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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

Christmas Message

Christmas Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool.

We always speak of Christmas celebrations as being a time of joy and happiness, and a time to gather with family and friends. We see this in the weeks leading up to the feast - a time of preparation when people want to make sure that everything is perfect. This year may have to be different – a recent survey suggested that 54% of people in this country will be cutting back on Christmas celebrations against a backdrop of rising food prices and energy costs. It's very easy to lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas amidst the tinsel, glitter, food and drink, and yet the realities of the first Christmas are all around us today and we don't have to look far to see them.

Life was uncertain for Mary and Joseph too as they travelled the long road to Bethlehem where they had to take part in a census called by an occupying power. Christ was born in a stable on a cold winter's night – not an ideal time or place for our saviour to be born. His first visitors were shepherds who had been looking after their sheep on a cold, bleak hillside, not the visitors you might expect.

Our times may be uncertain, and our Christmas may be different this year but the reason for our celebrations remains unchanged.

Our annual celebration of Christmas is one

of love and peace and nothing can change that. We believe that our love for one another is a sign of God's love for us - 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son' – and through our celebrations we give thanks to God for sending us Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem, announced by the angels, and visited by those shepherds and later by wise men.

It is the love of God that shines through this great feast, and we show that love by the ways in which we reach out to those around us. To our relatives and friends, to those alone at Christmas, to those in need who have much less than ourselves and by the way in which we welcome those seeking refuge in our country.

While some things may have to change for us the message of Christmas remains the same, precious moments with those we love and care for, this is the warmth, the comfort and the joy which Christmas brings to us and those around us.

Above all Christmas is, has always been, and always will be a time of hope. The hope which the birth of Jesus brings is for all time and eternal. In his Gospel St John says, 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'. Jesus is the light of the world shining through any darkness in our lives. May this Christmas be a time of hope for us all.

I wish you a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Tel: 0151 709 9222
Email: enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING 25 December 2022

Sunday 25 December The Nativity of the Lord

9.00am Mass
10.00am Family Mass Crypt
11.00am Solemn Choral Mass
This Mass will be streamed live on Facebook and Youtube
The Cathedral closes at 1.00pm

Monday 26 December Saint Stephen

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Tuesday 27 December Saint John, Apostle

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Wednesday 28 December The Holy Innocents

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Thursday 29 December Saint Thomas of Canterbury

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Friday 30 December The Holy Family

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Saturday 31 December

8.45am Morning Prayer
9.00am Mass BSC
5.00pm Vigil Mass BSC

RECONCILIATION (Confession) Monday - Friday:

There are no Confessions between Christmas and New Year during the week.

Saturday: 9.30am - 10.30am &
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Crypt Crypt Chapel

SS -
55 Seel St,
Missionaries of
Charity

RLUH -
Royal Liverpool
University Hospital

CLERGY:

PRIESTS:
Canon Anthony O'Brien *Dean*
Fr Derek Lloyd
Fr Chris McCoy
Fr Peter Murphy

DEACONS:
Rev Noel Abbott
Rev Paul Mannings

Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Gerard Webb (RIP), Holy Souls, People of the Ukraine, Edith Quinn, Alan Brudne (Restore Health), Smith Family and Friends (Intention), Jean Harris, Pamela Monk, Barbara Scotland, Eddie Tinney, Janet Hargreaves (RIP), George Nelson and Mrs Nora Nelson, Ken Rugkin and Mrs Nora Rugkin, Emily Cooper and the Cooper Family, Sister Christine (Birthday), Peggy Truswell (Anniversary).

NEWSLETTER

Please note that the next Newsletter will be issued for 7/8 January 2023.

MASS TIMES

From Monday 26 December – Friday 30 December, and on Monday 2 January there will be one Mass only at 10.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Saturday and Sunday Masses remain at the usual times. The usual timetable for the Cathedral resumes on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

WOMEN'S REFUGE

Thank you so much to everyone who donated gifts and toiletries for our Christmas appeal. It was the most successful yet and the response was overwhelming. Your generosity was really appreciated. Thank you so much. We appreciate your generosity even more as we know how many demands are being made on people to donate to all different charities, all of whom are as worthy as the next. Thank you to everyone who made such an effort.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who donated money for the Christmas flowers. The flowers will now decorate the Cathedral and Crypt. The 10.00am Family Mass on Sunday 1 January will be offered for all their names.

NEWS FROM SAINT NICHOLAS' ACADEMY

Last Monday everyone enjoyed our end of term Christmas bingo in the school hall and then on Tuesday all classes had lots of fun in their Christmas party. Children came to school in their own clothes or party clothes which also added to the great sense excitement and anticipation not just with the final day of term looming nearer but with Christmas just days away too. On Wednesday the long autumn term finished. From all of us here at school we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Happy Christmas from all of us here at school!

CATHEDRAL READERS

Cathedral Readers required - Come and Share the Liturgy of the Word! Would you like to join our group of readers at the many masses here at the Cathedral? We would love to hear from you and require new readers to join our team in this important role for all Masses. No experience is required, all you need is a clear voice! For more information please contact Danielle Myerscough dmmyerscough@gmail.com or 07919894918

CATHEDRAL WALKING GROUP

Start the New Year on the right foot (plus the left) and join the Cathedral walking group on Sunday, 8th January 2023, for a stroll round the city centre and along the waterfront.

Meet in the car park at 12.30pm, suitably attired. En-route there'll be plenty of places for a warming beverage if it's a cold day! Distance: about 4 miles. Contact: nicklightbearer@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Please note that there will be an extra Mass on Christmas Eve at 6pm in the Cathedral. All are welcome.

PASTORAL LETTER

There is a Pastoral Letter to be read at all Masses over the weekend 31 December/1 January. Copies can be found at the back of the Cathedral and Crypt.

MIDNIGHT MASS

No passes are being given out for the Car Park – it will be first-come- first-served.

PLEASE NOTE

That the Lutyens Crypt and Treasury will be closed to visitors from Tuesday 3 January – Monday 16 January 2023. Watch this space for more closures over the coming weeks, and apologies for any inconvenience caused.

THANK YOU

To all Cathedral Staff and Volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to achieve so much in our Cathedral and Crypt. The work that we do with all the services, Masses, exhibitions, concerts, corporate events, fund raising, outreach work and a whole host of other events increases year on year. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes with so many dedicated people, young and old alike, and each one of what

we do makes a tiny bit of difference. Never think that what you do goes unnoticed. You make a real difference and deserve a big Thank You.

CATHEDRAL CRIB

Please do go and have a look at the Cathedral Crib which is situated in the West Apse this year. Thank you to all those people who have made donations towards the Crib. It is most appreciated. May the peace and love of the new born baby Jesus remain in your hearts and homes throughout this Christmas season.

UPDATE FROM THE SYNOD DEANERY COUNCIL

We, as a council, would like to offer our love and support for the Parish of St. Francis Xavier's after the announcement that the Jesuits will be leaving the parish next April. We will keep you all in our prayers.

Significant progress has been made with regard to electing a Patron Saint of the Deanery. We hope to be able to announce it shortly. We are looking at ways to put the name of your Deanery Synodal Council (DSC) representative either on your church noticeboard or on your newsletter, so that you will know who to direct any feedback to.

We are arranging events to bring together groups of people, beginning with catechists, as a means of bringing our deanery closer as a community. We are arranging a visit to the Liverpool Chaplaincy to talk about Synod and hope to arrange a reciprocal visit to the DSC so we can work together constructively for the benefit of the Deanery. The Deanery Synodal Council would like to wish all priests and parishioners of the deanery a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year.

Last week's collection: **£987.36**



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




Open Monday – Saturday: First Admission: 10am, Last Admission: 3.30pm
 Crypt Admission Charges: £5 Adult, £12 Family (2 adults + 2 children)

Keep in touch

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

Stay Connected

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Golden Book Office

The Golden Book office is currently closed. We are still accepting requests which will be dealt with as soon as we can. Please email us at enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk.