

# CORK ST. PATRICKS'S DAY PARADE 2025

## 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 2025.

First let me welcome an tArdmhéara Cllr. Dan Boyle.

We are delighted today to also be joined 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 **"Building A Better World - Celebrating the UN International Year of Co-operatives"**.

My Name is KC and I am 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 RED FM 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 2025 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: Sergeant Lordan and Sergeant Murphy.

### **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.

## **The Marching Body**

The Marching Body are Naval Reserve members, based at the Naval Base Haulbowline. The Marching Body is led by Lieutenant Commander Michael Relihan.

The Naval Reserve are part time volunteers who participate in military training and support the Permanent Defence Forces. The Defence Forces are recruiting for both full time and part time roles.

**Be More** with the Irish Defence Forces.

## Grand Marshal Group

Give a big cheer to the Kabin Studio who are the Grand Marshal of the Parade!

Founded in 2012 by music producer Garry McCarthy (GMCBeats) and supported by Music Generation Cork City, Cork City Council, and Tomar Trust.

The honour of leading the parade is a significant recognition of the Kabin's incredible impact over the past decade, particularly following the viral success of *The Spark*, a youth rap anthem featuring young rappers from the Kabin Crew & Lisdoonvarna Crew.

Garnering billions of online streams, the track has just won for the RTÉ Choice Music Prize Song of the Year.

Well done again to everyone in the Kabin Studio!

## **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.

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

## Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers

Bunaíodh Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers i 1988.

The school based in Blackpool has 291 students and has won awards in drama, football, hurling and camogie.

They are joined today by Gaeil Oga Naionra and by Gael-Taca, the Irish language association for Cork City.

They are displaying a giant size Puppet of Peig Sayers and the images of the Blasket Islands.

Gael Scoil Pheig Sayers Abú (pronounced A-boo)

## **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 18 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 modern style music.

## 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!

## Cork Rotary

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

Rotary has been in Cork since 1916 and they support 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!



## **Fr Mathews Basketball Club**

Fr Mathews are a multinational and multi-ethnic club based in Mathews Arena on Model Farm Road.

They are the largest basketball club outside of Dublin and have 22 teams who compete in national and local competitions.

The Youth Academy caters for 7-10 year olds.

Give a big cheer to all the players as they demonstrate their basketball skills!

## **Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance**

Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance is a dance school based in Cork City, with over 400 students and schools in Rivertown, Wilton & Ballincollig.

Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance take part in several festivals including St. Patrick's Day Parade, Culture Night, Chinese New Year Celebrations, and Dragon of Shandon.

In September 2024 the school travelled to the World Famous Shanghai Tourism Festival.

There are over 100 students taking part in today's Parade and they are dancing to songs based on the theme 'Alice in Wonderland'

## **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 6th time.

## Polish School in Cork

Founded 18 years ago, 100 students aged 5 to 18 study at the Polish School every weekend.

The school teaches polish language, history and geography.

The students are all wearing Polish folk costumes and playing Polish folk music.

## **Traveller Visibility Group - TVG**

We welcome TVG and the Traveller Community to the Cork St.

Patrick's Day Parade.

TVG is an independent, Cork-based, Traveller Led community development organisation.

TVG is based in the heart of Cork city, with a team of 30 people both from the Traveller community and the settled community.

TVG bring the settled community and Travellers together in order to facilitate community development work for the Traveller community.

## **Cork Community Artlink**

Cork Community Art Links participation in the St Patrick's Day Parade is a collaborative improvisation inspired by the spirit of Cork philosopher and social reformer, William Thompson.

For over 3 months, the company has hosted a series of workshops, with over 100 people to research, develop, design and build its 'Cooperative of Ingenious Engineers'

Taking part today in collaboration with Cork Community Artlink are members of CAP Blackpool, Ballyvolane Hub, Cope Foundation, National Learning Network, Simon Community, Headway, CAP Ballincollig, Cork Volunteer Centre, Cork Community Artlink Drama Group, the Quinn Family from Blackpool and numerous volunteers from Cork and beyond.

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

## 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 waving their national flags.

## **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 four Indian dance forms depicting the harmony of nature's elements-fire through semi-classical, air through freestyle, water through contemporary and mother earth through folk dance.



## ABC EduLibrary

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, the Polish Cultural Centre and library in Cork, is a vibrant community centre dedicated to promoting Polish culture, heritage and education in Ireland.

Situated in Cork, the centre provides access to an extensive Polish language library and organises events such as author readings, workshops and heritage celebrations.

Members of the Polish Community are wearing their national Polish costumes.

## Neptune Basketball Club

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

We are delighted to welcome members of the Juvenile Basketball Teams to the Parade.

Watch in awe as the players 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

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 Cinderella.

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

## Armenian Community in Cork

We extend a big welcome to the Armenian Community in Cork.

Over the past few years, a growing number of Armenians have made Cork their home, leading to the formation of a vibrant and close-knit community.

Two years ago, they established a Sunday Armenian school where children can learn and celebrate their heritage.

Members of the Armenian Community are wearing traditional Armenian costumes and are playing Armenian folk music.

## **Irish Falun Dafa Association**

Falun Dafa (popularly known as Falun Gong) is an ancient self-cultivation practice, of Mind, Body and Spirit.

Falun Gong is now practised in over 100 countries and regions worldwide including Ireland.

The Ladies in the group are wearing traditional elegant costumes and are performing the Lotus Flower Dance and the Fan Dance.

The Men's Drumming Group are playing different drumming routines, and some members of the group are demonstrating Falun Gong Exercises.

## **Cork Volunteer Centre**

We are always so grateful for the wonderful volunteers who give up their time to support 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 are carrying a large globe symbolising unity and collaboration, and the volunteers are carrying flags from different countries, representing global diversity.

They deserve a very big round of applause on Cork St. Patrick's Day for the wonderful unsung work they do.

## Capoeira Cork

Capoeira Cork has been kicking and flipping in Cork City since 2014.

Capoeira Cork trains in St Vincents Secondary School in Blackpool and offers classes for all age groups from 3 to 60!

The students are singing and performing sequences and free style Capoeira movements.

## Cork Renegades

Established in Cork in 2022, the Cork Renegades has members from all over the world including the Americas, Eastern Europe, Africa and Europe.

The Cork Renegades Baseball Club consists of beginners and players with decades of experience.

The Renegades are wearing their uniform of white pants, black socks, black jersey or hoodie and the team cap.

There is a paper mâché baseball head walking along with them, as well as a concession “salesman” and a baseball organ (speaker) 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.

## **SECAD Partnership- Parade of Nations**

Céad Míle Fáilte to the Parade of Nations which features migrants from different nations and different continents of the world who are living in Cork.

Joining the Parade of Nations are members of Amnesty International.

## The Paraguayan Community of Ireland

The Paraguayan Community in Ireland is a vibrant group dedicated to preserving and sharing Paraguayan culture through music, dance, and traditions.

In 2024, the group was honoured with the prestigious Laureado award in Paraguay, recognizing its outstanding efforts in promoting Paraguayan heritage abroad.

There are 500 Paraguayans living in Ireland and the community has taken part in multicultural events, including previous St. Patrick's Festival parade and Latin American cultural celebrations.

Today the community are wearing their traditional costumes and playing Paraguayan Polka music.

## **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.

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.

They are performing traditional Palestinian dance and are displaying an olive tree created with Cork Community Artlink which is a symbol of peace and resilience.

## Cork Puppetry Company

Developed and created by the Cork Puppetry Company, the majestic figure of Saint Patrick is represented by a giant puppet version of himself.

St Patrick is accompanied by a happy DJ monk pushing a Gaelic cross and the duo are followed by four gigantic snakes.

Cork Puppetry Company chose the snakes as puppets, not only to honour the Chinese Year of the Snake, but also to reminisce about pagan traditions and symbolize the ever-changing landscape of the city.

Made out of recycled materials, these snakes represent the different cultures that are present in Cork. Each snake has a unique colour and expression and is accompanied by multicultural music.

## **Thomas B Doherty High School Spartan Legion Marching Band**

A big Céad Mile Fáilte to the Thomas B Doherty Spartan Legion Marching Band who have come all the way from Colorado Springs in Colorado.

The band are part of a musical programme featuring three levels of concert ensembles, 2 jazz bands, percussion class, Colour Guard and Winter Guard.

The band have qualified for the State championships every year since 2001.

Today they are wearing their Traditional Marching Band uniforms - jacket, shako, plume, black pants.

We extend a warm Cork welcome to all the bandmembers!

## **Cork Wolfpack and Inline Hockey Club**

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

The Club has pioneered Ireland's only junior girls' hockey programme and contributed coaches to Irelands national teams.

This season the club will host an international training camp in Cork.

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 with hats, badges and flags all celebrating St Patricks Day.



## **CEC- Cork English College**

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

It is a family run school since 1978 and welcomes adult, young adult & junior students from around the world to Cork.

In 2024 Cork English College welcomed 63 different nationalities to the school making it a truly international experience.

Cork English College works with local host families and provides a truly Pure Cork experience.

## **Bicia Kachamosos- Bolivia**

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

Kachamosos was founded in Cork in 2024.

The group is based in Ballyvolane and has 52 members.

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

The group has taken part in Culture Night, the Dragon of Shandon and Christmas celebration of the Indian community where they won awards for their costumes and dance.

## 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!

## **Sudanese Community Association**

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.

They are waving both the Irish and Sudanese flags.

## **Frontrunners and Briskwalkers Cork (Frontrunners Cork AC)**

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

The club promotes health, wellbeing, and LGBTQIA+ visibility through weekly 5 to 10km routes and social events.

With twice weekly meetups next to The Idle Hour and Marina Market, plus vibrant social outings, Frontrunners Cork is a community dedicated to inclusivity and camaraderie.

Members are wearing matching capes, masks and armbands to form the LGBT+flag.

## 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.

They are wearing traditional costumes and playing traditional musical instruments and song.

## **Cycling for All Cork**

Cycling for All Cork are a voluntary group who provide cycling for all people, irrespective of disability.

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" (pronounced 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 (**pronounced Ka-lyna**) are performing the Ukrainian song PODOLYANOCHKA (GET UP) which is a tribute to women's resilience and a call for solidarity and empowerment.



## Peruvian Community in Cork

The Peruvian Community in Cork are bringing the vibrant diversity of Peru to life in the 2025 St. Patrick's Parade.

With costumes representing the three distinct regions of Peru—**Costa, Sierra, and Selva**—they celebrate the nation's rich cultural heritage.

Their lively presentation is further enhanced by two charming dolls: the iconic Peruvian guinea pig and a traditional cholito (**pronounced choli-to**).

They are playing music from Peru.

## **Cork County Cricket Club**

Based in the Mardyke, the Cork County Cricket Club is 150 years old this year.

The club has four male teams and a large and growing youth section.

Last season, Cork County Cricket Club teams won the Premier Division and Division 1 Championships.

Club members are wearing their club uniform and carrying flags representing participating nationalities who come from all over the world in the club.

## **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.

## **Attridge Academy of Irish Dance**

The Attridge Academy of Irish Dance is Ireland's longest established school of Irish dance.

It was founded by Nancy Murphy-Attridge and is now run by her daughter Niamh Marie.

The Attridge Academy of Irish Dance has taken part in festivals from Rome to Romania and Cork to Kazakhstan with recent appearances in Malta and Serbia.

The dancers are wearing traditional and modern costumes as they demonstrate the art of Irish dancing.

## Spraoui

Created by award winning Waterford Spraoui, this show features an all Cork cast celebrating the power of people working and enjoying the craic together.

When St. Finbarr arrived in Gougane Barra he discovered a dragon in residence. Legend says Finbarr swung this beast through the air and where it landed formed the River Lee.

Finbarr's Dragon and its Croc-A-Loc friend return to Cork streets for today's parade. These two mythical creatures are herded by a co-operative of fearsome-beast farmers, straining with ropes and shackles to keep our audience safe.

## **Wilton United Football Club**

We welcome the girls section of Wilton United Football Club to the Parade.

The club was founded by Pat Bowdren in 1968 who continues to play an important role in the club.

Wilton United play their games at Pat Bowdren Park on the Lee Road and cater for all age groups for girls.

Irish International Player Denise O'Sullivan began her career with Wilton United where she was coached by Pat Bowdren.

Give a big cheer to all the girls from Wilton United Football Club.

## **Mexican Community in Cork**

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

The group was awarded “Best Dancing Group” in 2016 and in 2018 and in 2023 they received the “Spirit of the Parade Award”.

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

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

## **Domhan Green Society**

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

This is their first time taking part in the Parade.

The Domhan Green Society recently held an exhibition in UCC to mark International Women's Day.

Participants are wearing traditional clothing and carrying different flags along with the Irish Flag.



## **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 Entry Prize at the Parade in 2024.

Today they are showcasing five performance forms including Dragon Dance, Tai Chi, Traditional Costume Show, Panda Cosplay, and Chinese Dance.

## **Cork City Judo Club**

Cork City Judo Club was established in 2009.

Judo is a Japanese martial art and Olympic sport.

The group practice at Coláiste Criost Rí sports hall every Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm.

The students are wearing their Judogi uniforms and demonstrating throwing techniques, using a crash mat for safety.

## **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 and promotes the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 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 also features renewable energy and the Circular Economy through reuse of textiles with lovely warm & colourful upcycled costumes from upcycled fabric.

## **Yoruba Progressive Cork Ireland**

Yoruba Progressive Cork Ireland was founded in 2009 and has over 50 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

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.

Today they are performing “The Taquirari” (pronounced **taquirar-i**) which is a typical dance from Boliva.

The women are wearing the traditional Tipoy- long sleeveless dress worn by Eastern Indigenous women while the men are dressed in traditional clothes associated with the tropics.

## **Cork County Cricket Club**

Based in the Mardyke, the Cork County Cricket Club is 150 years old this year.

The club has four male teams and a large and growing youth section.

Last season, Cork County Cricket Club teams won the Premier Division and Division 1 Championships.

Club members are wearing their club uniform and carrying flags representing participating nationalities who come from all over the world in the club.



## **Cork Nepalese Community**

Cork Nepalese Community (CNC) 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.

The group also organizes Nepalese festivals, along with cultural programs that celebrate the rich heritage of Nepal.

## **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!

## Batala

Welcome back Batala who first performed at the parade last year!

Batala was founded by a Bahain percussionist Giba Goncalves (pronounced 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 (pronounced Con-saou-ves) and are wearing colourful Batala costumes from Salvador in Brazil.

## Thanks

And this, my friends, brings us to the end of the 2025 Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Please join me in thanking the over 3100 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 Kabin Studio; 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**