

CORK ST. PATRICKS'S DAY PARADE 2026

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 2026.

First let me welcome an tArdmhéara Cllr. Fergal Dennehy.

We are delighted today to also be joined by Members of Dáil Éireann,
our own members of Cork City Council, former Lords Mayor, Cork City
Council Chief Executive Valerie O'Sullivan, 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 "**Marsh,
Myth and Magic**".

My name is Simon Murdoch and this is Izzy Showbizzy from Cork's
96FM and we delighted to be your MC today.

The organiser of this parade, and the entire weekend's festival, is Cork
City Council. The festival is kindly supported by Fáilte Ireland, and also
our media partners, my very own Cork's 96FM and C103 and The
Echo.

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 2026 Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Defence Forces

The Irish Defence Forces Colour Party

The National Colours are being carried today by Captain Noel McCarthy.

The colours are being escorted by Seargent Stephen Kelly and Seargent Killian Hickey, both from the Number One Brigade Artillery Regiment.

The Band of the 1st Brigade

This years' St Patrick's Day Parade is once again being led by the Defence Forces' Band of the 1st Brigade who are stationed in Collins Barracks, Cork.

The Band is currently celebrating 100 years of service in Collins Barracks and to the people of Cork City.

The Band is led by Captain Mary Walsh. A Sligo-native, Captain Walsh is no stranger to Cork City as she holds both an undergraduate and Masters Degree from the MTU Cork School of Music.

All the musicians in the band 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 in February.

As part of their centenary celebrations, the band will be performing several summer recitals in June, July and August this year in the City Centre, out the road in Fitzgerald's Park and at the Cobh Bandstand.

Grand Marshal Group

Give a big cheer to the Irish Guide Dogs who are the Grand Marshal of the Parade!

The charity, which is this year celebrating 50 years of changing lives, are leading the parade through the city centre with some of the cutest and fluffiest grand marshals the city has ever seen.

The Cork-based national charity has successfully partnered more than 2,000 guide, assistance and community dogs over the last half century with individuals and families across Ireland—empowering people with visual impairments and the families of children with autism with greater independence, confidence and quality of life.

Well done again to everyone in the Irish Guide Dogs!

The Barrack Street Band

The Cork Barrack Street Band has taken 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.

The Band are playing a section of Irish and American marches along the Parade route.

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 3 years old to 18 and everyone is welcome.

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

The students are wearing their dance uniform and we love their St. Patrick's Day hair accessories!

Catholic 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!

They are pulling a trolley with a paper mache campfire on top of it!

Cork Rotary

We are delighted to welcome members of the Cork Rotary Club to the Parade.

The Rotary Club are celebrating 100 years in Cork and have always supported so many organisations in the city.

These include The Remembrance Tree in December outside Brown Thomas on Patrick Street, 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!

Shine A Light

Shine A Light Suicide & Mental Health Awareness is a volunteer run mental health support charity founded in 2009.

Shine A Light was a recipient of the 2025 Lord Mayor's Christmas Concert and on World Mental Health Day it's "Light up the Lough" for mental health event saw 2,000 candles surround The Lough.

The group shines a light on mental health and works with schools, communities and youth groups.

We extend a big Cork welcome to Shine a Light whose members are wearing purple at the Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade

Cork African Women's Group

Founded in 2008 the group is comprised of African women living in Cork. They return to the parade this year after an absence of 15 years.

It currently has a membership of 70 women and holds meetings monthly.

The group organises cultural day events, skill-building activities, Information and Awareness Session on gender issues.

The women are wearing colourful traditional African clothing accompanied by African music, songs and drumming.

Dolphin Swimming Club

Founded in 1901, Dolphin Swimming Club is one of Ireland's oldest competitive swimming clubs.

Based in Mayfield, the club has 400 active members from beginners to competitive swimmers of all levels.

In 2025 Dolphin was crowned top club at both the Summer and Winter Nationals.

Several swimmers from Dolphin Swimming Club have proudly represented Ireland at European and World competitions.

Taking part in the Parade today are swimmers, coaches and volunteers all wearing the official Dolphin Swimming Club gear.

Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance

The Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance provides exceptional dance training in a creative, supportive, and inspiring environment, helping each student reach their individual potential.

The school was founded on the pioneering legacy of Joan Denise Moriarty who brought ballet to Ireland.

The Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance are taking part in the Parade with a theme inspired by the movie Rio and a Brazilian carnival vibe.

Over 170 students are performing specially choreographed dances in bespoke colourful costumes created for the St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Rebel Wheelers

Give a big cheer to 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.

Sports played include Athletics, Saturday morning club, wheelchair basketball and rugby.

Congratulations to the Rebel Wheelers Senior Basketball Team who won the National Cup Championship in January for the 7th time.

In April, Rebel Wheelers are hosting the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation Eurocup Group 4 qualifiers with teams coming from all over Europe to Cork for the competition. It is the first time the event has taken place in Ireland!

Polish School in Cork

We welcome the Polish School in Cork, a community that has brought generations together for 17 years.

The school has over 700 students, from preschool to Leaving Cert who dedicate an extra day each week to learn about their Polish language and heritage.

The school has 25 dedicated, fully qualified teachers who travel from all over County Cork to support the students.

The Polish School in Cork are marching in colourful folk costumes from different regions of Poland and in their national colours white and red.

Octopus Volleyball

We welcome Octopus Volleyball to the Parade who are taking part for the first time.

Octopus Volleyball is located in the north side of Cork City, at Scoil Iosagain, Farranree.

The club was founded in 2023 and since then more than 200 people have taken part in their weekly fun sessions.

The aim of Octopus Volleyball is to bring a sense of belonging to a community while making new friends and sharing fun experiences.

Bangladeshi Association of Ireland

The Bangladeshi Association of Ireland, Cork Branch Community Group has recently been set up to represent the Bangladeshi people of Cork.

There are approximately 5000 Bangladeshis living in Cork and we are delighted to welcome the group to the Parade for the first time this year.

The group are wearing traditional Bangladeshi clothing and are playing traditional musical instruments and Bangladeshi music.

Cork Community Artlink

Cork Community Art Links participation in the St Patrick's Day Parade is a collaborative improvisation inspired by the theme of the Festival 'Marsh, Myth and Magic'

For over 3 months, the company has hosted a series of workshops, with over 100 people to research, develop, design and build two large scale floats- one of a heron standing over five metres tall and the second float of a frog carrying a mystical market on its back.

Taking part today in collaboration with Cork Community Artlink are Brothers of Charity-Blackpool CAP, the National Learning Network, Cork Simon Community, UCC Drama, Pat Quinn and Gang, and numerous volunteers from Cork and beyond.

Well done to everyone involved in creating such fantastic floats and spectacle for the Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Together Razem

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

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

Together Razem also help Ukrainian people in Cork providing support in social advice, counselling and women's support groups.

Members of Together Razem are today honouring the journeys of migrant families and are wearing green, brown and blue costumes inspired by Irish bog spirits and Slavic water and forest spirits.

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.

Today, performers are presenting Dandiya (**Dawn-dee-uh**), a lively folk dance from Gujarat in the western part of India, known for its rhythmic stick movements and energetic group formations.

Order of Malta

Serving the people of Cork since 1966, the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps is based in Nemo Rangers GAA Club where they train weekly.

Over 40 volunteer members are trained in First Aid and Life Saving Skills and it has a growing Cadet Unit of members who range in age from 10 to 16.

In 2025 the Order of Malta were awarded a Pride of Cork award for the work they do in the community.

The Cadet Unit has also been successful in regional and national competitions with one of its cadets winning the Cadet of the Year Award.

National Ambulance Service Community First Responders

The National Ambulance Service are celebrating 21 years of volunteer community first response in Ireland, with almost 350 schemes nationally.

There are almost 50 community first responder groups across Cork and they respond to over 5,000 emergency calls on a yearly basis.

Give a round of applause to the Community First Responders from Cork City and county are taking part in the parade today.

Neptune Basketball Club

Neptune Basketball Club is the oldest basketball club in Ireland and one of the most successful clubs in Irish Basketball.

The club is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year.

We are delighted to welcome members of the Juvenile Basketball Teams to the Parade. All the players are wearing the familiar blue and white colours of Neptune Basketball Club.

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

Connolly Dance Studios

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

Connolly Dance School offers a high standard of training for kids aged 1 to 18 and won Cork's best youth group at the Parade in 2022.

The dancers have recently performed in Disneyland Paris and in the RDS in Dublin. They also took part in this year's Cork Opera House pantomime Aladdin.

They are wearing their dance uniform which is red, black and white and demonstrating their dance skills.

Cork Academy of Music Voices of Peace Choir

Voices of Peace Intercultural Children and Young People Choir of Cork Academy of Music are supported by Creative Ireland and conducted by Svitlana Deikun.

The choir features 32 talented young singers including children from Ukrainian School Cork.

The choir has been actively developing since 2022 and has become an important part of Cork cultural life.

They are performing "Bird of Prey" a vocal and choreographic piece performed in English and Ukrainian.

Cork Renegades

Established in Cork in 2022, the Cork Renegades Baseball Club has members from all over the world from beginners to experienced players.

The Cork Renegades won the National B-League in their maiden season of 2023, and they won it again last year. They also established the Munster Baseball League in 2025.

The Renegades are wearing their uniform consisting of white pants, black socks, black jersey or hoodie and the team cap and are joined by representatives from the Munster League, as well as Softball players.

There is a paper mâché baseball head walking along with them, as well as a concession “salesman” to mimic the feel of a Major League Baseball Game.

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.

Polish Scout Group in Cork

Founded in 2010, the Polish Scout Group in Cork was the first Polish Scout Group in Ireland.

The group celebrates Polish traditions and study's Polish history and geography.

The Polish Scout Group are dressed in the official uniforms of the Polish Scouting Association and are playing Polish scouting songs.

Irish Pakistani Community of Cork

In 2023, The Irish Pakistani Community of Cork won the Lord Mayor Community Award under the category of Advocacy, Social Inclusion and Integration.

There are over thirty thousand of Irish Pakistanis living in Ireland.

Members of the group are wearing traditional costumes from all four provinces of Pakistan, and they are waving flags and maps of Pakistan.

This year the group is celebrating Ramadan, and members are fasting at the Parade.

Hamilton Acro and Dance

Hamilton Acro and Dance is based in Ballyphehane with 300 students.

They were recently nominated by the Golden Dance Awards for 7 awards nationally and locally including Acro School of the year.

They won Breakthrough School of the Year and Coaches of the Year at the UDC Industry & Peoples Choice Awards in Dundalk.

Ethio Cork

Established in October 2025, the Ethiopian Community in Cork was formed to create a sense of belonging for Ethiopian families living in Cork and to preserve cultural identity across generations.

The community includes children, families, and adults aged approximately 40 to 60, reflecting a strong family and intergenerational structure.

The Ethiopian Community are wearing vibrant traditional Ethiopian cultural attire and are playing and dancing to Ethiopian music.

They are carrying Ethiopian flags and are celebrating cultural pride, unity and diversity.

Cumann Palaistíneach na Mumhan

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

They are a community-based, volunteer-led group bringing together people from diverse backgrounds committed to justice, human rights, and international solidarity.

They organise talks, workshops, film screenings, demonstrations, and collaborations with local artists, students, and trade unions.

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.

Cork Puppetry Company

Developed and created by the Cork Puppetry Company, **Bog Off!** is a large-scale parade that floods Cork's streets with folklore, bogland beasts, and musical mischief.

Inspired by Irish myth, wetland lore, and creatures that may or may not exist, the parade is turning urban space into a roaming marsh of spectacle and sound.

Give a big round of applause to everyone involved in today's float from Cork Puppetry Company!

DC Everest Senior High School Marching Band

A big Céad Mile Fáilte to DC Everest Marching Band who have come all the way from Wisconsin in America!

Director Joe Finnegan's ancestors are from Cork, and this visit is the realisation of his lifelong ambition to bring a band to Ireland for St. Patrick's Day.

The band recently had the honour of being the Mayor's Featured Ensemble in the San Antonio "Fiesta" Parade playing for over 2 million people. They also have performed in the "Tournament of Roses" Parade in California.

Also in the group visiting are Shane & Patti Brzezinski, part of the 'parent support crew' travelling. Their son is lead trombone, and Shane, an alumnus of the band himself, is the unofficial photographer/ videographer of the group. Shane and Patti celebrate their silver wedding anniversary today! Comhgairdeas leo!

Cork Wolfpack and Inline Hockey Club

The Cork Wolfpack Inline Hockey Club is based in Old Christians Rugby Club and has players from age 3 to seniors.

The club has over 100 members, with boys and girls of all ages playing together and welcoming players from many nationalities.

This month, Cork Wolfpack is hosting an international inline hockey camp, with players from France and Spain coming to Cork to skate!.

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 150 members age from 4 years to 75 years old.

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

Congratulations to Sensei Barry O Regan and his students who qualified for the last eight quarter final veterans at the World Karate Championships in Japan in 2024.

This was the first time that any Irish person had got to the finals.

Students are marching in their Karate uniforms.

CEC- Cork English College

Located just across Patrick's Bridge, Cork English College is one of Ireland's oldest English language schools.

Established in 1978, over 5,000 adult and junior students from around the world come to the Cork English College each year for a first-class English language experience.

In 2025 they welcomed 63 different nationalities to Cork making it a truly international experience.

We say Happy St Patrick's Day to all the international students in Cork English College.

Bicia Kachamosos- Bolivia

BICIA (**Bee-See-Ah**) Bolivian Irish Community Integration Association

Kachamosos was founded in Ballyvolane in 2024.

The aim of the group is to achieve cultural integration between Bolivia and Ireland and the different communities in Cork city.

Over 120 dancers are performing a variety of traditional Bolivian folkdances and wearing traditional costumes.

Sanctuary Runners

The Cork Sanctuary Runners was established in 2018 and they were the 2023 Grand Marshals in the parade.

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

They have 44 groups across Ireland and over 30,000 people in Ireland have taken part in a Sanctuary Runner event.

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

Cork City LGBTI+

The Cork City LGBTI+ group is a vibrant alliance of community groups, activists, and allies working together to promote inclusion, visibility, and equality across the city.

The group celebrates the rich diversity of Cork's LGBTI+ community and honours the resilience, joy, and pride that define it.

Members of the group are wearing rainbow themed costumes and colours from Pride, Trans, Bi, Intersex, and other community flags.

Frontrunners and Briskwalkers Cork

Founded in 2018, Frontrunners & Briskwalkers Cork is Cork's inclusive running and walking club for LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies.

The club provides a safe and supportive space for runners and walkers of all abilities and backgrounds.

There are over 100+ active members in the club, and the club recently won the Best Sports Club in Ireland from the GALAS LGBT+ awards.

Their 2025 Cork Pride 5k Run also won LGBTI+ Community Event of the Year at the Cork Gay Project Out & Outstanding Awards.

Mammies for Trans Rights

Mammies for Trans Rights have 140 members around the country.

Teams of Mammies attend all the Pride marches around the country each year to let trans kids, young people, and adults know they are loved – and they give out hugs on request.

In 2025 the group won the Gala Ally of the Year Award.

Cheer them on as they walk in this year's Cork St Patrick's Day Parade!

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.

The group are representing the great Edo People from the Benin Empire of Nigeria with their music, traditional costumes, beaded coral beads, and native drums and bells.

Cycling for All Cork

Cycling for All Cork are a voluntary group who provide cycling for all people, irrespective of disability. They meet every Thursday in Blackrock Village.

The group ride tandem bikes with pilot on the front and the visually impaired passenger in the rear. They also offer the use of recumbent tricycles and hand powered tricycles.

Cycling for all Cork can accommodate all forms of disability from blindness to Parkinson's disease to Multiple Sclerosis to Cerebral palsy.

The group were awarded the Cork Sports Partnership Inclusivity Award for 2024.

Ukrainian Community Choir 'Kalyna'

Founded two years ago with the support of the Carraig Centre Ballincollig, Carrigrohane Union of Parishes, The Ukrainian choir "Kalyna" (**Ka-lyna**) has over 50 members of all age groups.

The choir was set up to provide emotional and spiritual support of Ukrainians in Ireland and to help preserve Ukrainian traditions.

In 2024 the choir received The Lord Mayor's Civic, Culture and Community & Voluntary Award and Volunteering Centre Award 'Heart of Cork'.

KALYNA are performing the Ukrainian song VESNYANKA

(**ves-ni-ang-ka**): Awakening the Land

They are wearing traditional costumes enhanced with textile details and accessories by Ukrainian artist Veronika Vit.

Peruvian Community in Cork

The Peruvian Community in Cork are bringing the vibrant diversity of Peru to life in the 2026 St. Patrick's Parade.

The group are representing the Inca civilisation through costumes inspired by the 'Chosen Women' in the Inca Empire, accompanied by an Inca figure symbolising Inti, the Sun God.

A guinea pig is the group's mascot, highlighting its cultural importance in Peru.

They are playing traditional Peruvian Andean music.

Brazilian Community

We extend a big Irish welcome to members of the Brazilian Community living in Cork.

The community previously took part in the Parade as part of the Latin Community Group but this year they are participating as the Brazilian Community.

They are wearing their national colours green, yellow and blue.

McKinney High School Royal Pride Marching Band

We extend a big Cork cheer to the McKinney High School Royal Pride Marching Band who have travelled all the way from Texas in America!

The band is made up of young people aged 13 to 18 who play woodwind instruments, brass instruments, percussion and also the Colour Guard and Drill Team.

They have won several awards at local, state and national level and we are thrilled to see over 200 students from the McKinney High School Royal Pride Marching Band taking part in today's Parade!

St Finbarr's GAA Club

St Finbarr's GAA Club is based in Togher and is currently celebrating its 150th year.

Known in Cork as 'The Barrs' the club caters for girls and boys from 5 years to 12 years in the Street League Sections of the club for Hurling, Football, Camogie and LGFA.

In 2025 the Senior Men's team won the Senior Football Championship and our senior Camogie Team won both the County Camogie Championship and the Munster Camogie Championship.

The girls and boys are wearing the club colours of Blue and Gold and are carrying the winning Senior Trophies.

Spraoi

Created by award winning Waterford theatre company, Spraoi are bringing the notorious pirate Anne Bonny and her ship to Cork in search of the Lee Map Dragon which legend says crashed into the earth and formed the River Lee.

Born in Kinsale around 1698, Anne Bonny was one of the most famous pirates in history who sailed the sea during the golden age of piracy!

Cork Sugarcraft Association

Founded in 1994 by Jacqueline Cullinan and the late Sue Cummins, the association has a long history of sharing skills, encouraging creativity and producing award winning sugarcraft including stunning competition pieces and large collaborative displays.

Members meet on the last Tuesday of every month in Canon Packham Hall in Douglas for demonstrations, workshops and plenty of chat and inspiration.

Members of the Cork Sugarcraft Association are wearing eye catching hats, headpieces and costumes decorated with edible decorations showcasing their creativity and sugarcraft skills.

Crohns and Colitis Ireland

Crohn's & Colitis Ireland is Ireland's leading charity dedicated to transforming the lives of over 40,000 people living with Crohn's disease, Ulcerative Colitis, and other forms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

The organisation amplifies the voices of those affected by IBD through advocacy and awareness campaigns, working closely with healthcare professionals to drive better understanding and care.

Members are wearing Crohn's and Colitis Tee Shirts and are weaving flags!

Mexican Community in Cork

Céad mile fáilte to The Mexican Community in Cork.

There are now approximately 400 people from Mexico living in Cork.

The Mexican Community in Cork won “Spirit of the Parade Award” in 2023 and in 2025 they received the Lord Mayor’s Civic, Culture and Community Award in the Arts, Culture, Recreation and Heritage category.

The group through dance is honouring the Durango State which is famous for its vibrant dances and energetic music.

The parade’s dances also honour the “Adelitas”, the brave women who played a key part in the Mexican Revolution, fighting for freedom social justice and equality.

Domhan Green Society

Domhan Green Society is a community group founded by migrants to support other migrants in Ireland.

Their aim is to bring people together, build confidence, and promote integration in their new home in Ireland.

Members of the Domhan Green Society are wearing traditional and contemporary cultural dress reflecting its multicultural membership.

They are showcasing elements and music from Afghan, Pakistani, Ukrainian, Irish, and Turkish cultures.

UCC Confucius Institute

Get ready to experience some Chinese culture at this year's Parade from the UCC Confucius Institute Cork.

The group is made up of Confucius Institute teachers, Chinese educators, local and overseas Chinese, along with enthusiasts of Chinese culture.

UCC Confucius Institute won Best Overall Entry at the Parade in 2024.

Members of the group are wearing traditional Chinese costumes, performing traditional Chinese dance and are playing Chinese music.

Cork Lacrosse

This is the first time the Cork Lacrosse Club has taken part in the Parade.

Cork Lacrosse Club is a community sports club based in Cork which launched in 2023.

The club is continuing to grow and in 2025 they launched a Youth Girls Section and hosted the first ever youth lacrosse match ever in Ireland.

The group are marching in club uniform, carrying a Cork Lacrosse Club banner and lacrosse sticks.

EIL Intercultural Learning

EIL Intercultural Learning are an educational charity based in Cork.

They have been working in Ireland since 1964 delivering lifelong educational engagements.

The organisation works locally, nationally and internationally with individuals and communities to promote intercultural awareness through its education programmes.

They have been recognised by the Cork City Lifelong Learning Awards for their commitment to facilitating growth through education.

The Environmental Forum

The Environmental Forum has been active in Cork since 1995.

The Environmental Forum expresses themes of sustainability through its float and is joined by the wonderful creative children from the Mahon Youth Group and for the first time by Bishopstown/ Ballincollig Foroige UBU Youth Project.

The children through the symbols of fish, gulls and puffins are supporting the protection of our marine environment.

The float features renewable energy and the Circular Economy through costumes made by reusing textiles with lovely warm & colourful ponchos.

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

Lithuanian House in Cork

Lithuanian House in Cork is a new organisation aimed at promoting Lithuanian language and culture in Cork.

It has 33 students, 5 classes and 5 teachers.

The group are dressed as Lithuanian traditional folk mystical creatures. Female members of the group are carrying brooms decorated with flowers while the children are dressed as mystical creatures.

They are all singing traditional Lithuanian songs and are waving Lithuanian flags.

Yoruba Progressive Cork Ireland

Yoruba Progressive Cork Ireland was founded in 2009 and has over 75 members.

The group provides services to support the most vulnerable individuals living in direct provision and people living within our community.

They also teach the native language “Yoruba”.

They are wearing their traditional dress and playing traditional music.

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.

Bolivian Community in Cork

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

The community use music and dance to share Bolivia's rich cultural heritage with people in Ireland.

The community are performing a traditional Bolivian folklore dance that reflects ancestral history and cultural transformation.

The group were wearing traditional Bolivian costumes inspired by the Chiquitano (**chee-key-tah-no**) culture embroidery, and symbolic elements.

Cork Nepalese Community

Cork Nepalese Community was established in 2010 in Cork and promotes Nepalese culture, traditions, and community spirit.

The group helps to unite Nepalese families in Cork, fostering strong relationships among its members, and integrating Nepalese culture into Irish society.

They are wearing traditional Nepalese attire and are performing the dance Panche Baja. (**Pan- Kay Bah-Ha**)

Traditionally performed by the Damai community, Panche Baja (**Pan-Kay Bah-Ha**) symbolizes celebration, blessings, and unity.

Cork BMX Club

Founded in 2015, Cork BMX Club is based in Tramore Valley Park.

There are 100 members ranging in age from 4 years and up.

The club promotes advanced skills for all ages and all levels.

Members of Cork BMX Club are wearing their full protective gear and demonstrating stunts, wheelies and bunny hops!

Blackrock Rowing Club

Blackrock Rowing Club are a Coastal Rowing club going from strength to strength.

With over 50 members, the club has seen massive success on local and national waters

The underage and adult membership continues to grow and develop in Blackrock Village.

They are dressed in club gear and are carrying a boat along the parade Route.

Batala Mundo

We are delighted to welcome back Batala for their third visit to the St Patrick's Day Parade.

Batala was founded by a Bahain percussionist Giba Goncalves (**Con-saou-ves**) in Paris in 1997.

It 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 (**Con-saou-ves**) and are wearing colourful Batala costumes from Salvador in Brazil

Fire Service

Established in 1877 Cork City Fire Brigade has a long heritage and proud tradition of service to the people of Cork.

The role of the Fire Service has expanded beyond that of fire suppression, and they are now also involved in public safety and emergency management.

Walking in the Parade are the 8 recruits from the Class of 2026- 4 from Cork City Fire Brigade and 4 from Louth Fire Service.

They are accompanied by a new Fire vehicle with a turntable ladder.

Thanks

And this, my friends, brings us to the end of the 2026 Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Please join me in thanking the over 3600 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 Guide Dogs; the Defence Forces and our International guests from all over the world.

I'd also like to thank our sponsors, (my own) Cork's 96FM and C103 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