

# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Thursday  
WEEK II

12 June 2025  
5.00pm

## THE OFFICE OF VESPERS

Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray continually". Through hymns, psalms, canticles, readings, and prayers, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and intercession for the needs of the world.

The Liturgy of the Hours includes several specified times of prayer. The most important times are Morning Prayer: Lauds (which takes place upon rising) and Evening Prayer: Vespers (which takes place as dusk begins to fall). The Office of Vespers gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God.

Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer. The public singing of Vespers is a regular part of the life and worship of St Mary's Cathedral.

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

# ORDER OF VESPERS

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

## INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

℣ Deus, in adiutorium meum intende.	<i>O God, come to our aid.</i>
℟ Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina.	<i>O Lord, make haste to help us.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son</i>
et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Sicut erat in principio	<i>as it was in the beginning,</i>
et nunc et semper	<i>is now, and ever shall be,</i>
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia.	<i>world without end. Amen. Alleluia.</i>

## OFFICE HYMN

Deus, qui claro lumine diem fecisti, Domine, tuam rogamus gloriam dum pronus dies volvitur.	<i>O Lord, our God, who made the day To gladden us with its fair light, We praise your Name, imploring aid, For day will soon give place to night.</i>
Iam sol urgente vespero occasum suum graditur, mundum concludens tenebris, suum observans ordinem.	<i>The evening shadows grow apace, Advancing, they will hide the sun, As darkness creeps upon the earth When daylight hours their course have run.</i>
Tu vero, excelse Domine, precantes tuos famulos diurno lassos opere ne sinas umbris opprimi,	<i>We beg you, Lord and God Most High, Protect us with your Presence blest, Though weary, keep our souls in peace And not by gloom of night oppressed.</i>
Ut non fuscatis mentibus dies abscedat sæculi, sed tua tecti gratia cernamus lucem prosperam.	<i>Let not the setting sun go down On hearts distressed with sin, and sore, But sheltered by your gentle grace, May we behold the day once more.</i>
Præsta, Pater piissime, Patrique compar Unice, cum Spiritu Paraclito regnans per omne sæculum. Amen.	<i>To you, O Christ, most kindly King, And to the Father, glory be, Praise to the Spirit Paraclite, In every age eternally. Amen.</i>

*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

## FIRST ANTIPHON

**L**IBERAVIT Dominus pauperem a potente, et  
linopem, cui non erat adiutor.

*The Lord shall deliver the poor from the mighty:  
and the needy that had no helper.*

## PSALM 71 (72) I

Deus, iudicium tuum regi da et iustitiam tuam filio regis;	<i>O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice,</i>
iudicet populum tuum in iustitia et pauperes tuos in iudicio.	<i>that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment.</i>
Afferant montes pacem populo, et colles iustitiam.	<i>May the mountains bring forth peace for the people and the hills, justice.</i>
Iudicabit pauperes populi et salvos faciet filios inopis et humiliabit calumniatorem.	<i>May he defend the poor of the people and save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.</i>
Et permanebit cum sole et ante lunam, in generatione et generationem.	<i>He shall endure like the sun and the moon from age to age.</i>
Descendet sicut pluvia in gramen et sicut imber irrigans terram.	<i>He shall descend like rain on the meadow, like raindrops on the earth.</i>
Florebit in diebus eius iustitia et abundantia pacis, donec auferatur luna.	<i>In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.</i>
Et dominabitur a mari usque ad mare et a Flumine usque ad terminos orbis terrarum.	<i>He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.</i>
Coram illo procident incolæ deserti, et inimici eius terram lingent.	<i>Before him his enemies shall fall, his foes lick the dust.</i>
Reges Tharsis et insulæ munera offerent, reges Arabum et Saba dona adducent.	<i>The kings of Tarshish and the seacoasts shall pay him tribute.</i>
Et adorabunt eum omnes reges, omnes gentes servient ei.	<i>Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper: et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>

*The Antiphon is repeated.*

## SECOND ANTIPHON

**B**ENEDICENTUR in ipso omnes tribus terrae:  
omnes gentes magnificabunt eum.

*In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed:  
all nations shall call him blessed.*

### PSALM 71 (72) II

Quia liberabit inopem clamantem  
et pauperem, cui non erat adiutor.

*For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.*

Parcet pauperi et inopi  
et animas pauperum salvas faciet.

*He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.*

Ex oppressione et violentia  
redimet animas eorum,  
et pretiosus erit sanguis eorum coram illo.

*From oppression  
he will rescue their lives,  
to him their blood is dear.*

Et vivet, et dabitur ei de auro Arabiae,  
et orabunt pro ipso semper;  
tota die benedicent ei.

*Long may he live, may the gold of Sheba  
be given him. They shall pray for him with-  
out ceasing and bless him all the day.*

Et erit ubertas frumenti in terra,  
in summis montium fluctuabit;

*May corn be abundant in the land  
to the peaks of the mountains.*

sicut Libanus fructus eius  
et florebit de civitate sicut fenum terrae.

*May its fruit rustle like Lebanon; may people  
flourish in the cities like grass on the earth.*

Sit nomen eius benedictum in saecula,  
ante solem permanebit nomen eius.

*May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.*

Et benedicentur in ipso omnes tribus terrae,  
omnes gentes magnificabunt eum.

*Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name.*

Benedictus Dominus Deus, Deus Israel,  
qui facit mirabilia solus.

*Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel,  
who alone works wonders,*

Et benedictum nomen maiestatis eius in aeternum;  
et replebitur maiestate eius omnis terra. Fiat, fiat.

*ever blessed his glorious name.  
Let his glory fill the earth. Amen, amen.*

Gloria Patri et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,*

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper:  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.*

*The Antiphon is repeated.*

### THIRD ANTIPHON

**D**EDIT ei Dominus potestatem et honorem et regnum: et omnes populi, tribus et linguae ipsi servant.

*The Lord has given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him.*

### CANTICLE

Apocalypse 11:17-18,12:10-12

Gratias agimus tibi, Domine Deus omnipotens,	<i>We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,</i>
qui es et qui eras, quia accepisti virtutem tuam magnam et regnasti.	<i>who are and who were, that you have taken your great power and begun to reign.</i>
Et iratae sunt gentes, et advenit ira tua, et tempus mortuorum iudicari, et reddere mercedem servis tuis prophetis et sanctis et timentibus nomen tuum, pusillis et magnis.	<i>The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great.</i>
Nunc facta est salus et virtus et regnum Dei nostri et potestas Christi eius, quia proiectus est accusator fratrum nostrorum, qui accusabat illos ante conspectum Dei nostri die ac nocte.	<i>Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.</i>
Et ipsi vicerunt illum propter sanguinem Agni et propter verbum testimonii sui; et non dilexerunt animam suam usque ad mortem.	<i>And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.</i>
Propterea laetamini, caeli et qui habitatis in eis.	<i>Rejoice, then, O heaven and you that dwell therein.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>

*The Antiphon is repeated.*

**Y**OU have been obedient to the truth and purified your souls until you can love like brothers, in sincerity; let your love for each other be real and from a pure heart—your new birth was not from any mortal seed but from the everlasting word of the living and eternal God.

## SHORT RESPONSORY

Dominus pascit me,     *The Lord is my shepherd:*  
et nihil mihi deerit.     *there is nothing I shall want.*

℣ In pascuis virentibus     *Fresh and green are the pastures*  
me collocavit. ℟     *where he gives me repose.*

℣ Gloria Patri et Filio     *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*  
et Spiritui Sancto. ℟     *and to the Holy Spirit.*

*All stand.*

## MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

**E**SURIENTES iustitiam saturavit et implevit  
bonis Dominus.

*The Lord has satisfied and filled with good things  
those who hungered for justice.*

## MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat    *My soul*  
anima mea Dominum,    *glorifies the Lord,*

et exsultavit spiritus meus    *my spirit rejoices*  
in Deo salutari meo,    *in God, my Saviour.*

quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ. *He looks on his servant in her lowliness;*  
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent *henceforth all ages*  
omnes generationes, *will call me blessed.*

quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,  
et sanctum nomen eius,

*The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!*

et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies  
timentibus eum. *His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.*

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,     *He puts forth his arm in strength*  
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;     *and scatters the proud-hearted.*

deposuit potentes de sede;     *He casts the mighty from their thrones*  
et exaltavit humiles;     *and raises the lowly.*

esurientes implevit bonis     *He fills the starving with good things,*  
et divites dimisit inanes.     *sends the rich away empty.*

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,     *He protects Israel, his servant,*  
recordatus misericordiæ suæ,     *remembering his mercy,*

sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

Gloria Patri et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper  
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*The Antiphon is repeated.*



## INTERCESSIONS

Let us lift up our hearts in thankfulness to God our Father, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual gift.

**℟. Lord, bless your people.**

Father, look on the Pope, our bishops, and all Christian leaders: sustain their faith, their love, and their courage. ℟.

Almighty God, we pray for our country: may it promote justice and fellowship in the world. ℟.

We pray for all who live the Christian life: Father, look on them with kindness, and see in them the face of your beloved Son. ℟.

Remember those who have consecrated themselves to serve you in the religious life: enrich them in their poverty, love them in their chastity, lighten their hearts in obedience to you. ℟.

Give rest to those who have died in Christ: for with you there is mercy, and fulness of redemption. ℟.

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.

## COLLECT

**W**E beseech your mercy, Lord,  
as we offer you this evening praise:  
keep our hearts always engaged  
in meditating on your law,  
and grant us the light and reward of eternal life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

℟: **Amen.**

## CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

℟: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

*In the absence of a Priest:*

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

℟: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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Al-ve, Re-gí-na, \* ma-ter mi-se-ri-cór-di-ae : Vi-ta, dul-cé-do, et spes  
*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and*

nostra, sal-ve. Ad te clamámus, éx-su-les, fí-li-i Hevae. Ad te su-spi-rá-mus,  
*our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up*

ge-méntes et flén-tes in hac la-crimárum val-le. E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta  
*our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious*

nos-tra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te. Et le-sum,  
*advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; And show*

be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de.  
*unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.*

O cle-mens : O pi-a : O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-rí-a.  
*O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

**St Mary's Cathedral**

St Mary's Road  
Sydney NSW 2000

[www.stmaryscathedral.org.au](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au)



**General enquiries**

Tel: (02) 9220 0400

Fax: (02) 9223 5208

Email: [info@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:info@stmaryscathedral.org.au)