

Lord Mayor Marks the Winter Season by Welcoming Dublin's World Faiths to the Mansion House

News Release

5th December 2020

Lord Mayor Hazel Chu has made the Mansion House a more inclusive place for Dublin citizens this winter season, by opening the doors in celebration to the city's major world faith traditions.

It is not only Christmas for the city's many Christians, but this time of year also marks the Buddha's Enlightenment Day for Dublin Buddhists and the Festival of Lights for the city's Jews.

To recognise this, Dublin's Lord Mayor will not only officially launch the much loved traditional Christmas crib at the Mansion House this year, but will also invite in the city's minority faith traditions, to mark and respect their winter festivals, in this increasingly diverse and culturally rich city.

"It has been such a tough year for everyone, all faiths and none. But what this incredibly challenging year has highlighted is the resilience in community, the care for each other and the respect for each other's beliefs. As we go into Christmas I wanted to make sure we celebrate all faiths and communities," Lord Mayor Hazel Chu said.

Starting December 8th and running until December 14th, the various faith traditions will hold a special lunchtime ceremony in the Lord Mayor's Garden, beside the Mansion House, by special invitation of the Lord Mayor herself.

Each day from December 8th, a Buddhist, Sikh, Jewish, Hindu, Bahá'í, Muslim and Christian ceremony will take turns in marking this special time of year. One faith community will be represented each lunchtime, in what is an appropriate mark of respect for each community: a joyous celebration of our cultural richness in this exciting, cosmopolitan and increasingly diverse city.

Mr Adrian Cristea of Dublin City Interfaith Forum said: “This is a very welcome move by the Lord Mayor, who is recognising our rich diversity in the Mansion House for the first time in this way at this most special time of year.”

“Dublin City Interfaith Forum is delighted to be involved in this imaginative celebration that the Lord Mayor has initiated,” Mr. Cristea added.

“Let us hope this becomes something of an annual fixture, as we celebrate the imminent return of the light at this dark time of year, according to our various rich traditions and cultures - diverse traditions and cultures which so enrich our city; making Dublin one of the most beautiful, peaceful and harmonious European capital cities in which to live.”

“I highly commend the Lord Mayor for this imaginative and warm-hearted celebration of faith and community,” Mr. Cristea finished.

Events will be streamed live on Dublin City Forum’s Facebook page and YouTube channel, please note links below.

Facebook: facebook.com/dublincityinterfaithforum

You Tube channel: Dublin City Interfaith Forum

ENDS

For further information or to organise interviews, please contact:

Mr. Adrian Cristea at adrian@dcif.ie or at 083 8003345.

Notes For Editors:

Dublin City Interfaith Forum (DCIF) is a network of people from the different Faith Communities in the City of Dublin. It aims to create awareness and dialogue through building relationships that nurture harmony and deepen understanding and respect.

The World Faiths currently present and active in Dublin City and represented on DCIF are: Baha’i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

DCIF works with interested members of faith communities to deliver interfaith gatherings and activities in Dublin City. Recognising the diverse nature of the backgrounds of the residents of Dublin, DCIF seeks to provide the space and opportunity for Faith Communities to build relationships with and between Dublin City communities, statutory and voluntary organisations and the residents of Dublin City.