



# **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.



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 ...

The chest has been placed in Sankta Maria Cathedral since the 13th century. A contemporary charter in Dortmund states that all surplus from Novgorod should be brought to Gotland and be placed in Saint Peter's chest. Four keys belonged to the chest: the first one was in the hands of the elderman of Gotland, the others were kept by the eldersmen from Lübeck, Soest and Dortmund.

### **Some highlights during late summer and autumn:**

**Sankta Maria Pilgrims' Park:** A pilgrims' walk around the cathedral with six stations. The external walk is short – the internal is unlimited.

**Exhibitions:** Each month you can enjoy an exhibition on a relevant topic.

August: The importance of the church as a meeting point through the centuries.

September: The role of women in the church.

October: The importance of music in Visby Cathedral.

### **Visby festival, October 5th:**

During the whole day and in the evening guided tours, drop-in-baptisms/weddings and the following concerts:

11.00 hrs: **Solidarity concert for the world's children** – the Youth and Children's Choirs of the parish.

18.00 hrs: **Sölvguttene** (Norway) and **Gotland's Boys' Choir**.

20.00 hrs: **Nasty Autumn Weather** Emelie Stolpe Marklund, song; Henning Fredriksson, cello; Peter Alrikson, organ.

22.00– 01.00 hrs: **Vexations** by Eric Satie. Peter Alrikson and others, piano.

**Music:** Every Saturday at 11.00 hrs concerts of various kinds. Furthermore:

October 31st – Nunc dimittis and Requiem by Herbert Howells. Sankta Maria Domkyrkokör, Peter Alrikson, conductor.

November 29th – Let's sing in Advent! The Choirs of Visby Cathedral Parish and Gotlandsmusiken's Brassquintett.

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

### **Moreover:**

Every Saturday at noon: Prayer for peace.

Every Sunday at 14.00 hrs: Guided tours to the loft and its unique objects.

Tickets: [www.nortic.se](http://www.nortic.se).

### **In the Cathedral's shop you find our anniversary books**

"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)



Sankta Maria's 800th anniversary was celebrated during a whole weekend, July 25–27, with a comprehensive program. The real highlight was the solmemn mass on July 27th in presence of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel.

For detailed information about the celebrations of the jubilee, please, visit our webpage, [www.svenskakyrkan.se/visbydomkyrka](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/visbydomkyrka)



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