

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Mass

Second Sunday
of Advent

7 December 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

On Jor-dan's bank the Bap-tist's cry An - noun-ces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hear-ken, for he brings Glad ti-dings from the King of kings.

**Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.**

**Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

*Winchester New
Musikalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg (1690)*

*Jordanis oras prævia
Charles Coffin (1676–1749)
tr. John Chandler (1808–1876)*

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the INTROIT

cf. Isaiah 30:19,30; Psalm 79

POPULUS Sion, ecce Dominus veniet ad salvandas gentes: et auditam faciet Dominus gloriam vocis suae, in laetitia cordis vestri. V. Qui regis Israel, intende: qui deducis velut ovem Ioseph.

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart. V. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, you who lead Joseph's flock.

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Archbishop says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

℟: **Amen.**

Peace 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 Archbishop 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 Mass in G major

Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)

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

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

The Archbishop says the COLLECT

℟. **Amen.**

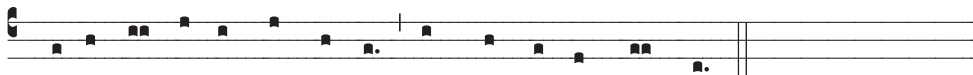
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 ℟ cf. v.7



℟. **In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. ℟.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. ℟.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. ℟.

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. ℟.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-9

Alleluia.

℣. *Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus.*

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

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

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

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

CANITE tuba in Sion, quia prope est dies Domini: Ecce venit ad salvandum nos.
Erunt prava in directa, et aspera in vias planas: veni, Domine, et noli tardare.
Alleluia.

Sing with the trumpet in Sion, because the day of the Lord is near: Behold, he comes to save us. The crooked will be made straight, and the rough places into level roads: come, Lord, and do not delay. Alleluia.

The Archbishop says

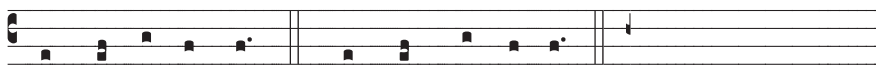
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

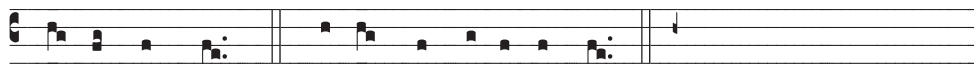
℟: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

The Archbishop says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

℟: **Amen.**


THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER


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



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


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ℟: **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.

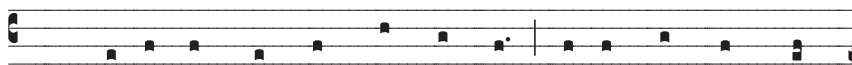
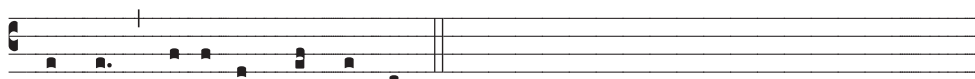

 sunt cæ- li et ter- ra gló-ri- a tu- a. Ho- sán-na in ex-cél-sis. Be-ne-díc-
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed


 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 Archbishop sings

The mystery of faith.

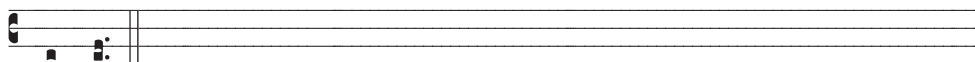
All sing

W 
 HEN we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death,

 O Lord, until you come a-gain.

When the Archbishop 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.

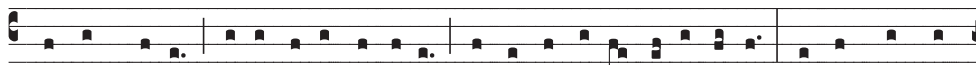
COMMUNION RITE

Praeceptis salutaribus moniti, et divina institutione formati, audemus dicere:

All sing



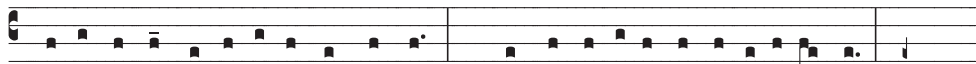
A-ter noster, qui es in cælis: sancti-fi-cé-tur nomen tu-um; ad-vé-ni-at
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy



regnum tuum; fi-at volúntas tu-a, si-cut in cæ-lo, et in terra. Panem nostrum
kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day



co-ti-di- á-num da nobis hódi- e; et dimít-te nobis dé-bi-ta nostra, si-cut et nos
our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we

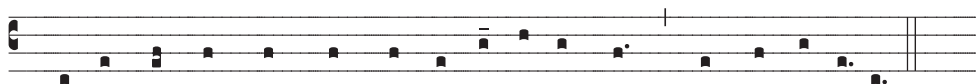


dimít-timus de-bi-tó-ri-bus nostris; et ne nos indúcas in tenta-ti- ó-nem;
forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,



sed lí-be-ra nos a ma-lo.
but deliver us from evil.

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.**

All sing the AGNUS DEI


Mass XVII



A-gnus De- i, * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mundi: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.



A-gnus De- i, * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mundi: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.



A-gnus De- i, * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mundi: do-na no-bis pa-cem.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Archbishop 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

Baruch 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem surge, et sta in excelso: et vide iucunditatem, quæ veniet tibi a Deo tuo.

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

During Holy Communion, the Choir sings the AGNUS DEI

from Mass in G major

Francis Poulenc

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: grant us peace.

All sing

THE HYMN

Hills of the North, re - joice, E - cho-ing songs a - rise,
Hail with un - it - ed voice Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in right - eous - ness and love, He
brings sal - va - tion from a - bove.

2

Isles of the Southern seas
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.

3

Lands of the east, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

4

Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5

Shout, as you journey on,
Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the longing earth be blest.

*Little Cornard
Martin Shaw (1875–1958)*

based on C E Oakley (1832–1865)

The Archbishop 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

Fantasy on 'Helmsley' (Six Fantasies on Hymn Tunes, Op. 72)

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

LATER TODAY IN THE CATHEDRAL

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

5.00pm