



**Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool**

**SOLEMN MASS  
FOR THE OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR**

**CELEBRANT  
THE MOST REVEREND MALCOLM McMAHON OP  
ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL**

**ON THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY AND JOSEPH  
29 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](mailto:dataprotection@rcaol.org.uk)*

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *all gather at the Baptistry and join in singing, as the Archbishop and ministers process to the Baptistry*

- 1 **Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.**
  
- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**
  
- 3 **And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.**
  
- 4 **Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him: but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high,  
Where like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.**

**GREETING** *the Archbishop and ministers assemble at the font in the front of the Baptistry*  
In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**R. Amen.**

The God of hope,  
who in the Word made flesh  
fills us with every joy and hope in the faith,  
through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**

*The Archbishop says*  
Brothers and sisters,  
the mystery of the Incarnation of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
fostered in the communion of love of the Holy Family of Nazareth,  
is for us the ground of deep joy and certain hope.

In fellowship with the universal Church,  
as we celebrate the love of the Father that reveals itself  
in the flesh of the Word made man and in the sign  
of the cross, anchor of salvation,  
we solemnly open the Jubilee Year  
for the Church of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King  
This rite is for us the prelude to a rich experience of grace and mercy;  
we are ready always to respond  
to whoever asks the reason for the hope that is in us,  
especially in this time of war and disorder.  
May Christ, our peace and our hope,  
be our companion on the journey in this year of grace and consolation.  
May the Holy Spirit, who today begins this work both in us and with us,  
bring it to completion in the day of Christ Jesus.

*After a moment of silence, the Archbishop continues*

O Father,  
you are the hope that does not disappoint  
and the beginning and end of all things;  
bless the start of our pilgrim journey  
behind the glorious cross of your Son  
in this time of grace;  
bind up the wounds of hearts that are broken,  
loosen the chains that hold us slaves of sin  
and prisoners of hatred  
and grant your people the joy of the Spirit  
so that they may walk with renewed hope towards their  
longed-for destiny,  
Christ your Son and our Lord.  
He lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**R. Amen.**

## **GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-7

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Archbishop says*  
Dear brothers and sisters,  
let us invoke the Lord our God  
that he may bless this water which he has created;  
we shall be sprinkled with it  
as a memorial of our Baptism.  
May the Lord renew our hearts.

Lord God almighty,  
source and origin of life,  
bless this water  
with which we shall be sprinkled.  
We are trustful that we shall receive the forgiveness of sin,  
protection from all infirmity and from the deceit of the evil one,  
and the grace of your protection.  
In your mercy, grant us, O Lord,  
a fount of living water that wells up to eternal life,  
so that, free from every danger of soul or body,  
we may come to you with a pure heart.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

Almighty God, may we be purified from our sins  
and by this celebration of the Eucharist  
may we be worthy to participate in the banquet of your kingdom  
for ever and ever.  
**R. Amen.**

*As the Gloria is sung the Archbishop sprinkles the assemble congregation.*

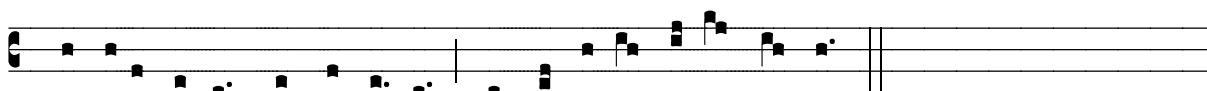
**GLORIA VIII** *all join in singing the verses in bold type*

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.



**Lauda- mus te. Be-ne-di-ci-mus te. Ado-ra- mus te. Glo-ri-fi-camus te.**

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.



**Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, De-us Pa-ter omni- pot-ens.**

Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.



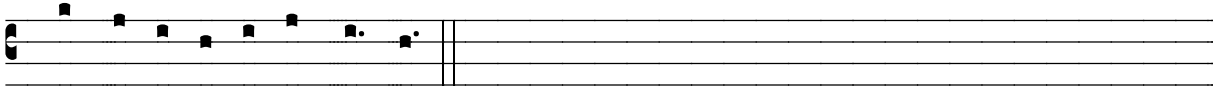
**Domi-ne De-us, Agnus De- i, Fi-li- us Pa- tris.**

Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.



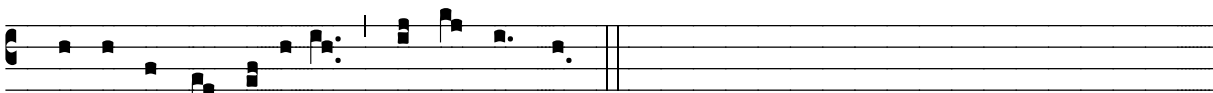
Qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mundi, susci-pe de-pre-ca-ti-o-nem no-stram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.



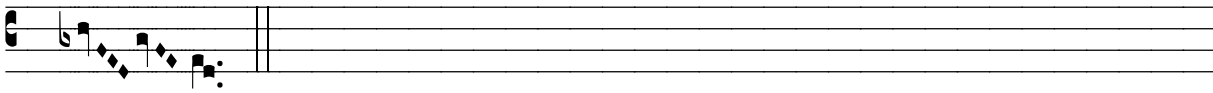
Quo-ni-am tu so-lus sanctus.

Tu solus Dominus.



Tu so-lus Al-tis-si-mus, Je-su Chri-ste.

Cum sancto Spiritu, in Gloria Dei Patris.



A-men.

*Gregorian Chant*

## COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us  
the shining example of the Holy Family,  
graciously grant that we may imitate them  
in practising the virtues of family life  
and in the bonds of charity,  
and so, in the joy of your house,  
delight one day in eternal rewards.  
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 book of Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*

The Lord honoured the father above the children,  
and he confirmed the judgement of the mother over her sons.  
Whoever honours his father atones for sins,  
and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure.  
Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children,  
and when he prays he will be heard.  
Whoever glorifies his father will have long life,  
and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.

O son, help your father in his old age  
and do not grieve him as long as he lives;  
even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence;  
in all your strength do not despise him.  
For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,  
and against your sins it will be credited to you.

The Word of the Lord.

**R.** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 127** *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! **R.**

**SECOND READING** *from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21*

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

The Word of the Lord.

**R.** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *all join in singing the Gospel Acclamation after the Cantor and again after the verse*



May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;  
let the message of Christ find a home with you.

## **GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:41-52

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.*

## **HOMILY** *The Archbishop*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH** *all join in saying*

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.



For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**OFFERTORY HYMN** *a collection is taken for the upkeep of the Cathedral or please use the QR codes at the back of the booklet, meanwhile all join in singing*

- 1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!
  
- 2 From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:  
O tidings....
  
- 3 And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Saviour lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling down,  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
O tidings...

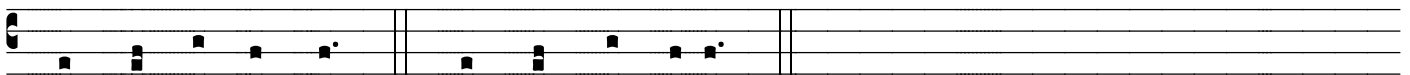
4 Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth efface:  
O tidings...

*The Archbishop 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

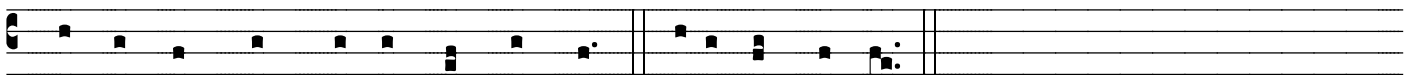
We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,  
humbly asking that,  
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God  
and Saint Joseph,  
you may establish our families firmly in your grace  
and your peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**



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 VIII** *all join in singing*

VI  
**S** an- ctus, \* Sanctus, San- ctus Do- minus De-us Sa- ba-oth.

Pleni sunt cae-li et ter- ra glo-ri- a tu- a. Ho- sanna in excel- sis.

Bene- di- ctus qui ve- nit in nomi- ne Do- mi- ni. Ho- san- na in excel- sis.

*Gregorian Chant*

**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 VIII** *all join in singing*



VI  
**A** - gnus De- i, \* qui tol- lis pecca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no- bis.  
A- gnus De- i, \* qui tol- lis pecca-ta mun- di: mi-se-re-re no- bis.  
A- gnus De- i, \* qui tol-lis pecca-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa- cem.

*Gregorian Chant*

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.*

**HYMN AFTER COMMUNION** *all stand and join in singing*

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.

**3** How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him,  
Still the dear Christ enters in.

**4** O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,  
most merciful Father,  
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,  
so that, after the trials of this world,  
we may share their company for ever.  
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** *Carillon-Sortie - Henri Mulet (1878-1967)*

*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](http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk)