decoration was completed in 1904.



### OTHER CHURCHES IN ARMAGH

Both Cathedrals value relationships with the other churches in Armagh and participate in various activities with them. **'Armagh Cathedrals' Partnership** is specific to the two Cathedrals and to their role in promoting Armagh as the Ecclesiastical Capital of Ireland.