

# CORK ST. PATRICKS'S DAY PARADE 2024

## Commentary

**Note:** purple text = MC pronunciation notes – not for reading out/signing

**PARADE STARTS – 1pm**

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## Introduction

Failte, Willkommen, Bienvenu, Bienvenido, Benvenuto and Laskavo  
Prosymo - Welcome to the Cork St. Patrick's Festival 2024.

We will be joined shortly by an Ardmhéara Councillor Kieran McCarthy  
and Lady Mayoress Marcelline Bonneau.

My Name is KC and I am delighted to be your MC today.

The festival is kindly supported by our media partners, my very own  
Cork's RED FM and The Echo. The organiser of this parade is Cork City  
Council, and we are delighted today to welcome Members of Dáil  
Éireann, our own members of Cork City Council, former Lords Mayor,  
Cork City Council Chief Executive Ann Doherty, and many friends.

Today we celebrate our nation's Patron Saint's Day, along with our  
many friends from Cork, Ireland and many other countries across the  
globe.

The theme of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade is "Pure Imagination"

## **Blood Bikes**

First let us give a loud welcome to Blood Bikes South, our 2022 Grand Marshal, as they clear the route for the Parade.

Based at St Finbarrs Hospital but covering Munster and as far as Junction 3 to Dublin, Blood Bike South is a charity run by a group of motorcyclists who provide a voluntary transport service for medical materials on an out-of-hours basis.

Be sure to give this group of volunteers a resounding cheer as we begin the 2024 Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.



## **Defence Forces**

### **The Irish Defence Forces Colour Party**

*The National Colours are being carried today by:* Captain Noel

McCarthy, 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment, Army Reserve.

*The colours are being escorted by:*

Sergeant Robert Cantwell, 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment, Army Reserve

& Corporal Caylum Gooney, 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment, Permanent

Defence Forces.

### **The Band of the 1st Brigade**

This year's St Patrick's Day Parade is led by the Band of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade,

based at Collins Barracks, Cork. The Band is led by band conductor

Captain Ben Jacob.

These musicians are highly qualified graduates in Music, employed as full-time musicians in the Defence Forces. They participate in State Functions, concerts and recitals all over the country, including the annual Massed Bands Concert in City Hall.

Also joining us from Naval Headquarters in Haulbowline Island are representatives of the Irish Naval Service with a craft used in their work defending our territorial seas and protecting our marine assets.

## Grand Marshal Group

We ask you to give a big round of applause to the Frank and Walters, Grand Marshal of the Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Founded in Cork in the early 1990's, The Frank and Walters are an acclaimed Cork based- band that have achieved international success with their classical Indie hits, charting both inside and outside of Ireland.

The groups longevity and the enduring popularity of their music especially the song "After All" makes them one of Ireland's best loved and most recognisable alternative Indie Irish bands.

The band members are - lead vocals & bass Paul Linehan, drums Ashley Keating, lead guitar Rory Murphy and on keyboards Cian Corbett. They are accompanied by family and members of their Facebook fan club.

Give a big round of applause again for our Grand Marshal the Frank and Walters.

## The Barrack Street Band

The Cork Barrack Street Band has been taking part in the Cork St Patrick's Day Parade since 1889.

Both children and adults take part in the band's music education programme, in partnership with Music Generation Cork City, and come from all areas of our beloved city.

In July 2023, the band placed first in the South of Ireland Band Championships, taking home further prizes for Best March and Best Percussion Section on the day.

They are accompanying our Grand Marshal, the Frank and Walters so **AFTER ALL** the waiting - the Barrack Street Band finally arrived for Tony Cochrane! (that's a joke for the long time fans!)

## Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers

Bunaíodh Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers i 1988.

Based in Blackpool it has 290 children and Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers are Sciath na Scoil winners in football, hurling and camogie.

They are All-Ireland champions in drama and have attained several prestigious school flags.

They are building a new state of the art school campus is Farranferris and the students are wearing their school uniforms and tracksuits and are weaving flags for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

## Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress

We extend a big bualadh bos to our Lord Mayor Cllr. Kieran McCarthy who in keeping with the “Pure Imagination” theme of the festival is dressed as Willie Wonka from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

The Lady Mayoress Marcelline Bonneau is dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz.

MC Note: (Possibly also: Gaelscoil Ui Riada)

## **Carrigtwohill Gospel Choir**

Formed in 2010, the Carrigtwohill Gospel Choir have performed with wonderful acts including international opera star Russell Watson, American piano virtuoso David Syme, Karen Underwood, and Amanda Neri to name but a few.

Throughout the last fourteen years, the choir have tirelessly fundraised and supported dozens of charities throughout the country.

Carrigtwohill Gospel Choir's musical director is Aoibheann Carey-Philpott and their accompanist and soloist is Carlene Lindsey.

They are wearing their distinctive purple gowns & mustard sashes.

## **Trish McCarthy School of Modern Dance**

Based in the Lough Community Centre and Togher Girls National School, Trish McCarthy School of Modern Dance, teaches a variety of dance classes including Hip-Hop, Theatre Craft, Contemporary and Freestyle.

Students range in age from 2 years old to 17 and everyone is welcome.

Students perform in many events throughout the year such as competitions, award shows and nativity plays.

The students are wearing their dance uniform and are performing different routines to pop style music.



## **Rotary Clubs of Cork**

We are delighted to welcome members of the Cork Rotary Club to the Parade. Cork Rotary Club is nearly 100 years old and they support so many organisations in the city.

These include The Remembrance Tree in December outside Brown Thomas on Patrick Street, Cork. Friendship Night for the elderly in Cork City Hall and Rotary Kids Day Out where they bring 200 people from COPE to Fota Wildlife Park for the day.

They are marching in the Parade with their distinctive rotary blue and yellow umbrellas!

## **Fr Mathews Basketball Club**

Fr Mathews are a multinational and multiethnic club with over 20 Nationalities represented among the Coaches, Players & Officials.

They are the largest basketball club outside of Dublin and have 24 teams who compete in National and local competitions.

The Youth Academy caters for 7-10 year olds.

Many congratulations to their Women's Super league Team who this year for the first time made the finals of the Paudie O'Connor National Cup competition.

## Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance

The Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance is proud to be Cork's oldest dance school. It is a vibrant dance school teaching multiple styles of dance.

Last year the students travelled to San Fransisco to take part in the St Patrick's Day Parade. This September the students and their families will travel to China to take part in the Shanghai Tourism Festival to represent Cork and Ireland.

The dancers are dancing to three different songs from The Little Mermaid, Ursula and 15 Jazzy Eels. Keep an eye out for colourful fish, coral, jellyfish dancers and maybe a few sharks!

## **Cantonese in Ireland**

Cantonese in Ireland is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to promote Cantonese culture and language in Ireland.

Its members include native Cantonese immigrants and the second and third generation of Cantonese immigrants who are proud of their Irish and Cantonese heritage.

Flower Board crafting technique is an intangible part of the cultural heritage in Hong Kong and members of the group are holding a beautiful handmade Cantonese style Flower Board.

As well as holding the intricate flower board, younger members of the group are holding Cantonese lanterns while singing and playing Cantonese pop songs.

## **St Michaels National School, Blackrock**

St Michaels NS is a small primary school in Blackrock with 101 pupils.

They recently won a national carol competition and the pupils love to take part in the Choral Festival and in local projects such as Cork Heritage Project and the Build a Boat competition.

The students are wearing costumes based on the film Wonka and they are carrying the school banner.

## **Catholic Girl Guides of Ireland**

The Catholic Guides of Ireland have been in Cork for over 90 years and the National Chief Commissioner Julie Donnelly comes from Cork.

The aim of the organisation is to encourage girls to develop into strong young women and future leaders.

The Girl Guides are wearing their official uniform and are singing campfire songs!

## **Cork's Indian Community**

Having won the Best Spirit Award in 2018, we welcome the Indian Community in Cork to the Parade.

The Indian Community in Cork are representing the four elements of nature as Fire (Orange), White (Air), Earth (green) and Water (Blue) which also represent the colours of the Indian Flag.

A ray of hope is seen when the balance is restored which is represented by the people holding flowers: Lotus (representing the national flower of India) and Daffodils (implying the spring of Ireland) both regarded as the birth of new beginnings or hope.

They are playing Indian music and we love their beautiful costumes.

## **Aatma: Indian dance troupe in Cork**

Aatma are an award-winning Indian dance troupe in Cork.

Founded in 2018, Aatma have won multiple awards for Multicultural Dance.

The troupe currently consists of dancers from all over India who aspire to articulate their culture through different dance forms and music across classical, semi-classical, folk and even Bollywood.

For the parade Aatma are performing Indian classical and folk dances.



## **Neptune Basketball Club**

Neptune Basketball Club are the oldest basketball club in Ireland and the most successful club in Irish Basketball.

In 2023 the club celebrated its 75th Anniversary, and we are delighted to welcome them to the Parade.

Watch in awe as they shoot hoops while walking the streets of Cork.

All the players are wearing the familiar blue and white colours of Neptune Basketball Club.

## **Connolly Dance Studios**

Connolly Dance Studio is an award-winning dance studio run by Sarah Connolly which is based in Glanmire, Glenville and Knockraha.

In 2022 Connolly Dance Studios won Cork's Best Youth Group at the Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Dancers from the school have recently performed in the Cork Opera House Pantomime, the RDS Dublin and have travelled to London to take classes at the Pineapple Dance Studios.

The dancers are dressed in their iconic uniform colours of red, black and white and are performing a short routine to show off some of their skills and moves.

## **Cork Volunteer Centre**

We are always so grateful for the wonderful volunteers who give up their time to support and help ensure the smooth running of so many festivals and events in Cork.

We are delighted to welcome The Cork Volunteer Centre who are represented by a multicultural group of Cork Community Volunteers at the parade. They deserve a very big round of applause on Cork St. Patrick's Day for the wonderful unsung work they do.

## **We Act**

We Act is a campaign which celebrates Irish charities and community groups. Their entry is all about showcasing Cork's vibrant array of clubs, services, and organisations which anyone can avail of. And to put a face to all the incredible work of non-profit staff and volunteers that's happening throughout the city.

In 2023 We Act won the Overall Entry in the Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Joining We Act in today's Parade are members from The Wheel, Volunteer Ireland and Boardmatch as well as representatives from Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, Cork Nature Network, Cork Migrant Centre at Nano Nagle Place and Cork Counselling Services

## Capoeira Cork

Many congratulations to Capoeira Cork who are celebrating their 10-year anniversary of teaching Capoeira classes in Cork city!

Capoeira Cork trains out of the Blackpool area in Cork city, and offers classes for all age groups from 3 to 60!

They are very proud to be Ireland's premiere Capoeira school.

The students are demonstrating kicking, dodging, doing acrobatic movements and playing Capoeira.

## **Cork Renegades**

Many congratulations to the Cork Renegades Baseball Club who in their maiden year are the 2023 champions of the Baseball Ireland B League.

Boasting members from the Americas, Eastern Europe, Africa and everywhere in-between, the team consists of beginners and players with decades of experience.

The Renegades are wearing their uniform consisting of white pants, black socks, black jersey or hoodie and the team cap. They are also sporting their GOLD medals after winning the 2023 Baseball Ireland B-League.

## **MTU Carnival Samba**

Founded in 2005, MTU Carnival Samba is made up of percussion students who study at the MTC Cork School of Music.

MTU Carnival Samba has performed at the Cork City St. Patrick's Day Parade for many years.

They have also performed at the Douglas Street Autumn Fest, the opening ceremony of the International Mixed Ability Rugby Tournament in Musgrave Park and many other concerts and festivals.

## **Cork LGBT and Community Groups/ Organisations**

This group is made up of members of the LGBT+ community in Cork, and various groups and organisations who are walking together today under the one banner.

These groups and organisations include; Gay Project, LINC (Lesbians in Cork) Frontrunners and Brisk Walkers Cork AC, Cork Racketeers and Badminton Club, Cork Rebels FC, Cork Hellhound RFC, UP Cork LGBT+ Youth Group and GOLD group for older men.

The LGBT+ community make up an important part of the Irish identity and it is wonderful to see them take part in today's Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade as they wave their flags and walk with pride in the Parade.



## **Rebel Wheelers Multi Sports Group**

Give a big cheer for the fantastic athletes from Rebel Wheelers Multi Sports Club.

Rebel Wheelers are a Cork based sports club who provide sporting opportunities for people of all ages with physical disabilities.

Congratulations to the Rebel Wheelers Senior Basketball Team who won the National Cup Championship in January for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

Members of the Rebel Wheelers have worked on a residency with the Cork St. Patrick's Festival Artist in Residence Ciara O' Mahony to explore the idea of imagination in a creative space.

For the Parade, the Rebel Wheelers are bringing to life imaginative creatures and a tribe of warriors living in a post-apocalyptic world inspired by Mad Max. In this new world the tribe uses their athleticism and sports skills to thrive while accompanied by giant mascots as the guardians of the club.

## Knights of Columbus Pipes and Drums

Fáilte go Corcaigh!

Established in 1991, The Knights of St Columbus are an award-winning bagpipe and drum band from Brooklyn, New York. The band previously played in the 2002 Dublin Parade and the Cork St Patricks Day Parade in 2019.

A big congratulations to the Knights of St Columbus Pipes and Drums Group who for the third time, have repeated their amazing transatlantic double - marching in the New York Parade yesterday before flying to Cork to take part in the Cork Parade on St Patrick's Day today. That is some achievement!

The band are playing traditional bagpipes playing tunes, most of which are Celtic origin. They are wearing tartan kilts, black tunics, and Balmoral capes.

## **Cologne Cork Twinning Association**

Give a big Cork welcome to the German members of the Cologne-Cork Twinning Community who have travelled to Cork to celebrate St Patricks Day with their Cork friends.

Cologne Cork Twinning Association works closely with organisations in Cork to build new relationships and to create further links between Cork and Cologne.

Cork organisations connected to Cologne include the Knocknaheeny Centre, Togher Centre, St Finbars Hurling Club and the Cork School of Music.

The group are wearing green rain jackets featuring the Cologne-Cork logo and have signs with the coats of arms of the two cities. They are holding red and white ribbons, the colours of both cities, and are singing German and Irish Songs.

## **UCC Confucius Institute**

Get ready to experience some Chinese culture at this year's Parade from the UCC Confucius Institute, a group made up of Confucius Institute teachers, Chinese educators, local and overseas Chinese, along with enthusiasts of Chinese culture.

There are over 150 members taking part in today's parade.

The Chinese Culture Show by UCC Confucius Institute presents 10 performances including Dragon Dance, Tai Chi, National Waist Drum, Beijing Opera Facial Makeup, and traditional customs show, and more!

In 2017 The UCC Confucius Institute group was honoured with the "Spirit of Parade" award by the Cork City Council.

## **Cork Wolfpack Inline Hockey Club**

The Cork Wolfpack Club is based in Old Christians Rugby Club and is the largest inline club in Ireland.

The Club started in 1996 as the Cork Rebels and now has over 100 members.

The club hosts national training days, where players from all over Ireland come to Cork to play.

Give a cheer to the club members who are wearing in-line skates and their Wolfpack uniforms.

## **Rising Sun School of Karate**

Located in Ballinlough Youth Centre, The Rising Sun School of Karate has over 200 members age from 4 years to 75 years old.

The school also has locations at Ballinlough, Douglas, Rochestown and Wilton.

Students of the school will represent Ireland in the JKA World Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

Karate students are marching in their Karate uniforms with hats, badges and flags all celebrating St Patricks Day.

## **Hamilton Acro and Dance**

We send a big welcome to all the students from Hamilton Acro and Dance who are taking part in the Parade for the first time.

Hamilton Acro and Dance are a new Dance and Acro Dance school that opened in September 2022.

The school is based in Ballyphehane and Douglas and has 350 students.

The students are all wearing their dance uniform and they are so exciting to be taking part in the Parade!

## **Irish-Pakistani Community of Cork**

We are delighted to welcome members of the Irish Pakistani Community of Cork to the Parade.

Did you know that there are over 30,000 members of the Irish Pakistani Community living in Ireland.

This year the group is celebrating Ramadan and members are also fasting for Ramadan.

They are wearing traditional costumes of Pakistan from all four provinces including Sindhi, Balochi, Kashmiri, Punjabi dresses along with flags and map of Pakistan.



## **Cork County Cricket Club**

Cork County Cricket Club are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year, making it one of the oldest sports clubs in the south of Ireland.

They are based in the Mardyke and have four male teams and a growing youth section.

Last season, teams from Cork Cricket Club won the Premier Division and Division 1 Championships and the First team were crowned the Munster Team of 2023.

Players from all over the world play in the Club and the music you hear comes from Ireland and around the world, reflecting the club's diversity.

## **Filipino Irish Community Cork**

We are delighted to see the Filipino Irish Community in Cork take part again in the St Patrick's Day Parade after an absence of five years.

The Filipino Irish Community Cork is a group composed of Filipino-Irish individuals working and living in Cork.

The group are showcasing the Masskara Festival, which features street dancing festivity in which dancers wear colourful costumes and masks, and dance to Filipino modern and traditional music beats.

The festival symbolizes the resilience, creativity, and enduring spirit of Filipinos in the face of adversity.

## **La Cañada High School - Marching Spartans**

(pronounced La Can – ya -da)

Give a big Cork welcome to La Canada Marching Spartans an acclaimed Marching High School Band from Southern California.

La Canada Marching Spartans have twice marched in the Dublin St Patrick's Day Parade and we are delighted to welcome them to the Cork Parade.

The band is made up of students from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The school has also performed in China, Spain and Prague.

Mr. Jason Stone is the music director of the La Cañada High School Instrumental Program and this is his 18th year as director and 27th year as a music educator.

## Spraoi

We welcome to the Parade **Spraoi**, a Waterford-based company who are specialists in outdoor parade and spectacle work

Waterford Spraoi's contribution to Cork City's St. Patrick's Day parade consists for a thirty strong troupe of performers with over 20 of these costumed as Martians

The performers are accompanied by, and performing around, two large-scale floats. One is a rotating globe, encompassing a live singer. The second is an imposing, but friendly, alien.

Each float radiates distinctive soundtracks and is surrounded by a team of choreographed performers.

## The Polish Scout Group

Formed in 2010 the Cork Polish Scout Group “Zarzewie” (Pronounced Zar zheh- vieyeh) was the first Polish Scout Group in Ireland inspiring the founding of many other Polish scout groups in Ireland.

The Polish Scout Group is dressed in the official uniform of the Polish Scouting Association.

Joining the scouts are representatives of the Polish Library which hosts an impressive 10,000 Polish Books and is the heart of Polish culture in Cork.

Members of the Polish Library are wearing traditional costumes and weaving traditional Polish Flags.

## The Ukrainian Community Choir

Founded last year with the support of the Carraig Centre Ballincollig, Carrigrohane Union of Parishes, The Ukrainian choir "Kalyna"

(Pronounced Kayl–eena) has over 50 members including children.

Its singers are Ukrainians of all age groups who love to sing.

The choir was set up to provide emotional and spiritual support of Ukrainians in Ireland

Its aim is to preserve Ukrainian traditions and national values and to promote Ukrainian culture in Ireland.

## Together Razem

Based in Cork, Together Razem Centre has worked tirelessly since 2006 providing support services to Polish and Eastern European migrants.

They run the academy Razem - a Polish language curriculum school.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Together Razem has also been helping Ukrainian people in Cork providing support in social advice, counselling and women's support groups.

The Parade participants are wearing their traditional outfits and weaving their national flags.

## **Mexican Community in Cork**

Céad mile fáilte to The Mexican Community in Cork.

There are now approximately 300 people from Mexico living in Cork.

The group was awarded “Best Dancing Group” in 2016 and in 2018 and last year they received the “Spirit of the Parade Award”.

Having first danced in the 2015 Parade, this year the group will honour the Bajío Region rhythms.

The Mexicans in Cork always bring fun, colour and wonderful dance performances to the Parade and this year is no different!



## **Sudanese Community Association Cork**

We welcome the Sudanese Community Association of Cork to the Parade.

The group consists of Sudanese who are residents of Cork and members of the Sudanese Community Association which facilitates the integration of its members in Irish Society.

Members of the Sudanese Community are marching to the wonderful sounds of their traditional music and are wearing Sudanese national dress. Members of the Sports Youth Club of the Sudanese Community are wearing their sportswear.

They are waving both the Irish and Sudanese flags.

## **Amdie and the Latin American Community**

AMDIE Mexican Dance Ireland, is an award-winning community dance group that was established in 2014 with propose of enjoying Mexican traditional dance and music. In 2023 they won an Ireland National Diversity Award.

They were also awarded Best Dance Group at the Cork Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 2022. This is their third time being awarded the award.

The group are representing the Latin American Community living in Cork and feature many Latin American group representatives and members of GrowPro to form a multicultural troupe.

The theme of the group is Cumbia (pronounced Coomb-iah)

and the colourful costumes are specially designed to show the energy and great vibes of Cumbia and its roots!

## **Seda College**

Welcome to all the students of Seda College, an English School for international students in Cork.

The students are from diverse parts of the world and we extend a big céad míle fáilte to everyone in Seda College.

Over 30 students from Seda College are marching in today's Parade.

## Turkish Community in Cork

We are delighted to welcome the Turkish Community in Cork to the Parade.

This is their first-time taking part and the group of over 40 adults and 15 children represent the vibrant culture of Turkiye.

They are displaying visual and information boards of landmarks in Turkey.

The children in the group are wearing traditional Turkish costumes and the dance group are dancing to the lively rhythms of Turkish Music.

## **Yoruba Progressive Cork Ireland**

Yoruba Progressive Cork Ireland was founded in Cork in 2008 among the ethnic group of Yoruba race in Nigeria.

There are approximately 50 members in Ireland and the aim of the group is to promote the heritage of the Yoruba culture.

Last summer they taught children to speak the Yoruba Language.

They are wearing their traditional African dress at the Parade.

## Cumann Palaistíneach na Mumhan

(pronounced Palas – teen- ach)

An Cumann Palaistíneach na Mumhan is a group of over 40 men, women and children from Palestine who have made Cork their home.

Today, an Cumann Palaistíneach na Mumhan come together to give hope to all the people of Palestine who dream of returning to their homeland free from the reality they currently face.

An Cumann Palaistíneach na Mumhan are proud to present to the people of Cork, their culture, one of story-telling, dance, music, hope and happiness.

## **Edo State Community**

Enjoy the rich cultural heritage of Southern Nigeria's Edo State at this year's Parade!

Founded in Cork in 2007, the Edo Community Cork is a social and cultural organization which aims to unite all Edo people living in Cork and to preserve their heritage and culture.

There are over 100 members of the Edo Community in Cork.

The group have represented their native Nigeria at various events in Ireland and won awards in the annual Cork Multi-Cultural Awards held in Cork City Hall.

## Paraguayan Community of Ireland

The Paraguayan Community of Ireland consists of over 100 members committed to fortifying the connection between Ireland and Paraguay.

The Paraguayan Community are walking in the Parade with The Charleville Heritage Society.

They are carrying an image of Eliza Lynch's who is the national heroine of Paraguay and was born in Charleville. They are waving Irish and Paraguayan flags and the dancers are in traditional attire.

The Ladies of Cobh, donning period-appropriate attire, are adding a historical touch.



## Life FM

Life FM is a community radio station broadcasting on 93.1 FM.

They are here today with people from the Cork churches to show the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Body of Christ is the group of Christian believers in Jesus Christ from different churches united for the Parade to bring the message of the cross which is the good news of the kingdom of heaven.

## **Cork Puppetry Company**

Developed and created by Cork Puppetry Company, 'Galaxy Games' showcases how friendly and intelligent life forms from beyond our world could come ease the woes of humanity bringing love and peace.

Their parade entry is divided in 3 main sections, as if they were episodes of a Sci Fiction movie:

**Voyager:** After a long journey, our rockets' Delegation finally manages to make contact with the various life forms of the Universe inviting them to Cork.

**Summit:** Led by the Universal Mother, the 20 Aliens arriving from different planets, are to take part to the 13TH Universe Summit

**GALAXY GAMES:** show how discussions and issues can be solved through Games!

Bringing various otherworldly creatures, that shows how vast the Universe is!

## **Bolivian Community in Cork**

Ola to the Bolivian Community in Cork!

The Bolivian Community in Cork are a growing community of people originally from Bolivia who are residents in Cork.

This community started during Covid to help support Bolivians in Cork.

They previously marched in the Parade with the Latin Community and this year they are marching in their traditional costumes under their own banner.

## **Cork Environmental Forum**

Cork Environmental Forum has been active in Cork since 1995 and promotes the Sustainable Development Goals.

Cork Environmental Forum expresses themes of sustainability through its float and is joined by the wonderful creative children from the Mahon Youth Group.

The children through the symbols of fish, gulls and puffins are supporting the protection of our marine environment and all marine life and are highlighting the urgent need to designate Marine Protected areas.

Sustainable travel is represented by Cork Community Bikes and the Transport & Mobility Forum.

The float highlights the need for circularity for textiles with lovely warm & colourful upcycled costumes from upcycled fabric.

## **Cork BMX Club**

Based at Tramore Valley Park which is home to Cork's only International Standard BMX Track, the Cork BMX Club has 100 members both male and female ranging from the age of four up.

Members of Cork BMX Club race nationally and internationally.

Give a "wheely" big cheer for Cork BMX Club as they demonstrate how to do different stunts, bunny hops and wheelies on their bikes!

## Cycling for All Cork

Cycling for All Cork is a new voluntary group which was formed in response to a request by visually and physically impaired people who missed being able to go cycling as result of their disability.

The group rides Tandem bikes with visually impaired passengers on the rear.

These are called “stokers” and by riding in tandem they get to experience the joy of cycling.

The group is expanding to provide other forms of cycling for different types of physical disabilities including recumbent bikes and tricycles.

## Sanctuary Runners

Here come our 2023 Grand Marshal The Sanctuary Runners!

A multi award winning solidarity through sport movement founded in Cork in 2018, The Sanctuary Runners now have 25 active groups nationwide and internationally.

The group run, jog and walk in the spirit of solidarity, friendship and respect with migrants and refugees, particularly those living in Direct Provision.

Cork has 6 Sanctuary groups - Cork City, Mallow, Fermoy, Cobh, Youghal and Clonakilty.

They are wearing their distinctive blue t-shirts as they walk, jog and dance through the Parade with pride!

## Batala

We extend a warm Irish welcome to members of Batala, an international collection of percussion bands that play Samba Reggae music that originates from Bahia in Salvador in the North East of Brazil. Members of the group have come from England, Austria, Spain, France and America to play in the Parade today.

Batala was founded by a Bahain percussionist Giba Goncalves (pronounced Con-saou-ves) in Paris in 1997 and now comprises 46 Batalan bands worldwide spread over Europe, North and South America, Australia and Africa.

The group consist of percussionists playing five different types of drums led by their musical directors. The band are playing from a large repertoire of tunes composed by their founder Giba Concalves and are wearing colourful Batala costumes from Salvador in Brazil.



## **National Services Day**

Every day, the frontline, emergency and security personnel of Ireland work tirelessly to keep the citizens of the State safe – often in challenging circumstances. In April 2018 the Taoiseach declared that the first Saturday of September would be National Frontline Services Day.

Today the National Services Day event is represented by Dog handlers and their dogs from Customs and Excise, Search and Rescue Dog Association, South Eastern Mountain Rescue Team, Community First Responders, Civil Defence and the National Ambulance Service.

This year National Services Day will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024, in Mahon Point Shopping Centre. The public will get an opportunity to get up close to the vehicles, equipment and personnel of Irelands national services.

## **Cork City Fire Service**

Cork City Fire & Rescue present one vehicles in this year's parade, a 40-metre telescopic platform which was made by the German Company Rosenbauer.

Dolly the Brigade Mascot is also with the Cork City Fire Service today and she is pulling a replica vintage firewagon.

Led by LFF Ruben O'Leary, 15 new Fire Recruits are taking part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

## Thanks

And this, my friends, brings us to the end of the 2024 Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Please join me in thanking the over 3800 people who have entertained us today with such joy and enthusiasm. They have displayed such immense pride in their groups – from large to small – and really shown us how wonderfully diverse and interesting Cork is today.

I would like to thank our Grand Marshal The Frank and Walters; the Defence Forces and our International guests from all over the world.

I'd also like to thank our sponsors, (my own) Cork's Red FM and The Echo.

Our Gardaí, the HSE and volunteers from Civil Defence, St. John's Ambulance, Red Cross and Order of Malta all helped create a safe parade for us today, and not forgetting the many City Council staff involved in making it all happen.

And thanks to YOU – the thousands of people who cheered, laughed and marvelled at today's spectacle. Please be safe on your trip home, celebrate responsibly and enjoy the Cork St. Patrick's Festival.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh agus Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh!

**END**