

Part 17 Europe 2025 for Cathy's blog

Sunday 20th April, 2025.

Vienna

We sailed into Vienna on the (not so blue) Danube river. This is (the morning) view of the Jubilee Church seen from our window.



We had a quick bus trip into the city and then a walking tour, with lots of information about the ruling family, the Hapsburg who influenced much of Europe from the thirteenth to the twentieth century.

Here is one of their palaces.



These two buildings were Hapsburg too, but are now part of the Parliament.





Wrestling?



Not sure about the use of a baseball bat!



The net is to keep the pigeons out.



We can tell who the sculptors used as a model for the statues.



As always, the Romans had built a variety of structures here and the ruins are carefully excavated, protected and explained. This is a well.



Another famous composer.

Vienna streets, beautiful buildings. Vienna was a walled city and when it grew too crowded with people, they would dig below the buildings, digging out three or four more floors below and people lived in these basement flats.





This is the “Plague Column”. When the plague came to Vienna in 1679, people prayed and either died or managed to survive. So praying must have cured them of the plague. They erected this column in commemoration of the victims and as thanks for surviving it.



A closer look shows a person with a cross praying and with divine help, they are conquering death (the old woman lying upside down at their feet).



St. Stephen's cathedral.

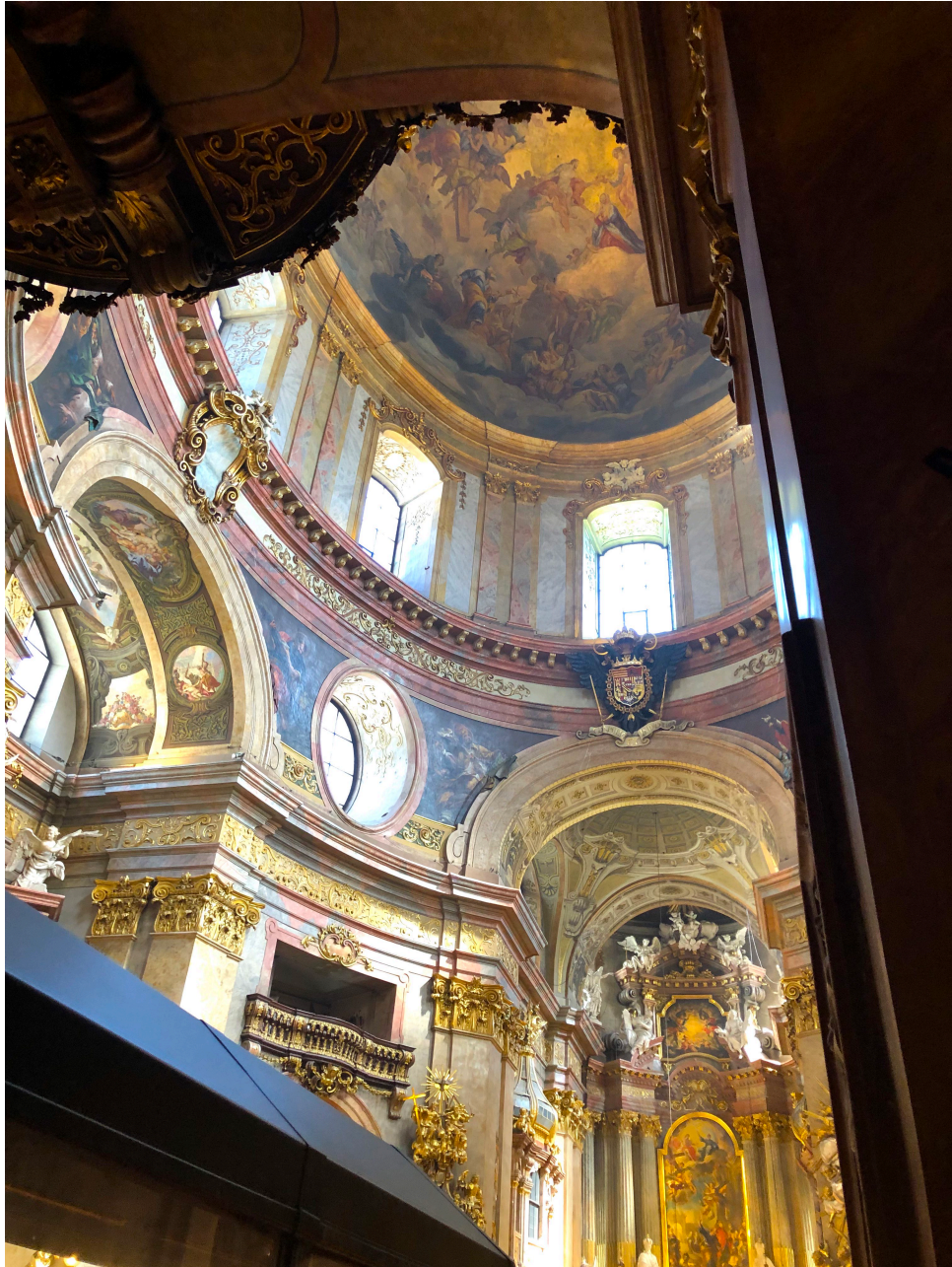


The bell tower at St. Stephen's. It is Easter Sunday and the bells rang out (for about five minutes!). A local woman explained to us that the bell is the second biggest in Europe. At one time, the tower burned down and the bells fell and cracked and they used the metal to cast new ones.

Bells at St. Stephen's :

There are 22 bells in total.

The Pumerin is the largest at this cathedral (and the second largest in Europe) and it was recast after a fire in 1945 (remade in 1951). It only chimes on Catholic feast days, New Year's Day and at a service for peace in the Ukraine in March, 2022. We were lucky to have heard it!



We snuck into another church, but of course, they are full of locals trying to celebrate Easter (and probably thoroughly sick of tourists).



They are beautifully decorated, but I think it would be hard to concentrate on the service with so much to look at around you.



**There are no modern high rise buildings in Vienna.
These are built “in the suburbs” or on the other side of
the river.**



They cater for dogs.



They have magnificent trees.



The lilac is blooming.



In the afternoon we walked out to see the Jubilee Church.

It is really the St. Francis of Assisi Church but is also called the Mexico Church.

It was built to commemorate the 50th Jubilee of the reign of Franz Josef I of Austria.

The “Mexico” idea comes from the fact that only Mexico and the Soviet Union protested the “Anschluss” (the annexation) of Austria by the Germans in 1938.

It was closed and looked a little unkempt, with long grass and the belongings of homeless people in the entrances.





A very pretty church.

In the evening we had our orchestral concert at Palais Lichtenstein.

A beautiful building, small but talented orchestra, good soloists (with good sound) and two dancers. It was a wonderful evening.



**The first picture is the ceiling of the staircase!
The second is of the room we were in for the concert.**



