

**Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool**

SOLEMN MASS

**ON THE SOLEMNITY
OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
7 JUNE 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 Mgr Anthony O'Brien.

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 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.

INTROIT *the Choir sings*

Cibavit eos ex adipe frumenti, alleluia:
et de petra, melle saturavit eos, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

*The Lord fed his people with the finest
wheat and honey, alleluia; their hunger
was satisfied, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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 Laudis - Flor Peeters (1903-1986)*

COLLECT

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who lives and reigns with God the Father
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 Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a*

Moses spoke to the people: 'You shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know.'

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

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



O Praise the Lord, Je - ru - sa - lem!

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 first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:16-17*

Brothers and sisters: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

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

SEQUENCE *the Choir sings*

Ecce panis angelorum,
Factus cibus viatorum
Vere panis filiorum,
Non mittendus canibus.

In figuris praesignatur,
Cum Isaac immolatur,
Agnus Paschae deputatur,
Datur manna patribus.

Bone pastor, panis vere,
Jesu, nostri miserere:
Tu nos pasce, nos tuere,
Tu nos bona fac videre
In terra viventium.

Tu qui cuncta scis et vales,
Qui nos pascis hic mortales:
Tuos ibi commensales,
Coheredes et sodales
Fac sanctorum civium.

*Behold! Bread of the Angels, broken,
for us pilgrims food, and token
of the promise by Christ spoken,
children's meat, to dogs denied!*

*Shown in Isaac's dedication,
in the Manna's preparation,
in the Paschal immolation,
in old types pre-signified.*

*Jesus, Shepherd mild and meek,
shield the poor, support the weak;
help all who Thy pardon sue,
placing all their trust in You:
fill them with Your healing grace!*

*Source of all we have or know,
feed and lead us here below.
grant that with Your Saints above,
sitting at the feast of love
we may see You face to face.*

Gregorian Chant

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



I am the living bread which has come down from heaven,
says the Lord.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:51-58

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to the Jews, 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live for ever.'

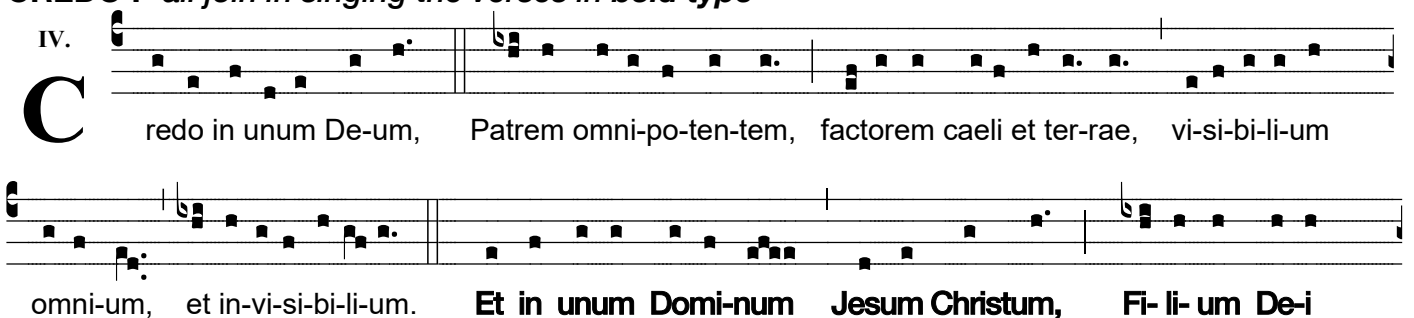
The Gospel of the Lord.

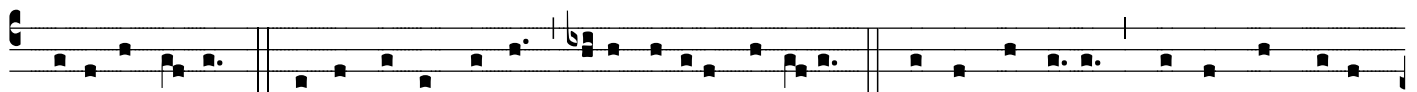
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, all sing the Gospel Acclamation.

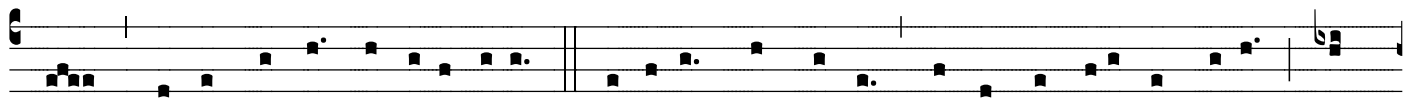
HOMILY

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

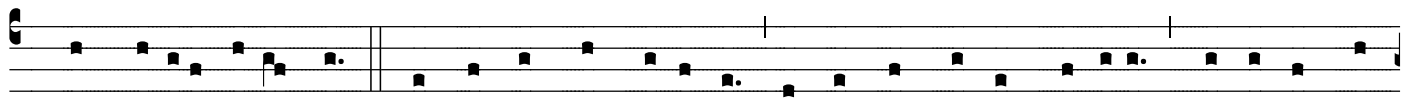




u-ni-ge-ni-tum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. **Deum de Deo, lumen de lumi-**



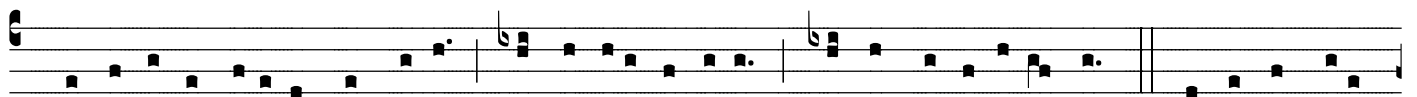
ne, **Deum verum de Deo vero.** Genitum, non factum, consubstan-ti-a-lem Patri, per



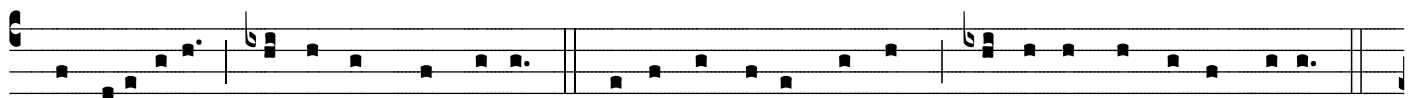
quem omnia facta sunt. **Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram salutem descendit de**



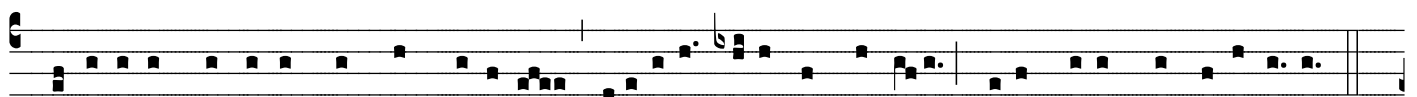
caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Vir-gi-ne: Et homo factus est.



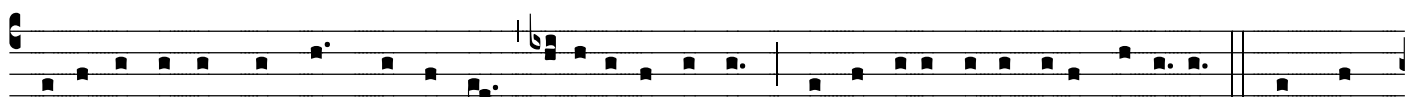
Cru-ci-fi-xus et-i-am pro nobis: sub Pontio Pi-la-to passus, et sepultus est. Et re-sur-rexit



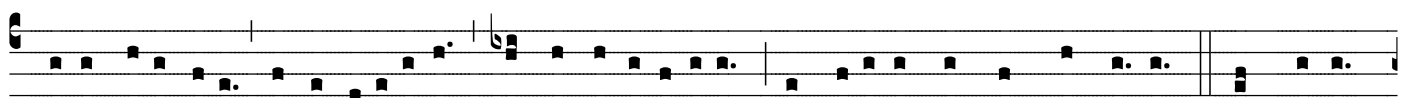
ter-ti-a di-e, secundum Scripturas. **Et ascendit in caelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris.**



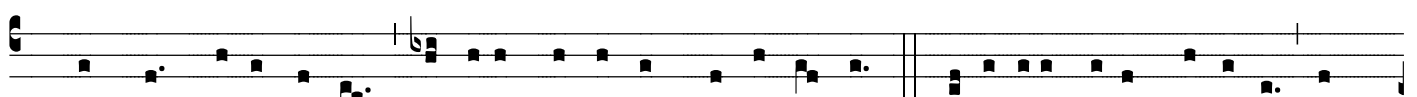
Et i-terum venturus est cum glori-a, iudicare vivos et mortuos : cuius regni non e-rit fi-nis.



Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vi-vi-fi-cantem: qui ex Patre Fi-li-oque procedit. Qui cum



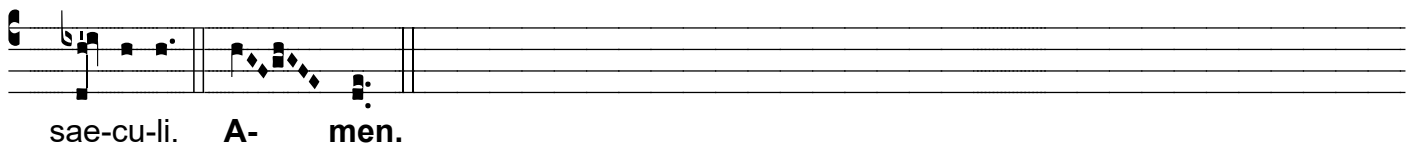
Patre et Fi-li-o simul adoratur, et conglori-fi-catur: qui locutus est per Prophetas. **Et unam**



sanctam catho-li-cam et apo-sto-li-cam Eccle-si-am. Confi-teor unum baptisma in



re-mis-sionem peccatorum. **Et exspecto resurrecti-onem mortu-orum.** Et vitam venturi



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*

Pange lingua gloriosi
 Corporis mysterium,
 Sanguisque pretiosi,
 Quem in mundi pretium
 Fructus ventris generosi
 Rex effudit gentium.

*Of the glorious body telling,
 O my tongue, its mysteries sing,
 And the blood, all price excelling,
 Which the world's eternal King,
 In a spotless womb once dwelling,
 Shed for this world's ransoming.*

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
 Veneremur cernui,
 Et antiquum documentum
 Novo cedat ritui:
 Praestet fides supplementum
 Sensuum defectui.

*Therefore we, before him bending,
 This great sacrament revere:
 Types and shadows have their ending,
 for the newer rite is here;
 Faith, our outward sense befriending,
 makes the inward vision clear.*

Genitori, Genitoque
 Laus, et jubilatio,
 Salus, honor, virtus quoque
 Sit et benedictio:
 Procedenti ab utroque
 Compar sit laudatio.
 Amen.

*Glory let us give and blessing
 To the Father, and the Son,
 Honour, might and praise addressing,
 while eternal ages run;
 Ever too his love confessing,
 who, from both, with both is one.
 Amen.*

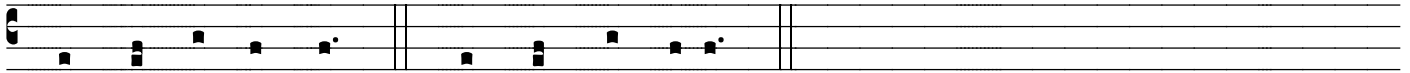
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

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

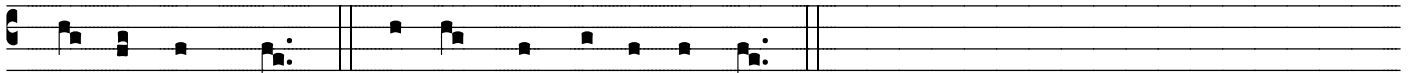
All stand and say
 May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
 for the praise and glory of his name,
 for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

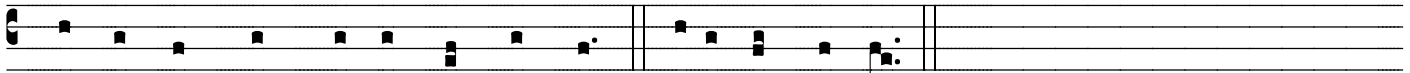
Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray,
the gifts of unity and peace,
whose signs are to be seen in mystery
in the offerings we here present.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.



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.

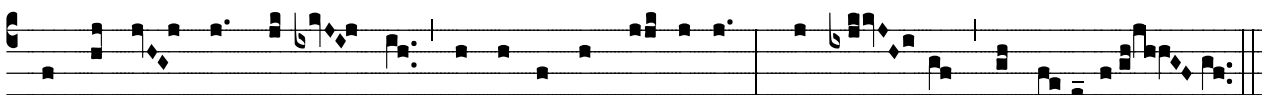
SANCTUS VIII *all join in singing*



San- ctus, * Sanctus, San- ctus Do- minus De-us Sa- ba-oth.



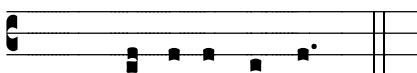
Pleni sunt cae-li et ter- ra glo-ri- a tu- a. Ho- sanna in excel- sis.



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 *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 Laudis
Flor Peeters*

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*

Qui manducat carnem meam, et bibit
sanguinem meum, in me manet, et ego
on eo, dicit Dominus.

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my
blood will live in me and I in him,
says the Lord.*

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!*

William Byrd (1543-1623)

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 blessèd 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

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that we may delight for all eternity
in that share in your divine life,
which is foreshadowed in the present age
by our reception of your precious Body and Blood.
Who lives and reign 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 *Pange Lingua - Jean Titelouze (1562-1633)*

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.

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- *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

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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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