

Support your Cathedral

We are deeply grateful for the donations we receive from our congregation and our community. Now, more than ever, we need your support.

Please visit www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/support-us or text **METROCATHEDRAL** to **70460** to donate £5*.

*Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message. If you do not wish to opt-in to hear more about our work and fundraising via text, but would still like to donate £5, text METROCATHEDRALNOINFO instead.



Cathedral Record

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

Third Sunday of Advent

The Gospel this Sunday has John the Baptist imprisoned and alone in the sure knowledge that a violent death awaited him. What hope could there be for him, had his preaching and life's witness been in vain? Even John, the great prophet, in fact Jesus declared him to be the greatest of all prophets, needed assurance that his words and example had purpose and meaning. He sent a message to Jesus and the response he received was an echo of the words of Isaiah 'the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the good news is proclaimed to the poor'. This would not just have lifted his spirits but the fact that the promised word of God was being fulfilled in Jesus meant that the good he had done and his words and actions had helped others and prepared a way for the Lord. His life had witnessed the dawn of Christs coming and the signs were there that Gods promises of the past were now being fulfilled.

The example of John the Baptists life helps us to see that we should trust in God's word even in our darkest moments – as he did with John, the Lord stands with us offering reassurance and hope. 'Happy are those who do not lose faith'. But also we are called to work for that kingdom that Christ showed forth namely to encourage one another, to ease peoples burdens and to make him known in the situations of our lives. Maranatha, come Lord Jesus, come.

At the early mass last Wednesday the reading from Isaiah spoke of the vision of the lion lying down with the lamb, the wolf and the bear walking together, they would do no hurt on God's holy mountain. On the same day at the childrens nativity services we had a very calm real donkey

taking part who loved being with children and a little shepherd dog, Kissy, who has been in the play for the last ten years and is as calm and quiet as a mouse. However in the afternoon in the final scenes when all gathered around the crib, what should have been a peaceful scene turned into chaos. The little dog expressed its dislike of Fiona the donkey by uncharacteristically barking rather angrily. The Donkey responded in its turn by drowning the dog out and then restlessly stomping on the floor. Children loved it and thankfully the panic in the actors faces turned to relief as eventually the donkey was led away to restore calm. Almost three thousand school children attended the Advent services that day – I extend my thanks to Claire the producer and all who took part. For next year best to keep donkey and dog well apart – the vision of Isaiah is still to be realised!

This Sunday afternoon our childrens choirs will perform Benjamin Britten's 'A ceremony of Carols' at 3pm followed by Saint Saens 'Oratorio De Noel' sung by the adults of the choir and soloists. On the final Sunday of Advent we have our own Cathedral 'Festival Carol Service' at 5pm involving all our choirs and musicians come along and join us with family and friends to listen to and sing all our favourite Christmas carols and readings.

We could all take heed of the music directors advice to the choir children for the busy two weeks leading up to Christmas. Drink water, get a good nights sleep, avoid shouting, don't over-sing especially in rehearsals!

Monsignor Anthony O'Brien Cathedral Dean

Tel: 0151 709 9222
Email: enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING 14 December 2025

Sunday 14 December

Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am Mass Cathedral
10.00am Mass Crypt
11.00am Solemn Mass * Cathedral
* This Mass will be streamed live on Youtube
3.00pm Choral Evening Prayer
4.00pm Mass RLUH
7.00pm Mass Crypt

Monday 15 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC

Tuesday 16 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Requiem Mass BSC
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC

Wednesday 17 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC

Thursday 18 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC

Friday 19 December

7.45am Morning Prayer
8.00am Mass BSC
12.15pm Mass Crypt
5.00pm Sung Mass BSC
5.45pm Choral Evening Prayer

Saturday 20 December

8.45am Morning Prayer
9.00am Mass BSC
5.00pm Vigil Mass BSC

EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Will take place from 4.00pm on Fridays.

RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Monday - Friday:
Following the 12.15pm Mass in the Crypt

Saturday: 9.30am - 10.30am & 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Please note that there are no Confessions on Holy Days.

Crypt
Crypt Chapel

BSC
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

RLUH
Royal Hospital Chapel

CLERGY:

PRIESTS:
Monsignor Anthony O'Brien *Dean*

Fr Hugh Donleavy

Fr Anthony Lippo

Fr Faustinus Ugwuanyi

DEACON:
Rev Paul Mannings



Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Gerard Moran (RIP), Lillian Aspey (Intention), Lynda Jones (RIP), Veronica Maxwell (RIP), Archbishop Malcolm (Episcopal Jubilee), Jacqueline Lowanna Hamilton (RIP), Anne Cunliffe (RIP), Mary Cullen (RIP), David Williams (RIP), Michael Smith (RIP), Mary Wilkinson (Special Intention), Monica Cardy (Get Well), M E Cavendish (Get Well), Arthur Tateronis (RIP), Margaret McKiernan (RIP), Gerard Webb (RIP) and Carl Petersen (RIP).

GIBBERD ROOM

Please note that refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room after the Solemn Mass on Sundays. All are welcome to come along and have a chat with friends and make new acquaintances. Everyone made to feel part of the Cathedral family.

JIGSAWS

If anyone has any jigsaws or games that they have finished with we can pass them on for you to the Seafarers at Stella Maris. Please just drop them in to Cathedral House or to the Security Office. They are always so grateful for anything that we can send on.

COME AND BE A CATHEDRAL GUIDE & WELCOMER!

Please give us the gift of three hours a week of your precious voluntary time. Learn on the job for as long as it takes. Answer queries at the welcoming desk. Listen to the stories of our wonderful visitors. If you like, take large or very small groups on tours. Give the job your own

creativity. Be part of a ministry of welcome. Add your own dimension to a large and flourishing team. Be a consistent part of your group throughout the year. Contribute toward presenting our Cathedral as a living Christian community, able to embrace everyone as valued individuals. Make new friends. Enjoy a fresh challenge. This random list could go on! Give us a call and we shall arrange for you to *Come and See*. Contact Dcn Paul Mannings: p.mannings@rcaol.org.uk

WOMEN'S REFUGE

Our appeal for toiletries, nightwear, toys for children, chocolates and other new items for the Women's Refuge in our area has started. Anything you can spare for the women and their families will be appreciated. Please drop in to Cathedral House/Cathedral Security Office. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Your response this year has been overwhelming. Thank you so much.

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Saturday 13 December

A Celebration of Christmas returns this year on Saturday 13 December with a night of musical cheer, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit. Join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and some very special guests for what promises to be a magical event for all the family. Sing along to classic carols, enjoy traditional readings and celebrate Christmas in the glorious surroundings of the Metropolitan Cathedral. Tickets: £10 each/£18 family, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to buy a Christmas flower in memory of a departed loved one by placing £5 and the name of the person in an envelope and leaving it at the reception at Cathedral House or give it to one of the Cathedral clergy. The 10.00am Family Mass on Sunday 28 December will be offered for all their names.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Please note that there will be an extra Mass on Christmas Eve at 6pm in the Cathedral. All are welcome.

MICAH LIVERPOOL

Micah's latest blogpost focuses on Micah's foundation principles of acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly. It provides an insight into the context of Micah's social justice work. The blog can be accessed at <https://micahliverpool.com/blog-post/act-justly-love-mercy-walk-humbly/> If you would like to know more about the work of Micah, donate directly to us or volunteer, please contact catherine.kearney@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

VACANCIES

The latest vacancies from the archdiocese can be found here: [Careers - Join the team \(liverpoolcatholic.org.uk\)](#)

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Group meet fortnightly at Pauline Book Centre (84 Church Street, Liverpool L1 3AY). From 18:30-20:00 on Tuesday 16 December, Fr Hugh Donleavy will deliver a faith-based talk about 'Is Scripture Outdated?'. There will also a social time with food and refreshment.

Anyone aged 18-35 would be most welcome. Please sign up online if you are interested to join us <https://forms.office.com/e/3A8CKHijnD?origin=lpLink> For enquiries, please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS FUN RUN

Signup is open for CAFOD's annual Fun Run! The run will take place on 27 December at Wavertree Sports Park and is open to all. Run, walk, or wheel with family and friends to share the joy of Christmas and raise money for those in need! Search CAFOD Fun Run.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS

Archbishop John Sherrington will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on **Sunday 8 February 2026 at 11:00**. The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those celebrating significant anniversaries. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room. For those couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please register online for a certificate which will be collected on the day. Register here <https://forms.office.com/e/uE6amHrQ6w?origin=lpLink> For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE

There is Mass every Sunday at 4.00pm in the Chapel at the Royal Hospital. All welcome.

Last week's collection: **£1,185.00**

Keep in touch



Be the first to hear about Cathedral news, services and events. Please visit liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/sign-up

Stay Connected

Join our online community



Golden Book of Remembrance

The Golden Book Office is now open each Tuesday between 10am and 3pm.

Please call **0151 707 2107** or email goldenbook@metcathedral.org.uk for more information.



— THE MYSTERY OF THE —
LUTYENS CRYPT
— LIVERPOOL'S BEST KEPT —
ARCHITECTURAL SECRET

Open Monday – Saturday: First Admission: 10am, Last Admission: 3.30pm

Crypt Admission Charges: £5 Adult, £12 Family (2 adults + 2 children)