

Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

SOLEMN MASS

**ON THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
14 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

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE HYMN *all stand and join in singing*



- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O, who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?
- 2 He came from his blest throne,
Salvation to bestow:
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
Is all their breath,
And of his death
They thirst and cry.
- 4 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine!
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Nos autem gloriari oportet,
in cruce Domini nostri Jesu Christi:
in quo est salus, vita,
et resurrectio nostra:
per quem salvati, et liberati sumus.

*We should glory in the cross of our Lord,
Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our
resurrection; through him we are saved
and made free.*

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 B flat - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)*

COLLECT

O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son
should undergo the Cross to save the human race,
grant, we pray,
that we, who have known his mystery on earth,
may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven.
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 Numbers 21:4b-9*

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.' Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 77 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



Give heed, my people, to my teaching;
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

When God slew them then they would seek him,
return and seek him in earnest.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

But the words they spoke were mere flattery;
they lied to God with their lips.
For their hearts were not truly sincere;
they were not faithful to the covenant. **R.**

Yet the one who is full of compassion
forgave them their sin and spared them.
So often God held back the anger
that might have stirred up in a rage. **R.**

SECOND READING *from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

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



We adore you, O Christ,
and we bless you;
because by your cross
you have redeemed the world.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:13-17

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

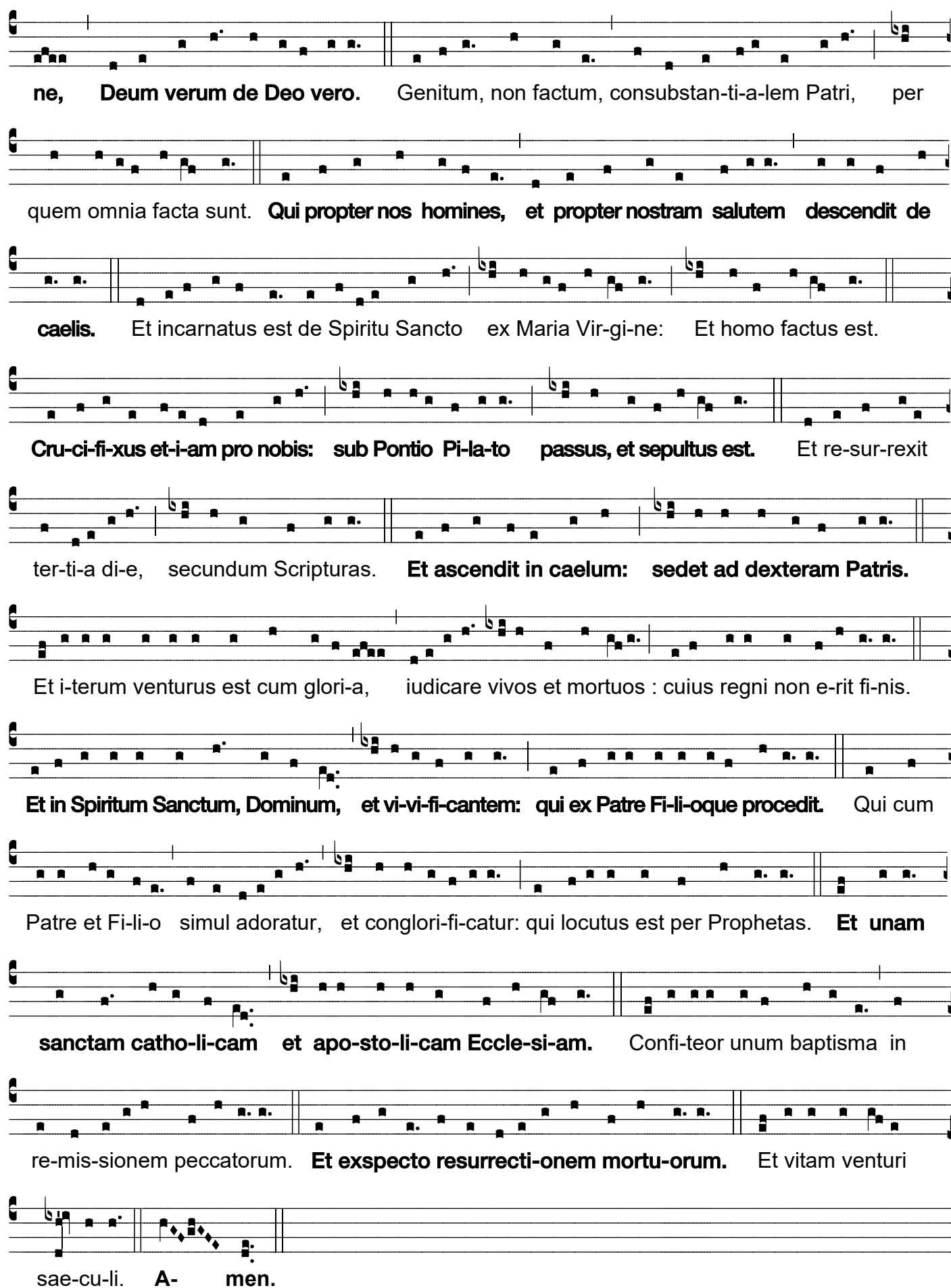
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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-o-que 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*

Salvator mundi, salva nos, qui per
crucem et sanguine redemisti nos:
auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus
noster.

O Saviour of the world, who by thy
cross and precious blood hast
redeemed us, save us and help us we
beseech thee.

Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585)

The Celebrant says

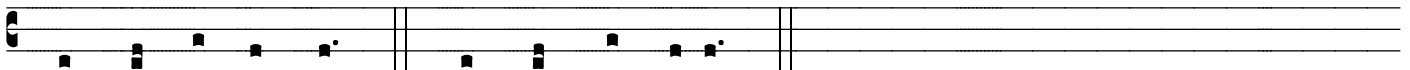
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All stand and say

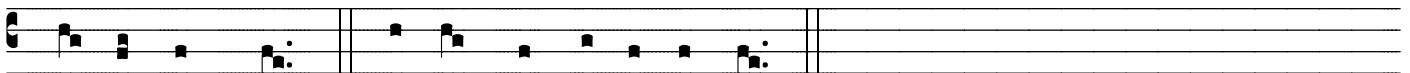
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

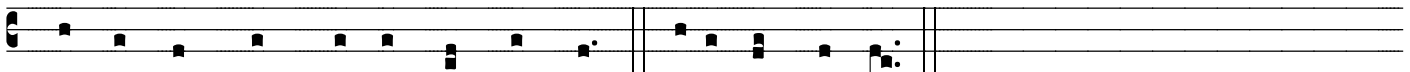
May this oblation, O Lord,
which on the altar of the Cross
cancelled the offence of the whole world,
cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.



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.

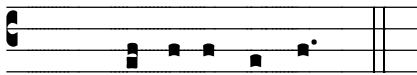
SANCTUS *the Choir sings*

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus,
Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

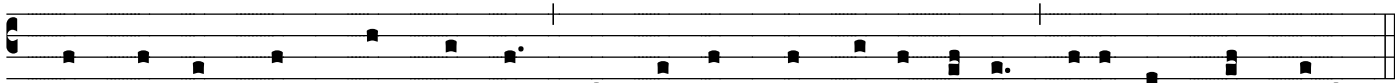
*Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Missa Brevis in B flat
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

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.

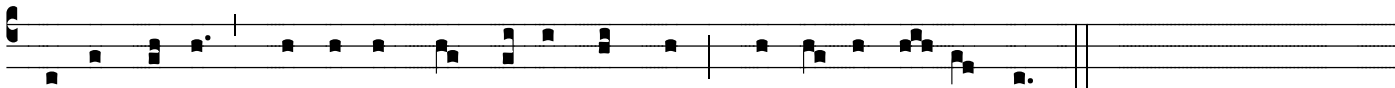
R. And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI XVI *all join in singing*

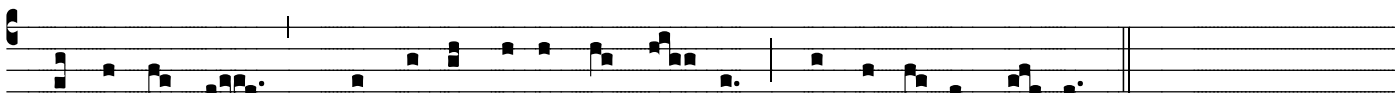


I.
A

- gnus De- i, * qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun- di: mi-se-re- re no- bis.



Agnus De- i, * qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun- di: mi-se-re- re no- bis.



Agnus De- i, * qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun- di: do-na no-bis pa- cem.

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*

Per signum Crucis de inimicis nostris
libera nos, Deus noster.

*O God, by the sign of the cross,
save us from our enemies.*

Gregorian Chant

COMMUNION MOTET *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.*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*



- 1 When I survey the wondrous Cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 His dying crimson like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.
- 5 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by your holy banquet,
we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ,
to bring those you have redeemed
by the wood of your life-giving Cross
to the glory of the resurrection.
Who live and reign 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 *Prelude, Fugue & Ciacona - Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)*

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