

# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Friday  
WEEK II

13 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.

## SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

(1195?–1231)

Saint Anthony was first of all an Augustinian monk, but he was so impressed by the martyrdom of five Franciscans who had been spreading the faith in Morocco that he became a Franciscan friar himself, so that he could preach the gospel in Africa too. Illness obliged him to leave Morocco, and a storm then drove his ship to Sicily, so that he found himself taking part in the General Chapter of the Franciscans in 1221, where he met Saint Francis of Assisi himself. His preaching career then took him to northern Italy and southern France, then a stronghold of the Albigensian heresy. Later he returned to Italy, to Padua, where he was an outstanding preacher and the first Franciscan theologian. His sermons are full of gentleness, but he reproved the wicked with fearless severity – especially backsliding clergy and the oppressors of the weak. His shrine is a centre of pilgrimage, and he is also the patron saint of the lost and found.

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**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

Ÿ.  
O

God, come to our aid.

**R. 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



Who are these, like stars ap-pear-ing, These be - fore God's throne who stand?



Each a gol-den crown is wear-ing; Who are all this glo-rious band?



Al - le - lu - ia, hark! they sing, Prais-ing loud their heav-'nly King.

**These are they whose hearts were riven,  
Sore with woe and anguish tried,  
Who in prayer full oft have striven  
With the God they glorified;  
Now, their painful conflict o'er,  
God has bid them weep no more.**

**These your priests have watched and waited,  
Offering up to Christ their will,  
Soul and body consecrated,  
Day and night to serve him still:  
Now, in God's most holy place  
Blest they stand before his face.**

*All Saints*

*Melody from 'Geistreiches Gesangbuch' 1698*

*Adapted by William Henry Monk (1823–1889)*

*Heinrich Theobald Schenk (1656–1727)*

*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

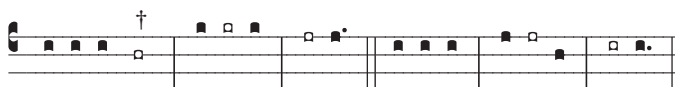
*All sing the* FIRST ANTIPHON

*Mode III*



Lord, keep my soul from death, and my feet from stumbling.

## PSALM 114 (116A)



- Cantor* 1 I love the Lord for | he has | heard \*  
the cry of | my ap- | peal;
- All* 2 **for he turned his | ear to | me \***  
**in the day | when I | called him.**
- 3 They surrounded me, the | snares of | death, \*  
with the anguish | of the | tomb;
- 4 **they caught me, sorrow and dis-tress. †**  
**I | called on the | Lord's name. \***  
**Lord, my | God, de- | liver me!**
- 5 How gracious is the | Lord, and | just; \*  
our God | has com- | passion.
- 6 **The Lord protects the | simple | hearts; \***  
**I was helpless | so he | saved me.**
- 7 Turn back, my soul, | to your | rest \*  
for the | Lord has been | good;
- 8 **he has kept my soul from death, †**  
**my | eyes from | tears, \***  
**and my | feet from | stumbling.**
- 9 I will walk in the presence | of the | Lord \*  
in the land | of the | living.
- 10 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \***  
**and to the | Holy | Spirit,**
- 11 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \*  
world without | end. A- | men.

*All repeat the* FIRST ANTIPHON.



My help shall come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

## PSALM 120 (121)



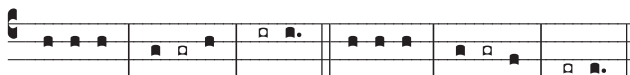
- Cantor* 1 I lift up my | eyes to the | mountains: \*  
from where shall | come my | help?
- All* 2 **My help shall come | from the | Lord \***  
**who made hea- | ven and | earth.**
- 3 May he never al- | low you to | stumble! \*  
Let him sleep | not, your | guard.
- 4 **No, he | sleeps not nor | slumbers, \***  
**— | Israel's | guard.**
- 5 The Lord is your | guard and your | shade; \*  
at your right | side he | stands.
- 6 **By day the | sun shall not | smite you \***  
**nor the moon | in the | night.**
- 7 The Lord will | guard you from | evil, \*  
he will | guard your | soul.
- 8 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \***  
**and to the | Holy | Spirit,**
- 9 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \*  
world without | end. A- | men.

*All repeat the SECOND ANTIPHON.*



Your ways are just and true, King of all the ages.

# CANTICLE Apocalypse 15:3-4



- Cantor*     1     Great and wonderful | are your | deeds, \*  
                              O Lord God | the Al- | mighty!
- All*             2     **Just and true | are your | ways, \***  
                              **O King | of the | ages!**
- 3     Who shall not fear and glorify your | name, O | Lord? \*  
                              For you a- | lone are | holy.
- 4     **All nations shall come and | worship | you, \***  
                              **for your judgements have | been re- | vealed.**
- 5     Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
                              and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 6     **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \***  
                              **world without | end. A- | men.**

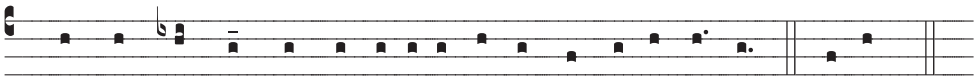
All repeat the THIRD ANTIPHON.

THE wisdom which comes from above is marked chiefly indeed by its purity, but also by its peacefulness; it is courteous and ready to be convinced, always taking the better part; it carries mercy with it, and a harvest of all that is good; it is uncensorious and without affectation. Peace is the seed-ground of holiness, and those who make peace will win its harvest.

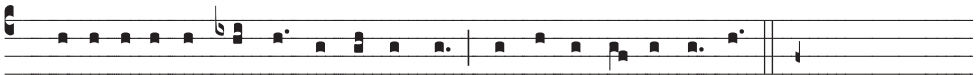
### THE SHORT RESPONSORY



This man became a teacher \* in the Church of God.



℣ The Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. ℞ In the...



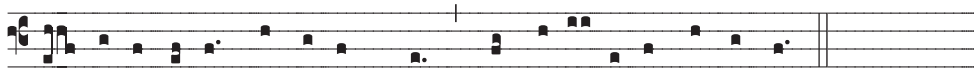
℣ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



℞ This man became a teacher in the Church of God.

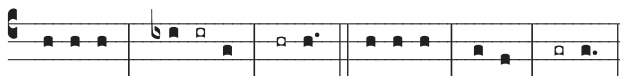
*All stand.*





O ho-ly doctor, light of the Church, pray for us to the Son of God.

## MAGNIFICAT



- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the greatness | of the | Lord, \*  
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant, \***  
**and from this day all generations will | call me | blessèd.**
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, \*  
holy | is his | Name.
- 4 **He has mercy on | those who | fear him \***  
**in every | gene- | ration.**
- 5 He has shown the | strength of his | arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in | their con- | ceit.
- 6 **He has cast down the mighty | from their | thrones, \***  
**and has lifted | up the | lowly.**
- 7 He has filled the | hungry with | good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent | away | empty.
- 8 **He has come to the help of his | servant | Israel \***  
**for he has remembered his pro- | mise of | mercy,**
- 9 the promise he | made to our | fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his child- | ren for | ever.
- 10 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \***  
**and to the | Holy | Spirit,**
- 11 As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \*  
world without | end. A- | men.

*All repeat the Antiphon.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to Christ, the high priest, who was appointed to represent mankind in their relations with God.

**R. Lord, save your people.**

Lord Jesus, in times past you have lighted the way for your people through wise and holy leaders; may Christians always enjoy this sign of your loving kindness. **R.**

You forgave the sins of your people when holy pastors prayed; continually cleanse your Church through their powerful intercession. **R.**

In the presence of their brothers, you anointed your holy ones and poured on them your Spirit; fill with your Holy Spirit all the leaders of your people. **R.**

Nothing could ever separate the holy pastors from your love; do not lose even one of those whom you redeemed by your passion. **R.**

Through the pastors of your Church you give your sheep eternal life, and no one can steal them from you; save the faithful departed, for whom you laid down your life. **R.**

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

**A**LMIGHTY, ever-living God,  
you gave Saint Antony of Padua to your people  
as a preacher of great power and a patron in their needs.  
Grant that, with his help,  
we may follow a Christian way of life,  
and feel your aid in all our trials.  
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

**S**

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-rámus,  
*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)