

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Mass

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

14 September 2025
10.30am

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 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 was formed of men and boys, preserving the historical character of Catholic liturgical and musical heritage. However, from 2025, St Mary's began a girls' choir, and St Mary's is the only Catholic Cathedral in Australia to have an on-site Choir School where the boy and girl 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.

REGULAR CHORAL SERVICES

Sunday	1030	Solemn Mass <i>Full Choir</i>
	1700	Solemn Vespers and Benediction <i>Lay Clerks</i>
Monday	1700	Vespers <i>Lay Clerks</i>
	1730	Mass <i>Boy Choristers & Lay Clerks</i>
Tuesday	1700	Vespers <i>Cathedral Scholars</i>
	1730	Mass <i>Boy & Girl Choristers</i>
Wednesday	1700	Vespers <i>Cathedral Scholars</i>
	1730	Mass <i>Girl Choristers & Lay Clerks</i>
Thursday	1700	Vespers <i>Lay Clerks</i>
	1730	Mass <i>Lay Clerks</i>

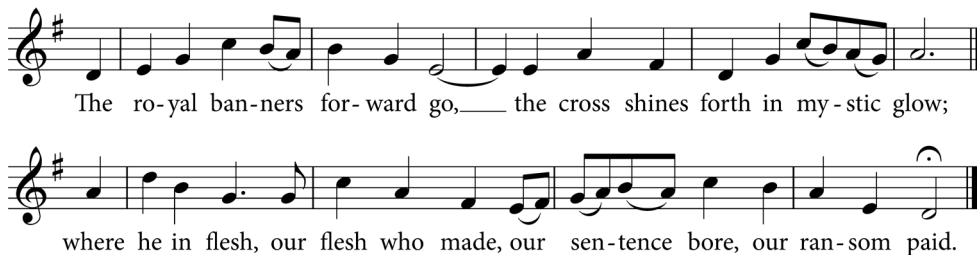
Download the weekly Music List at <http://musiclists.cathedralchoir.sydney>

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

ORDER OF MASS

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand and sing

THE HYMN



Where deep for us the spear was dyed,
Life's torrent rushing from his side,
To wash us in that precious flood,
Where mingled water flowed, and blood.

O Tree of beauty, Tree of light,
O Tree with royal purple dight,
Elect on whose triumphal breast
Those holy limbs should find their rest!

O Cross, our one reliance, hail!
So may thy power with us prevail
To give new virtue to the saint,
And pardon to the penitent.

To thee, eternal Three in One,
Let homage meet by all be done:
Whom by thy Cross thou dost restore,
Preserve and govern evermore.



Gonfalon Royal
Percy Buck (1871-1947)

Latin 5th Century
tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66)

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the INTROIT

Cf. Gal 6: 14; Psalm 66

NOS autem gloriari oportet in cruce Domini nostri Iesu Christi, in quo est salus, vita et resurrectio nostra, per quem salvati et liberati sumus. ƿ. Deus misereatur nostri, et benedicat nobis: illuminet vultum suum super nos, et misereatur nostri.

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered. ƿ. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.

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 Bishop 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 Vinium Bonum

Orlande de Lassus (1532–1594)

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.**

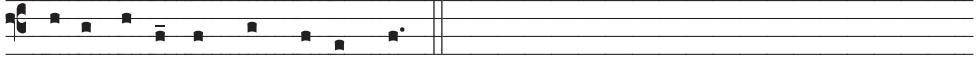
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 77(78):1-2, 34-38 *R.* v.7



R. **Never forget the deeds of the Lord.**

Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. *R.*

When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. *R.*

But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. *R.*

Yet he who is full of compassion forgave them their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. *R.*

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

The Choir sings the ALLELUIA

Alleluia.

℣ Dulce lignum, dulces clavos, dulcia ferens pondera: quae sola fuistis digna
sustinere regem coelorum et Dominum

*O sweet wood, O sweet nails that bore his sweet burden which alone were worthy to
support the King of Heaven and Lord.*

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

The Lord be with you.

℟ **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

℟ **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 bow 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

Cristóbal de Morales (c.1500–1553)

O Crux ave, spes unica. O Redemptoris gloria. Auge piis iustitiam. Reisque dona veniam.

Hail, O Cross, our only hope, glory of the Redeemer. Add to the holiness of righteous men and grant forgiveness to the guilty.

The Celebrant says


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

R: **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

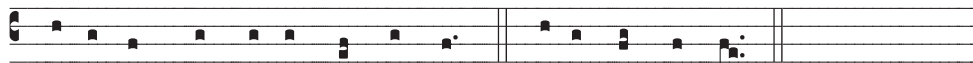
R: **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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



Lift up your hearts. **R:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **R:** **It is right and just.**

THE PREFACE

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

Ple-ni sunt cæ-li et ter-ra gló-ri-a tu-a. Ho-sán-na in
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in

ex-cél-sis. Be-ne-díc-tus qui ve-nit in nó-mi-ne Dó-mi-ni.
the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-sán-na in ex-cél-sis.
Hosanna in the highest.

When the Celebrant sings

The mystery of faith.

All sing

S AVE us, Sa-viour of the world, for by your Cross and
 Re-sur-rec-tion you have set us free.

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

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 Vinium Bonum

Orlande de Lassus (1532–1594)

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 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.

The Choir sings the COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Per signum Crucis de inimicis nostris libera nos, Deus noster.

Through the sign of the Cross free us from our sins, our God.

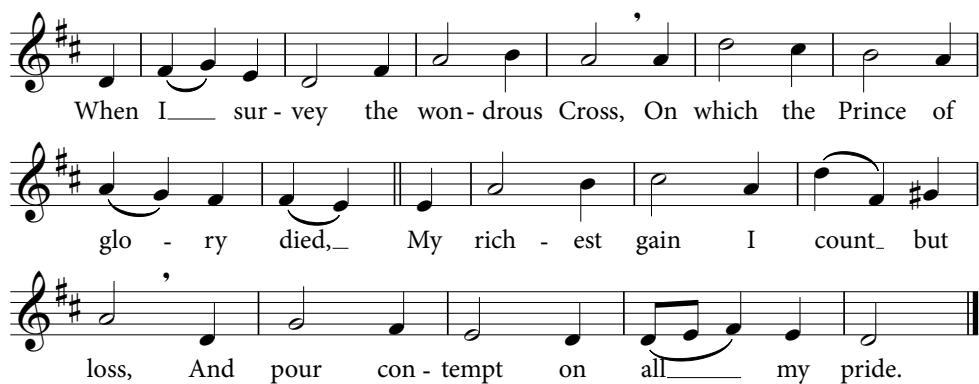
The Choir sings the COMMUNION MOTET

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us.
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee O Lord.

Sir Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley (1825–1889)

All sing

THE HYMN



**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his Blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Rockingham

Adapted by Edward Miller (1731–1807)

Harmony after Samuel Webbe (c. 1770–1843)

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

The Celebrant says the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

R: **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

R: **And with your spirit.**

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

R: **Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Hymne d'Actions de grâce ("Te Deum")

Jean Langlais (1907–1991)

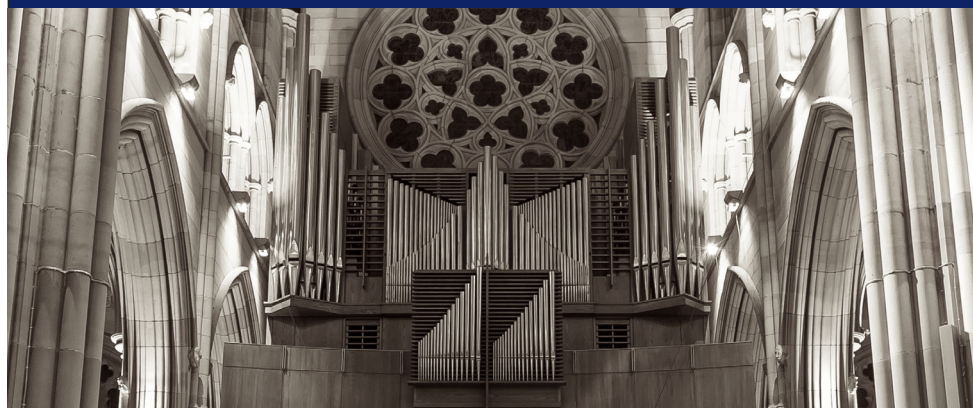
LATER TODAY IN THE CATHEDRAL

Solemn Vespers and Benediction *sung by the Lay Clerks
of St Mary's Cathedral Choir*

5.00pm



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL ORGAN CONCERTS 2025



BACH at the centre

celebrating discoveries and anniversaries

Simon Niemiński
*Assistant Director
of Music*
St Mary's Cathedral



*"This is a splendid
release... There is a lot
of poetry here."*
(American Record Guide)

*"Simon Nieminski plays
this hugely difficult
score brilliantly"*
(Choir and Organ)

Wednesday 17 September, 7pm

ADMISSION FREE • RETIRING COLLECTION

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