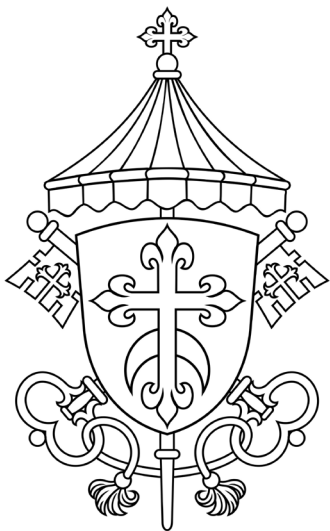


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Monday
WEEK I

22 September 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 Lauds and 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

Immense cæli conditor,	<i>O boundless Wisdom, God most high,</i>
qui, mixta ne confunderent,	<i>O Maker of the earth and sky,</i>
aquæ fluentia dividens,	<i>Who bid'st the parted waters flow</i>
cælum dedisti limitem,	<i>In heaven above, on earth below.</i>

Firmans locum cælestibus	<i>The streams on earth, the clouds in heaven,</i>
simulque terræ rivulis,	<i>By thee their ordered bounds were given,</i>
ut unda flammas temperet,	<i>Lest 'neath the untempered fires of day</i>
terræ solum ne dissipet:	<i>The parched soil should waste away.</i>

Infunde nunc, piissime,	<i>E'en so on us who seek thy face</i>
donum perennis gratiæ,	<i>Pour forth the waters of thy grace;</i>
fraudis novæ ne casibus	<i>Renew the fount of life within,</i>
nos error atterat vetus.	<i>And quench the wasting fires of sin.</i>

Lucem fides inveniat,	<i>Let faith discern the eternal Light</i>
sic luminis iubar ferat;	<i>Beyond the darkness of the night,</i>
hæc vana cuncta terreat,	<i>And through the mists of falsehood see</i>
hanc falsa nulla comprimant.	<i>The path of truth revealed by thee.</i>

Præsta, Pater piissime,	<i>O Father, that we ask be done,</i>
Patrique compar Unice,	<i>Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;</i>
cum Spiritu Paraclito	<i>Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,</i>
regnans per omne sæculum. Amen.	<i>Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.</i>

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

IUSTUS Dominus,
iustitiam dilexit.

*The Lord is just and
loves justice.*

PSALM 10 (11)

In Domino confido, *In the Lord I have taken my refuge.*
quomodo dicitis animæ meæ: *How can you say to my soul:*
«Transmigra in montem sicut passer? *‘Fly like a bird to its mountain.*

Quoniam ecce peccatores intenderunt arcum, *See the wicked bracing their bow;*
paraverunt sagittas suas super nervum, *they are fixing their arrows on the string*
ut sagittent in obscuro rectos corde. *to shoot upright men in the dark.*

Quando fundamenta evertuntur, *Foundations once destroyed,*
iustus quid faciat?». *what can the just do?’*

Dominus in templo sancto suo, *The Lord is in his holy temple,*
Dominus, in cælo sedes eius. *the Lord, whose throne is in heaven.*

Oculi eius in pauperem respiciunt, *His eyes look down on the world;*
palpebræ eius interrogant filios hominum. *his gaze tests mortal men.*

Dominus interrogat iustum et impium; *The Lord tests the just and the wicked;*
qui autem diligit iniquitatem, odit anima eius. *the lover of violence he hates.*

Pluet super peccatores carbones; *He sends fire*
ignis et sulphur et spiritus *and brimstone on the wicked;*
procellarum pars calicis eorum. *he sends a scorching wind as their lot.*

Quoniam iustus Dominus et iustitias dilexit, *The Lord is just and loves justice;*
recti videbunt vultum eius. *the upright shall see his face.*

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

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper: *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

SECOND ANTIPHON

BEATI mundo corde quoniam
Ipsi Deum videbunt.

*Blessed are the pure in heart: they
shall see God.*

PSALM 14 (15)

Domine, quis habitabit in tabernaculo tuo? *Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent*
Quis requiescet in monte sancto tuo? *and dwell on your holy mountain?*

Qui ingreditur sine macula *He who walks without fault;*
et operatur iustitiam, *he who acts with justice*
qui loquitur veritatem in corde suo, *and speaks the truth from his heart;*

qui non egit dolum in lingua sua, *he who does not slander with his tongue;*
nec fecit proximo suo malum *he who does no wrong to his brother,*
et opprobrium non intulit proximo suo. *who casts no slur on his neighbour,*

Ad nihilum reputatus est in conspectu eius malignus, *who holds the godless in disdain,*
timentes autem Dominum glorificat. *but honours those who fear the Lord;*

Qui iuravit in detrimentum suum et non mutat, *he who keeps his pledge, come what may;*
qui pecuniam suam non dedit ad usuram *who takes no interest on a loan*
et munera super innocentem non accepit. *and accepts no bribes against the innocent.*

Qui facit hæc, *Such a man*
non movebitur in æternum. *will stand firm forever.*

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

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper: *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIPHON

BEATI qui lavant stolas suas in
sanguine Agni.

*Blessed are they that wash their robes in
the blood of the Lamb.*

CANTICLE

Ephesians 1:3-10

Benedictus Deus et Pater	<i>Blessed be the God and Father</i>
Domini nostri Iesu Christi,	<i>of our Lord Jesus Christ,</i>
qui benedixit nos in omni benedictione spiritali	<i>who has blessed us in Christ with every</i>
in cælestibus in Christo,	<i>spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.</i>
sicut elegit nos in ipso	<i>He chose us in him</i>
ante mundi constitutionem,	<i>before the foundation of the world,</i>
ut essemus sancti et immaculati	<i>that we should be holy</i>
in conspectu eius in caritate,	<i>and blameless before him.</i>
qui prædestinavit nos in adoptionem filiorum	<i>He destined us in love to be his sons</i>
per Iesum Christum in ipsum,	<i>through Jesus Christ,</i>
secundum beneplacitum voluntatis suæ,	<i>according to the purpose of his will,</i>
in laudem gloriæ gratiæ suæ,	<i>to the praise of his glorious grace</i>
in qua gratificavit nos in Dilecto,	<i>which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.</i>
in quo habemus redemptionem	<i>In him we have redemption</i>
per sanguinem eius,	<i>through his blood,</i>
remissionem peccatorum,	<i>the forgiveness of our trespasses,</i>
secundum divitias gratiæ eius,	<i>according to the riches of his grace</i>
quæ superabundavit in nobis	<i>which he lavished upon us</i>
in omni sapientia et prudentia,	<i>in all wisdom and insight,</i>
notum faciens nobis mysterium voluntatis suæ,	<i>he has made known to us the mystery of his will,</i>
secundum beneplacitum eius,	<i>according to his purpose</i>
quod proposuit in eo,	<i>which he set forth in Christ</i>
in dispensationem plenitudinis temporum:	<i>as a plan for the fullness of time,</i>
recapitulare omnia in Christo,	<i>to unite all things in him,</i>
quæ in cælis et quæ in terra.	<i>things in heaven and things on earth.</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 et nunc et semper	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,</i>
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	<i>world without end. Amen.</i>

The Antiphon is repeated.

THROUGH perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding, may you reach the fullest knowledge of God's will. So you will be able to lead the kind of life which the Lord expects of you, a life acceptable to him in all its aspects; showing the results in all the good actions you do and increasing your knowledge of God. You will have in you the strength, based on his own glorious power, never to give in, but to bear anything joyfully.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Sana animam meam, *Heal my soul,*
 Quia peccavi tibi. *for I have sinned against you.*

℣. Ego dixi: Domine, *I said: 'Lord,*
 miserere mei. ℟. *have mercy on me.'*

℣. 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

MAGNIFICAT anima mea Dominum, quia
 respexit Deus humilitatem meam.

*My soul magnifies the Lord, since God has had
 regard for my humble state.*

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, *The Almighty works marvels for me.*
et sanctum nomen eius, *Holy his name!*

et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies *His mercy is from age to age,*
timentibus eum. *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, *the mercy promised to our fathers,*
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula. *to Abraham and his sons for ever.*

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

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

God our Father has bound himself to us in an everlasting covenant. In thankfulness and faith, we pray to him:

℟. **Lord, bless your people!**

In Christ you have given a new covenant to all: may they know the greatness which they have inherited. ℟.

Gather into one all who bear the name of Christian, that the world may believe in the Christ you have sent. ℟.

Pour out your love on our friends, and on all whom we know; may they carry with them the gentleness of Christ. ℟.

Comfort the dying; may they know your saving love. ℟.

Show your mercy to the dead; may they find their rest in Christ. ℟.

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

LET our worship give you glory, Lord,
who for our salvation
looked upon the lowliness of Mary your handmaid:
raise us up to share with her
the fulness of redemption.
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



General enquiries

Tel: (02) 9220 0400

Fax: (02) 9223 5208

Email: info@stmaryscathedral.org.au