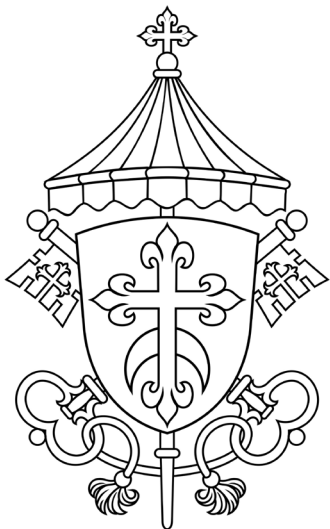


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers of the Dead

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE
FAITHFUL DEPARTED

All Souls' Day

2 November 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

Immensæ rex potentiaë, Christe, tu Patris gloriam nostrumque decus moliens, mortis fregisti iacula.	<i>O Christ, the King of boundless might, You rendered glory unto God And made us fitting in his sight By shattering death's bitter rod.</i>
Infirma nostra subiens magnumque petens prœlium, mortem qua serpens vicerat, victor calcasti moriens.	<i>Our weakness you once came to meet And, conquering, the battle fought, Who, dying, crushed beneath your feet The victory the serpent wrought.</i>
Surgens fortis e tumulo, paschali nos mysterio peccato rursus mortuos ad vitam semper innovas.	<i>Our Champion, you rose again, And by your paschal mystery Have granted us, once dead through sin, A life renewed eternally.</i>
Vitam largire gratiaë, ut, sponsus cum redieris, ornata nos cum lampade iam promptos cœlo invenias.	<i>Bestow on us this life of grace That when, O Bridegroom, you return, We may be found before your face Awake with lamps that brightly burn.</i>
In lucem nos et requiem serenus iudex accipe, quos fides Sanctæ Triadi devinxit atque caritas.	<i>Lead us, Just Judge, into your rest, For we confess the Trinity; Bestow on us your splendour blest, Who live by faith in charity.</i>
Fratres et omnes advoca, qui nunc exuti corpore in regna Patris inhiant, ut te collaudent perpetim. Amen.	<i>Now that their earthly life has passed, Call forth your servants, we implore, Who long to enter heaven at last To praise you there for evermore. Amen.</i>

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

DOMINUS custodit te ab omni malo:
custodiat animam tuam Dominus.

*The Lord will guard you from every evil, he will
guard your soul.*

PSALM 120 (121)

Levabo oculos meos in montes: *I lift up my eyes to the mountains:*
unde veniet auxilium mihi? *from where shall come my help?*

Auxilium meum a Domino, *My help shall come from the Lord*
qui fecit cælum et terram. *who made heaven and earth.*

Non dabit in commotionem pedem tuum, *May he never allow you to stumble!*
neque dormitabit, qui custodit te. *Let him sleep not, your guard.*

Ecce non dormitabit neque dormiet, *No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,*
qui custodit Israel. *Israel's guard.*

Dominus custodit te, *The Lord is your guard*
Dominus umbraculum tuum, *and your shade;*
ad manum dexteram tuam. *at your right side he stands.*

Per diem sol non percutiet te, *By day the sun shall not smite you*
et luna per noctem. *nor the moon in the night.*

Dominus custodiet te ab omni malo; *The Lord will guard you from evil,*
custodiet animam tuam Dominus. *he will guard your soul.*

Dominus custodiet introitum tuum *The Lord will guard your going*
et exitum tuum *and coming*
ex hoc nunc et usque in sæculum. *both now and 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.

SECOND ANTIPHON

SI iniquitates observaveris, Domine;
Domine, quis sustinebit?

*If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?*

PSALM 129 (130)

De profundis clamavi ad te, Domine; *Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,*
Domine, exaudi vocem meam. *Lord, hear my voice!*

Fiant aures tuæ intendentes *O let your ears be attentive*
in vocem deprecationis meæ. *to the voice of my pleading.*

Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine, *If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,*
Domine, quis sustinebit? *Lord, who would survive?*

Quia apud te propitiatio est, *But with you is found forgiveness:*
ut timeamus te. *for this we revere you.*

Sustinui te, Domine, *My soul is waiting for the Lord.*
sustinuit anima mea in verbo eius; *I count on his word.*

speravit anima mea in Domino *My soul is longing for the Lord*
magis quam custodes auroram. *more than watchman for daybreak.*

Magis quam custodes auroram *Let the watchman count on daybreak*
speret Israel in Domino, *and Israel on the Lord.*

quia apud Dominum misericordia, *Because with the Lord there is mercy*
et copiosa apud eum redemptio. *and fullness of redemption,*

Et ipse redimet Israel *Israel indeed he will redeem*
ex omnibus iniquitatibus eius. *from all its iniquity.*

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

SICUT Pater suscitāt mortuos et vivificat,
sic et Filius quos vult vivificat.

*As the Father raises the dead and gives them
life, so the Son gives life to anyone he chooses.*

CANTICLE

Philippians 2:6-11

Christus Iesus, cum in forma Dei esset, non rapinam arbitratus est esse se æqualem Deo,	<i>Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.</i>
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sed semetipsum exinanivit formam servi accipiens, in similitudinem hominum factus;	<i>He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.</i>
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et habitu inventus ut homo, humiliavit semetipsum factus obœdiens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.	<i>And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.</i>
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Propter quod et Deus illum exaltavit et donavit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen,	<i>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,</i>
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ut in nomine Iesu omne genu flectatur cælestium et terrestrium et infernorum	<i>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,</i>
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et omnis lingua confiteatur: Dominus Iesus Christus, in gloriam Dei Patris.	<i>And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</i>
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Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
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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>
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The Antiphon is repeated.

DEATH, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?
Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from
the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ.

MOTET

CREDO quod Redemptor meus vivit et in novissimo die de terra surrecturus
sum et in carne mea videbo Deum salvatorem meum.

*I know that my redeemer lives, and that on the last day I shall be resurrected from the
earth: and in my flesh shall I see God, my Saviour.*

Robert Parsons (1530–1570)

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

OMNE quod dat mihi Pater ad me veniet:
et eum qui venit ad me, non eiciam foras.

*All that the Father gives me will come to me; and
I will never turn away the one who comes to me.*

MAGNIFICAT

Septimi Toni

David Bevan (1951-2021)

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

Let us pray to Christ who gives us the hope that our mortal bodies will become like his in glory.

℟ **Lord, you are our life and our resurrection.**

Christ, Son of the living God, you raised your friend Lazarus from the dead; grant life and glory to the faithful departed, redeemed by your precious blood. ℟

Compassionate Saviour, you wiped away all tears when you gave back to the widow of Naim her only son; comfort those who mourn because the one they love has died. ℟

Christ, our Redeemer, destroy the reign of sin in our mortal bodies; let us not receive the wages of death but the reward of eternal life. ℟

Christ, our Saviour, look on those who live without hope and do not know you; let them believe in the resurrection and the life of the world to come. ℟

You restored sight to the man born blind and opened the eyes of his faith; reveal your face to the dead who have not seen your glory. ℟

Lord, be merciful to us when we leave this earthly dwelling; make for us a home in heaven that will last for ever. ℟

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

GRANT, Lord, we pray,
that as our faith is built on the Risen Christ,
so too our hope may be steadfast
as we await the resurrection of all the faithful departed.
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.**

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.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Élégie (Op. 38)

Flor Peeters (1903–1986)

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