

**Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool**

**SOLEMN MASS
FOR THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR**

**CELEBRANT
THE MOST REVEREND JOHN SHERRINGTON
ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL**

**ON THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH
28 DECEMBER 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 gather at the Baptistry and join in singing, as the Archbishop and ministers process to the Baptistry*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child. | 3 And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he. |
| 2 He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy. | 4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him: but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
Where like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around. |

GREETING *the Archbishop and ministers assemble at the font in the front of the Baptistry*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

The God of hope
who fills us with all joy and peace in the faith
by the power of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

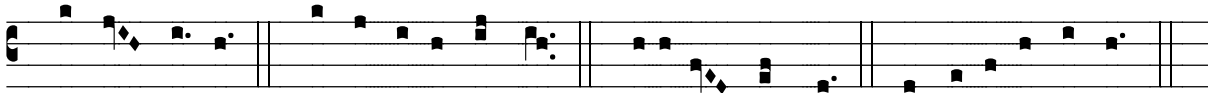
The Archbishop says
Brothers and sisters,
we have experienced together the Jubilee Year
(and seen its highpoint in the diocesan pilgrimage to Rome).
As a single people we have offered our praise,
thanksgiving and supplication to God,
in union with those who are voiceless in the world
but whom the Father hears and welcomes as beloved sons
and daughters:
the sick, the aged, the prisoners, the poor.

Through the Jubilee indulgence,
the Lord has caused a river of grace and blessing to flow.
He has granted to all of us his hope and his peace;
he has strengthened the weak hands
and made firm the feeble knees;
he has said to each one of us, take courage, do not be afraid!

Strengthened by this experience of mercy
and confirmed by our meeting with him,
today, we, the diocesan community of pastor and people,
as we celebrate the holiness of the Family of Nazareth,
wish to render thanksgiving in the Eucharist
and again ask pardon, recognising that we are sinners.

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

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



Lauda- mus te. Be-ne-di-ci-mus te. Ado-ra- mus te. Glo-ri-fi-camus te.

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.



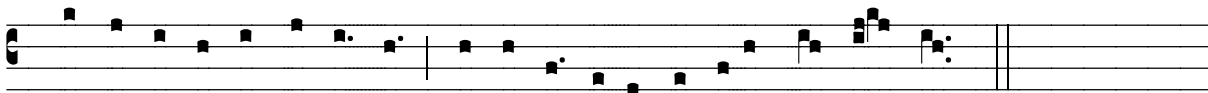
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, De-us Pa-ter omni- pot-ens.

Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.



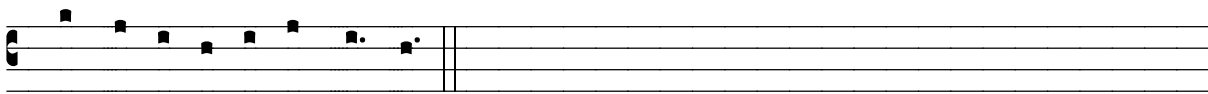
Domi-ne De-us, Agnus De- i, Fi-li- us Pa- tris.

Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.



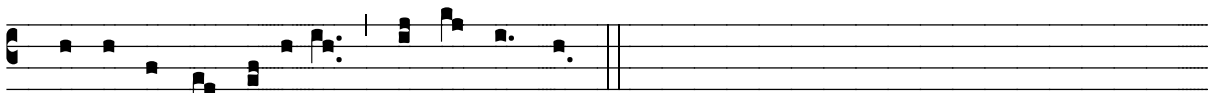
Qui to-llis pec-ca-ta mundi, susci-pe de-pre-ca-ti-o- nem no- stram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.



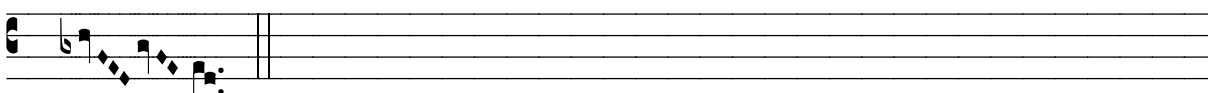
Quo-ni-am tu so-lus sanctus.

Tu solus Dominus.



Tu so- lus Al- tissimus, Je-su Chri-ste.

Cum sancto Spiritu, in Gloria Dei Patris.



A- men.

COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life
and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
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 Sirach 3:2-6,12-14*

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the judgement of the mother over her sons. Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.

O son, help your father in his old age and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 127 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! **R.**

SECOND READING *from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21*

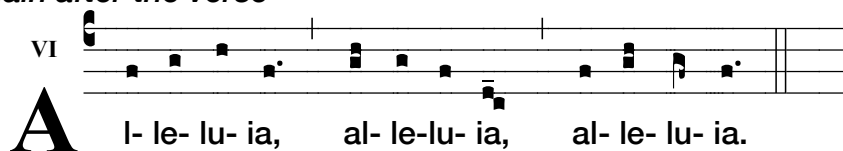
Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

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*



May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.' And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.

HOMILY *The Archbishop*

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*

- 1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

- 2 From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings....
- 3 And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings...
- 4 Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface:
O tidings...

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

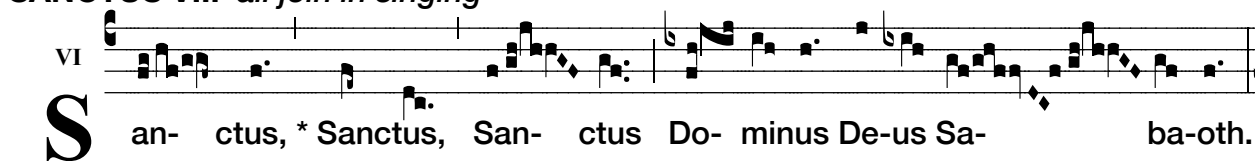
All stand and say
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,
humbly asking that,
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God
and Saint Joseph,
you may establish our families firmly in your grace
and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

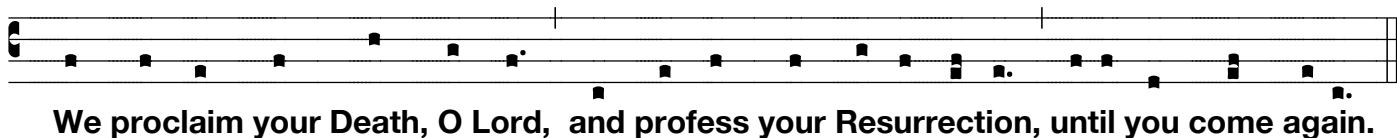
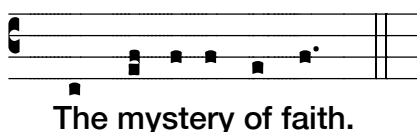


SANCTUS VIII *all join in singing*



Gregorian Chant

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *all join in singing*



GREAT AMEN *all join in singing*



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 pec- ca- ta mun- di: mi- se- re- re no- bis.

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

A- gnus 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.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing the Jubilee Hymn*



Like a flame my hope is__ burn- ing, may my song a - rise__ to__ you:

Source of life that has__ no__ end- ing, on life's path I trust in__ you.

- 1 Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
Find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
Find a home in your dear Son.

- 2 God, so tender and so patient,
Dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
By the Spirit of Life set free.
- 3 Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
For our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
Who will find the way in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

The Archbishop says

Brothers and sisters,
at the conclusion of the Jubilee Year
we join our voices with the song of the whole Church
that today offers its thanksgiving to God
for the gift of his indulgence.
Through the sacraments, pilgrimage, prayer and charity
we have had an intense experience of the divine mercy:
the Lord has washed away our sins and filled us with his grace.
During this Year, in the movement of the liturgical cycle,
we have entered fully into the mystery of Christ
in faith, hope and love.
Now, strengthened by the experience of conversion,
let us go back to the daily round of our lives.
Like the disciples who saw his face,
we shall hold on to the joy of our meeting with the Lord
and firmly maintain the profession of our hope,
for he is faithful to his promises.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

God our Father,
may the fullness of your grace
and the abundance of your holy gifts
come down upon this your family:
grant to your faithful the faith that moves mountains,
the hope that does not disappoint,
and the love that is patient and kind,
because, never separating themselves from your will,
they may thank you for your blessings without number.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

R. Now and for ever.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

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 *Vom Himmel Hoch - Johann Pachelbel (1686-1764)*

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

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