



**Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool**

SOLEMN MASS

**ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
23 MARCH 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*



- 1 **Led by the Spirit of our God,
We go to fast and pray
With Christ into the wilderness:
We join his paschal way.
'Rend not your garments,
Rend your hearts.
Turn back your lives to me.'
Thus says our kind and gracious God,
Whose reign is liberty.**

- 2 **Led by the Spirit, we confront
Temptation face to face,
And know full well we must rely
On God's redeeming grace.
On bread alone we cannot live,
But nourished by the Word
We seek the will of God to do:
This is our drink and food.**

- 3 **Led by the Spirit, now draw near
The waters of rebirth
With hearts that long to worship God
In Spirit and in truth.
'Whoever drinks the drink I give
Shall never thirst again.'
Thus says the Lord who died for us,
Our Saviour, kin and friend.**

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Oculi mei semper ad Dominum,
quia ipse evellet de laqueo pedes
meos: respice in me, et miserere mei,
quoniam unicus et pauper sum ego.

*My eyes are ever fixed on the Lord,
for he releases my feet from the
snare. O look at me and be merciful,
for I am wretched and alone.*

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.

KYRIE *Missa Brevis in B flat - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)*

COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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 Exodus 3:1-8a,13-15*

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I Am Who I Am.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

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

PSALM 102 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made his way known to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **R.**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

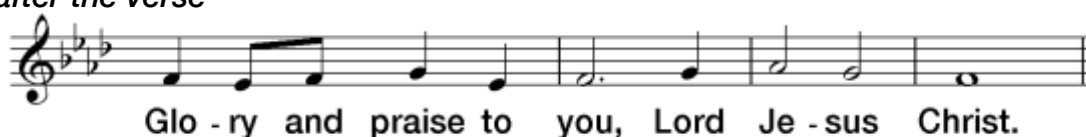
SECOND READING *from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

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*



Repent says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

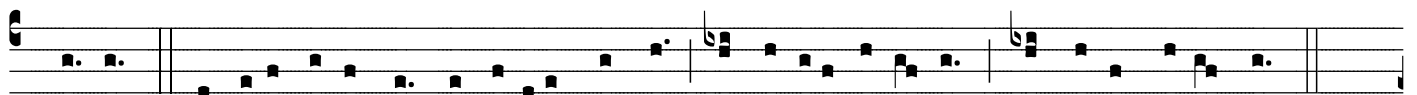
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.

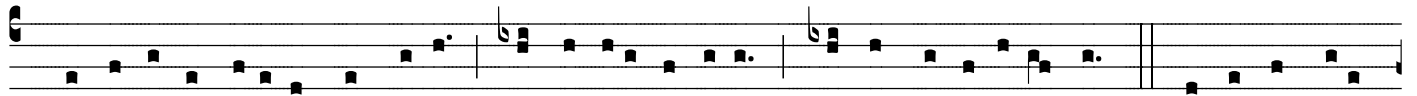
HOMILY

CREDO I *all join in singing the verses in bold type*

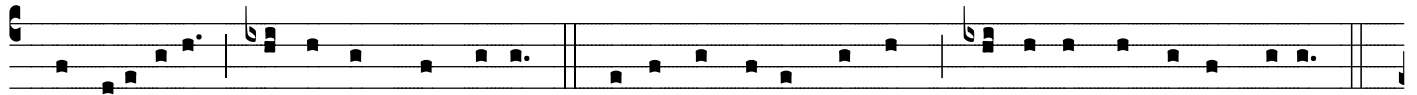
IV. **C**redo in unum De-um, Patrem omni-po-ten-tem, factorem caeli et ter-rae, vi-si-bi-li-um omni-um, et in-vi-si-bi-li-um. **Et in unum Domi-num Jesum Christum, Fi-li-um De-i u-ni-ge-ni-tum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumi-ne, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum, non factum, consubstan-ti-a-lem Patri, per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram salutem descendit de**



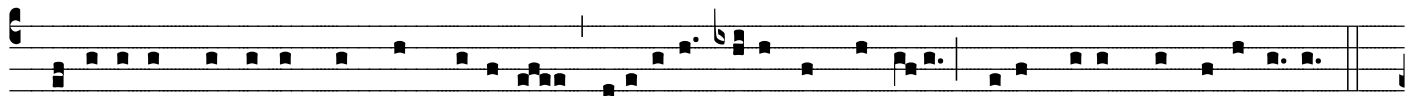
caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Vir-gi-ne: Et homo factus est.



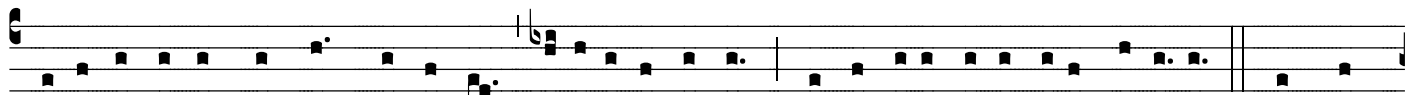
Cru-ci-fi-xus et-i-am pro nobis: sub Pontio Pi-la-to passus, et sepultus est. Et re-sur-rexit



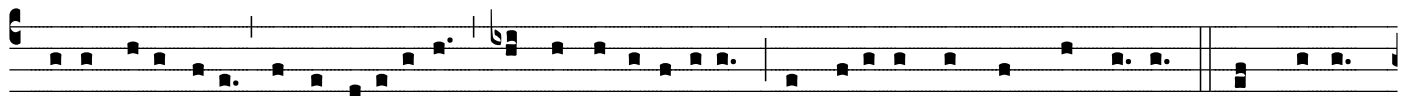
ter-ti-a di-e, secundum Scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris.



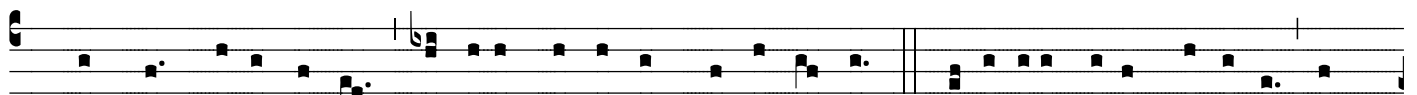
Et i-terum venturus est cum glori-a, iudicare vivos et mortuos : cuius regni non e-rit fi-nis.



Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vi-vi-fi-cantem: qui ex Patre Fi-li-oque procedit. Qui cum



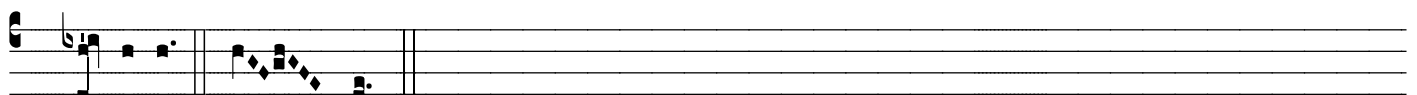
Patre et Fi-li-o simul adoratur, et conglori-fi-catur: qui locutus est per Prophetas. Et unam



sanctam catho-li-cam et apo-sto-li-cam Eccle-si-am. Confi-teor unum baptisma in



re-mis-sionem peccatorum. Et exspecto resurrecti-onem mortu-orum. Et vitam venturi



sae-cu-li. A- men.

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*

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, where is now thy God? Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, for the living God. When shall I come before the presence of God?

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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

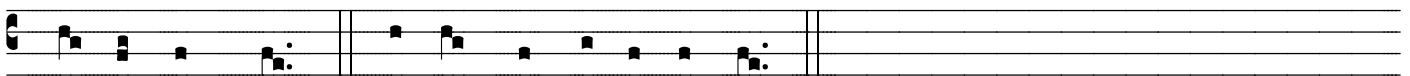
Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.

Through Christ our Lord.

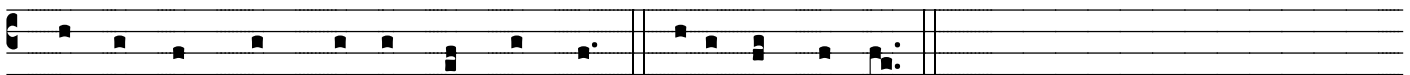
R. Amen.



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 B flat
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *the Choir sings*

Passer invenit sibi domum,
et turtur nidum,
ubi reponat pullos suos:
altaria tua Domine virtutum,
Rex meus, et Deus meus:
beati qui habitant in domo tua,
in saeculum saeculi laudabunt te.

*The sparrow even finds a home,
the swallow finds a nest
wherein to place her young,
near to your altars, Lord of hosts,
my King, my God!
How happy they who dwell in your
house! For ever they are praising you.*
Gregorian Chant

COMMUNION MOTET *the Choir sings*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus et amamus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Amen.

*Where charity and love are, God is
there. Christ's love has gathered us
into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased
in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the
living God. And may we love each other
with a sincere heart. Amen.*
Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*



- 1 God is love: his the care,
Tending each, ev'rywhere.
God is love, all is there!
Jesus came to show him,
That mankind might know him!
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
Sing aloud, loud, loud!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty! Praise him!
- 2 None can see God above;
We can share life and love;
Thus may we Godward move,
Seek him in creation,
Holding ev'ry nation.
Sing aloud...
- 3 Jesus lived on the earth,
Life and hope brought to birth
And affirmed human worth,
For he came to save us
By the truth he gave us.
Sing aloud...

4 To our Lord praise we sing,
Light and life, friend and king,
Coming down, love to bring,
Pattern for our duty,
Showing God in beauty.
Sing aloud...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,
and in your kindness grant your servants this grace:
that, abiding in love of you and their neighbour,
they may fulfil the whole of your commands.
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 *Sarabande - Herbert Howells*

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.liverpoolmetrothedral.org.uk