



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.



Happy birthday to you

On July 27th it is exactly 800 years since Bishop Bengt consecrated Sankta Maria. We will celebrate during the whole weekend! On Friday 25th we start with a speech by Jan Eliasson and a presentation of all the centuries in words and music.

Saturday starts with a concert at 11 a.m. to be continued with more music, theatre, lectures to be ended with an evening concert with the singer/songwriter Tomas Andersson Wij. On Sunday solemn Mass and afterwards "Swedish fika".

Highlights

Exhibitions: Each month an exhibition on a relevant topic. Different art exhibitions continuously.

During the whole year the chest, dated back to 1240, belonging to the Hanseatic trade on Novgorod will be shown.

Music: Every Saturday at 11 a.m. concerts of different characters. Some other major concerts:

April 18th – Passion of St John by Fredrik Sixten. The Cathedral Choir, soloists and Gotland Wind Quintet

July 25th Sankta Maria's 800 years in words and music

July 26th Evening concert with Tomas Andersson Wij

Oct 31st – Requiem by W.A. Mozart

Nov 29th – Let's sing in Advent!

New Years Eve – The jubilee year ends with a prayer and a lot of music

Project Doves of Peace

No matter what faith or background, everybody can express their desires and dreams on peace, in times of a menacing world. You can produce your own dove of peace in the cathedral with the goal to achieve Gotland's biggest art installation. Opening on May 1st with a walk for peace and an illuminated Late-Night-Special including a concert with Christoffer Lundquist. Masses for peace every Wednesday in May. The doves of peace are shown until May 31st.

Anniversary books

During the month of May there will be three book releases:

"Sankta Maria the Great.....and the Church Mouse", an illustrated book about the Hanseatic history, told by the adventures of the church mouse Hansansson. A fairy tale by Petra Guteskär. (Swedish, German)

"The History of Visby Cathedral – from a merchant's church to a cathedral", written by Dick Harrison. The book stresses the importance of the cathedral in an international perspective.

(Swedish, English, German)

"The Organ from 1599", a presentation of a unique instrument that has been rebuilt. The book tells about the organ's historic context and its reconstruction. (Swedish, English)

Hansa Organ Festival and the Hanseatic Day

The annual Hanseatic Day takes place in Visby 5th–8th of June. During these days Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria hosts the first Hansa Organ Festival with organists from more than 15 Hanseatic cities in 7 countries.

11 concerts in the cathedral with organ, orchestra and choir music.

The Hansa Organ Book with the winning compositions from the Hansa's composition competition will be presented.

Sunday 8th of June solemn ecumenical service lead by Erik Eckerdal, Bishop of Visby.



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/](https://www.facebook.com/visby.df/) and [Instagram.com/visbydf/](https://www.instagram.com/visbydf/)



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