



**Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool**

SOLEMN MASS

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE CELEBRATION

**CELEBRANT
ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM McMAHON OP**

**ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
9 FEBRUARY 2025 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*



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.</p> | <p>3 Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.</p> |
| <p>2 Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless,
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.</p> | <p>4 Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.</p> |

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Venite, adoremus Deum,
et procidamus ante Dominum:
ploremus ante eum, qui fecit nos:
quia ipse est Dominus Deus noster.

*Come, let us worship the Lord.
Let us bow down in the presence
of our maker,
For he is the Lord our God.*

*Psalm 94:6-7
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.

PENITENTIAL RITE *all join in saying*

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,

through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

GLORIA *Missa Brevis in F - Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)*

COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unflinching care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.
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 6:1-2a,3-8*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!' And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.'

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me.'

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

PSALM 137 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' **R.**

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hand. **R.**

SECOND READING *from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:1-11*

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unworthy to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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

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



Follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of men.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 5:1-11

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: The crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear the word of God. He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when

they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.

HOMILY *Archbishop McMahon OP*

RENEWAL OF VOWS *all stand, as the Archbishop invites married couples to face each other, (hold hands) and renew the promise that they made to each other on their wedding day*
Remembering the celebration at which you joined your lives in an unbreakable bond through the Sacrament of Matrimony, you now have an opportunity to renew before the Lord the promises you made to one another. Turn to the Lord in prayer, that these vows may be strengthened by divine grace.

Husbands

Today I renew the choice I made to take you to be my lawful wedded wife.
To have and to hold, for better or for worse,
for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish till death do us part.

Wives

Today I renew the choice I made to take you to be my lawful wedded husband.
To have and to hold, for better or for worse,
for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish till death do us part.

Together

May God strengthen the love we have.
May our bond of love be strong enough
to keep us true to our pledge,
so that our lives may be filled
with the deep joy and peace
which the God of love gives
to those who are faithful to him.

The Archbishop says

You have renewed your wedding vows
in the presence of the Lord and this community.
May the Lord in his goodness
deepen your commitment to one another,
and fill you both with his blessing

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 *the Archbishop begins*

We bring our prayers before God our Father, in the knowledge that he deeply cares for our needs, and for the needs of all creation.

A Reader continues

For the newly married, those preparing for marriage and those celebrating a special anniversary of commitment during 2025. May their relationships continue to be blessed by the love which flows between the persons of the Blessed Trinity.

For an increased awareness of marriage and family spirituality across our diocese and a growing recognition of the holiness of home.

Lord in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

For the widowed and the bereaved struggling with the loss of their beloved one. May they know God's peace deep within their hearts and be supported by the love of family and friends.

Lord in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

For families struggling with their relationships, divorce, separation, and the issues of our time - unemployment, poverty, hunger, time pressures and addictive behaviours. May they be supported, loved and cared for and given the strength to live a life of faith, hope and love.

Lord in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

For those who are committed to loving relationships within extended families and all who live in community. May the inclusive love of God embrace them and inspire them to give generously of themselves.

Lord in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

For those couples celebrating their jubilees. May the love and commitment they have become the sign of hope, and inspire others to value the sacrament of marriage.
Lord in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

Let us call on the intercession of Our Lady who understands the many needs and challenges of family life.
Hail Mary...

The Archbishop concludes

Loving Father, your Son Jesus gave the gift of marriage to your church as a sign of your love. We ask you now to hear these prayers we offer you through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

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*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesu, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee, changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Howard Goodall (b1958)

The Archbishop says

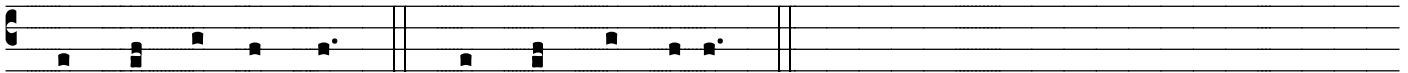
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All stand and say

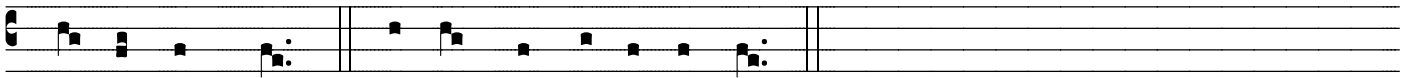
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

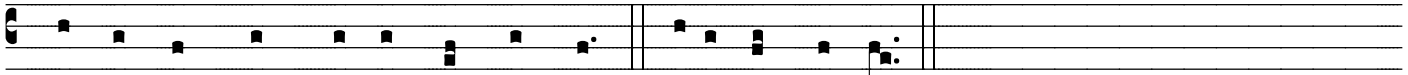
O Lord our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.



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.

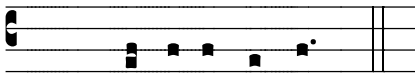
SANCTUS *the Choir sings*

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 Brevis in F
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.*

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*

Introibo ad altare Dei, ad Deum qui
laetificat iuventutem meam.

*I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.*

*Psalm 42:4
Gregorian Chant*

COMMUNION MOTET *the Choir sings*

Panis angelicus
fit panis hominum;
Dat panis coelicus
figuris terminum.
O res mirabilis!
Manducatur Dominum,
pauper pauper servus et humilis.

*The bread of heaven
is made the bread of men;
The bread of heaven
puts an end to all symbols.
What a wonder!
A poor man partakes of the Lord,
a poor and humble servant.*

César Franck (1822-1890)

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*



- 1** God, in the planning and purpose of life,
Hallowed the union of husband and wife:
This we embody where love is displayed,
Rings are presented and promises made.
- 2** Jesus was found, at a similar feast,
Taking the roles of both waiter and priest,
Turning the worldly towards the divine,
Tears into laughter and water to wine.
- 3** Therefore we pray that his spirit preside
Over all weddings of bridegroom and bride,
Fulfilling all that they've hoped will come true,
Lighting with love all they dream of and do.

- 4 Praise then the Maker, the Spirit, the Son,
Source of the love through which two are made one.
God's is the glory, the goodness and grace
Seen in a marriage and known in this place.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

SPECIAL BLESSING FOR THOSE CELEBRATING SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

*The Archbishop invites all married couples who are celebrating a significant anniversary
this year to come forward and blesses them as follows*

God our Father,
we ask you to bless these married couples.
We thank you for their long and happy marriages
and for all the good that they have done.
As you blessed the love of their youth
and helped them in their joys and struggles,
continue to bless their life together with gifts of peace and joy.
Watch over them in the coming years
and bring them to the feast of eternal life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

The Archbishop then blesses all the families present
Loving God
from whom every family in heaven
and on earth derives its name.
Bless those with whom we share our lives
with the abundance of your love
that we might grow together
in compassion love and forgiveness
and in so doing be a sign of your presence in the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

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

Those couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary can register online for a certificate by scanning the QR code below.



Please collect a prayer card as you leave the Cathedral.

After the 11.00am Mass there will be tea, coffee and a biscuit served in the Gibberd Room. Everyone is very welcome to come and join regular members of the congregation.

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.

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