



many voices one goal

raising funds for Holy Rosary and St. Anne's Cathedral Choir School



raising voices, raising funds.

"Singing lies at the heart of human expression, of joy and sorrow and of coming together in praise. As participants or as quiet listeners, the tradition of Church music touches many lives on many occasions. Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, commented in recent years that music and song are more than an embellishment or even an unnecessary element of worship; they are themselves part of the liturgical action. Solemn sacred music, with choir, organ, orchestra and the singing of the people, is not therefore merely an addition that frames the liturgy and makes it more pleasing, but an important means of active participation in worship.

Our Diocese has built on the importance of its music and over the last decade has brought about a flourishing transformation. 53 choirs and nearly 2000 children sing weekly, making ours the largest Church programme of choral music in the country.

At the same time, our Catholic schools are an essential component of the nation's educational provision and we have

to provide for their upkeep. Sometimes we have to dig deep to provide additional resource so that the widest cross section of our school communities can prosper. Objective data from Ofsted reports and the DfES consistently show that Catholic schools are very diverse and socially mixed. This is very clearly demonstrated at the Leeds Cathedral parish's own primary school, The Holy Rosary and St Anne's, where 90% of children are from minority ethnic groups and 20 different languages are spoken.

The formation of a Cathedral Choir School here represents an ambitious and truly Catholic initiative, where the talents of many young people will be nurtured for fulfilment of their own potential and for the benefit of the wider community. As well as the skills of musicianship, ambition and achievement are the gifts we would like to give to many more young people in our Diocese through support for the Choir School.

When the Choir School reaches its potential, Leeds will be the

only Cathedral in the country to enjoy daily singing at lunch time as well as evening liturgies, in order that together with all the saints we may harmoniously sing the praises of God, bearing witness to His immense beauty, His greatness, His grandeur, His mercy, His profound love for all in our world and His constant presence amongst us"

Devotedly, with my blessing,

*+Arthur Roche
Bishop of Leeds*



Leeds Cathedral provides music of nationally acknowledged excellence, where choral scholars, boys' and girls' choirs sing daily liturgies and are regularly recorded for national broadcast.

For the Church this has been an exciting journey, but we are only part way along the road. A Cathedral Choir School for Leeds is proposed.

This will be the first new choir school for the under 11s in nearly 30 years to join the 44 other United Kingdom Cathedrals which already have dedicated schools. Those choir

schools have historic foundations which are able to award some scholarships but depend often on parental payment of fees. Leeds is taking a different route to bring about an even greater musical depth to the Diocese. The first steps have been taken to embed the Cathedral Choir School in the Cathedral's own parish primary school.

Holy Rosary and St Anne's Primary School in Chapeltown is located in one of the most socially and economically disadvantaged areas of the country, but the potential for achievement is impressive. From 2009, short term funding enabled specialist singing sessions to be given to every child

in the school by a nationally recognised Choral Director. Choirs have been established which have sung for important Civic events and Masses, including singing on their own for the Pope in September 2010.

In welcoming the Leeds Cathedral Choir School initiative, Jonathan Milton, the Head Teacher of the Westminster Abbey Choir School and until recently Chair of the Choir Schools' Association said

“To set up a new choir school within a maintained primary school is an incredibly powerful symbol of the value and importance of choir schools everywhere... Choir schools stand for excellence, and that excellence is the right of every child with ability, no matter what the background or circumstances”



Holy Rosary and St Anne's Primary School reverberates with its singing, but it is essential that its 250 pupils also achieve academically and share the wider successes that other choir schools enjoy. With only limited resources available, the first year's achievements have clearly shown the positive effects of high calibre singing on many children within the school.

the school.



how singing and music affect academic and life attainment in children.



“Singing brings fundamental benefits to children’s development. As well as being a global form of human communication with measurable social, emotional, psychological and neurological benefits, it promotes an understanding of the world we live in, of our culture and our heritage. Every child should have an opportunity to sing and to sing well – it is our birthright. I wish this fantastic initiative every success.”

*Professor Graham Welch PhD
Head of Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education, University of London
Chair - Society for Education, Music and Psychology Research
President - International Society for Music Education*

There is a substantial and growing body of academic research which demonstrates the positive relationship between musical instruction and intellectual, social and personal development. Skills learned in musical pursuits transfer to maths, reading, language development and memory. Moreover, so important is the role of group singing in schools that the effects on children’s life aspiration, social interaction, self esteem and co-operative behaviour have been recognised as driving to the core of a school’s success.

Senior researchers in Leeds Metropolitan University’s Faculty of Health and Social Science are already sufficiently interested in the early stages of the Choir School that there are plans to conduct a research project on the changes in academic achievement at the school as a result of its singing and choral focus.



The vision is to create a world class Cathedral Choir School in the city of Leeds. In the process of its creation it will raise the life chances and educational potential of the children of Chapeltown.

Leeds Cathedral provides a beautiful 'destination for worship' for the Diocese, deeply enhanced by the liturgical centre of excellence for music. Equally, the Diocese has co-ordinated a groundswell of many hundreds of young singers developing throughout the parishes. The extent of participation is a demonstration of the Church in action; engaging young people, valuing their role within the Church community, participating in joint activity with neighbouring churches and raising the musical ambition across the Diocese.

why donate?

This is a Diocesan project. All funding for the specialist Choir School will need to be raised voluntarily through the Diocese: the extra resources needed are not available within the Holy Rosary and St Anne's school or in Chapeltown.

what is needed?

- There is an immediate need to fund the continuation of the Choral Director's established sessions in the school.
- As confidence in the Choir School initiative grows, funding is needed for increasing the Choral Director's time to give group and individual singing lessons.
- Eventually, the ambition is for every child to be able to learn to play a musical instrument and to read music as part of raising standards of musicianship.
- Transport will be required between the Choir School and Leeds Cathedral and to other venues for performance opportunities and competitions.
- The conviction is already present that as the ambitions for increasing musical tuition are realised, there will need to be a dedicated, purpose built music facility within the grounds of the existing school building to give the rehearsal space which Cathedral Choir Schools require.
- At every stage, the standards of musical excellence in Chapeltown will aspire to the same ambitions as any of the Country's other choral foundations.



*'If I cannot fly,
let me sing'* *Stephen Sondheim*

The Cathedral Choir School at Holy Rosary and St Anne's will give the Diocese the chance for its music to soar to yet greater heights whilst also enabling children of the Chapeltown area to fly academically and in life.

Gift Aid Declaration

Make your donations worth almost a third more at no extra cost to you.

If you are a UK tax payer, you can increase the value of your gifts to the Cathedral Choir School at Holy Rosary and St Anne's as part of the Diocese of Leeds by nearly a third with Gift Aid. We can claim back the tax you have paid on your donations (through income tax or capital gains tax) from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

So, for every pound you give to us, we can claim an extra 28p. All you need to do is check the statements below and complete your name and home address details.

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Please return this form together with any donation to 'The Choir School Appeal', Holy Rosary and St Annes's Catholic Primary School, Leopold Street, Leeds LS7 4AW. Cheques can be made payable to the Leeds Cathedral Choir School.



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Photographs: Sandis Kajins, Patrick Sice

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