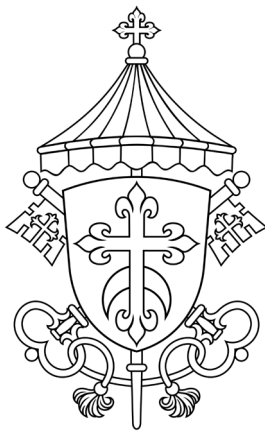


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Choral Vigil Mass



The Nativity of the Lord

24 December 2023

8.00pm

## 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.

## THE ST MARY'S SINGERS

The St Mary's Singers is a choir of men and women united in their love of quality choral liturgical music. It is part of the wider musical establishment at St Mary's Cathedral and sings in the beautiful neo-gothic building at least once a month. It is a choir of varying ages and interests and, and is now attracting new membership applications from a younger generation of singers. No audition is required but it is expected that members read music or have some musical ability. It's a great place to learn to sing. The choir usually sings at the 5.30pm Vespers and 6pm Mass on the second Saturday of every month and on other special liturgical occasions. It also performs concerts in the cathedral. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings between 6.30pm and 8pm in the Cathedral Chapter Hall.

[www.stmaryssingers.com](http://www.stmaryssingers.com)

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

# CAROLS BEFORE MASS

*The choir sings*

## DING! DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

**D**ING! dong! merrily on high  
In heaven the bells are ringing!  
Ding! dong! verily the sky  
Is riven with angel-singing!  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "I-o, i-o, i-o!"  
By priest and people sungen:  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers:  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

*16th century French tune  
arr. Charles Wood (1866–1926)*

*George R. Woodward (1848–1934)*

*All sing*

## THE HYMN

**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.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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.

*Irby*

*Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876)*

*revised by A H Mann (1850–1929)*

*arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015)*

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;  
 When like stars his children crowned,  
 All in white shall wait around.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)*

*The choir sings*

## AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD

*(from Messiah)*

AND the glory of the Lord shall  
 be revealed, all all flesh shall see  
 it together; for the mouth of the Lord  
 hath spoken it.

*George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)*

*(Isaiah 40:5)*

THE HYMN

**G**OD rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessèd angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born:  
The Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm, and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessèd Babe to find:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL

GOING through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem, far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem. Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: 'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.' 'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem, who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?' 'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem; but a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.' Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem. 'Where is the new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is he there at Bethlehem?' 'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem.' 'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem? Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?' Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: 'Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King is born this night in lowly stable yonder, born for you at Bethlehem.'

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

THE HYMN

**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!*

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

See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:

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

# ORDER OF MASS

*At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand and sing*

## THE HYMN

**O** LITTLE town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

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

Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessed Child,  
Where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the Mother mild;  
Where Charity stands watching  
And Faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
And Christmas comes once more.

5

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)*  
*Descant, Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994)*

*Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)*



# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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

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

℟: **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

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

*After a brief silence all say*

**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,**

*All strike their breast thrice, saying*

**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.**

*The Celebrant gives the absolution, saying*

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

℟: **Amen.**

*The choir sings the KYRIE and GLORIA*

*from Missa in C 'Coronation Mass' (K317)*

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)*

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

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.

*Glory 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 Celebrant says the COLLECT*

℟: **Amen.**



ALLELUIA



℞ **Al-le-lú- ia, al-le-lú- ia, al-le-lú- ia.**

℣ Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world  
and the saviour of the world will be our king.

GOSPEL

*Matthew 1:1-25*

The Lord be with you.

℞ **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

℞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY

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

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

**I**N dulci júbilo, Nun singet und seid froh! Unsers Herzens Wonne liegt in praesepio,  
Und leuchtet als die Sonne, Matris in gremio, Alpha es et O!

O Patris caritas! O Nati lenitas! Wir wären all verdorben Per nostra criminal So hat  
er uns erworben Coelorum gaudia Eia, wären wir da!

Ubi sunt gaudia Nirgend mehr denn da! Da die Engel singen Nova cantica, Und die  
Schellen klingen In regis curia. Eia, wären wir da!

*In quiet joy now sing with hearts aglow! Our delight and pleasure lies in a manger, like  
sunshine is our treasure in the mother's lap. Thou art Alpha and Omega.*

*O love of the Father, O gentleness of the Son. Deeply were we stained through our sins.  
But Thou for us hast gained the joy of heaven. O that we were there!*

*Where are joys in any place but there? There are angels singing new songs and there the  
bells are ringing in the king's court. O that we were there!*

The Celebrant 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 Celebrant 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

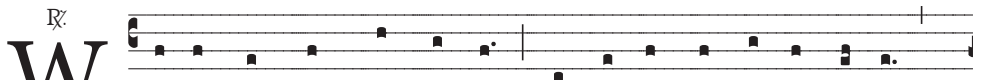


ex- cél- sis.  
 the highest.

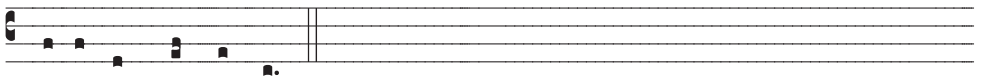
When the Celebrant sings

The mystery of faith.

All sing



**W** <sup>Re</sup> E proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur- rection

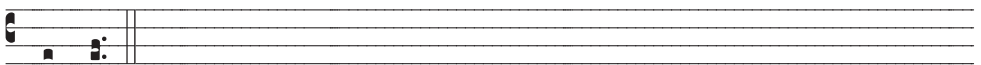


until you come a- gain.

When the Celebrant 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

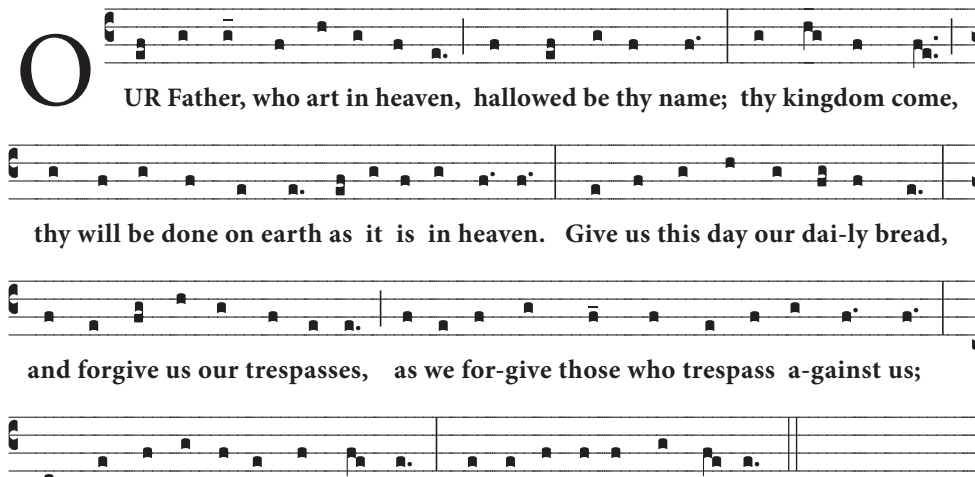


<sup>Re</sup> A- men.

# 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.**






**A** - gnus De- i, \* **qui tol-lis peccá-ta mun-di: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.**  
*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*



A-gnus De- i, \* **qui tol- lis peccá-ta mun-di: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.**  
*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*



A- gnus De- i, \* **qui tol-lis peccá-ta mun-di: do-na no- bis pa-cem.**  
*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

*The Celebrant 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.*

*During Holy Communion the choir sings the COMMUNION MOTET*

*Adolphe Charles Adam (1803–1856)*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
‘Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine!  
O night when Christ was born.O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land,  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine!  
O night when Christ was born.O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease,  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine!  
O night when Christ was born.O night, O holy night, O night divine.

THE HYMN

**I**T came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love song which they bring; –  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever circling years  
Shall come the age of gold;  
When Peace shall over all the earth,  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song,  
Which now the angels sing.

The Celebrant says the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

℟: **Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

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

**H**ARK! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald Angels sing  
Glory 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!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

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.*

*Mendelssohn  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–1847)  
Descant, Simon Niemiński*

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)  
and others*