

**Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool**

# **ANNUAL COMMUNITY MASS**

**CELEBRANT  
MONSIGNOR ANTHONY O'BRIEN  
CATHEDRAL DEAN**

**ON THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
7 SEPTEMBER 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](mailto:dataprotection@rcaol.org.uk)*

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *all stand and join in singing after the fanfare and introduction*



- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**INTROIT** *the Choir sings*

lustus es Domine, et rectum iudicium  
tuum; fac cum servo tuo secundum  
misericordiam tuam.

*Lord, you are just, and the judgements  
you make are right. Show mercy when you  
judge me, your servant.*

*Psalm 46:2  
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 - Jonathan Dove (b1959)*

## **COLLECT**

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,  
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,  
that those who believe in Christ  
may receive true freedom  
and an everlasting inheritance.  
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 Wisdom 9:13-18b*

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you.

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

**PSALM 89** *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



O Lord, you have been our re-fuge from one gen-er-a-tion to the next.

You turn men back into dust  
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'  
To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

You sweep men away like a dream,  
like grass which springs up in the morning.  
In the morning it springs up and flowers:  
by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?  
Show pity to your servants. **R.**

In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands. **R.**

**SECOND READING** *from the letter of St Paul to Philemon 9b-10,12-17*

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus - I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother - especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

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 call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.

## **GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 14:25-33

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

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

## **HOMILY** *Monsignor Anthony O'Brien, Dean*

*After the Homily, the Dean asks the whole congregation to stand.*

*All please say together*

**We give thanks for this Cathedral, our spiritual home and place of worship – for it is here that we celebrate the presence of the Lord amongst us in Word and Sacrament. May we, the congregation, who gather here each week and form the regular worshipping community of the Cathedral, the living stones on which this building is sustained, renew our commitment and dedication to this place. Through our regular presence and prayer may we support each other, and this Cathedral in its mission to proclaim Christ's love to all.**

*All those who have specific ministries, voluntary or employed roles within the Cathedral continue*

**At the beginning of this new Cathedral season we renew our service in support of the life and activities which take place within our Cathedral and the wider local community. With the Lord's help and guidance may we carry out our roles and ministries with dedication and commitment and may we treat all whom we serve with care and understanding. Through our witness may others come to know Christ our Lord.**

*The Dean concludes*

**Father bless those who work for the glory of your name  
in this house of prayer.**

**May their ministry bring them contentment now  
and blessedness always.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R. Amen.**

## **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**

## **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*

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Be careful for nothing; but in ev'rything by pray'r and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.

*George Rathbone (1874-1951)*

*The Dean says*

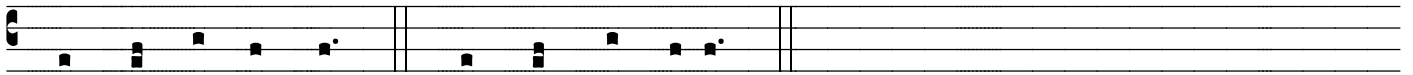
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

*All stand and say*

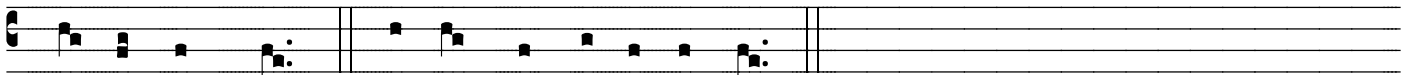
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

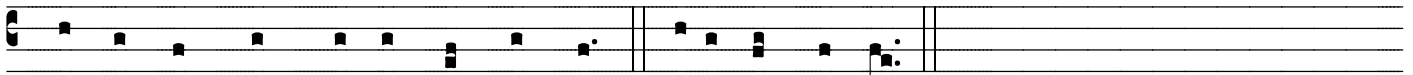
O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,  
graciously grant that, through this offering,  
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty  
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,  
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*R. Amen.*



The Lord be with you.      And with your spirit.

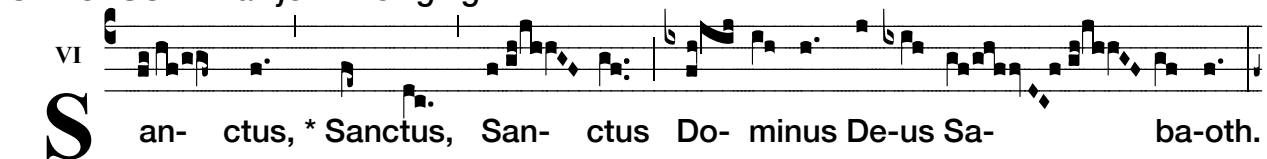


Lift up your hearts.      We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.      It is right and just.

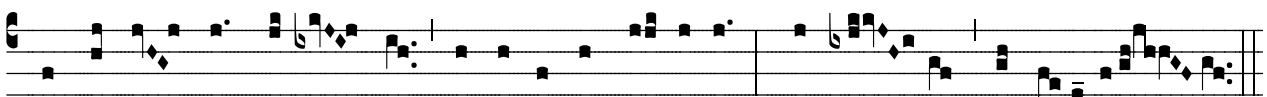
## SANCTUS VIII *all join in singing*



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



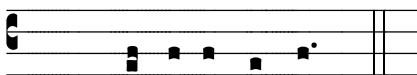
Pleni sunt cae-li et ter- ra glo-ri- a tu- a. Ho-sanna in excel- sis.



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** *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  
Jonathan Dove*

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*

Vovete, et reddite Domino Deo vestro,  
omnes qui in circuitu eius affertis  
munera: terribili, et ei qui aufert spiritum  
principium: terribili apud omnes reges  
terrae.

*Make vows to your God and fulfil  
them. Let all pay tribute to him who  
strikes terror, who cuts short the  
breath of princes, who strikes terror  
in the kings of the earth.*

*Psalms 75:12-13  
Gregorian Chant*

## 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!*

*Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

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



- 1 Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;  
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,  
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,  
Wash me with water flowing from thy side.
- 2 Strength and protection may thy passion be,  
O blessèd Jesu, hear and answer me;  
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,  
So shall I never, never part from thee.
- 3 Guard and defend me from the foe malign,  
In death's dread moments make me only thine;  
Call me and bid me come to thee on high  
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,  
whom you nourish and endow with life  
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,  
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts  
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**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** *Allegro maestoso (Sonata in G) - Sir Edward Elgar*

*All are welcome to go to the Gibberd Room for refreshments after Mass.*

*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)