



**Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool**

SOLEMN MASS

**ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
22 DECEMBER 2024 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 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*



- 1 **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**
- 2 **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.**
- 3 **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**
- 4 **Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children’s children and for evermore!**

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Rorate caeli desuper,
et nubes pluant iustum:
aperiatur terra,
et germinet Salvatorem.

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain the just one:
let the earth be opened,
and bring forth a Saviour.*

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 fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.*

KYRIE *Missa ‘Rorate cæli’ - Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)*

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts.
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
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 Micah 5:2-5a*

Thus says the Lord:
You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength
of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

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*



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 hosts, 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 letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10*

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *the Choir sings the Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia.

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum,
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque
unum: veni, et salva hominem,
quem de limo formasti.
Alleluia.

*O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.*

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-45

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

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*

**Богородице Дево, радуйся,
благодатная Марие, Господь с тобою.
Благословена ты в женах,
и благословен плод чрева твоего,
яко Спаса родила еси душ наших.**

***Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.
Blessed art Thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb,
for Thou hast borne the Saviour of our
souls.***

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

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

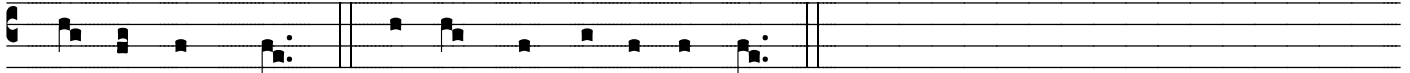
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

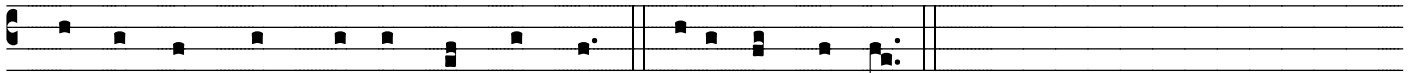
May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.



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.

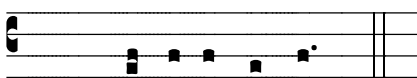
SANCTUS *the Choir sings*

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

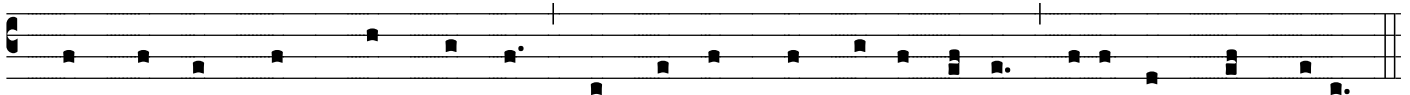
*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*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*

Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium:
et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.

*Behold, a virgin will conceive, and will
bear a Son, and his name shall be called
Emmanuel.*

Gregorian Chant

COMMUNION MOTET *the Choir sings sings*

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen,
aus einer Wurzel zart,
als uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

*A Spotless Rose is sprouted,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.*

Jan Sandström (b1954)

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*



- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden, Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!
- 2 'For know, a blessed Mother thou shalt be.
All generations laud and honour thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
'To me be, as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name!
Most highly favoured lady! Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
'Most highly favoured lady!' Gloria!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery
of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
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 *Prelude and Fugue in G minor - Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)*

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.

MUSIC AT THE MET 2024

For full details of upcoming concerts, organ recitals and special musical events, please visit <https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/> or scan the QR code.



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- *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



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