



A truck carrying bells is parked outside Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral, in Paris, Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024. A convoy of trucks bearing the restored bells pulled into the huge worksite surrounding the cathedral Thursday on an island in the Seine River. They will be blessed in a special ceremony inside the cathedral before being hoisted to hang in the monument's twin towers for the Dec. 8 reopening. (AP/Michel Euler)

by Associated Press

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Paris — September 12, 2024

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[Notre Dame Cathedral](#) in Paris is getting its bells back, just in time for the medieval landmark's reopening following a devastating 2019 fire.

A convoy of trucks bearing eight restored bells — the heaviest of which weighs more than 4 tons — pulled into the huge worksite surrounding the monument Thursday on an island in the Seine River.

They are being blessed in a special ceremony inside the cathedral before being hoisted to hang in its twin towers for the [Dec. 8 reopening](#) to the public.

Cathedral Rector Olivier Ribadeau Dumas, wearing a hardhat as he prepared to enter the cathedral and bless the bells, called them “a sign that the cathedral will again resonate, and that its voice will be heard again. A sign of the call to prayer, and a sign of coming together.”

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The bells will be raised one by one and tested out, but they won't ring in full until the day of the reopening, said Philippe Jost, overseeing the massive Notre Dame reconstruction project. He called the bells' arrival “a very beautiful symbol of the cathedral's rebirth.”

While construction on the cathedral started in the 12th century, the bronze bells damaged in the fire are from the 21st century. They were built according to historical tradition to replace older bells that had become discordant, to mark the monument's 850th anniversary.

The cathedral's roof and spire, which collapsed in the fire, have been replaced, and [scaffolding is being gradually removed](#) from the site.