



# **VISBY DOMKYRKA 800 ÅR**

**That's to celebrate!  
All the year round!**



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 August tells us about the importance of the church as a meeting point through the centuries. In the church people gathered to find togetherness. At the same time a place for religion, faith and culture.

The Medieval Week every year takes place in week 32 and offers a very broad program: markets, seminars, concerts and tournaments and much more. This year we also can follow the Battle of Wisby, where the battle, when the Danish king Valdemar Atterdag conquered the island, comes to life. Hundreds of participants from the entire world come together to offer this performance. You find the complete program of the week at [www.medeltidsveckan.se](http://www.medeltidsveckan.se). The cathedral offers many services and prayers, guided tours and concerts during this week. Here is a selection:

**Saturday 2 Aug 18.00 hrs:** A wreath of red and white flowers is placed at the cross (Korsbetningen) where many Gotlanders died in the battles against the Danish troops in 1361. The Mayors and Chatelaines of the Medieval Week participate.

**Sunday 3 Aug 09.30 hrs:** Morning prayer in St Clemens Ruin. Since the start in 1984, this morning prayer has been the start of the Medieval Week. The Mayors and Chatelaines walk in procession from the cathedral together with Storkyrkan's Boys' Choir.

**Sunday 3 Aug 11.00 hrs:** Service as in medieval times. Storkyrkan's Boys' Choir.

**Wednesday 6 Aug 15.00 hrs:** Short medieval concert with the Renaissance Choir Ad Hoc.

**Wednesday 6 Aug 20.00 hrs:** Medieval vesper.

**Thursday 7 Aug 16.00 hrs:** Concert with the Swedish-Portuguese Ensemble Cantus Divinus.

**Thursday 7 Aug 19.00 hrs:** Service as in medieval times. Storkyrkan's Boys' Choir.

**Friday 8 Aug 19.00 hrs:** Concert with Storkyrkan's Boys' Choir.

**Saturday 9 Aug 11.00 hrs:** Medieval organ concert. Cathedral organist Peter Alrikson.

Every evening you can join the ancient sexton Konrad, when he is about to close the church and walks the winding narrow stairs to check the more unknown parts of the church. Tickets: [www.nortice.se](http://www.nortice.se)

During the week there are also different thematic guided tours, presenting the unique objects in the attic, the textiles and the historical paintings. More information at [www.svenskakyrkan.se/visbydomkyrka](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/visbydomkyrka).

#### **Moreover in August:**

Every Saturday at 11.00 hrs: Concert.

Every Saturday at 12.00 hrs: Prayer for peace



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](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/visbydomkyrka)

You can also follow us on [Facebook.com/visby.df/](https://www.facebook.com/visby.df/) and [Instagram.com/visbydf/](https://www.instagram.com/visbydf/)



**Svenska  
kyrkan**

Visby  
domkyrkoförsamling