

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

SOLEMN MASS

**ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
30 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 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.
Feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.
Be thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Laetare Ierusalem: et conventum facite
omnes qui diligitis eam: gaudete cum
laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis: ut exsultetis,
et satiemini ab uberibus consolationis
vestrae.

*Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her,
you who love her; rejoice with her,
you who mourned for her,
and you will find contentment at her
consoling breasts.*

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 *Messe Solennelle - Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

COLLECT

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
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 Joshua 5:9a,10-12*

In those days: The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

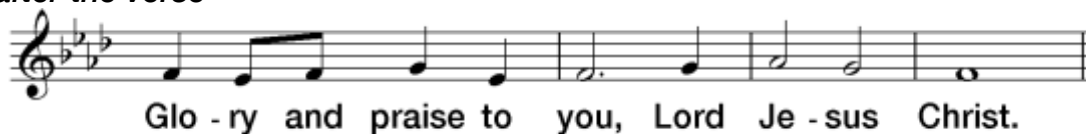
SECOND READING *from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21*

Brothers and sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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*



I will leave this place and go to my father and say:
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3,11-32

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'"

'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

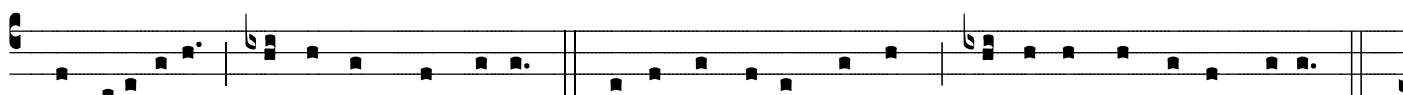
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.

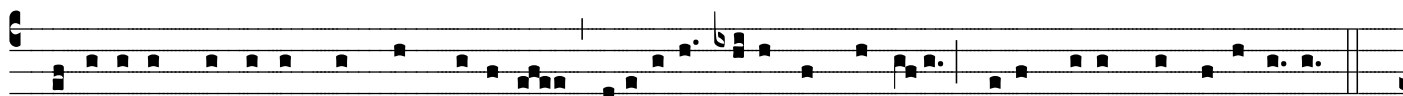
HOMILY

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

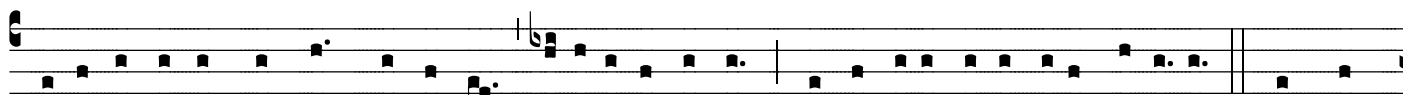
IV. **C**redo in unum De-um, Patrem omni-po-ten-tem, factorem caeli et ter-rae, vi-si-bi-li-um
omni-um, et in-vi-si-bi-li-um. **Et in unum Domi-num Jesum Christum, Fi-li-um De-i**
u-ni-ge-ni-tum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. **Deum de Deo, lumen de lumi-**
ne, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum, 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



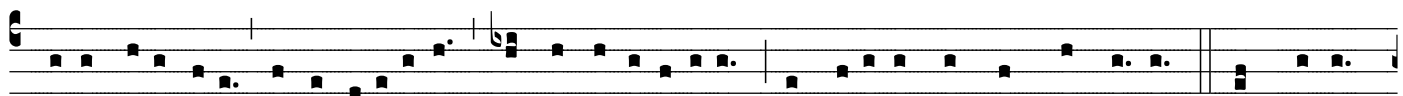
ter-ti-a di-e, secundum Scripturas. **Et ascendit in caelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris.**



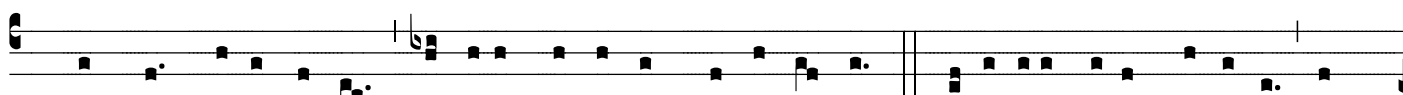
Et i-terum venturus est cum glori-a, iudicare vivos et mortuos : cuius regni non e-rit fi-nis.



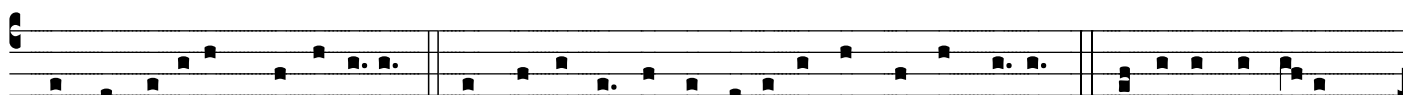
Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vi-vi-fi-cantem: qui ex Patre Fi-li-oque procedit. Qui cum



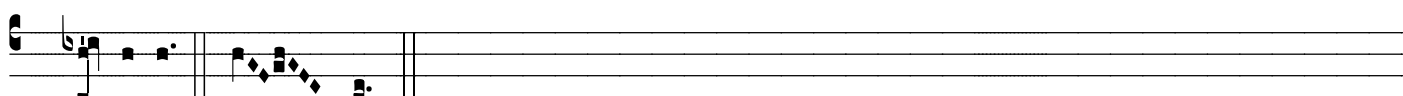
Patre et Fi-li-o simul adoratur, et conglori-fi-catur: qui locutus est per Prophetas. **Et unam**



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*

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

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

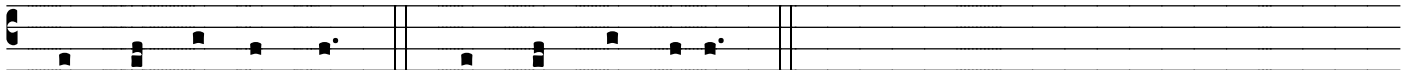
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

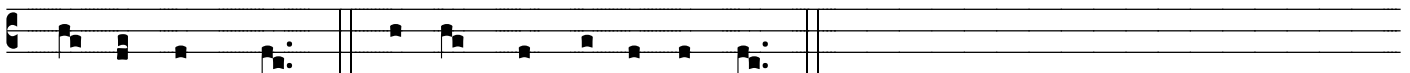
We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

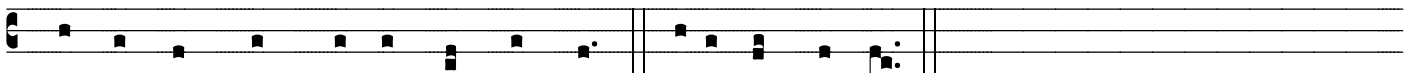
R. Amen.



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.

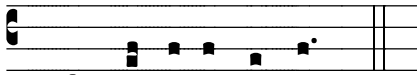
SANCTUS *the Choir sings*

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.*

*Messe Solennelle
Louis Vierne*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *all join in singing*



The mystery of faith.



Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

GREAT AMEN *all join in singing*



A-men. A-men. A- men.

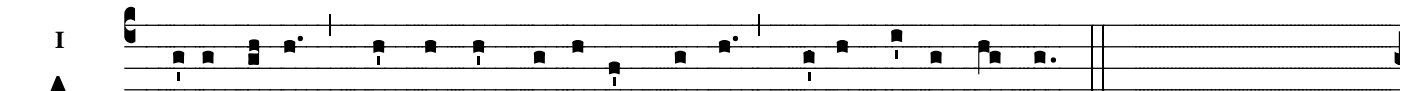
COMMUNION RITE

THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI XVIII *all join in singing*

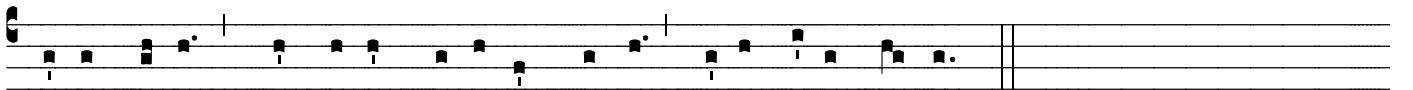


A

-gnus De-i, * qui tol-lis peccata mundi: mise-re-re no-bis.



Agnus De-i, * qui tol-lis peccata mundi: mise-re-re no-bis.



Agnus De-i, * qui tol-lis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *the Choir sings*

Oportet te fili gaudere,
quia frater tuus mortuus fuerat,
et revixit; perierat, et inventus est.

*My son, you should rejoice, because your
brother was found dead and has come
back to life, he was lost and is found.*

Gregorian Chant

COMMUNION MOTET *the Choir sings*

View me, Lord, a work of thine: shall I then lie drown'd in night? Might thy grace in me
but shine, I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel at thine altar pure and white: they that once thy
mercies feel, gaze no more on earth's delight.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade when the heav'nly light appears, but the cov'nants thou
hast made, endless, know nor days nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust, to thy mercies fast I fly; though I am but clay and dust, yet
thy grace can lift me high. Amen.

Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*



1 Our Father, we have wandered
And hidden from your face,
In foolishness have squandered
Your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
We rise with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling,
We hear you call our name.

2 And now at length discerning
The evil that we do,
Behold us Lord, returning
With hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
And home rejoicing bring.
In gladness there to greet us
With calf and robe and ring.

- 3 O Lord of all the living,
Both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving
And ever caring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing,
Our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing
In pardon and in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty
and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord,
and sustain the weak;
give life by your unfailing light
to those who walk in the shadow of death,
and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil
to reach the highest good.
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 *Cortège - Louis Vierne*

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