VISBY DOMKYRKA 800 ÅR

Jubilee weekend
25 – 27 July

On July 27th, 1225 Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria was consecrated as parish church by Bishop Bengt of Linköping, with one German and one Gotlandic parish. It was the church of the German merchants, who due to the Hanseatic trade visited Visby and it was paid by the ships that arrived in Visby.

In the 1530s, the church turns into Visby's parish church. Since 1361 Gotland belonged to Denmark, but all the same Gotland became its own diocese in 1572 and Sankta Maria considered its cathedral.

Throughout the centuries, Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria, remains a landmark of the town and of the whole island of Gotland as well. Millions of people have visited the church. Its walls hold innumerable thoughts and prayers. Each generation has left its own expressions and so it is also today.

5000 doves of peace hang under one of the vaults in Sankta Maria. Kindergartens, schools, associations, companies, old people's homes and many more have contributed to the creation of Gotland's biggest art installation and thus expressed their desires and longings for peace in a broken world.

The monthly exhibition in July tells about the development of the cathedral, from the foundation stone till today's landmark – a time travel through centuries; from a basilica with one tower till today's hall church with three towers and enlargements to the north and south.

Program for the celebrations 25 –27 July
Friday 25 juli
19.00 The power of the word in support for peace.
Speech in Swedish by Jan Eliasson, former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Today wars, confrontations and disruptions push dialogue and diplomacy aside. The needs to find hope and trust are essential.
21.00 The Cathedral's 800 years in words and music.
During her 800 years Sankta Maria has opened her doors for hundred million people from near and far. Anna Lundgren, Dean, and Ole Kasperson, Tourism Officer, give an insight into each century and Peter Alrikson, Cathedral Organist, presents how the music sounded.

Saturday 26 July
11.00 Organ concert: Resonating history and contemporary sounds in Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria
Director musices Claes Holmgren. Music by Gunnar Lundén, Ingmar Milveden, Peter Møller, Tore Bjørn Larsen, Anton Linnerhed and Claes Holmgren.
12.00 Prayer for Peace, Bishop Erik Eckerdal
13.00 Theatre: Outstanding St Mary's ... and the church rat
A musical tale about the Hanseatic history, presented by the church rat Hansansson's hazardous ventures at sea, where our cathedral plays an important role. The tale is written by Cathedral Chaplain Petra Guteskär and Cantor Alma Emilsson composed the music.
14.00 Family concert with Karl-Petter's Orchestra and the parish's children and youth choirs.
Bring a blanket and sit down on the grass outside the cathedral to enjoy a swinging concert. Music focusing environment, justice, joy of life and love. (Inside the cathedral if it rains.)
16.00 From Merchants' Church to Cathedral– The History of Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria
Professor Dick Harrison gives a speech in Swedish on a journey through time and space – from the Hanseatic heyday till today.
21.00 Concert with the Swedish singer-song-writer Tomas Andersson Wij. Tickets: www.nortic.se

Sunday 27 July
11.00 Solemn Mass to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the consecration of Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria, in presence of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel.
Bishop Erik Eckerdal, celebrant; Dean Anna Lundgren, sermon. Invited national and international guests. The parish's pastors, deacons, cantors and choirs. Cathedral Organist Peter Alrikson. Wind Quintet.

Afterwards, outdoor "Swedish fika" according to local tradition.

This chest, that belonged to the Hanseatic merchants' trade on Novgorod, has met and experienced the cathedral's all nine centuries. If it could tell...

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