

**Metropolitan Cathedral**  
of Christ the King Liverpool

# **SOLEMN MASS**

**ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
22 FEBRUARY 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 stand and join in singing*



- 1 Again we keep this solemn fast  
A gift of faith from ages past,  
This Lent which bids us lovingly  
To faith and hope and charity.
- 2 The law and prophets from of old  
In figured ways this Lent foretold,  
Which Christ, all ages' Lord and Guide,  
In these last days has sanctified.
- 3 More sparing, therefore, let us make  
The words we speak, the food we take,  
Our sleep, our laughter, ev'ry sense;  
Learn peace through holy penitence.
- 4 Let us avoid each harmful way  
That lures the careless mind astray;  
By watchful prayer our spirits free  
From scheming of the Enemy.
- 5 We pray, O blessed Three in One,  
Our God while endless ages run,  
That this, our Lent of forty days,  
May bring us growth and give you praise.

## 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.**

## KYRIE XVIII *all join in singing the text in bold*

IV.



**K** y- ri-e e-le-i-son. **Ky- ri- e e-le-i-son.**



Christe e- le- i-son. **Christe e- le-i-son.**



Ky- ri- e e-le- i-son. **Ky-ri- e e- le- i-son**

*Gregorian Chant*

## COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
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 Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7*

The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

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

**PSALM 50** *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



Have mer - cy on us, O\_\_\_ Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

My offences truly I know them:  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners may return to you. **R.**

**SECOND READING** *from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-19*

Brothers and sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned - for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many.

And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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*



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

## **GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

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

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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*



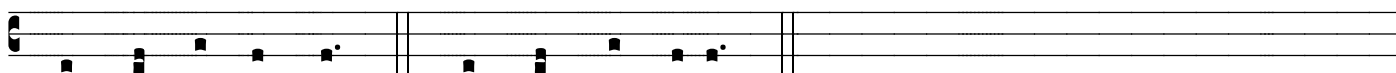
- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
 In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
 Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
 Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
 Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
 Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
 Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life thou givest – to both great and small;  
 In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
 We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
 And wither and perish – but nought changeth thee.
- 4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
 Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
 All laud we would render: O help us to see  
 'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

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

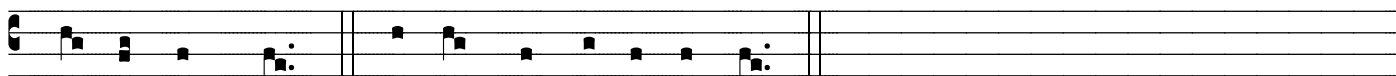
*All stand and say*  
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands**  
**for the praise and glory of his name,**  
**for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

# **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

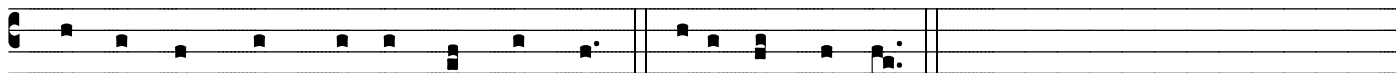
Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,  
 to make these offerings,  
 for with them we celebrate the beginning  
 of this venerable and sacred time.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**



The Lord be with you.      And with your spirit.

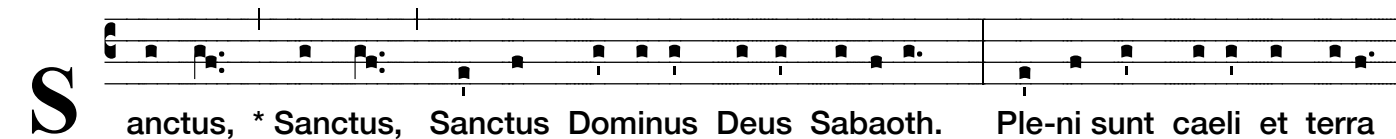


Lift up your hearts.      We lift them up to the Lord.



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

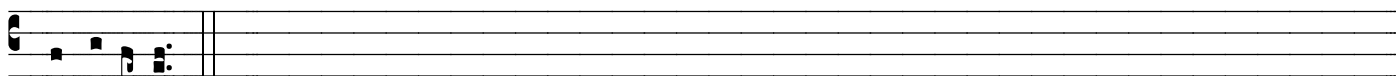
# **SANCTUS XVIII** *all join in singing*



**S**anctus, \* Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.      Ple-ni sunt caeli et terra



glo-ri-a tu-a.      Hosanna in excelsis.      Be-nedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.      Hosanna



in excelsis.

*Gregorian Chant*



## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION *all join in singing*



The mystery of faith.



Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

## 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.

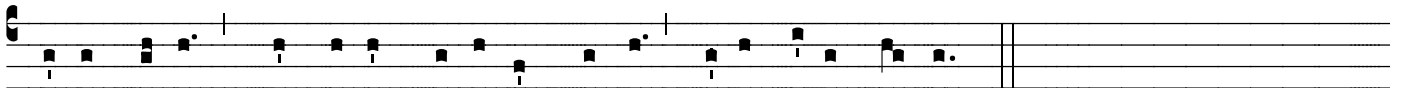
## AGNUS DEI XVIII *all join in singing*



**A** -gnus De-i, \* qui tol-lis peccata mundi : mise-re-re no-bis.



Agnus De-i, \* qui tol-lis peccata mundi : mise-re-re no-bis.



Agnus De-i, \* qui tol-lis peccata mundi : dona nobis pacem.

*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 Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild,  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted and yet undefiled.
- 2 Let us thine endurance share,  
And awhile from joys abstain,  
With thee watching unto prayer,  
Strong with thee to suffer pain.
- 3 And if Satan, vexing sore,  
Flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, his vanquisher before,  
Grant we may not faint nor fail.
- 4 So shall we have peace divine,  
Holier gladness ours shall be,  
Round us too shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.
- 5 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side,  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread,  
by which faith is nourished, hope increased,  
and charity strengthened,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,  
the true and living Bread,  
and strive to live by every word  
which proceeds from your mouth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

### **PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray,  
come down upon your people,  
that hope may grow in tribulation,  
virtue be strengthened in temptation,  
and eternal redemption be assured.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

### **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** *Dialogue à deux chœurs - Gaspard Corrette (c1671-c1732)*

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

*Thank you for your generosity.*



£10

*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.liverpoolmetrochurch.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmetrochurch.org.uk)