



Via Sacra

The Pearls of Life

in Linköping Cathedral



FACTSHEET

We invite you to follow VIA SACRA, the holy way, along the Pearls of Life in Linköping Cathedral.

The journey through the cathedral is 180 meters long and visits two bronze plaques and 18 beads embedded in the floor in illuminated stone recesses. The journey starts at Silverträdet ("The Silver Tree"), the tree of life.

Feel free to use the folder that describes the Pearls of Life, with Martin Lönnebo's meditations.

A digital guide to the journey through the cathedral is planned, with the recordings of the texts. The printed folder can be purchased at Bokbordet ("The Book Table"). Several other products associated with the Pearls of Life are also available, including small and large replicas (bracelets), books, postcards, and a CD (*Frälsarkransen i toner* ("Tones of the Pearls of Life")). An app for the Pearls of Life can be downloaded to your mobile phone. Profits generated by the sale of Pearls of Life material are donated to the Jonas Lönnebo Fund (IM) for work with children and young people with intellectual disabilities.

The Pearls of Life was created in 1995 by Bishop Emeritus Martin Lönnebo (Bishop of the Diocese of Linköping, 1980–1995) as a rosary to focus one's own thoughts, feelings and prayers. The Pearls of Life has since spread throughout the world. More information about the Pearls of Life is available at www.fralsarkransen.se.

The Via Sacra – Pearls of Life in Linköping Cathedral was opened on 28 March 2015.

The Pearls of Life and its beads are a tool used by the modern pilgrim on the most difficult of all journeys – the one that goes inwards.

**You are limitless
You are near
You are light
and I am yours.**



The Via Sacra – The Pearls of Life in Linköping Cathedral

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Foundation chair: County Governor Elisabeth Nilsson

Pearls of Life, originator, text
MARTIN LÖNNEBO

Design, glass and text with text editing
Margareta Hennix

Pearls of Life project group
Åse Berglund, project manager. Martin Lönnebo, bishop emeritus. Margareta Hennix, designer. Ulrika Sköld, cathedral curator. Pierre Hagberg, sexton. Stefan Gullberg, stonemason. Peter Lundborg, dean. Gunnar Forsberg, estate manager. Eva Nyström Tagesson, curator at the Östergötland county administrative board.

The idea to embed the beads in the floor
Pierre Hagberg

Glass installations
Reijmyre Glasbruk AB, Ulf Eriksson, Ulf Engstrand, Margareta Hennix, and glassblowers at Reijmyre glasbruk.

Stonework
Stefan Gullberg, and Borghamns Stenförädling AB, Mats-Ola Ericsson, Tim Ericsson, Roger Larsson

Bronze plaques
Bo Olls, and M&E Ohlssons Klockgjuteri AB

Lighting
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Electrical installations
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CD "Frälsarkransen i toner (Tones of the Pearls of Life)"
Lars Åberg, composer. Linköping Cathedral Choir, conductor Jörgen Ralphsson

Information and press material
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www.linkopingsdomkyrka.se

The Pearls of Life

– a guide to Martin Lönnebo's beads

The beads of silence

Six **elliptical** beads call us to silence.

An opportunity to switch off from all disturbances. As we approach the eternal, we reach a place where words are not needed.

The I bead

The I bead with its mother-of-pearl finish points our thoughts inwards, to see ourselves stripped of all roles, demands and expectations. To see ourselves as God sees us, loved and precious. Created in the image of God.

The bead of God

The golden bead reminds us that there is One who is always with us, watching over us. This is the start and end of the Pearls of Life, their origin and goal.

The bead of resurrection

The white bead represents the victory of good over evil. The victory of hope over anxiety and fear. It promises peace and light.

The bead of baptism

The white bead calls us to have the courage to start anew. It houses the promise that baptism brings of grace and mercy without limit. It is never too late.

The bead of darkness

The black bead brings the heaviest and darkest times of our life. But, we must survive the night if we are to experience the day. God is present also in the darkest night. No-one is abandoned.

The desert bead

The beige bead is a symbol of adversity, the times that life appears to be a desert. Accepting difficulties, however, is one step on the way to conquering them.

Three beads of secret

Three small white beads contain the innermost secrets and desires of the heart. These are the secrets we share with no-one, and those for which we do not yet have words. One of the white beads now has been given a green tinge, to remind us of the secrets and wonders of the Earth and the universe.

The carefree bead

The sky-blue bead offers a resting place on the journey of life. Here, in peace, the spirit and courage of life are renewed. Here we can be, without having to do. There are no demands on us here. Just enjoy.

Two beads of love

There is love in everybody's life – those whom we love and those who love us.

There are two beads of love. The first is for the love we receive.

The second is for the love we pass on to others.

