

The Role of the Cathedral

The role of a cathedral is seen clearly in the seals of the Dean and Chapter down through the years. In 1914 Canon Webster, the Rector of Blackrock, did some research about the seals and published a book about them.

Have a look at these. What do the seals tell us about the role of the cathedral?



This is a very old seal that Dr Richard Caulfield refers to. The translation of the Latin words is: 'Seal of the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Cork.' At the heart of this circular chapter seal is a bishop sitting on his chair (*cathedra*) wearing a mitre, and holding his crozier in one hand, and in the other hand, a book, presumably the bible, from which he is teaching or preaching.

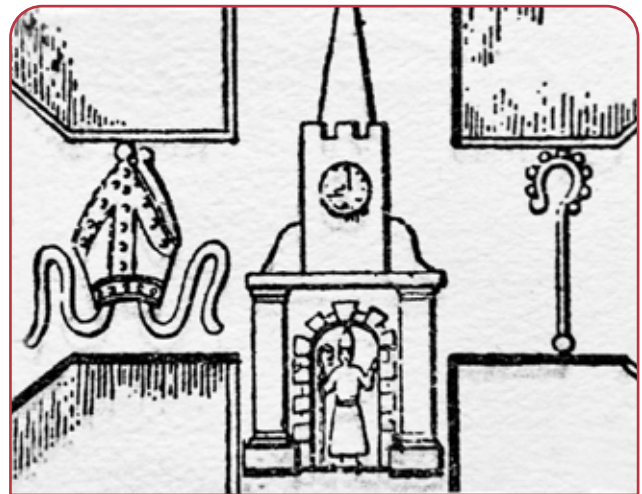
What does this tell us?

Below is the present 'Common Seal of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Fin Barre, Cork' - that's what the Latin words say.



The cathedral is set inside a cross, but is not the present day cathedral. Which one is it? It is the cathedral building before the present one.

Look at the date: 1763. The present cathedral was not built then. Let's look more closely at it.



Once more, on the left and on the right are the symbols of the bishop: the mitre and the crozier.

Look at the doorway. That doorway still exists today but it is not the doorway of the present day cathedral; it now forms a gateway in the southern wall of the cathedral churchyard.

Who is standing in the doorway? It is the bishop wearing a mitre and holding a crozier.

