

**Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool**

SOLEMN MASS

**ON THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
17 MAY 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 Celebrant for today's Mass is Fr Hugh Donleavy.

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*



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.</p> | <p>4 Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round his piercèd feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.</p> |
| <p>2 Crown him the Virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
As of that Rose the Stem;
The Root whence mercy ever flows,
The Babe of Bethlehem.</p> | <p>5 Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light,
Where everlasting waves
Reflect his throne - the Infinite!
Who lives - and loves - and saves.</p> |
| <p>3 Crown him the Lord of love!
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.</p> | |

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Exaudi Domine vocem meam,
qua clamavi ad te:
adiutor meus esto, ne derelinquas
me neque despicias me,
Deus salutaris meus.

*Lord, hear my voice when I call to you.
You are my help,
do not cast me off,
do not desert me,
my Saviour God.*

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 D - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)*

COLLECT

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.
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 Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14*

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

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

PSALM 26 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken;
'See his face.' **R.**

SECOND READING *from the first letter of St Peter 4:13-16*

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

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

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



I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.
I am going away and I will come to you,
and your hearts will rejoice.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:1-11a

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

'I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.

HOMILY

CREDO III *all join in singing the verses in bold type*

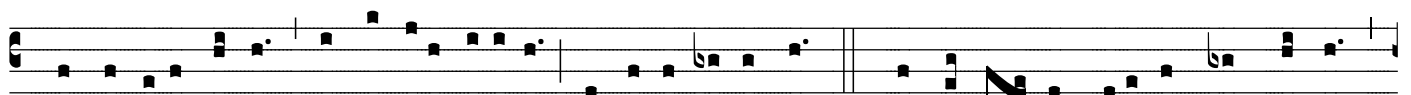
v. 
Credo in unum De-um, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, vi-si-bi-li-um omnium,

et in-vi-si-bi-li-um. **Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum, Fi-li-um De-i u-ni-ge-ni-tum.**

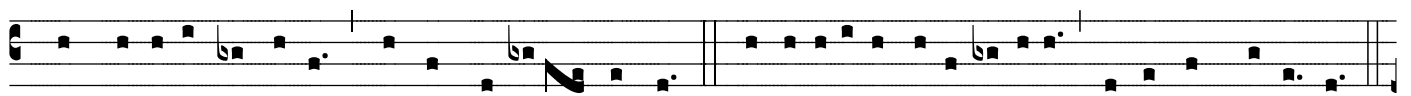
Et ex Patre na-tum ante omni-a sae-cu-la. **Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum**

de Deo vero. Genitum, non fa-ctum, con-sub-tan-ti-alem Patri, per quem om-ni-a facta sunt.

Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram sa-lu-tem descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est



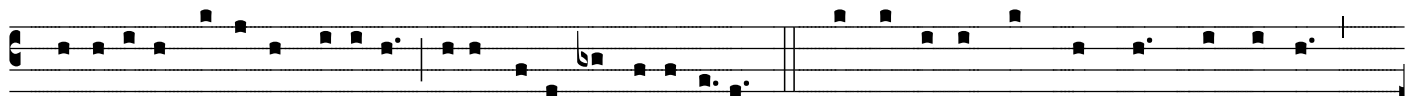
de Spi-ri-tu Sancto ex Ma-ri-a Virgine: Et homo factus est. **Cru-ci-fi-xus et-i-am pro no-bis:**



sub Ponti-o Pi-la-to passus, et sepul-tus est. Et resurrexit ter-ti-a di-e, secundum Scripturas.



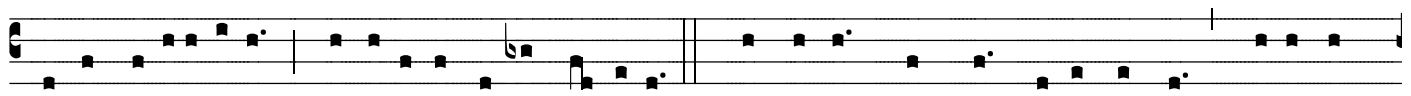
Et ascendit in caelum : sedet ad dexteram Pa-tris. Et i-terum venturus est cum Glo-ri-a,



iu-di-ca-re vivos et mortuos : cuius regni non er-it fi-nis. **Et in Spi-ri-tum Sanctum, Do-mi-num,**



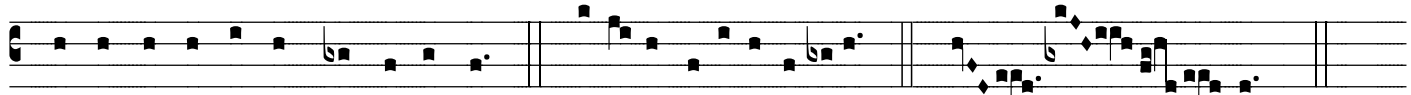
et vi-vi-fi-cantem: qui ex Patre Fi-li-o-que procedit. Qui cum Patre et Fi-li-o si-mul a-do-ra-tur



et con-glo-ri-fi-ca-tur: qui lo-cu-tus est per Prophetas. **Et unam sanctam catho-li-cam et a-po-**



sto-li-cam Eccle-si-am. Con-fi-te-or unum baptisma in remissi-o-nem peccatorum. **Et exspecto**



re-surrecti-onem mortu-o-rum. Et vitam venturi saeculi. **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*

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King. The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly: the earth is not too low; his praises there may grow. Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King. The Church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out: but above all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King.

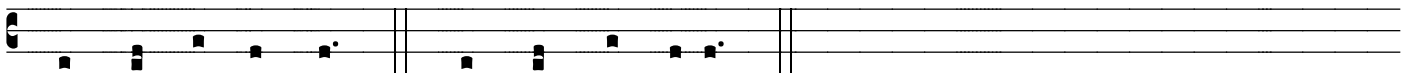
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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

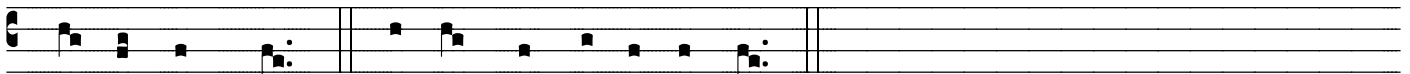
All stand and say
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

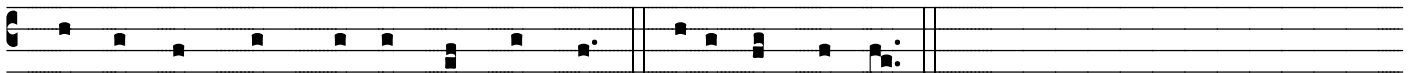
Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that through these acts of devotedness
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.



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.

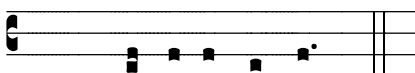
SANCTUS *the Choir sings*

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

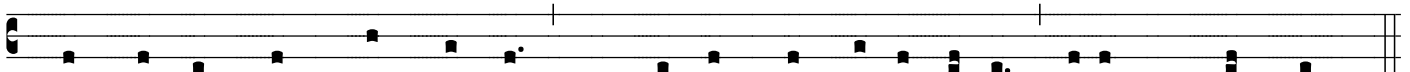
*Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of hosts, heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Missa Brevis in D
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.

COMMUNION MOTET *the Choir sings*

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine.

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you. You will never sink beneath the waves. Do not be afraid...

When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames. Do not be afraid...

When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side. Do not be afraid...

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes. Do not be afraid...

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father, and I love you with a perfect love. Do not be afraid...

Philip Stopford (b1977)

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*



- 1 Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia, his the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

- 2 Alleluia, not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia, he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

3 Alleluia, Bread of Angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia, here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia, King eternal
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia, born of Mary,
Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
In the Eucharistic Feast.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hear us, O God our Saviour,
and grant us confidence,
that through these sacred mysteries
there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church
what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.
Who lives and reigns 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 *Joie et clarté - Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)*

RECRUITMENT OF BOY AND GIRL CHORISTERS 2026

If your child is in Years 2–5 and enjoys singing, joining our Cathedral Choir is a unique opportunity to learn, grow in confidence, and make new friends. Choristers receive a fully funded high-quality musical education and take part in services and performances in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Find out more and register your interest here: <https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7578a4f8bc41ae198517aea33&id=34918afeaf>

or scan the QR code below



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