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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 **METROCATHERAL** 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 METROCATHERALNOINFO instead.

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING 24 December 2023

Sunday 24 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.00am Mass
10.00am Family Mass Crypt
11.00am Solemn Choral Mass
This Mass will be streamed live on Youtube
6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

Monday 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 Youtube
The Cathedral closes at 1.00pm

Tuesday 26 December Saint Stephen

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Wednesday 27 December St John

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Thursday 28 December The Holy Innocents

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Friday 29 December St Thomas of Canterbury

9.45am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass

Saturday 30 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 Peter Murphy

DEACONS:
Rev Noel Abbott
Rev Paul Mannings



Cathedral Record

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

Christmas Message

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather once again to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. The festive season is upon us, and though the challenges of our times may persist, the timeless message of Christmas continues to shine brightly, offering us hope, love, and peace.

It is a busy time for everyone, with last-minute preparations, food and gifts on the agenda, and from an archdiocese point of view, there has been plenty to celebrate this year.

In July, we celebrated 100 years since our first pilgrimage to Lourdes. We travelled out there in great numbers, and it was truly an occasion to remember. With that, we also celebrated 100 years since the miracle of Jack Traynor and remembered his story.

In September, it was a historic moment, not just for the archdiocese, but for the Catholic Church in this country, as St Mary of the Isle in the Isle of Man became our co-cathedral – the first of its kind in the UK.

It was a momentous occasion, with the ceremony being watched not just by those in attendance, but by many more across the world online.

Despite this, I am also aware that it has not been an easy year for everyone. The cloud of the cost-

of-living crisis still lingers, and we have seen the devastating impacts of climate change, and conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza.

In a world that often grapples with uncertainty, economic challenges, and social issues, it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Just as Mary and Joseph faced an uncertain journey to Bethlehem, finding themselves in humble surroundings, so too do we encounter the unexpected in our lives. Yet, amidst the difficulties, we find the enduring message of God's love.

It's a reminder that even though we remember them with much fondness – they also had to go through their tough times. From having to travel a fair distance on a donkey, to there being no room at the Inn. But at the end of it, they got to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

In the midst of the world's darkness, we find hope in the light that the birth of Jesus brings. Like the shepherds on that holy night, let us not be afraid, for the message of Christmas is a message of hope—a hope that transcends time and circumstances. I pray that this Christmas fills your hearts with the warmth of love, the joy of hope, and the peace that surpasses all understanding. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your lives, bringing comfort and assurance in the days ahead.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas.

In Christ's love,

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP

Tel: 0151 709 9222

Email: enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Paddy Hand (RIP Anniversary), Nora Fanning (Special Intentions), Nancy Hannigan (nee Maguire) (RIP), Joseph and Sylvia (Private Intentions), Rachel Edwards (RIP), Anthony Coady (RIP Remembrance), Anthony Allen (RIP Remembrance), Peggy Truswell (Anniversary), The Coogan Family, Sr Christine (Birthday), Pauline Joan Ellison (RIP), Lorraine Jacob and Mary Agnes Jacob (Christmas Wishes), Margaret Brabin (RIP), Pat Rowan (RIP), Liz Pyron (Good Health), Nora and George Neilson (RIP Remembrance), Nora and Ken Rudkin (RIP Remembrance), Emily Cooper and Cooper Family (RIP Remembrance), Hilda Cloherty (RIP), Gerard Webb (RIP), Carl Petersen (RIP), Holy Souls, People of Ukraine, Vera and Philip Jones (Remembrance), Mary Sanders (Remembrance), Cath McGregor (Remembrance), Jeff Wallace (RIP Anniversary), Cathedral Guides and Welcomers and Families (Intentions), Francis Wheeler (Christmas Remembrance).

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The SVP are looking for volunteers willing to help children put their faith into action. Could this be you? The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does

need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for more information on youngvincentians@svp.org.uk. You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. The next initial training day will take place on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

NEWSLETTER

Please note that the next Newsletter will be issued for 6/7 January 2024.

MASS TIMES

From Tuesday 26 December – Friday 29 December, and on Monday 1 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 2 January 2024.

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 31 December will be offered for all their names.

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 30/31 December. 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 2 January – Monday 15 January 2024. 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 Masses, services, 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 part we all play makes a big difference. Never think that what you do goes unnoticed. You make a real contribution 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.

800th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRIB

This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the First Nativity Crib, created by St Francis of Assisi in Greccio in Italy in 1223. To mark this special anniversary, and to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, we pray "a child's prayer" at Christmas. "Dear Jesus, At this time of year, we picture you in the stable at Bethlehem, with Mary and Joseph, a picture of peace and family love, surrounded by the animals and adoring shepherds. We pray that the peace you brought into the world on that first Christmas night will return to our world, and the light of your guiding star will lead us all one day to be with you in Heaven. Amen." Prayer by Michael Byrne KGCHS Lieutenant for England and Wales, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Last week's collection: **£1,540.36**



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)

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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 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.