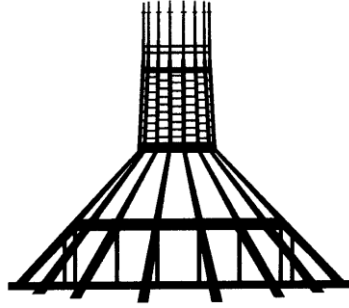




Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

SOLEMN MASS

ON THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
12 JULY 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

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE HYMN *all stand and join in singing*



- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.
- 2 Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Dum clamarem ad Dominum,
exaudivit vocem meam,
ab his qui appropinquant mihi:
et humiliavit eos,
qui ante saecula,
et manet aeternum:
iacta cogitatum tuum in Domino,
et ipse te enutriet.

*When I cry to the Lord,
he hears my voice,
in the attack against me.
He will humble them,
the eternal judge,
he endures for ever.
Entrust your cares to the Lord
and he will support you.*

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 - Jonathan Dove (b1959)*

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honour.
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 prophet Isaiah 55:10-11*

Thus says the Lord: 'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

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

PSALM 64 *all sing the response R. after the Cantor and after each verse of the psalm*



You care for the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth;
and drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth. **R.**

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps;
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING *from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:18-23*

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

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*



Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:1-23

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'

Then the disciples came and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.'

'Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

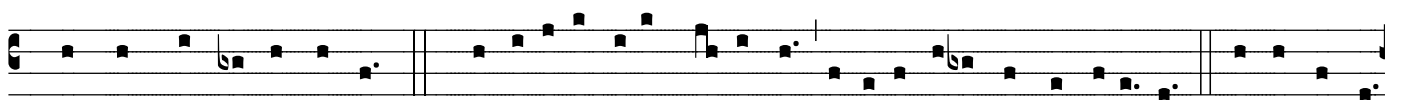
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.

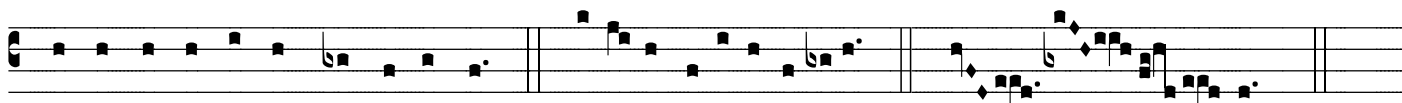
HOMILY

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

v. **C**redo 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*

O nata lux de lumine,
 Iesu, redemptor saeculi,
 Dignare clemens supplicum
 Laudes precesque sumere.
 Qui carne quondam contegi
 Dignatus es pro perditis,
 Nos membra confer effici
 Tui beati corporis.

*O Light of light, by love inclined,
 Jesu Redeemer of mankind,
 with loving kindness deign to hear
 from suppliant voices praise and prayer.
 Thou, who to raise our souls from hell,
 didst deign in fleshly form to dwell,
 vouchsafe us when our race is run
 in thy fair body to be one.*

Morten Lauridsen (b1943)

The Celebrant says

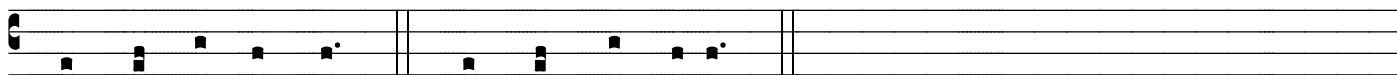
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
 that my sacrifice and yours
 may be acceptable to God,
 the almighty Father.

All stand and say

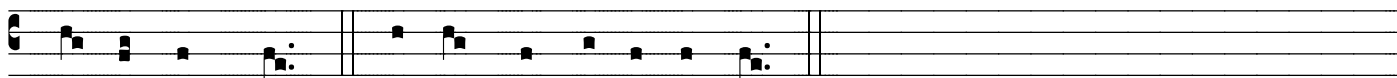
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
 for the praise and glory of his name,
 for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

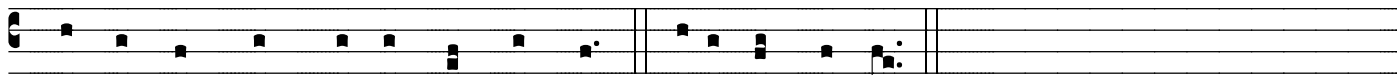
Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,
 as she makes her prayer to you,
 and grant that, when consumed by those who believe,
 they may bring ever greater holiness.
 Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.



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.

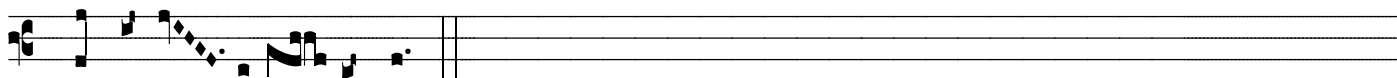
SANCTUS XI *all join in singing*



San-ctus,* Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra



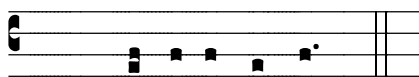
glo-ri-a tu-a. Hosanna in ex-cel-sis. Benedictus qui venit in no-mine Domini.



Ho-sanna in ex-cel-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 *the Choir sings*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world. Have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world. Grant us peace.*

*Missa Brevis
Jonathan Dove*

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.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *the Choir sings*

Passer invenit sibi domum,
et turtur nidum,
ubi reponat pullos suos:
altaria tua Domine virtutum,
Rex meus, et Deus meus:
beati qui habitant in domo tua,
in saeculum saeculi laudabunt te.

*The sparrow even finds a home,
the swallow finds a nest
wherein to place her young,
near to your altars, Lord of hosts,
my King, my God!
How happy they who dwell in your
house! For ever they are praising you.*

Gregorian Chant

COMMUNION MOTET *the Choir sings*

Ave verum corpus natum
ex Maria Virgine:
Vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine.
Cujus latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
Esto nobis praegustatum
mortis in examine.
O Jesu dulcis! O Jesu pie!
O Jesu fili Mariae.

*Hail to thee! True body sprung
from the Virgin Mary's womb!
The same that on the cross was hung
and bore for man the bitter doom.
Thou whose side was pierced
and flowed both with water
and with blood, suffer us to taste
thee in our life's last agony.
O kind, O loving one,
O sweet Jesu, Mary's son!*

Colin Mawby (1936-2019)

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION *all stand and join in singing*



- 1 Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
Wash me with water flowing from thy side.
- 2 Strength and protection may thy passion be,
O blessed Jesu, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
So shall I never, never part from thee.
- 3 Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
In death's dread moments make me only thine;
Call me and bid me come to thee on high
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord,
that, by our participation in this mystery,
its saving effects upon us may grow.
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 *Toccata de la Libération - Léonce de Saint-Martin (1886-1954)*

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

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