



**Metropolitan Cathedral**  
of Christ the King Liverpool

# **SOLEMN MASS**

**ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
6 APRIL 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.

**We extend a warm welcome to Rawsthorne Singers, who lead the music at today's Mass.**

*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 stand and join in singing*



- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Praise to the holiest in the height,<br>And in the depth be praise.<br>In all his words most wonderful,<br>Most sure in all his ways.         | 5 | O generous love! that he who smote<br>In man for man the foe,<br>The double agony in man<br>For man should undergo.                   |
| 2 | O loving wisdom of our God!<br>When all was sin and shame,<br>A second Adam to the fight<br>And to the rescue came.                           | 6 | And in the garden secretly,<br>And on the cross on high,<br>Should teach his brethren, and inspire<br>To suffer and to die.           |
| 3 | O wisest love! that flesh and blood,<br>Which did in Adam fail,<br>Should strive afresh against the foe,<br>Should strive and should prevail. | 7 | Praise to the holiest in the height,<br>And in the depth be praise,<br>In all his words most wonderful,<br>Most sure in all his ways. |
| 4 | And that a higher gift than grace<br>Should flesh and blood refine,<br>God's presence and his very self,<br>And essence all-divine.           |   |   |

### 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 - Becky McGlade (b1974)*

## COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
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 43:16-21*

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.'

The Word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 125 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

## **SECOND READING** *from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 3:8-14*

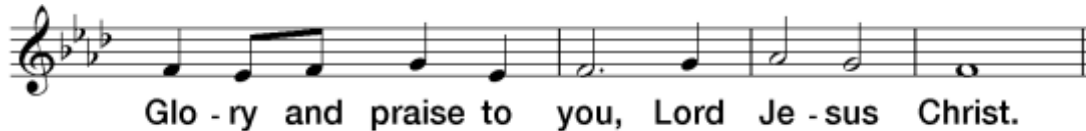
Brothers and sisters: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith - that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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*



Seek good and not evil so that you may live,  
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.

## **GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 8:1-11

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

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

## **HOMILY**

## **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 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*

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me. Wash me thoroughly...

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)*

*The Celebrant says*

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

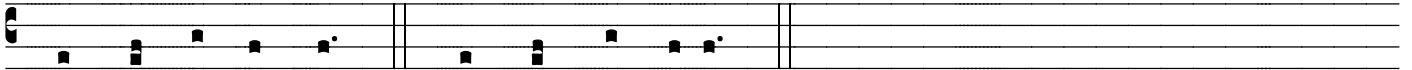
*All stand and say*

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.

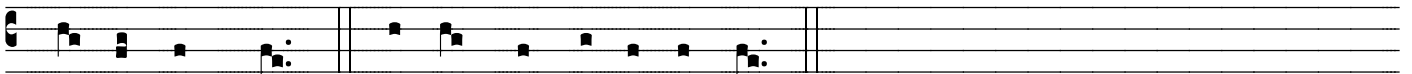
## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Hear us, almighty God,  
and, having instilled in your servants  
the teaching of the Christian faith,  
graciously purify them  
by the working of this sacrifice.  
Through Christ our Lord.

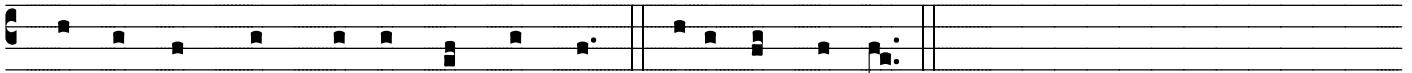
***R. Amen.***



**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.**

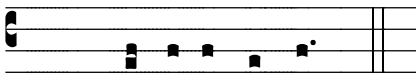
**SANCTUS** *the Choir sings*

**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*  
*Becky McGlade*

**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 *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 Brevis  
Becky McGlade*

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 MOTET *the Choir sings*

Ave verum corpus natum  
ex Maria Virgine:  
Vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine.  
Cujus latus perforatum  
fluxit aqua et sanguine:  
Esto nobis praegustatum  
mortis in examine.  
O Jesu dulcis! O Jesu pie!  
O Jesu fili Mariae.

*Hail to thee! True body sprung  
from the Virgin Mary's womb!  
The same that on the cross was hung  
and bore for man the bitter doom.  
Thou whose side was pierced  
and flowed both with water  
and with blood, suffer us to taste  
thee in our life's last agony.  
O kind, O loving one,  
O sweet Jesu, Mary's son!*

*Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)*

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



- 1    **Glory be to Jesus,  
Who, in bitter pains,  
Poured for me the life-blood  
From his sacred veins.**
- 2    **Grace and life eternal  
In that Blood I find:  
Blest be his compassion,  
Infinitely kind.**
- 3    **Blest through endless ages  
Be the precious stream,  
Which from endless torment  
Doth the world redeem.**
- 4    **Abel's blood for vengeance  
Pleaded to the skies;  
But the Blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries.**
- 5    **Oft as it is sprinkled  
On our guilty hearts,  
Satan in confusion  
Terror-struck departs.**
- 6    **Lift ye then your voices;  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious Blood.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted  
among the members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**R. Amen.**

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

### **PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Bless, O Lord, your people,  
who long for the gift of your mercy,  
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire  
they may receive by your generous gift.  
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**

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