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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

Second Sunday of Advent

The pace of life here has picked up and increased considerably over the last week and I'm already starting to flag but there is not much chance of slowing down for the next few weeks. For this Second Sunday the Gospel Reading for mass announces the appearance of John the Baptist from the wilderness proclaiming a message of repentance and making ready for the salvation that is to come. This Sunday the Cathedral Boys choir will be performing Benjamin Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols' following Evening Prayer at 3pm. The Ceremony begins calling us to be ready to welcome the Saviour and welcome all who follow the Christ Child. Following this service there is a remembrance service 'Lights to Remember' at 5pm in support of the work of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

St Mary's College Crosby and then Bellerive FCJ have school prizegivings here on Monday and Wednesday. On Thursday Nugent have their annual 'Light up a Life' service at 12.30 and Clatterbridge come together for their pre Christmas Service in the evening. Our own Cathedral Pre Christmas celebrations have had to be all condensed over the weekend of the Third Sunday of Advent due to the following Sunday falling on Christmas Eve. On Saturday there is the 'Celebration of Christmas' Concert featuring Christmas Music and Carols and some festive fun to get us in the mood to celebrate Christmas. Then next Sunday evening at 5pm we will have our own Festival Carol Service.

The last of the Christmas trees have been put in place around the Cathedral buildings and at the start of next week the staff will begin putting the cribs in place in the Cathedral and Crypt. What may sound like small tasks within the home take on a different scale and have a different degree

of complexity within a building such as ours. So they have to be carefully planned over a series of weeks. But the same satisfaction comes when each task is completed and the Cathedral slowly puts on the mantle of Christmas during these weeks.

This year we move from the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning to begin our Christmas liturgical celebrations with the First Vespers of Christmas and Blessing of the Crib at 3pm on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. We also have a Christmas Vigil Mass at 6pm in the Cathedral as well as Midnight Mass. Please be aware that the Midnight Mass this year will begin promptly at 11.30pm as it will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 4. This will mean that the BBC crew will be here from Saturday morning, 23rd December, setting up their equipment and taking sound checks, rehearsals and recordings for service later in the year throughout that day. Our Christmas morning masses will be the same as on a normal Sunday morning.

Canon Anthony O'Brien Cathedral Dean

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. Saturday 16 December 2023 at 7pm.

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

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

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING 10 December 2023

Sunday 10 December Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am Mass Cathedral
10.00am Mass Crypt
11.00am Mass * Cathedral
* This Mass will be streamed live on Youtube
7.00pm Mass Crypt

Monday 11 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC

Tuesday 12 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Requiem Mass BSC
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC

Wednesday 13 December

St Lucy
7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.15pm Sung Mass BSC

Thursday 14 December St John of the Cross

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC

Friday 15 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC
5.30pm Choral Evening Prayer

Saturday 16 December

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

EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Will take place from 4.00pm on Fridays.

RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Monday - Friday:
Following the 12.15pm Mass in the Crypt
Saturday: 9.30am - 10.30am & 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Please note that there are no Confessions on Holy Days.

Crypt
Crypt Chapel

BSC
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

CLERGY:

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

DEACONS:
Rev Noel Abbott
Rev Paul Mannings



Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Sarah McGann (Birthday Anniversary Remembrance), Bella Mann (RIP), Teresa Driscoll (RIP), Peter Davis (RIP), Betty Macleod (Thinking of You), Barbara and Alex Abercrombie (Intentions), Simon O'Neill (RIP), Kath Byron (Intentions), Mary Allen (Get Well), Laura Growney (Get Well), Rita and Danny McCaughley (Intentions), Carmel and Bill Antrobus (Intentions), John Kenny (RIP), Gerard Webb (RIP), Carl Petersen (RIP), Holy Souls, People of Ukraine, Isla (RIP).

JIGSAWS AND GAMES

We are looking for any unwanted jigsaws and games that you may have and are willing to donate to us? The seafarers who are often away from home for long periods of time are looking for these items to help pass the time when they are in port. Anything you can do to help would be appreciated. Please drop off at Cathedral House.

JOB VACANCY

Parish Administrator at St Margaret Mary's Parish. An opportunity is available for a highly skilled and experienced administrator to work in the parish office at St Margaret Mary's parish. This is a permanent, part-time post, working Tuesdays to Fridays 9am to 2pm. For more information and to apply for the role, please visit the Liverpool Archdiocesan website.

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

JOB VACANCY

Cleaner at St Philip Neri House. An opportunity is available for an experienced cleaner to work at Philip Neri House. This is a permanent, part-time post, working 4 hours per week Tuesday and Wednesday 10am 12pm. For more information and to apply for the role, please visit the Liverpool Archdiocesan website.

STAFF AND POSTGRADUATE GROUP

Are you a university staff or a PhD student? Come and join the Liverpool Universities Catholic Staff & Postgraduate Group! The group of staff and doctoral students meets fortnightly every other Wednesday for prayer, discussion and sharing. please contact Antal on 07515821079 for further details.

CEREMONY OF CAROLS Sunday 10 December 3.00pm.

The boy choristers join harpist Elizabeth McNulty to perform Benjamin Britten's sequence of carol texts by English poets. The performance lasts around 40 minutes and is free to attend, with a retiring collection. All welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID MIDDLE EAST CRISIS APPEAL

International development charity Christian Aid is appealing for more help in boosting funds to continue to support its local partners. Church leaders are being urged to renew appeals for donations - every amount will make a difference; £6 will pay for a basic hygiene kit while a donation of £37 will pay for a food parcel for a family of five in Gaza. To make a donation, please visit the Middle East Crisis Appeal page on the [Christian Aid website](#).

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 10.00am Family Mass on Sunday 31 December will be offered for all their names.

FEEDING LIVERPOOL

This Christmas, we are asking people to join together to support Feeding Liverpool's Christmas Appeal to help them and the 70 member charities they support that provide emergency and community food support in the region as they work towards #GoodFoodForAll. Your support will help them continue to put good food on tables this winter and beyond, at a time when Government Statistics indicate that 132,000 people in the Liverpool City Region - or 9% of the population - are having to turn to emergency food charities to feed themselves or their family. Launch Day: Tuesday 28th November 2023 · Feeding Liverpool's donation page: [Help Feed Liverpool this Christmas - JustGiving](#)

WOMEN'S REFUGE

Our appeal for toiletries, nightwear, toys for children, chocolates and other new items for the Women's Refuge has started. Anything you can spare for the women and their families will be appreciated. Please drop in to Cathedral House/Cathedral Security Office.

DEANERY SYNODAL COUNCIL

A Joint meeting of the Clergy and Laity of the Liverpool Central Deanery Synodal Council was held 30th November. At this meeting feedback was given from those who attended the inaugural Archdiocesan Synodal Council on 25th November. Lots of work is still ongoing in order to make our Archdiocese Synodal (where we all talk to one another) but lots of work has already been done. The DSC are still discussing the idea of 'family of parishes' and we presented a partial plan to the Archbishop for Liverpool Central Deanery. This plan splits the Liverpool Central Deanery into 3 sections:

North Family comprising St. Sylvester's (St. Anthony and Our Lady of Reconciliation), St. John the Evangelist and St. Francis Xavier.

Central Family comprising the Metropolitan Cathedral, the specialised ministries of the University Chaplaincy at St. Philip Neri, the Hospital Chaplaincy, and the Blessed Sacrament Shrine.

South Family comprising Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Patrick's, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Anne and St. Bernard.

This plan is by no means complete or final. There are a couple of other parishes that are yet to be placed, but this plan offers a way forward to merging our parishes in order to meet the needs of the church in the immediate future.

A lack of priests forecast for the future means that we will need to use our resources, churches and people, in a more effective way than we do at present. There is lots of work to be done. Please keep the Synod and the Deanery in your prayers.

The Liverpool Central DSC wishes you all a Happy and a Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Last week's collection: **£1,326.00**

Keep in touch



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

Stay Connected

Join our online community



Golden Book of Remembrance

The Golden Book Office is now open each Tuesday between 10am and 3pm.

Please call **0151 707 2107** or email goldenbook@metcathedral.org.uk for more information.



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)