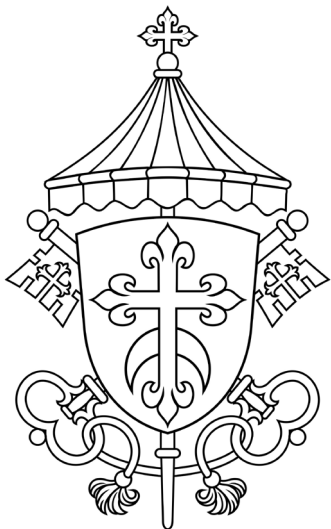


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Mass

First Sunday
of Advent

30 November 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

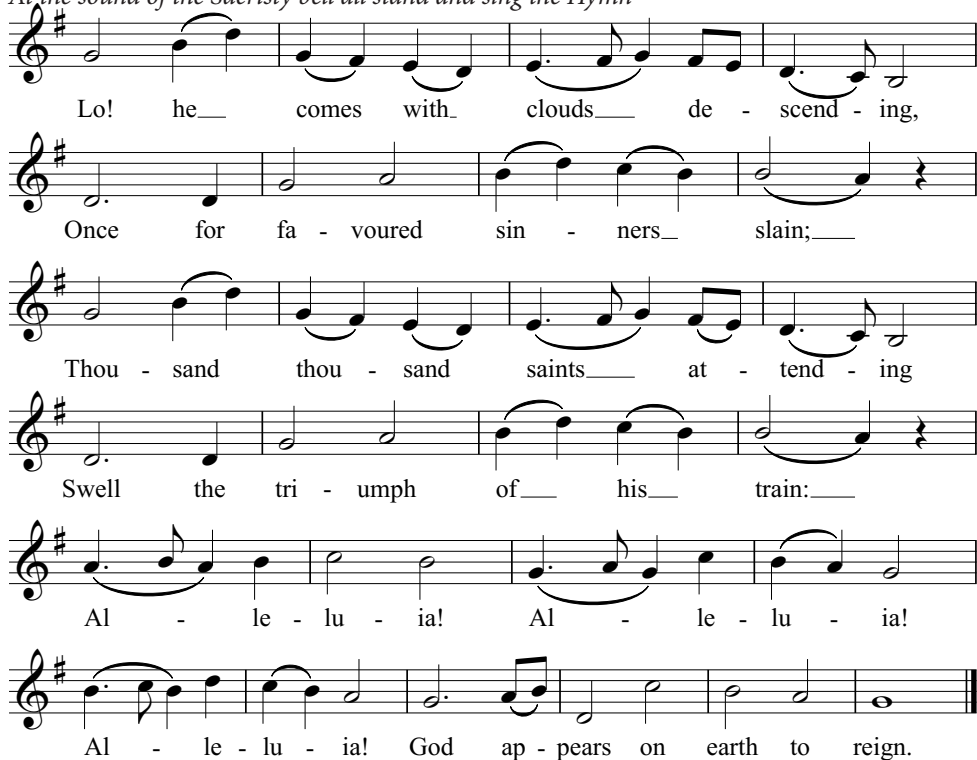
Sunday	1030	Solemn Mass <i>Full Choir</i>
	1700	Solemn Vespers and Benediction <i>Lay Clerks</i>
Monday	1700	Vespers <i>Lay Clerks</i>
	1730	Mass <i>Boy Choristers & Lay Clerks</i>
Tuesday	1700	Vespers <i>Cathedral Scholars</i>
	1730	Mass <i>Boy & Girl Choristers</i>
Wednesday	1700	Vespers <i>Cathedral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

**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



Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Swell the tri - umph of his train:
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! God ap - pears on earth to reign.

2

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.

3

Those dear tokens of his Passion
Still his dazzling body bears
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Helmsley
Thomas Olivers (1725–1799)
adapted Martin Madan (1726–1790)*

*John Cennick (1718–1755)
and Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the INTROIT

cf. Psalm 24:1-4

AD te levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confido, non erubescam: neque
irrideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur.
V. Vias tuas, Domine, demonstra mihi: et semitas tuas edoce me.

*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame. V.
Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.*

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 Celebrant 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

from Missa Brevis 'Sancti Ioannis de Deo'

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant says the COLLECT

℟: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 121:1-2,4-5,6-9 ℟. cf. v.1



℟: **I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to God's house.**

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. ℟.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. ℟.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' ℟.

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. ℟.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

The Choir sings the ALLELUIA

℣ Psalm 84:8

Alleluia.

℣ Ostende nobis Domine misericordiam tuam: et salutare tuum da nobis.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

The Lord be with you.

℣ **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

℣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

AND the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

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

THE 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. Ple-ni
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

sunt cæ- li et ter- ra gló-ri- a tu- a. Ho- sán-na in ex-cél-sis. Be-ne-díc-
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed

tus qui ve-nit in nó-mine Dómi-ni. Ho- sán-na in excél- sis.
is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the Celebrant sings

The mystery of faith.

All sing

W[℣] HEN we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death,
O Lord, until you come a-gain.

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 Brevis 'Sancti Ioannis de Deo'

Joseph Haydn

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

Psalms 84:13

Dominus dabit benignitatem: et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

The Choir sings the COMMUNION MOTET

Paul Brough (b. 1963)

TANTUM ergo Sacramentum veneremur cernui; et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui: præstet fides supplementum sensuum defectui. Genitori Genitoque laus et iubilatio, salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio: Procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith, our outward sense befriending, makes the inward vision clear. Glory let us give, and blessing to the Father, and the Son; honour, might, and praise addressing, while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing, who, from both, with both is one. Amen.

All sing

THE HYMN



1. God is___ wor-king his pur - pose out as___ year__ suc-ceeds__ to
2. From ut - most east to___ ut - most west, where hu - man foot__ has
3. What can we do to___ work God's work, to___ pro - sper and___ in-
4. March we__ forth in the strength of God with the ban-ner of Christ__ un-
5. All we can do is___ no - thing worth un - less__ God bles-ses the



1. year:_____ God is___ wor - king his pur - pose__ out and the
2. trod, by the mouth of___ ma - ny___ mes - sen - gers goes__
3. crease the___ love of___ God in___ all man - kind, the___
4. furled, the___ light of the glor - rious__ gos - pel of truth may__
5. deed;_____ Vain - ly we hope for the har - vest - tide till__



1. time is___ draw - ing___ near;_____ Near - er and near - er
2. forth the___ voice of___ God;_____ Give ear to me, ye
3. reign of the prince of___ peace?_____ What can we do to
4. shine through - out the___ world:_____ Fight we the fight with
5. God gives___ life to the seed; yet near - er and near - er



1. draws__ the time, the time that shall sure - ly be. when the
2. con - ti - nents ye isles, give__ ear to me, that the
3. has - ten the time, the time that shall sure - ly be, when the
4. sor - row and sin to set their__ cap - tives free, that the
5. draws__ the time, the time that shall sure - ly be, when the



1. earth shall be filled with the glo - ry of God as the wa-ters co-ver the sea.
2. earth may be filled with the glo - ry of God as the wa-ters co-ver the sea.
3. earth shall be filled with the glo - ry of God as the wa-ters co-ver the sea.
4. earth may be filled with the glo - ry of God as the wa-ters co-ver the sea.
5. earth shall be filled with the glo - ry of God as the wa-ters co-ver the sea.

The Celebrant says the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

R: **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

R: **And with your spirit.**

Bow down for the blessing.

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing.

R: **Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

R: **Amen.**

So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

R: **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R: **Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

March on Handel's 'Lift up your heads'

Felix Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)

LATER TODAY IN THE CATHEDRAL

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

5.00pm



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

THE OLDEST MUSIC INSTITUTION IN AUSTRALIA



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full scholarships for all
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Mary's Cathedral College.*

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AND GIRLS IN YEAR 3
FOR 2026**



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