

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

SOLEMN MASS

**ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
3 DECEMBER 2023 AT 11.00AM**

WELCOME

Welcome to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, the mother Church of the Roman Catholic Community, and seat of the Archbishop of Liverpool. We hope you will fully participate in this celebration of the Mass, and that – along with so many others – you will experience the presence of God in this holy place.

THE MASS

At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, Jesus instituted the Eucharist, or the Mass, to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages until he should come again.

The Mass is an act of thanksgiving to God for his saving work; it is a sacred meal which nourishes us spiritually and anticipates the heavenly banquet, and it is a holy sacrifice, making present the one true sacrifice of Christ our Saviour.

Roman Catholics believe that Jesus Christ is truly present at the Mass; in the assembly gathered as the Body of Christ, through his Word made present in scripture, but supremely under the appearance of bread and wine. In the Eucharist the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ is wholly and entirely present.

Strengthened by this sacred food, we go forth to build up the Body of Christ in this world, and to bring his healing and salvation to all peoples.

The Celebrant for today's Mass is the Canon Anthony O'Brien.

The Solemn Mass each Sunday is offered for all Benefactors of the Cathedral.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT MOBILE TELEPHONES ARE SWITCHED OFF

The use of private cameras, video or sound equipment
is strictly prohibited in the Cathedral

The 11.00am Sunday Mass will be recorded and live-streamed. The recording will be shown live on YouTube, and a copy of the recording will be available on this platform. Should you wish not to be filmed, please speak to Cathedral Security or one of the Stewards, who will direct you to a seat in the West Gallery. For more details, please email dataprotection@rcaol.org.uk

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE HYMN *all stand and join in singing*



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| <p>1 Hark! a herald voice is calling: 'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say; 'Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!'</p> <p>2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.</p> <p>3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heaven; Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all to be forgiven.</p> | <p>4 So when next he comes in glory, And earth's final hour draws near, May he then as our defender On the clouds of heaven appear.</p> <p>5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit, To the Father and the Son, With the co-eternal Spirit, While unending ages run. Amen.</p> |
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INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Ad te levavi animam meam:
Deus meus in te confido,
non erubescam:
neque irideant me inimici mei:
et enim universi qui te exspectant,
non confundentur.

*To you, my God, I lift my soul,
I trust in you;
let me never come to shame.
Do not let my enemies laugh at me.
No one who waits for you is ever put to
shame.*

*Psalm 24:1-4
Gregorian Chant*

GREETING

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

INTRODUCTION *the Celebrant introduces the Mass and the first candle on the Advent*

Wreath is lit, the Celebrant says

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Saviour of every nation.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

ASPERGES *as we are blessed with water we commit ourselves to pondering the Word of God and waiting in hope for the coming of the Lord during this season.*

The Celebrant says

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters)
let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has created,
which will be sprinkled on us
to mark the beginning of the new church year
and the season of Advent.

Almighty ever-living God,
be pleased, we pray, to bless this water,
by which we seek protection on this your day, O Lord.
renew the living spring of your grace within us
and grant that by this water we may be defended
from all ills of spirit and body,
and so approach you with hearts made clean
and worthily receive your salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

The Choir sings

Asperges me, Domine, hyssopo, et
mundabor: lavabis me, et super nivem
dealbabor. Miserere mei, Deus, secundum
magnam misericordiam tuam.

Gloria Patri, et Filio et Spiritui Sancto,
sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Purify me with hyssop until I am clean;
wash me until I am whiter than snow.
Have mercy on me, God, in your
loving kindness.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c1548-1611)

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *from the prophet Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1,3-8*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
- at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 79 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



God of hosts, bring us back: let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of host, turn, again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. *R.*

SECOND READING *from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *the Choir sings the Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia.
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH *all join in saying*

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY MOTET *a collection is taken for the upkeep of the Cathedral or please use the QR codes at the back of the booklet, meanwhile the Choir sings*

Lux gloriæ - Ave, O Lux! - a Patre
prodiens æterno, immortalī, cælite,
sancta sanctorum, O Iesu Christe.
Ad horam vespertinam nos pervenimus
laudare Patrem, Filium, Spiritum
Sanctum: Creator, Lux Redemptor
Iesus et Paraclitus Deus. Dignus laude
es linguis integris nunc et in sæculorum
sæcula, Dei Fili, vitæ dator mi, quare in
omni terra et in æternum laudata Lux
divina. Amen.

*Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory
poured who is the immortal Father,
heavenly, blessed, Holiest of holies, Jesu
Christ our Lord. Now we are come to the
sun's hour of rest; the lights of evening
round us shine; we hymn the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit divine. Worthiest art thou
at all times to be sung with undefiled
tongue, Son of our God, giver of life,
alone; therefore in all the world thy
glories, Lord, we own. Amen.*

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Latin translation by Aaron Kiely (b1964)

The Celebrant says

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

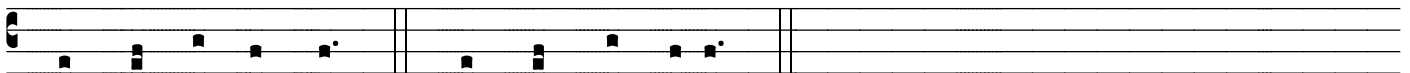
All stand and say

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

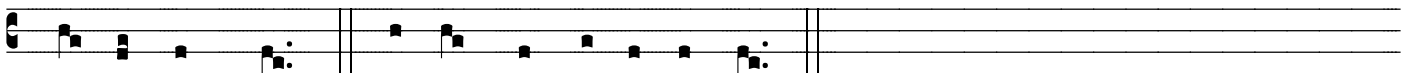
PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

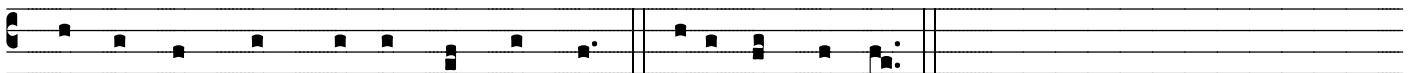
R. Amen.



The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

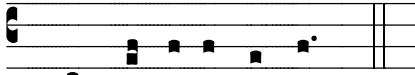
SANCTUS *the Choir sings*

**Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus,
Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.**

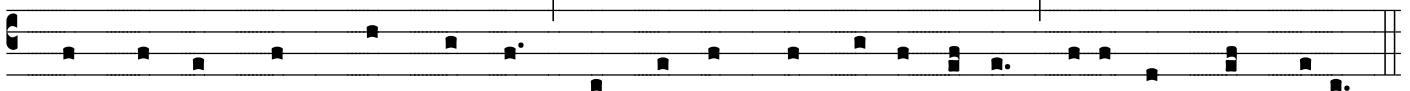
*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of hosts heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Missa 'Rorate cæli'
Franz Josef Haydn

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *all join in singing*

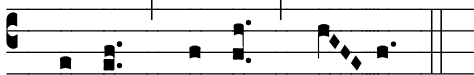


The mystery of faith.



We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

GREAT AMEN *all join in singing*



A-men. A-men. A- men.

COMMUNION RITE

THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI *the Choir sings*

**Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world. Grant us peace.*

Missa 'Rorate cæli'
Franz Josef Haydn

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All join in saying

**R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Those who are not Roman Catholic, or do not wish to receive communion, are welcome to come forward in spiritual communion. Crossing your arms across your chest will indicate to the priest or eucharistic minister that you would welcome his or her words of spiritual communion.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *the Choir sings*

Dominus dabit benignitatem:

et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.

*The Lord will shower his gifts,
and our land will yield its fruit.*

Psalm 84:3

Gregorian Chant

COMMUNION MOTET *the Choir sings*

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love, therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create; the next thing which to you I'll tell woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose; and so a promise soon did run that he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear; he here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved; and if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descend - ing,
once for fa - vour'd sin - ners slain;
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Swell the tri - umph of his train:
Al - le - lu - ya! Al - le - lu - ya! Al - le - lu - ya!
God ap - pears on earth to reign.

- 2 Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated, profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you:
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Saturday 16 December 2023 at 7.00pm

A Celebration of Christmas returns this year with a night of musical cheer, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit.

Join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and some very special guests for what promises to be a magical event for all the family.

Sing along to classic carols, enjoy traditional readings and celebrate Christmas in the glorious surroundings of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Tickets: £10 each/£18 family, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

We hope you have enjoyed your time in the Cathedral.

Please be careful, and take your time, as you leave. Please use the handrails provided on either side of the steps, and avoid walking down the middle section.

Have a safe journey home.

Support Us

We are deeply grateful for the support we receive from our congregation and visitors. Please consider making a donation in the following ways:

- *Donate £5, £10 or £20 through our 'tap and go' machines.*
- *Text the word METROCATHEDRAL to 70460 to donate £5, or simply scan the QR codes below to make a donation of £5 or £10.*



£5



£10

Thank you for your generosity.

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text METROCATHEDRALNOINFO instead.

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk