

**Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool**

# **SOLEMN MASS**

**ON THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
4 JANUARY 2026 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 join in singing*



- 1    **The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
    Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
    Born is the King of Israel.**
- 2    **They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night:  
    Nowell...**
- 3    **And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wheresoever it went:  
    Nowell...**
- 4    **This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay:  
    Nowell...**
- 5    **Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense:  
    Nowell...**

## 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*

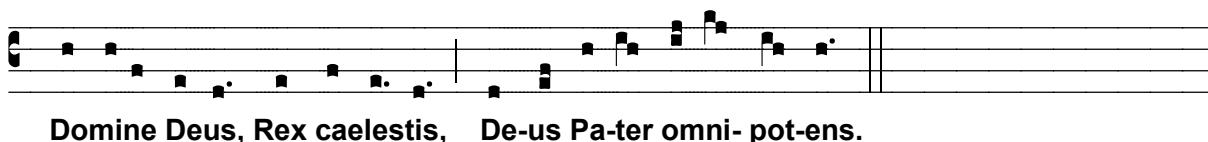
I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## GLORIA VIII *all join in singing the verses in bold type*

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.



Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.



Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.



Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.



A handwriting practice line for the letter 'a'. It features a series of 'a' characters on a four-line grid. The first 'a' is a cursive lowercase 'a' with a loop. The following 'a's are in a simple, blocky font. Some 'a's are solid black, while others are outlined. The line is divided into two sections by a vertical line.

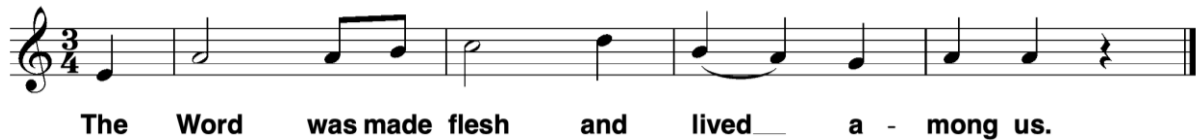
Tu solus Dominus.

The first system of musical notation for 'The Rose Tree' is written on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The system ends with a double bar line.

Cum sancto Spiritu, in Gloria Dei Patris.

5

**PSALM 147** *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!  
Zion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,  
he has blessed the children within you. **R.**

He established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command. **R.**

He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees. **R.**

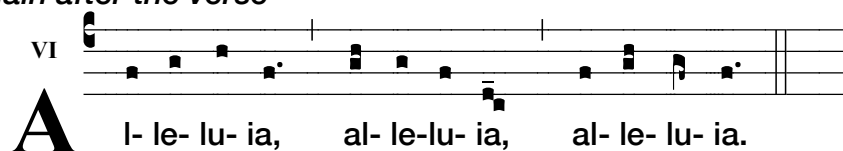
**SECOND READING** *from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

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*



Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans;  
Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

## **GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."' "

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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 HYMN** *a collection is taken for the upkeep of the Cathedral or please use the QR codes at the back of the booklet, meanwhile all join in singing*



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Of the Father's love begotten,<br/>         Ere the worlds began to be,<br/>         He is Alpha and Omega,<br/>         He the source, the ending he,<br/>         Of the things that are, and have been,<br/>         And that future years shall see,<br/>         Evermore and evermore.</p>       | <p><b>3</b> O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;<br/>         Angel hosts, his praises sing;<br/>         Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him,<br/>         And extol our God and King:<br/>         Let no tongue on earth be silent,<br/>         Evermore and evermore.</p>  |
| <p><b>2</b> At his word they were created;<br/>         He commanded; it was done:<br/>         Heav'n and earth and depths of ocean<br/>         In their threefold order one;<br/>         All that grows beneath the shining<br/>         Of the light of moon and sun,<br/>         Evermore and evermore.</p> | <p><b>4</b> Christ, to thee, with God the Father,<br/>         And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,<br/>         Hymn and chant and high<br/>         thanksgiving,<br/>         And unwearied praises be;<br/>         Honour, glory, and dominion,<br/>         And eternal victory,<br/>         Evermore and evermore.</p> |

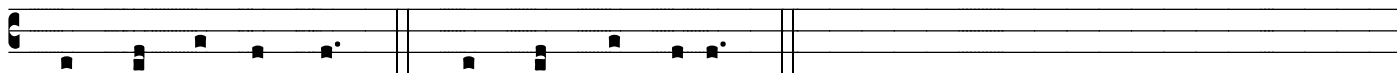


*The Celebrant says*  
 Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
 that my sacrifice and yours  
 may be acceptable to God,  
 the almighty Father.

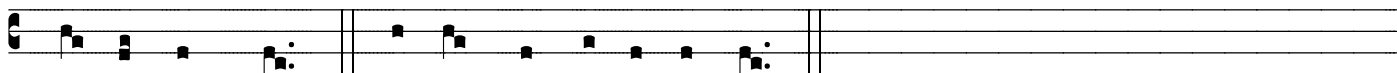
*All stand and say*  
 May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
 for the praise and glory of his name,  
 for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

# **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

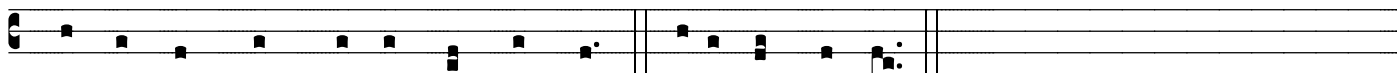
Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make  
 on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,  
 for by it you show us the way of truth  
 and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**



The Lord be with you.      And with your spirit.

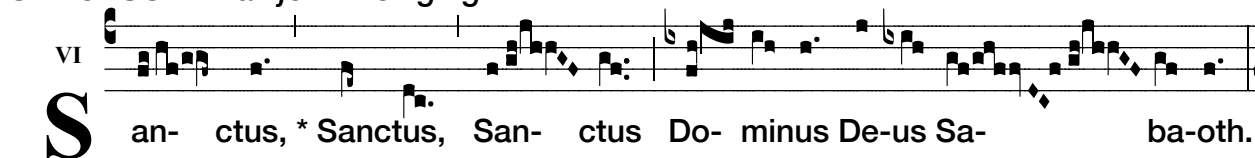


Lift up your hearts.      We lift them up to the Lord.



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

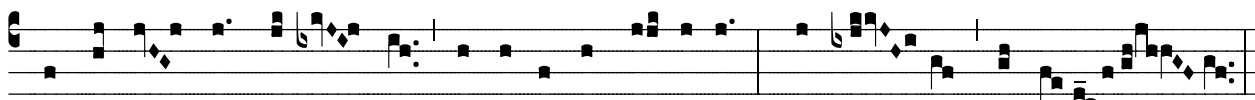
# **SANCTUS VIII** *all join in singing*



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.



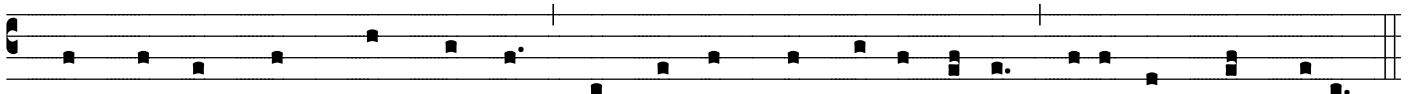
Bene-di- ctus qui ve- nit in nomi-ne Do-mi-ni. Ho-san- na in excel- sis.

*Gregorian Chant*

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *all join in singing*

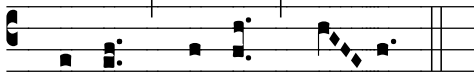


The mystery of faith.



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.

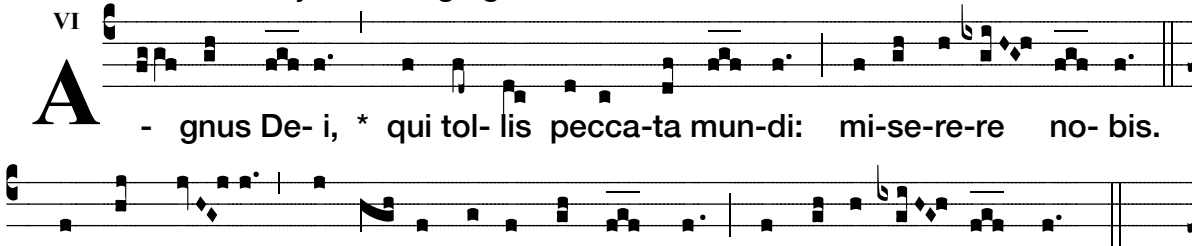
## COMMUNION RITE

### THE SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*R.* And with your spirit.

## AGNUS DEI VIII *all join in singing*



**A** - gnus De- i, \* qui tol- lis pecca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no- bis.



A-gnus De- i, \* qui tol- lis pecca-ta mun- di: mi-se-re-re no- bis.



A- gnus De- i, \* qui tol-lis pecca-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.*

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



- 1 Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er our plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo still their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilation?  
Why your rapturous strain prolong?  
Say, what may your tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song.  
Gloria...
- 3 Come to Bethlehem, and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing:  
Come, adore on bended knee  
The infant Christ, the new-born King.  
Gloria...
- 4 See within a manger laid,  
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
To celebrate our Saviour's birth.  
Gloria...

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord our God, we humbly ask you,  
that, through the working of this mystery,  
our offences may be cleansed  
and our just desires fulfilled.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**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 *Canonnade - Claude-Bénigne Balbastre (1724-1799)*

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the police. If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your local social services or our safeguarding team direct at



or Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237 or [safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk)

*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.*

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