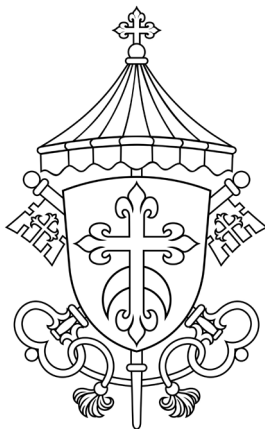


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Matins and Midnight Mass



The Nativity of the Lord

2023

## WELCOME

to St Mary's Cathedral which stands in the centre of Sydney as a Christian statement of grace and beauty. Generations of artists have bequeathed to it their magnificent gifts in stone and glass, designing a unique space of solace and prayer within this vibrant city. This Cathedral represents the spiritual origins of the Catholic Church in Australia. It is one of Sydney's most treasured historic buildings and one of the finest examples of English-style gothic churches in the world. William Wilkinson Wardell, the 19th century architect, dreamed of a gothic structure shaped from the local yellow-block sandstone on which this city is built. The building was finally completed 100 years after the architect's death. The Cathedral is dedicated to Mary, Immaculate Mother of God, Help of Christians.

## APOSTOLIC BLESSING

At the end of this Mass the Archbishop will impart the Papal Blessing, which carries with it the grant of a Plenary Indulgence. The Plenary Indulgence may be received by all Catholics present who are truly penitent; and have confessed their sins, have prayed for the intentions of the Pope and the Church, and have received Holy Communion.

An Indulgence is 'a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.' (Pope Paul VI, *Indulgentiarum doctrina*)

Indulgences gained may be applied to the living or the dead.

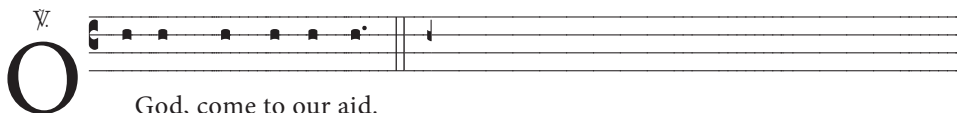
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,  
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES  
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

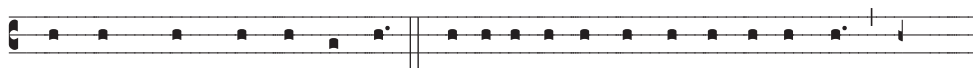
# MATINS

The night office: Vigils, or Matins, is as old as the Church, and grew out of the practice of rising in the middle of the night for the purpose of prayer. The custom of beginning certain solemnities with a Vigil developed from the great Easter Vigil. By praying during the night, the faithful are encouraged to look forward to the Lord's coming: 'At midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out to meet him."' (Matthew 25:6). 'So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.' (Mark 13:35-36). In Matins, also called the Office of Readings, the reading of sacred scripture is accompanied by psalms and hymns, making the Office a conversation between God and man, and thus has the character of true prayer.

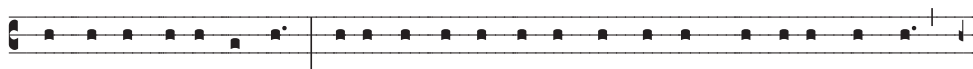
*At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

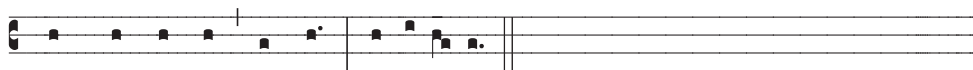
 **O** God, come to our aid.



**℟.** O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son



and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,



world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.

All sing

## THE HYMN

An-gels we have heard on high, Sing-ing sweet-ly o'er the plains,  
And the mount-ains in re-ply, E-cho-ing their joy-ous strains.  
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o,  
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

2

Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why your rapturous strain prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

3

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing:  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

4

See him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Les anges dans nos campagnes*  
18th century French carol

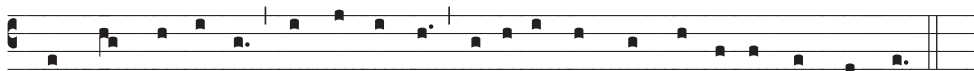
Henri Friedrich Hémy (1818–1888)  
after James Chadwick (1813–1882)

All sit.

# PSALMODY

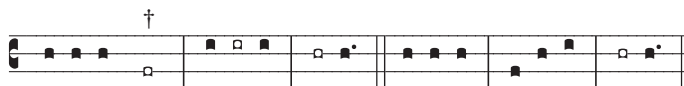
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode VIII



The Lord said to me: You are my son. It is I who have be-gotten you this day.

## PSALM 2



- Cantor* 1 Why this tumult a- | mong the | nations, \*  
among peoples this | useless mur- | muring?
- All* 2 **They arise, the | kings of the | earth, \***  
**princes plot against the Lord and | his Anoin- | ted.**
- 3 ‘Come, let us | break their | fetters, \*  
come, let us | cast off their | yoke.’
- 4 **He who sits in the | heavens | laughs; \***  
**the Lord is laugh- | ing them to | scorn.**
- 5 Then he will | speak in his | anger, \*  
his rage will strike | them with ter- | ror.
- 6 **‘It is I who have set | up my | king \*  
on Zion, my | holy moun- | tain.’**
- 7 I will announce the decree of the Lord: †  
The Lord said to me: ‘You are my | Son. \*  
It is I who have begot- | ten you this | day.
- 8 **Ask and I shall be- | queath you the | nations, \***  
**put the ends of the earth in | your posses- | sion.**
- 9 With a rod of iron | you will | break them, \*  
shatter them like | a potter’s | jar.’
- 10 **Now, O kings, | under- | stand, \***  
**take warning, ru- | lers of the | earth;**
- 11 serve the | Lord with | awe \*  
and trembling, pay | him your ho- | mage
- 12 **lest he be angry | and you | perish; \***  
**for suddenly his | anger will | blaze.**

- 13 – | Blessèd are | they \*  
 who put | their trust in | God.
- 14 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
 and to | the Holy | Spirit,**
- 15 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \*  
 world with- | out end. A- | men.

*All repeat the Antiphon.*

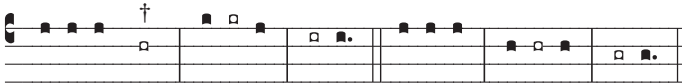
*All sing the SECOND ANTIPHON*

*Mode VIII*



The Lord comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent.

PSALM 18 (19)



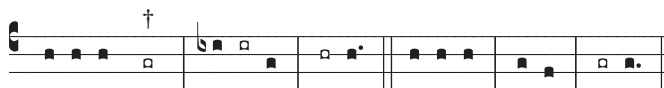
- Cantor* 1 The heavens proclaim the | glory of | God, \*  
 and the firmament shows forth the | work of his | hands.
- All* 2 **Day unto day takes | up the | story \*  
 and night unto night makes | known the | message.**
- 3 No speech, no word, no voice is heard †  
 yet their span extends through | all the | earth, \*  
 their words to the utmost bounds | of the | world.
- 4 **There he has placed a tent for the sun; †  
 it comes forth like a bridegroom coming | from his | tent, \*  
 rejoices like a champion to | run its | course.**
- 5 At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun; †  
 to the furthest end of the sky | is its | course. \*  
 There is nothing concealed from its | burning | heat.
- 6 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
 and to the | Holy | Spirit,**
- 7 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \*  
 world without | end. A- | men.

*All repeat the Antiphon.*



Graciousness is poured up-on your lips, because God has blessed you for evermore.

## PSALM 44 (45)



- Cantor* 1 My heart overflows with noble words. †  
To the king I must speak the | song I have | made, \*  
my tongue as nimble as the pen | of a | scribe.
- All* 2 **You are the fairest of the children of men †**  
**and graciousness is poured up- | on your | lips: \***  
**because God has blessed you for | ever- | more.**
- 3 O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh; †  
in splendour and state, ride | on in | triumph \*  
for the cause of truth and good- | ness and | right.
- 4 **Take aim with your bow in your dread right hand. †**  
**Your arrows are sharp, peoples | fall be- | neath you. \***  
**The foes of the king fall down | and lose | heart.**
- 5 Your throne, O God, shall endure for ever. †  
A sceptre of justice is the sceptre | of your | kingdom. \*  
Your love is for justice; your ha- | tred for | evil.
- 6 **Therefore God, your God, has a-nointed you †**  
**with the oil of gladness above | other | kings: \***  
**your robes are fragrant with a- | loes and | myrrh.**
- 7 From the ivory palace you are greeted with music. †  
The daughters of kings are a- | mong your | loved ones. \*  
On your right stands the queen in | gold of | Ophir.
- 8 **Listen, O daughter, give | ear to my | words: \***  
**forget your own people and your | father's | house.**
- 9 So will the king de- | sire your | beauty: \*  
He is your lord, pay ho- | mage to | him.
- 10 **And the people of Tyre shall | come with | gifts, \***  
**the richest of the people shall | seek your | favour.**
- 11 The daughter of the king is | clothed with | splendour, \*  
her robes embroidered with pearls | set in | gold.

- 12 **She is led to the king with her maiden com-panions.** †  
**They are escorted amid | gladness and | joy; \***  
**they pass within the palace | of the | king.**
- 13 Sons shall be yours in | place of your | fathers: \*  
 you will make them princes over | all the | earth.
- 14 **May this song make your name for | ever re- | membered. \***  
**May the peoples praise you from | age to | age.**
- 15 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
 and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 16 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \***  
**world without | end. A- | men.**

*All repeat the Antiphon.*



∇ The word was made flesh, al-le-lu-ia.



℞ **And dwelt among us, al-le-lu-ia.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

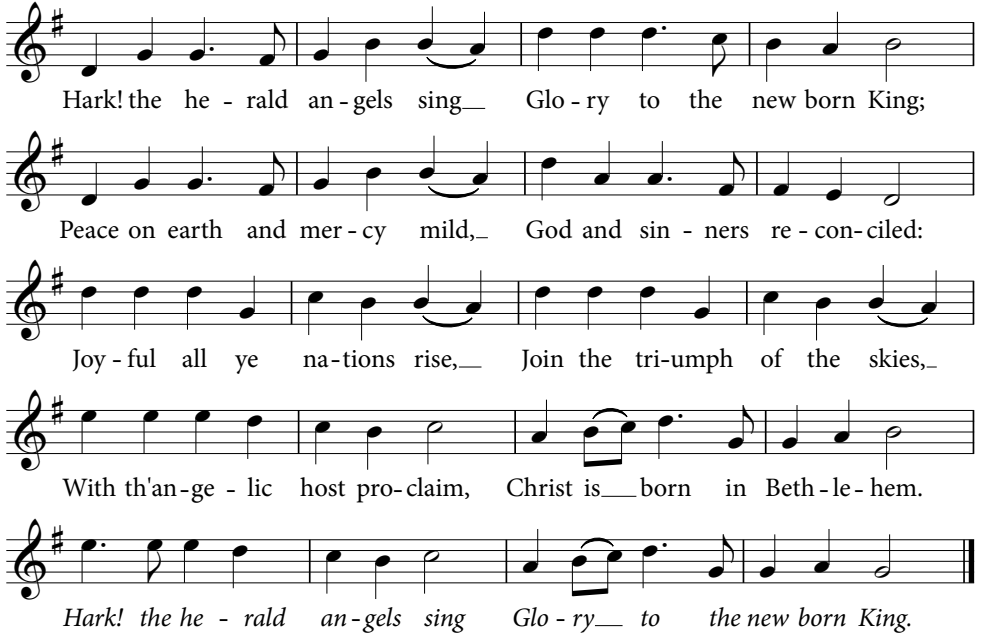
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

**T**HUS says the Lord: there shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones



shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The suckling child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

*All sing*



Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing — Glo - ry to the new born King;  
 Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con-ciled:  
 Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, — Join the tri - umph of the skies, —  
 With th'an - ge - lic host pro - claim, Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem.  
 Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing Glo - ry — to the new born King.

2

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 Late in time behold him come  
 Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
 Hail the incarnate Deity!  
 Pleas'd as man with man to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark! the herald Angels sing  
 Glory to the new-born King.*

3

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings,  
 Risen with healing in his wings;  
 Mild he lays his glory by,  
 Born that man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth,  
 Born to give them second birth:

*Hark! the herald Angels sing  
 Glory to the new-born King.*

A reading from a Sermon by Pope St Leo the Great.

**T**HIS is the day our Saviour was born: what a joy for us, my beloved! This is no season for sadness, this, the birthday of Life—the Life which annihilates the fear of death, and engenders joy, promising, as it does, immortality. Nobody is an outsider to this happiness. The same cause for joy is common to all, for as our Lord found nobody free from guilt when he came to bring an end to death and sin, so he came with redemption for all. Let the saint rejoice, for he hastens to his crown: let the sinner be filled with joy, for pardon is offered him; let the Gentile be emboldened, for he is called to life. When the designated time had come, which God in his deep and impenetrable plan had fixed upon, God's Son took the nature of man upon himself in order to reconcile man to his Creator. Thus would the devil, the father of death, be himself overcome by that self-same human nature which he had overcome. The angels therefore exult at the birth of the Lord: they sing: 'Glory to God in high heaven'; they announce 'Peace on earth for men on whom his favour rests.' For they behold the heavenly Jerusalem being constructed from out of the peoples on earth. How greatly ought mere men rejoice at this mysterious undertaking of divine love, when the angels on high thrill so much at it! My beloved, let us offer thanksgiving to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit. In the great mercy with which he loved us, he had pity on us, and 'in giving life to Christ, gave life to us too, when we were dead through sin,' so that in him we might be a new creation, a new work of his hands. Let us be quit of the old self and the habits that went with it. Sharers now in the birth of Christ, let us break with the deeds of the flesh. O Christian, be aware of your nobility—it is God's own nature that you share: do not then, by an ignoble life, fall back into your former baseness. Think of the Head, think of the Body of which you are a member. Recall that you have been rescued from the power of darkness, and have been transferred to the light of God, the kingdom of God. Through the sacrament of baptism you have been made a temple of the Holy Spirit; do not, by evil deeds, drive so great an indweller away from you, submitting yourself once more to the slavery of the devil. For you were bought at the price of Christ's blood.

All sing

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we\_ see thee lie!  
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
Yet\_ in thy dark streets shi - neth The ev - er - last-ing light;  
The hopes and fears of all\_ the\_years Are met in\_ thee to - night.

2

O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

3

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

4

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

English traditional  
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

All stand.

*The Dean says*

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

**G**OD our Father, our human nature is the wonderful work of your hands, made still more wonderful by your work of redemption. Your Son took to himself our manhood: grant us a share in the godhead of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

℟: **Amen.**

*All remain standing.*

*A cantor sings*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The Twenty-fifth Day of December,  
when ages beyond number had run their course  
from the creation of the world,  
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,  
and formed man in his own likeness;  
when century upon century had passed  
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,  
as a sign of covenant and peace;  
in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,  
came out of the Ur of the Chaldees;  
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses  
in the Exodus from Egypt;  
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;  
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;  
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;  
in the year seven hundred and fifty-two  
since the foundation of the City of Rome;  
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,  
the whole world being at peace,  
JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,  
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and when nine months had passed since his conception,  
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,  
and was made man:  
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

*All sit.*

# ORDER OF MASS

*All stand at the sound of the Sacristy bell, and remain silent as a chorister sings*

**O**NCE 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.

*All sing*



He came down to earth from heav-en, Who is God and Lord of\_ all,



And his shel - ter was\_ a\_\_ sta-ble, And his cra - dle was\_ a\_\_ stall;



With the poor, and mean, and low-ly, Lived on earth our Sa - viour ho - ly.

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.

4

**For he is our childhood's pattern,**  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

5

**And our eyes at last shall see him,**  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

6

**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.

*Irby*

*Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876)*

*arr. James O'Donnell (b. 1961)*

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)*

# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

*The Choir sings the INTROIT*

*Psalm 2:7; 1, 2, 8*

**D**OMINUS dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. ʘ Quare fremuerunt gentes: et populi meditati sunt inania?

*The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day. ʘ Why this tumult among nations, among peoples this useless murmuring?*

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the Archbishop says*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ʘ: **Amen.**

Peace be with you.

ʘ: **And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

*The Archbishop says*

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord, have mercy.

ʘ: **Lord, have mercy.**

You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ, have mercy.

ʘ: **Christ, have mercy.**

You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

ʘ: **Lord, have mercy.**

*The Archbishop gives the absolution, saying*

**M**AY blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints assist you with their merits and prayers. May the almighty and merciful Lord forgive you and free you from all your sins. May he help you persevere in fruitful penance, good example, and sincere charity, and lead you to everlasting life.

℟: **Amen.**

*The Choir sings the GLORIA*

*from Missa ad praesepe*

*George Malcolm CBE, KSG (1917–1997)*

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.  
Laudamus te,  
benedicimus te,  
adoramus te,  
glorificamus te,  
gratias agimus tibi  
    propter magnam gloriam tuam,  
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili Unigenite, Iesu Christe,  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
    miserere nobis;  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
    suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
    miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
    tu solus Altissimus,  
Iesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu:  
in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.

*Glorify to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks  
    for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
    have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
    you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.*

*The Archbishop says the COLLECT*

℟: **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

**T**HE people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the barb across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

℟️ **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 95:1-3,11-13* ℟️ *Luke 2:11*



℟️ **To-day a sa-viour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. ℟️

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. ℟️

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. ℟️

With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth. ℟️



**G**OD'S grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Choir sings the ALLELUIA*

℣: *Psalm 2:7*

Alleluia.

℣: Dominus dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te.

*The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.*

Alleluia.

*All stand.*

GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1-14*

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

℟: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**C**AESAR Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to

you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## THE HOMILY

*is given by*

The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

*Archbishop of Sydney*

*Following the Homily all stand.*

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

**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,**

**ALL KNEEL** *during the following line:*

**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.**

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Choir sings the OFFERTORY MOTET*

*arr. Sir Philip Ledger CBE (1937–2012)*

## THE SUSSEX CAROL

**O**N Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring, News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our redeemer made us glad, When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty. When sin departs before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the new-born King. All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore. Amen.'

*The Archbishop says*

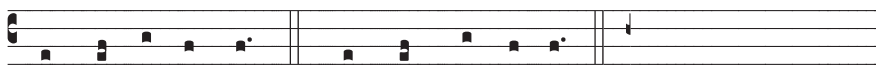
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

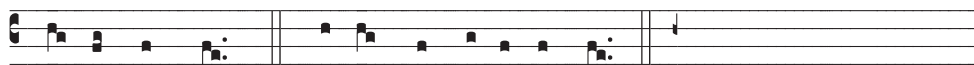
℟: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

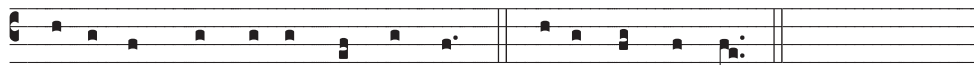
*The Archbishop says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS*

℟: **Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER


**T**  **HE Lord be with you. ℟: And with your spi-rit.**


 **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.**


THE PREFACE

;

**S**  An- ctus, \* Sanctus, San- ctus Dó- mi-nus De- us Sá-  
 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

 ba-oth. Ple-ni sunt cæ- li et ter- ra gló- ri- a tu- a. Ho- sánna in excél-  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.


 sis. Be- ne- dí- ctus qui ve- nit in nó- mi- ne Dó- mi- ni. Ho- sán- na in  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in

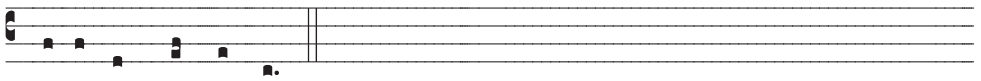
 ex- cé- sis.  
 the highest.

When the Archbishop sings

The mystery of faith.

All sing

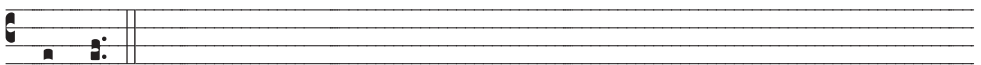
**W**  E proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur-rectio

 until you come a-gain.

When the Archbishop sings

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All respond

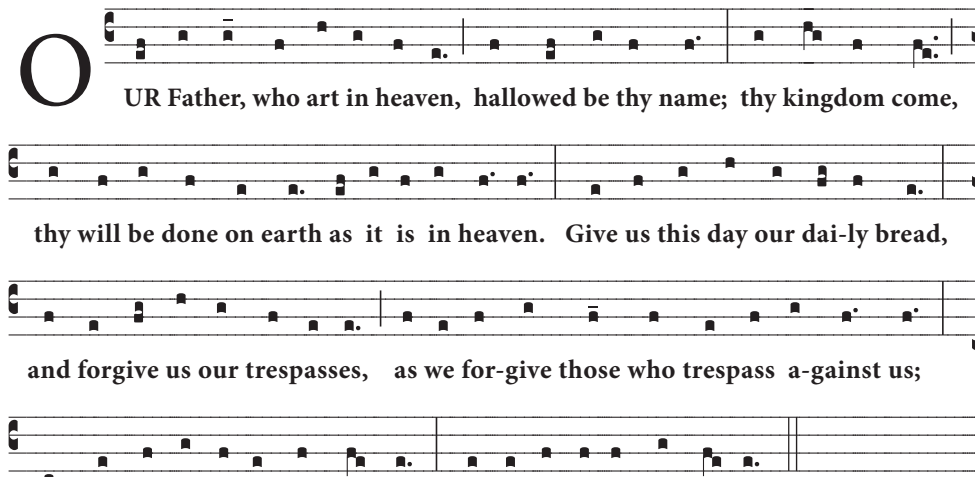


**A-men.**

# COMMUNION RITE


At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

*All sing*



**O** UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we for-give those who trespass a-gainst us;  
and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



℟: For the kingdom, the power and the glo-ry are yours now and for ev-er.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

℟: **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

*The Choir sings the* AGNUS DEI

*from* Missa ad praesepe

*George Malcolm CBE, KSG*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.  
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: have mercy on us.*  
*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.*

*The Archbishop shows the host to the congregation, saying*

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.

✠ **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

***Catholics who have made the proper spiritual and sacramental preparation may come forward in the procession to receive Holy Communion. The sacred host must be consumed in the presence of the communion minister.***

*The Choir sings the* COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Psalm 109:3*

In splendoribus sanctorum, ex utero ante luciferum genui te.  
*In holy splendour I begot you before the dawn.*

*The Choir sings the* COMMUNION MOTET

*Harold Darke (1888–1976)*

**I**N the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

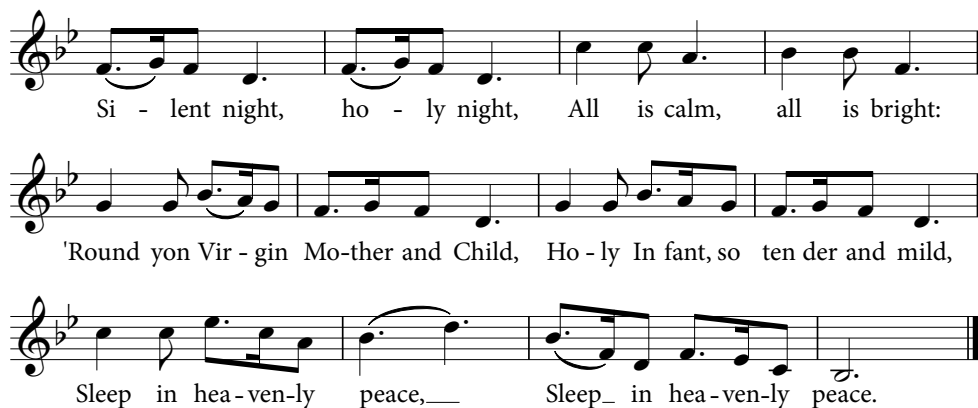
Our God, heav'n cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give him,  
Give my heart.

All sing

## THE HYMN



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright:  
'Round yon Vir - gin Mo - ther and Child, Ho - ly In fant, so ten der and mild,  
Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, — Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour, is born,  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Stille Nacht*  
Franz Grüber (1787–1863)

*Stille Nacht*  
Joseph Mohr (1792–1849)  
tr. John Freeman Young (1820–1885)

*The Archbishop says the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

✠ Amen.

# THE CONCLUDING RITES

*The Deacon announces the Apostolic Blessing, saying*

The Most Reverend Father, Anthony, by the grace of God and the Apostolic See, Bishop of this holy Church of Sydney, will give the Apostolic Blessing with a plenary indulgence, in the name of the Roman Pontiff, to all present who are truly penitent and have confessed their sins and received Holy Communion. Pray to God for our Most Holy Father, Pope Francis, our Archbishop, Anthony, and for holy Mother Church and strive, by holiness of life, to walk in full communion with it.

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

Bow down for the blessing.

May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night, drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

℟: **Amen.**

May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

℟: **Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

℟: **Amen.**

Through the intercession of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

℟: **Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**



All sing

## THE HYMN

A - de - ste fi - de - les Lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes, Ve - ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem. Na - tum vi - de - te re - gem an - ge - lo - rum. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus. Do - mi - num.

*O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him Born the King of angels: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2

**God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:**

3

**Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:**

*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

4

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:**

*Adeste fideles*  
*John Francis Wade's MS book c. 1740*  
*arr. David Hill (b. 1957)*

*Latin, 18th century*  
*tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880)*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Finale (Symphony No. 2)

*Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

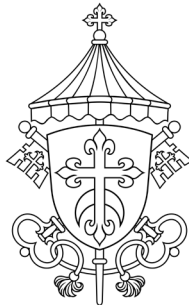


## THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

St Mary's Cathedral Choir is the oldest musical institution in Australia. In 1818 a group of choristers was formed to sing Vespers before the Blessed Sacrament in the Dempsey household, the centre of Catholic worship in the penal colony. After the establishment of St Mary's Cathedral in 1833 the successors of these choristers formed the permanent Cathedral Choir. In faithfulness to the Benedictine English tradition from which the Cathedral's founders came, the Choir is formed of men and boys, preserving the historical character of Catholic liturgical and musical heritage. St Mary's is the only Catholic Cathedral in Australia to have an on-site Choir School where the twenty-four boy choristers are educated. The other parts of the Choir are provided by lay clerks who are professional singers. The Choir's primary function is to sing Vespers and Mass in the Cathedral which it does almost daily, but it has also undertaken several international tours, recordings and concert projects.

[www.cathedralchoir.sydney](http://www.cathedralchoir.sydney)

**The Cathedral Choir will be in recess after Christmas.  
Regular choral services will resume on Sunday 28 January 2024.**



*His Grace, Archbishop Fisher,  
Fr Don Richardson, Dean of St Mary's Cathedral,  
along with the Assistant Priests,  
and the Cathedral Staff,  
wish you all a joyful and holy Christmas,  
and a happy New Year.*

**St Mary's Cathedral**  
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Sydney NSW 2000  
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