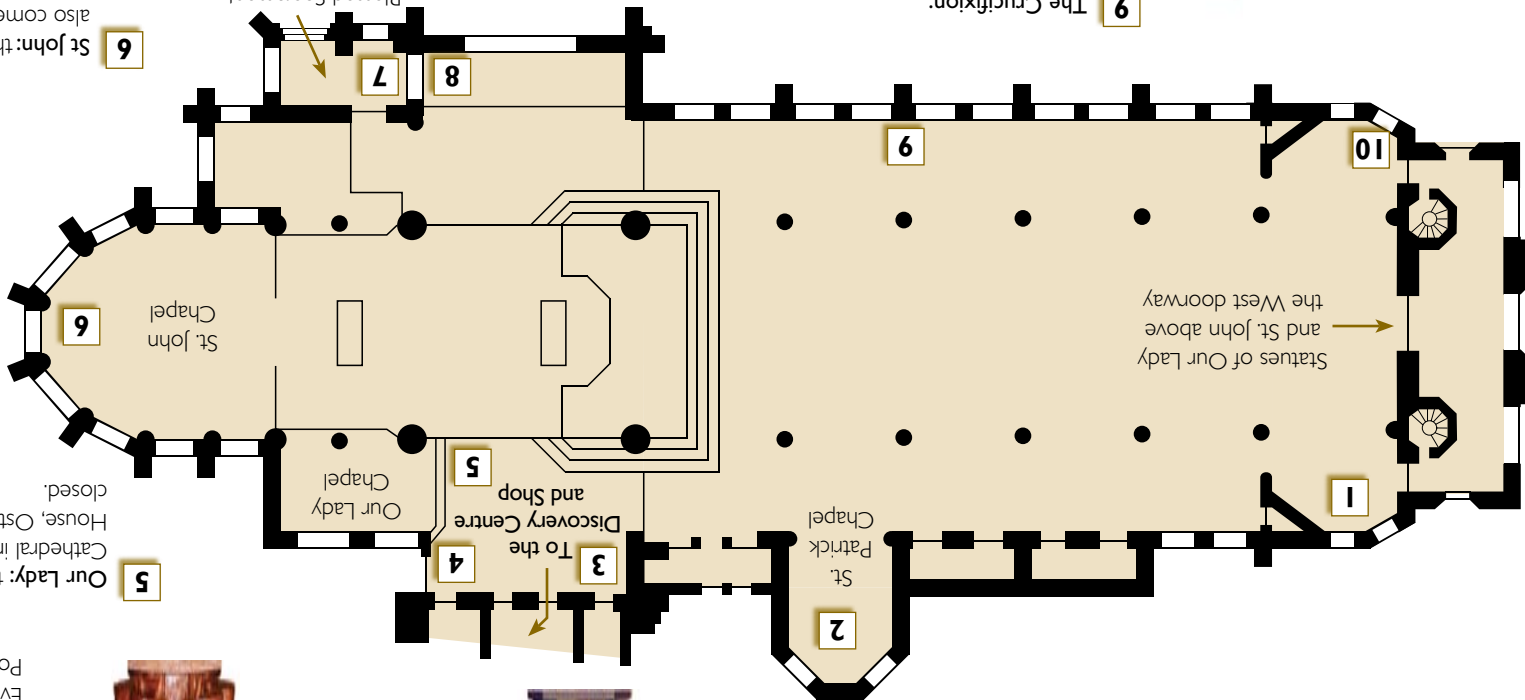


A WALK AROUND ST JOHN'S

Use this plan to take a stroll around the Cathedral.
Each image refers to a numbered location on the floor plan.



1 The Sacred Heart statue: thought to have come from Paris about 1886.



10 St Peter: with the Papal symbols – the triple crown, triple cross and the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.



9 The Crucifixion: together with the other Stations of the Cross, comes from France and was installed in 1912.



8 The Pietà: Our Lady with the body of her crucified son.



Blessed Sacrament Chapel



6 St John: this statue also comes from the first St John Portsea.



5 Our Lady: this statue came to the Cathedral in 2004 from Campion House, Osterley, when the college closed.



3 St Edmund: patron saint of the Portsmouth Diocese.



2 St Patrick: this statue is thought to have been installed when St Patrick's Chapel was completed in 1924.



4 St Joseph: this statue is one of the oldest in the Cathedral and came from the first St John Portsea.

A TALE OF TWO ST JOHN'S

The first St John's

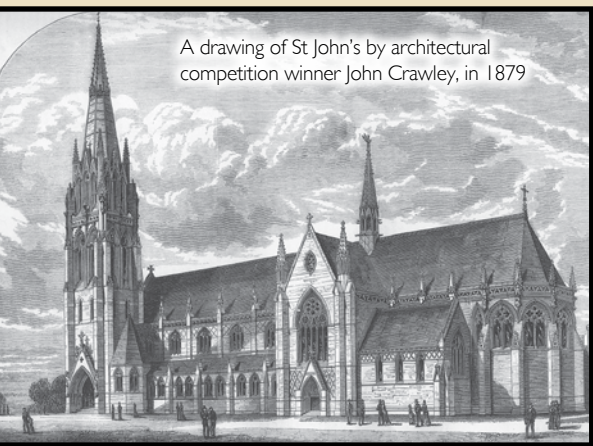
The Cathedral's story reflects Britain's history. It is a history in which Catholic membership and practice was illegal for over 250 years, following King Henry VIII's break with the Pope in 1536. This was later confirmed by his daughter Elizabeth who, on becoming Queen in 1559, passed laws establishing the church in England as separate, Protestant and with independent powers to appoint its own bishops.

Despite these changes Catholic families, often refugees and migrants from other countries, lived in Britain's towns attracted by employment opportunities in places like Portsmouth Dockyard. By the late eighteenth century Portsmouth had grown to become a huge and fortified naval port and arsenal, home to thousands of soldiers and sailors. Many were Catholics.

This is partly why the law was changed in 1791 permitting Catholics to once again build churches and attend mass. One of the most immediate results was the construction of St John the Evangelist in 1796, a modest chapel in Portsea, just outside Portsmouth Dockyard.

The second St John's

By 1850 it was clear a new and larger church was urgently needed. The man who would make this happen was Father John Horan, appointed Mission Rector to Portsea in 1865. It took him another 15 years before the first foundation stone was laid in 1880. Two years later the partly built church opened as the new Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, with John Horan as its Administrator. Bishop John Virtue celebrated the first mass in May 1882.



A drawing of St John's by architectural competition winner John Crawley, in 1879

© Institute of Civil Engineers

ST JOHN'S TODAY

St John's is much more than a beautiful church, for it continues to provide a focus for thousands of people in many different ways.

As a Cathedral

St John's is the heart of Catholic life in the Portsmouth Diocese. This is where the Bishop lives and works to care for the spiritual and pastoral needs of priests, religious and parishioners – across an area reaching to Oxford in the north and the Channel Islands to the south.

As a Parish

Today, the Cathedral Parish attracts parishioners and visitors from within as well as beyond Portsmouth, including countries across the world: every continent is represented. The Parish also supports St John's primary school and St Edmund's secondary school and in this way continues a tradition inspired by Father John Horan when he opened a new school in 1880 alongside the new church then under construction.

As a focus for ecumenism

St John's, as Cathedral and Parish, works with other Christian traditions in a variety of ways including the ecumenical group known as Churches Together in Central Portsmouth.

If you would like further information about St John's, or you seek advice in confidence by appointment; or wish to book a wedding, baptism or funeral:

- Speak to a priest after mass
- Phone the parish office on **023 9282 6170**
- Phone the Discovery Centre on **023 9287 0348**
- Write to **The Dean at Bishop's House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3HG**
- email **info@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk**
- See the cathedral web site at **www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk**

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE CATHEDRAL

To become a Friend phone 023 9282 6170 or email **info@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk**

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THE FIRST 125 YEARS!



St John's Cathedral celebrated a big birthday in 2007!

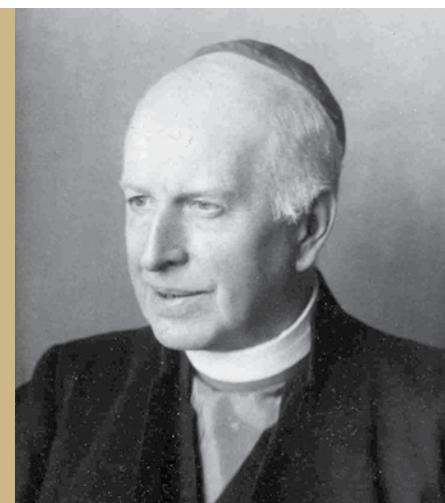
Just over 125 years ago a new church was built in Portsmouth, dedicated to St John the Evangelist. It was opened in 1882 as the Cathedral Church for the new Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. This leaflet is one of the ways the Cathedral has marked the anniversary. Open the pages fully to find more about the story of the years before, and since, the Cathedral's foundation.

this leaflet is FREE
please take a copy

Portsmouth's Catholic Cathedral of St John the Evangelist: *a timeline*

The history and life of St John's Cathedral is closely bound up with the city's own history and the life of the Navy and Army during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Its opening in the 1880s is an example of how the Catholic Church was being re-established in the British Isles after over three hundred years absence. Portsmouth is unusual in that it has two cathedrals; the other is the Anglican Cathedral Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Old Portsmouth.

- 1791** The law is changed to permit Catholics to establish their own churches for worship.
- 1796** St John the Evangelist opens in Portsea, near the Dockyard, with seating for three hundred.
- 1811** Catholics in the army are allowed to attend mass on Sundays rather than the official Anglican services.
- 1837** Victoria is crowned Queen.
- 1850** The Catholic Hierarchy is re-established in Britain after three hundred years – Portsmouth is in the diocese of Southwark.
- 1851** Owing to the increasing number of Catholic servicemen in Portsmouth, St John the Evangelist is enlarged to seat seven hundred people.
- 1855** Father William Wollett is appointed the first full time Catholic Royal Navy chaplain.
- 1859** New advances in military technology, like the invention of the rifled canon, mean that Portsmouth's moated defences have become redundant. Eventually this land becomes available for development.
- 1865** Father John Horan is appointed Missions Rector to Portsea, and begins to raise funds to build a new church and a new school.
- 1869** Redundant War Department land is purchased for £1,800 on which it is proposed to build a new church.
- 1871** Monsignor John Virtue is posted to Portsmouth as senior military chaplain.
- 1876** An architectural competition is launched for the design of a new catholic church in Portsmouth.
- 1877** Mary Potter, a parishioner at St John's, leaves her home in Portsmouth for Nottingham where she founds her Order of the Little Company of Mary, dedicated to the care of the terminally sick.
- 1881** The foundation stone is laid for the new church in Portsmouth.
- 1882** The Portsmouth Catholic Diocese is established. The first phase of the new church of St John the Evangelist is opened and becomes the cathedral church. Mass is celebrated in May by the first Bishop, John Virtue. John Horan is the first Cathedral Administrator.
- 1900** John Cahill is appointed the second bishop.
- 1901** Queen Victoria dies.
- 1906** The Cathedral is now substantially complete with the construction of the west end.
- 1910** Timothy Cotter is appointed third bishop.
- 1914** The First World War begins, ending four years later in November 1918.
- 1924** The Cathedral's St Patrick Chapel is built.
- 1927** The Anglican diocese is established and in due course the parish church of St Thomas of Canterbury in Old Portsmouth becomes the cathedral church of the new diocese.
- 1939** The Second World War begins.
- 1941** Enemy bombing damages the cathedral and destroys Bishop's House; six people are killed. The newly appointed Bishop John Henry King moves temporarily to Winchester.
- 1945** The Second World War ends May in Europe and August in the Far East.
- 1946** Start of repairs to the cathedral and reconstruction of Bishop's House.
- 1953** Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1965** Derek Worlock is appointed the fifth bishop.
- 1970** The interior of St John's Cathedral is re-ordered to reflect the liturgical reforms resulting from the Second Vatican Council held 1962-65. The altar is brought forward to be closer to the congregation.
- 1976** Anthony Emery is appointed sixth bishop.
- 1982** Cardinal Basil Hume celebrates mass in Guildhall Square to mark the centenary of the diocese.
- 1989** Crispian Hollis is installed as seventh bishop.
- 2001** The cathedral is renovated and re-ordered for the Millennium. A new organ is installed.
- 2007** Celebrations take place in May to mark the 125th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.



John Virtue, Portsmouth Diocese' first bishop 1882 to 1900



Looking towards the high altar with its huge canopy, about 1900



Bishop's house destroyed by enemy bombing 1941.



St John's today – looking east towards the high altar.



St John's today view of the West Front