

VISBY DOMKYRKA 800 ÅR

That’s to celebrate!
All the year round!

Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria 800 years
A rich jubilee year is coming to its end. Every day we have celebrated our cathedral with services, discourses, exhibitions, guided tours, and music.

The jubilee began on New Year's Day with a presentation of the cathedral's history in Words & Music. The jubilee logo was lit up on the church's southern wall. The jubilee hymn From Limestone Ground, written by Dean Anna Lundgren (lyrics) and Cathedral Organist Peter Alrikson (music), was sung for the first time.

The Peace Dove Project, which offered everyone a unique opportunity to express their wishes and raise their voices for peace, turned out to be a far greater success than we had expected. 5,000 doves were submitted from all over Gotland. The project was inaugurated on May 1st with a unique concert by Christoffer Lundquist. The original plan was to let the doves hang during May – but they will remain until the end of the year.

In honour of the cathedral's jubilee and its connection to the Hansa, Visby hosted the Hanseatic Day 2025. An international organ project, led by the parish, organized a composition competition whose selected works were published in a Hansa Organ Book. The first Hansa Organ Festival, with participants from 15 Hanseatic cities, featured ten double concerts in the cathedral and five concerts in the countryside. The festival was such a success that the Hansa decided to include a festival in future Hanseatic Days.

The real birthday, Sunday, July 27th, was the highlight of the year — a three-day celebration. Jan Eliasson opened the festivities on Friday with a lecture on peace. Saturday was filled with a variety of activities for all ages and concluded with a concert by Tomas Andersson Wij. Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel honoured the jubilee mass with their presence — a service that could also be followed on a large outdoor screen. Among the guests were representatives from our partner diocese in Tanzania, from Lübeck, from the Diocese of Linköping, and from the Swedish Parliament. Agneta Sköld had composed Mary's Praise; Peter Alrikson presented a work for trumpet and organ combining an 18th-century piece with modern melodic elements; Alma Emilsson had set a psalm from the Psalter to music. And of course, the jubilee hymn was sung. A grand "Swedish fika" was served outdoors, with jubilee pastries.

The final months of the year feature many highlights, including Handel's Messiah and the launch of a gluten- and alcohol-free Sankta Maria Lager, before the year concludes at midnight on New Year's Eve.

Some highlights during November and December:
Exhibitions: Nov 15 -Dec 7 "To Be Seen – Portraits of Transsexual and Non-Binary People in a Sacred Room"
Each month you can enjoy an exhibition on a relevant topic.
November: Myths, tales and legends from Sankta Maria
December: Tomorrow's church – challenges and possibilities
All 12 exhibitions can be downloaded at https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/visbydomkyrka/12-manader-12-teman--en-utstallningsserie

Guided tours:
Sundays at 14.00 hrs: Guided tours to the loft and its unique objects.
Tickets: www.nortic.se

Music: Every Saturday at 11.00 hrs concerts of various kinds. Furthermore:
November 15th – Rainbow-mass with Richard Söderberg, opera singer
November 23rd – Visby Cathedral in words, music and prayers
November 29th – Let's sing in Advent! The Choirs of Visby Cathedral Parish and Gotlandsmusiken's Brass quintet
December 13th – Gaudete by Anders Öhrvall. Sankta Maria Domkyrkokör and musicians
December 27th – Messiah by Handel. The Cathedral Choir, soloists and orchestra
December 28th – Organ Concert, Bengt Tribukait
New Years Eve – The jubilee year ends solemnly with a prayer and music

December 5th- 7th – Medieval Christmas (www.medeltidajul.se)
December 5th and 6th at 17.00 hrs : 5 och 6 december klockan 17: Our secret chambers – guided tours with our many centuries old sexton Konrad.
Tickets: www.nortic.se
December 6th at 11.00 hrs: The magic flute – Gotland's Flute Quartett
December 6th at 13.00 hrs: Medieval Christmas music with the Christmas Trio
December 6th at 16.00 hrs : St Nicolas' service
December 7th at 11.00 hrs: Medieval mass
December 7th at 16.00 hrs: Christmas concert with Ad Fontes (choir) and the viol ensemble Bona Speranza

Moreover:
November 10th Sankta Maria Lager is launched, a gluten- and alcohol-free beer
Every Saturday at noon: Prayer for peace
New Year's Eve at midnight: The Cathedral is open for candle lighting and prayers. The very end of the jubilee year.

In the Cathedral's shop you find our anniversary books
"Sankta Maria the Great.....and the Church Mouse", the adventures of the church mouse Hansansson. (Swedish, German, English)
"The History of Visby Cathedral – from a merchant's church to a cathedral", written by Dick Harrison.
(Swedish, English, German)
"The Organ from 1599", (Swedish, English)



During 800 years, the Hanseatic merchants' medieval chest for the trade on Novgorod has been kept in the cathedral. Beer was an important Hanseatic commodity. We have embraced this heritage during the anniversary year and, together with Barlingbo Brewery, we launch an alcohol- and gluten-free beer — Sankta Maria Lager — on November 10. The evening begins with a lecture in Swedish by Edward Blom titled "A Cultural Drink, a Nutrient, a Commodity, and a Festive Beverage."

For detailed information about the celebrations of the jubilee, please, visit our webpage, www.svenskakyrkan.se/visbydomkyrka

You can also follow us on Facebook.com/visby.df/ and Instagram.com/visbydf/

Svenska kyrkan | Visby domkyrkoförsamling

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