

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

23 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.**

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

As the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the altar all kneel and sing:



O sa - lu - tá - ris Hó - sti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis ós - ti - um,
O saving Victim, opening wide the gate of Heaven to man below;



Bel - la pre - munt ho - stí - li - a, Da ro - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.
Our foes press hard on every side; thine aid supply; thy strength bestow.



U - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi - tér - na gló - ri - a,
All praise and thanks to thee ascend, for ever more, blest one in three.



Qui vi - tam si - ne tér - mi - no No - bis do - net in pá - tri - a.
O grant us life that shall not end, in our true native land with thee.



A - men.

ORDER OF VESPERS

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

Te sæculorum principem,	<i>Ruler of all from heaven's high throne,</i>
Te, Christe, Regem gentium,	<i>O Christ, our King ere time began,</i>
Te mentium, te cordium	<i>We kneel before thee Lord, to own</i>
Unum fatemur arbitrum.	<i>Thy empire o'er the heart of man.</i>
Quem prona adorant agmina	<i>The heavenly cohorts adoring kneel,</i>
Hymnisque laudant cælitum,	<i>And raise hymns in thy praise,</i>
Te nos ovantes omnium	<i>As we, in prayer, confess thee</i>
Regem supremum dicimus.	<i>Sovereign King of all.</i>
O Christe, princeps pacifer,	<i>O Prince of Peace, O Christ, subdue</i>
Mentes rebelles subice:	<i>Those rebel hearts, thy peace restore;</i>
Tuoque amore devios	<i>Into thy sheep-fold lead anew</i>
Ovile in unum congrega.	<i>Thy scattered sheep, to stray no more.</i>
Ad hoc cruenta ab arbore	<i>For this upon the tree of shame</i>
Pendes apertis brachiis,	<i>Thy body hung, with arms spread wide,</i>
Diraque fossum cuspidē	<i>The spear revealed the heart of flame</i>
Cor igne flagrans exhibes.	<i>That burned within thy sacred side.</i>
Ad hoc in aris abderis	<i>For this our altars here are spread</i>
Vini dapisque imagine,	<i>With mystic feast of bread and wine;</i>
Fundens salutem filiis	<i>Still thy redeeming blood is shed</i>
Transverberato pectore.	<i>From that sore-stricken heart of thine.</i>
Iesu, tibi sit gloria,	<i>Jesus, to thee be honour done,</i>
Qui sceptrā mundi temperas,	<i>who rulest all in equity.</i>
Cum Patre et almo Spiritu,	<i>With Father, Spirit, ever one,</i>
In sempiterna sæcula. Amen.	<i>From age to age eternally. Amen.</i>

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

SUPER solium David et super regnum
eius sedebit in æternum, alleluia.

*He will sit on the throne of David and will
rule his kingdom for ever, alleluia.*

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: *The Lord's revelation to my Master:*
«Sede a dextris meis, *'Sit on my right:*

donec ponam inimicos tuos: *your foes I will put*
scabellum pedum tuorum». *beneath your feet.'*

Virgam potentiæ tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion: *The Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power:*
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum. *rule in the midst of all your foes.*

Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuæ, *A prince from the day of your birth*
in splendoribus sanctis: *on the holy mountains;*
ex utero ante luciferum genui te. *from the womb before the dawn I begot you.*

Iuravit Dominus et non pænitebit eum: *The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.*
«Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum *'You are a priest for ever,*
ordinem Melchisedech». *a priest like Melchizedek of old.'*

Dominus a dextris tuis: *The Master standing at your right hand*
conquassabit in die iræ suæ reges. *will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.*

De torrente in via bibet: *He shall drink from the stream by the wayside*
propterea exaltabit caput. *and therefore he shall lift up his head.*

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

REGNUM tuum, regnum omnium sæculorum, et
dominatio tua in omnem generationem et generationem.

*Yours is an everlasting kingdom; Lord your rule lasts from age
to age.*

PSALM 144 (145)

Exaltabo te, Deus meus rex, *	<i>I will give you glory, O God my king,</i>
et benedicam nomini tuo	<i>I will bless your name</i>
in sæculum et in sæculum sæculi.	<i>for ever.</i>
Per singulos dies benedicam tibi, *	<i>I will bless you day after day</i>
et laudabo nomen tuum	<i>and praise your name</i>
in sæculum et in sæculum sæculi.	<i>for ever.</i>
Magnus Dominus et laudabilis nimis, *	<i>The Lord is great, highly to be praised,</i>
et magnitudinis eius non est investigatio.	<i>his greatness cannot be measured.</i>
Generatio generationi laudabit opera tua, *	<i>Age to age shall proclaim your works,</i>
et potentiam tuam pronuntiabunt.	<i>shall declare your mighty deeds,</i>
Magnificentiam gloriæ maiestatis tuæ loquentur, *	<i>shall speak of your splendour and glory,</i>
et mirabilia tua enarrabunt.	<i>tell the tale of your wonderful works.</i>
Et virtutem terribilium tuorum dicent, *	<i>They will speak of your terrible deeds,</i>
et magnitudinem tuam narrabunt.	<i>recount your greatness and might.</i>
Memoriam abundantiae suavitatis tuæ eructabunt, *	<i>They will recall your abundant goodness;</i>
et iustitia tua exsultabunt.	<i>age to age shall ring out your justice.</i>
Miserator et misericors Dominus, *	<i>The Lord is kind and full of compassion,</i>
longanimis et multæ misericordiæ.	<i>slow to anger, abounding in love.</i>
Suavis Dominus universis, *	<i>How good is the Lord to all,</i>
et miserationes eius super omnia opera eius.	<i>compassionate to all his creatures.</i>
Confiteantur tibi, Domine, omnia opera tua; *	<i>All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,</i>
et sancti tui benedicant tibi.	<i>and your friends shall repeat their blessing.</i>
Gloriam regni tui dicant, *	<i>They shall speak of the glory of your reign</i>
et potentiam tuam loquantur,	<i>and declare your might, O God,</i>
ut notas faciant filiis hominum potentias tuas, *	<i>to make known to men your mighty deeds</i>
et gloriam magnificentiae regni tui.	<i>and the glorious splendour of your reign.</i>
Regnum tuum regnum omnium sæculorum, *	<i>Yours is an everlasting kingdom;</i>
et dominatio tua in omnem generationem	<i>your rule lasts from age</i>
et generationem.	<i>to age.</i>
Gloria Patri...	<i>Glory be to the Father...</i>

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIPHON

HABET in vestimento et in femore suo scriptum: Rex regum et Dominus dominantium. Ipsi gloria et imperium in sæcula sæculorum.

On his cloak and on his thigh there was a name written: The King of kings and the Lord of lords. To him be glory and honour for ever and ever.

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro:	<i>Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,</i>
Alleluia.	<i>Alleluia.</i>
quia vera et iusta iudicia eius.	<i>his judgements are true and just.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	<i>Alleluia, alleluia.</i>
Laudem dicite Deo nostro, omnes servi eius:	<i>Praise our God, all you his servants,</i>
Alleluia.	<i>Alleluia.</i>
et qui timetis eum, pusilli et magni!	<i>you who fear him, small and great.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	<i>Alleluia, alleluia.</i>
Quoniam regnavit Dominus,	<i>The Lord our God,</i>
Deus noster omnipotens:	<i>the Almighty, reigns,</i>
Alleluia.	<i>Alleluia.</i>
Gaudeamus et exultemus et demus gloriam ei.	<i>let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	<i>Alleluia, alleluia.</i>
Quia venerunt nuptiæ Agni:	<i>The marriage of the Lamb has come,</i>
Alleluia.	<i>Alleluia.</i>
et uxor eius præparavit se.	<i>and his bride has made herself ready.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	<i>Alleluia, alleluia.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio:	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son</i>
Alleluia.	<i>Alleluia.</i>
et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	<i>Alleluia, alleluia.</i>
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,</i>
Alleluia.	<i>Alleluia.</i>
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	<i>world without end. Amen.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	<i>Alleluia, alleluia.</i>

The Antiphon is repeated.

HE must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet, and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Sedes tua, Deus, *Your throne, O God, shall stand*
In sæculum sæculi. *for ever and ever.*

℣ Sceptrum æquitatis, *The sceptre of your kingdom*
sceptrum regni tui. *is a sceptre of justice.*

℣ 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

DATA est mihi omnis potestas
in cælo et in terra, alleluia.

*All authority in heaven and on
earth has been given to me, alleluia.*

MAGNIFICAT

Octavi toni

Cristóbal de Morales (c.1500–1553)

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

To Christ our King, who is first in all things and in whom all things exist, let us confidently pray:

℟. **Lord, may your kingdom come.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our king and our shepherd, gather your flock from every corner of the earth: set it to graze it in your fresh and fertile pastures. ℟

Jesus, our leader and Saviour, make all people your own; heal the sick, seek out the lost, preserve the strong: bring back the strayed, reunite those who are scattered and give new hope to the downhearted. ℟

Jesus, eternal judge, when you hand over your kingdom to your Father, seat us at your right hand; and let us take possession of the kingdom prepared for us since the foundation of the world. ℟

Jesus, prince of peace, destroy the weapons of war: speak words of peace to your people. ℟

Jesus, heir of all nations, bring all mankind into the kingdom of your Church, which was entrusted to you by the Father: so that all may acknowledge you as the Head in the unity of the Holy Spirit. ℟

Jesus, firstborn of the dead and first-fruits of those who sleep, bring all who have died to the glory of your resurrection. ℟

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

ALMIGHTY, ever-living God,
it is your will to unite the entire universe under your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, the King of heaven and earth.
Grant freedom to the whole of creation,
and let it praise and serve your majesty for ever.
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.**

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

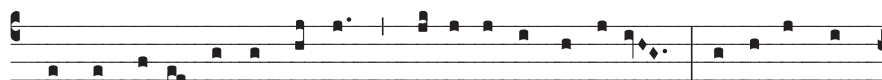
LAUDIBUS in sanctis Dominum celebrate supremum: firmamenta sonent inclyta
facta Dei; inclyta facta Dei cantate, sacraque potentis voce potestatem sæpe sonate
manus. Magnificum Domini cantet tuba martia nomen: pieria Domino concelebrate
lyra. Laude Dei resonent resonantia tympana summi: Alta sacri resonent organa
laude Dei. Hunc arguta canant tenui psalteria corda, hunc agili laudet læta chorea
pede. Concava divinas effundant cymbala laudes, cymbala dulcesona laude repleta
Dei. Omne quod æthereis in mundo vescitur auris. Alleluia canat, tempus in omne
Deo.

*Praise the Lord most high with praises in his sanctuary: let the firmament resound the
celebrated works of God. Sing the celebrated works of God, and in a voice of holy might
sound forth often the power of his hand. Let the martial trumpet sing the Lord's splendid
name: together praise the Lord with the Pierian lyre. Let resounding drums sound to the
praise of God most high: let high organs sound to the praise of God most holy to whom
skilful psalteries sing with subtle string, to whom let joyful dance give praise with nimble
foot. Hollow cymbals pour out divine praises, sweet-sounding cymbals full of the praise
of God. All on earth that is fed by the air of heaven sings halleluya in eternity to God.*

William Byrd (c.1540–1623)

All sing

T



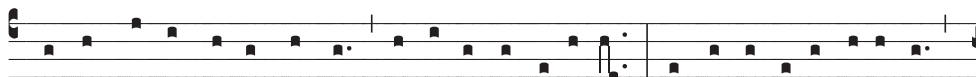
ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cégnu-i : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows



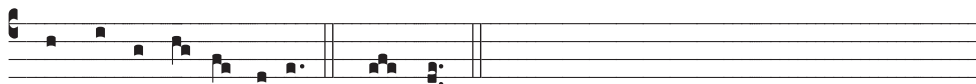
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum
have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,



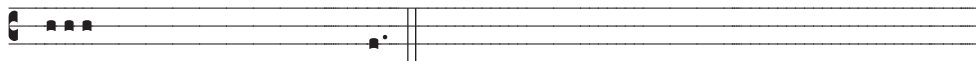
sénsu-um de-féc-tu-i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tó-que laus et iu-bi-la-ti-o,
makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,



sa-lus, honor, virtus quoque sit et be-ne-dícti-o : pro-ce-dénti ab utró-que
honour, thanks, and praise addressing while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing,



compar sit lau-dá-ti-o. A-men.
who from both with both is One.



∇ Panem de cælo præstitisti e- is.

You gave them bread from heaven.



℟ Omne delectaméntum in se habén- tem.

Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

Let us pray.

DEUS, qui nobis sub sacramento
mirabili passionis tuæ memoriam
reliquisti: tribue quæsumus, ita nos corporis
et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut
redemptionis tuæ fructum in nobis iugiter
sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula
sæculorum.

*O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament
has left us a memorial of your passion:
grant us so to venerate the sacred
mysterries of your Body and Blood, that
we may perceive within ourselves the fruit
of thy redemption; who lives and reigns
for ever and ever.*

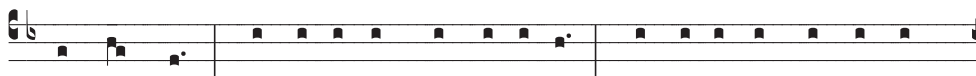
℟ Amen.

BENEDICTION *is given.*

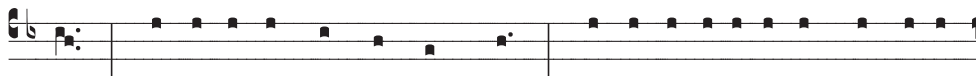
THE DIVINE PRAISES



Blessèd be God. Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God



and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred



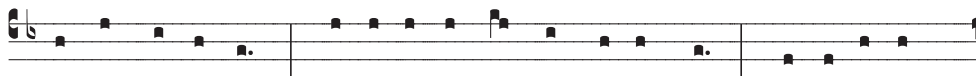
Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



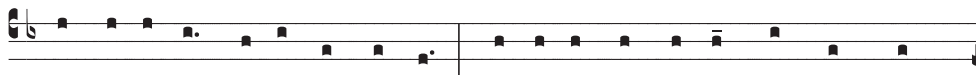
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



the great Mother of God, Ma-ry most Ho-ly. Blessèd be her Holy and Imma-



cu-late Conception. Blessèd be her Glorious Assumption. Blessèd be the

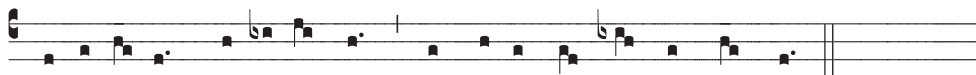


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



spouse. Blessèd be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing



A-do-rémus * in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.

Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes:
laudate eum omnes populi.

*O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim his all you peoples!*

Quoniam confirmata est super nos
misericordia eius:
et veritas Domini manet in æternum.

*Strong is his
love for us;
he is faithful for ever.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio:
et Spiritui Sancto,

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,*

sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper:
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*



A-do-rémus * in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.

Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

S Al- ve, * Re-gi- na, ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi- ae: Vi- ta, dulcé- do,
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness

et spes nostra, sal- ve. Ad te clamá- mus, éxsu-les, fí- li- i Hevae. Ad te
and our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee

suspi-rá- mus, geméntes et flen-tes in hac la-cri-má-rum val-le. E- ia ergo,
do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then,

advoca- ta nostra, il-los tu- os mi-se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos convér- te.
most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us;

Et Ie-sum, bene-díc-tum fructum ventris tu- i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li- um
And show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.

os- ténde. O cle- mens : O pi- a : O dul-cis Virgo Ma-rí- a.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Motet: Deus, tibi laus et honor (adapted from K345)

Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)

St Mary's Cathedral

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