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We are deeply grateful for the donations we receive from our congregation and our community. Now, more than ever, we need your support.

Please visit www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/support-us or text METROCATHEDRAL to 70460 to donate £5*.

*Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message. If you do not wish to opt-in to hear more about our work and fundraising via text, but would still like to donate £5, text METROCATHEDRALNOINFO instead.



Cathedral Record

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

Love, Wonder and Joy

Debates in the news regarding the level of social contact that should be allowed over the Christmas period are still raging on but despite the confusion and restrictions this year Christmas will still happen. For even though many of the external ways in which we mark the occasion will not take place and social gatherings be reduced or family celebrations be curtailed we can still honour the birth of the Lord and keep the feast with a sense of love, wonder and joy. When all else is stripped away that is at the heart of our celebration and that is the element that no one but ourselves can cancel.

One aspect of the build up to Advent in Cathedral House is the annual friendly creative disputes that take place regarding the position and space needed for the crib, the number of trees that should be bought and what other decorations should there be within the Cathedral and when all this should appear during the season. 'Whether the crib should be on or off the sanctuary', is always the most controversial decision to be addressed and various subtle tactics are used to slowly gain a consensus of opinion and win the day. With the Dean arguing for a separate location off the sanctuary for families to visit and pray at the side of the crib and the Dean's Assistant et al wanting to make the crib a focal point on the sanctuary for all to see - the higher and bigger the better! Faced with the reality this year of a large online congregation for Advent and Christmas services it made more sense for the crib to be clearly in view for both congregations and so I graciously rolled over and conceded without a struggle this year.

The big challenge was to keep the scale down to a manageable height and size. The limitations and demarcation lines were clearly set and I have to admit that the crib works in its new position and will be clearly seen by those who can only join us this year through the live streamed services. Apparently the 3 Kings are going to be slowly making their way to the crib which should keep us all watching their progress – hopefully we won't have to climb over them at any point to get to the altar.

We are only able to allocate up to 300 places for each of the Christmas Masses and Carol Services and already all the services are fully booked up apart from the 8am and 9am Masses on Christmas morning. If you are still wanting to attend Mass over the Christmas period or people you know have asked about times of Masses these are the only two that still have available spaces.

There will be just the one Mass on St Stephens' or Boxing Day at 12 midday and 9 and 11am on Sunday morning after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Canon Anthony O'Brien Cathedral Dean

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING: 20 December 2020

Sunday 20 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.00am Mass
11.00am Mass
This Mass will be streamed live on Facebook and Youtube

Monday 21 December

9.00am Mass
12noon Mass

Tuesday 22 December

12noon Mass

Wednesday 23 December

12noon Mass

Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve

3.00pm First Vespers and Blessing of the Crib
6.00pm Vigil Mass *
The Cathedral will close after Mass.
The Cathedral re-opens at 11.00pm
Midnight CHRISTMAS
MIDNIGHT MASS *

Friday 25 December The Nativity of the Lord

8.00am Mass *
9.00am Mass *
11.00am Solemn Christmas Mass *
The Cathedral closes at 1.00pm

Saturday 26 December

12noon Mass
RECONCILIATION (Confession)
Monday - Friday:
Following the 12noon Mass.
Please note that there are no Confessions on Holy Days.

Saturday: 3.00pm – 3.45pm
Confessions will take place in the St Columba Chapel.

*These Masses require you to have a

Crypt
Crypt Chapel

SS -
55 Seel St,
Missionaries of
Charity

RLUH -
Royal Liverpool
University Hospital

CLERGY:

PRIESTS:
Canon Anthony
O'Brien Dean
Fr Stephen Lee
Fr Chris McCoy
Fr Peter Murphy

DEACONS:
Rev Noel Abbott
Rev Paul Mannings

Tel: 0151 709 9222

Email: enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Maura Lynch (RIP), Jeanette McHale (RIP), Anne Box (RIP), Alex Bonnington (Get Well), Rita and Danny McCaughley (Special Intentions), Laura Growley (Special Intentions), Pat and Bob Leahey (Special Intentions), Rose Langan (Special Intentions), Harvey Lane (RIP), James Lambert (Special Intentions), George and Family (Special Intentions), Joan Loveridge (Special Intentions), John Barrington (RIP), Mgr Gibb (RIP Remembrance), Bro Anthony Judd (RIP Remembrance), Fr Godric Timney (Intentions), Fr Boniface Moran (Intentions), Fr Hugh (Intentions), Pat McManus (Intentions), Mary Forshaw (Intentions), Brenda Coffee (Intentions), Mary James (Intentions), Claire Sullivan (Intentions), Tony Holland (Intentions), Dave and Lynne Griffiths (Intentions), Paul Tobin (Intentions), Christine Cowan (RIP), Margie Cornyn (RIP), Michael Taylor (RIP Anniversary), Marie Lavelle (RIP), Cornyn Family (Special Intentions), Gerard Webb (RIP), Holy Souls, Theresa Ogunseiton, Nichola Jones, Henry Rainford (RIP), David and Mollie Dunne (RIP), Special Intention (MM).

PASTORAL FORMATION UPDATE

New resources now available include:
Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (also available as an audio download).
Week 15 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ.

All can be accessed/downloaded at <https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/> or through <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> by clicking on 'Prayer and Other Resources'.

POLITE NOTICE

While we will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 any time they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

NEWS FROM SAINT NICHOLAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the last few weeks each class has been filmed performing their part of our school Christmas play and then staff have been very busy editing all these parts together so that we can have one whole play. On Friday children were shown this and they enjoyed it immensely. Well done to everyone, you were brilliant! On Thursday the children had their party day and this as you can imagine was a day filled with excitement, joy and laughter. On behalf of everyone here at school, I wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and with very high hopes that 2021 is much brighter for us all.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

We pray for the Church and its leaders ... that where difficult decisions and choices have to be made, they will be given the gifts of wisdom, courage and compassion.

We pray for all those awaiting the birth of a child ... may they find support and practical encouragement within their families and from their friends.

For all who have lost loved ones in this last year and face a first Christmas filled with their absence ... may the memories they hold of precious times together, sustain them in days to come.

WOMEN'S REFUGE

Our appeal for toiletries, nightwear, toys for children, chocolates and other new items for the Women's Refuge has started once again, and is needed now more than ever before. As you start your own Christmas shopping please consider popping a little bit extra in for these families who have been through a tough time, and have found it more difficult than ever during lockdown. Please be as generous as you can.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to buy a Christmas flower in memory of a departed loved one by placing £5 and the name of the person in an envelope and leaving it at the reception at Cathedral House or give it to one of the Cathedral clergy. The 11.00am Mass on Sunday 27 December will be offered for all their names.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Things will look and feel slightly different this year for our Christmas Masses. So that we can keep everyone safe and adhere to the guidelines everyone has to have a ticket. We hope that we have catered for everyone. Please go to our website for all details. Please don't leave it until the last minute as tickets are limited due to our capacity. We have set up waiting lists for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral at Christmas. Don't forget that you need to bring any tickets that you have with you to the Masses.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC STAFF TO RUN MARATHON FOR MICAHA

Music staff from the two Cathedrals in Liverpool are coming together to raise money for MICAHA, the social justice charity set up by Liverpool Cathedral, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and St Bride's Church to relieve Liverpool residents from social injustice and poverty. Christopher McElroy is Director of Music at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Stephen Mannings is the Director of Music Outreach at Liverpool Cathedral. The pair will be running a marathon on New Year's Eve 2020 to raise money for MICAHA Liverpool. Chris and Stephen are hoping to raise £2000 for MICAHA. It is also hoped to raise public awareness of issues relating to poverty and social exclusion, which are particularly acute in our city at this time. The pair have launched a JustGiving page to help them reach their target.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/micahmarathon>. If you would feel able to make a donation and sponsor Chris & Stephen this would be greatly appreciated, and would go a long way to supporting the work of MICAHA in our city, amongst our most underprivileged communities. Please pray for good

Last week's collection: **£541.54**



— THE MYSTERY OF THE —
LUTYENS CRYPT
— LIVERPOOL'S BEST KEPT —
ARCHITECTURAL SECRET




Reopening soon. Please sign up to our newsletter for updates.

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Be the first to hear about Cathedral news, services and events. Please visit liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/sign-up

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Golden Book of Remembrance

The Golden Book is open and accepting your entries but on a limited basis for the time being.

Please email enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk or telephone 0151 709 9222 where a member of the team will assist you.