



**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 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.



### **Kick-off**

On New Year's Day, Jan 1st, we start the celebrations with a Kick-off. We invite to a presentation of all the centuries during which Sankta Maria has opened her doors to probably hundred million visitors. In a program in words and music, Anna Lundgren, Dean, and Peter Alrikson, Cathedral Organist, give us an insight into each century.

At the same time, we light up the southern wall with our jubilee emblem, designed by Elis Nyström.

## Highlights 2025

**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:

Jan 6th– Epiphany concert with Vivaldi’s Gloria.

The Cathedral choir and Sankta Maria Chamber Orchestra

April 18th– Passion of St John by Fredrik Sixten.

The Cathedral Choir, soloists and Gotland Wind Quintet

Oct 31st– Requiem by W.A. Mozart

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

## Project Doves of Peace

No matter what faith or background, everybody can express their desires and dreams on peace.

During winter and spring, 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 and 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

The Hanseatic cities meet in Visby, June 5th–8th, to the annual Hanseatic Day. The Cathedral Parish hosts the first Hansa Organ Festival with organists from different Hanseatic cities.

## The Cathedral’s Birthday

On July 27th, 1225 Visby Cathedral Sankta Maria was consecrated as parish church by Bishop Bengt of Linköping. This will be celebrated with a festivity mass. First performance of a Magnificat by Agneta Sköld.

The day before, Saturday, a full day program with lectures, dramatization of the adventures of the church mouse Hansansson and a lot of music.



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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