# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



# Carols and Midnight Mass



The Nativity of the Lord 2025

# 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.

#### APOSTOLIC BLESSING

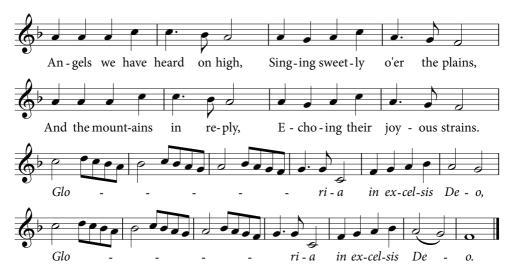
At the end of this Mass the Archbishop will impart the Papal Blessing, which carries with it the grant of a Plenary Indulgence. The Plenary Indulgence may be received by all Catholics present who are truly penitent; and have confessed their sins, have prayed for the intentions of the Pope and the Church, and have received Holy Communion.

An Indulgence is 'a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.' (Pope Paul VI, 'Indulgentiarum doctrina')

Indulgences gained may be applied to the living or the dead.

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

#### THE HYMN



2

Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your rapturous strain prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing:
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Les anges dans nos campagnes 18th century French carol Henri Friedrich Hémy (1818–1888) after James Chadwick (1813–1882)

# INTRODUCTION

 $B_{\rm c}^{\rm ROTHERS}$  and sisters, as we journey through this Advent season, we prepare our hearts to joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and the birth of our hope in the infant child of Bethlehem.

When the world was in need of a Saviour, he took our flesh, and being born of the Virgin Mary, fulfilled that which was told by prophets. Now, when our world is in need of a Saviour again, let us bring to the Manger our prayers for peace and harmony among all peoples, and most especially in the land of His birth. For governments and civil leaders, for the unloved, the sick, the housebound, those who do not believe in Christ, and those who live without hope.

Lastly, we remember all those who trusted in Christ's love while here on earth, and who now stand before the throne of Divine Grace, saints among saints in the halls of heaven. And, freed at last from the wound of corruption and made fully into a new creation, we pray on our own behalf that we too may one day sing the joyful song of the angels in the Kingdom of Heaven.

R. Amen.

All sit.

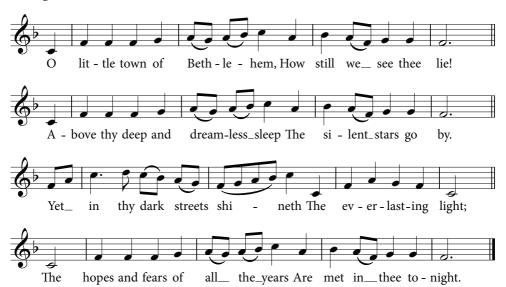
# FIRST READING

Isaiah 11: 1-10

THERE shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.



2

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

4

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

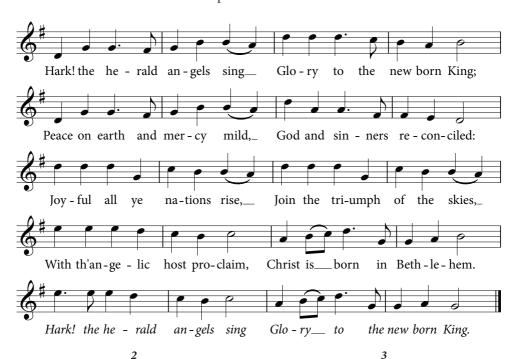
English traditional arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

#### SECOND READING

#### Micah 5: 2-5

OBethlehem Ephrathah, you who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.



Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come Offspring of a Virgin's womb! Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Hark! the herald Angels sing Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:
Hark! the herald Angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

#### THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

GOD our Father, our human nature is the wonderful work of your hands, made still more wonderful by your work of redemption. Your Son took to himself our manhood: grant us a share in the godhead of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

#### R. Amen.

All remain standing.

A cantor sings

# THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

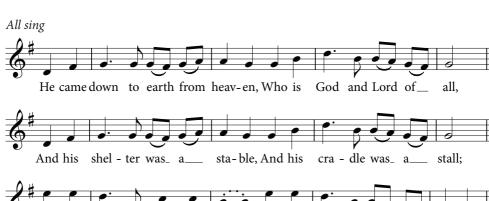
The Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world. when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of the Ur of the Chaldees: in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace, JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

All sit.

# ORDER OF MASS

All stand at the sound of the Sacristy bell, and remain silent as a chorister sings

NCE in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.



With the poor, and mean, and low-ly, Lived on earth our Sa - viour ho-ly.

3

And through all his wondrous childhood He would honour and obey, Love, and watch the lowly maiden, In whose gentle arms he lay; Christian children all must be Mild, obedient, good as he.

4

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

Irby Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876) arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015) 5

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

6

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)

# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the Introit

Psalm 2:7; 1, 2, 8

OMINUS dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te. 🏋 Quare fremuerunt gentes: et populi meditati sunt inania?

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day. V. Why this tumult among nations, among peoples this useless murmuring?

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.

R. Amen.

Peace be with you.

R: And with your spirit.

#### PENITENTIAL ACT

The Archbishop says

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord, have mercy.

**R** Lord, have mercy.

You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ, have mercy.

RX: Christ, have mercy.

You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The Archbishop gives the absolution, saying

AY blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and all the Saints assist you with their merits and prayers. May the almighty and merciful Lord forgive you and free you from all your sins. May he help you persevere in fruitful penance, good example, and sincere charity, and lead you to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

# The Choir sings the GLORIA

#### from Missa Hodie Christus Natus Est

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.

*The Archbishop says the* Collect

R. Amen.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

*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, Iesus Christ. with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

THE people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the barb across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95:1-3,11-13 R. Luke 2:11



O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

GOD'S grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings the Alleluia

¥. Psalm 2:7

Alleluia.

W. Dominus dixit at me: Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te.

*The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.* 

Alleluia.

All stand.

Gospel Luke 2:1-14

The Lord be with you.

 $\mathbb{R}$  And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

R: Glory to you, O Lord.

CAESAR Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to

you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### THE HOMILY

is given by
The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP
Archbishop of Sydney

Following the Homily all stand.

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 KNEEL** 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

Sir Philip Ledger CBE (1937–2012)

N Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty? When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place. Angels and men with joy may sing all for to see the newborn King. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore, Amen!

#### 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

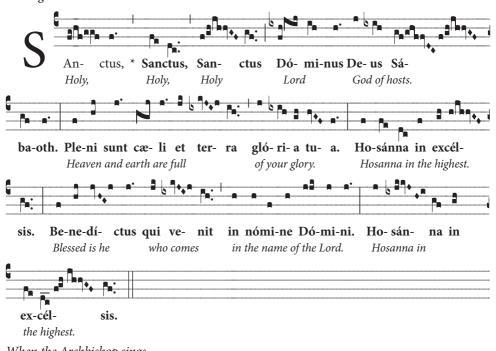
R. Amen.

# THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



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

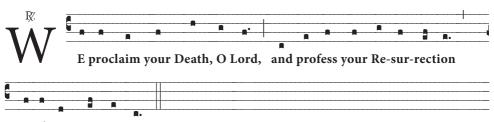
THE PREFACE



When the Archbishop sings

The mystery of faith.

All sing

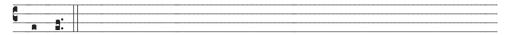


until you come a-gain.

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.

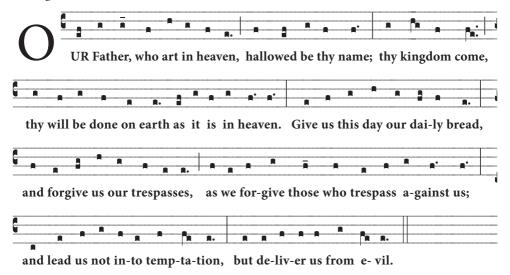
All respond



# **COMMUNION RITE**

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing



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.



Ry 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.

#### R. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

 $\mathbb{R}$  And with your spirit.

from Missa Hodie Christus Natus Est

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

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 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.

**R** 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

Psalm 109:3

In splendoribus sanctorum, ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

In holy splendour I begot you before the dawn.

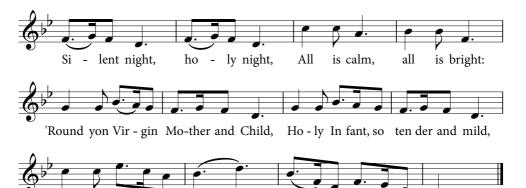
The Choir sings the Communion Motet

Adolphe Charles Adam (1803-1856)

Oholy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

2. Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is peace. Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother And in His Name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy Name! Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory ever more proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

#### THE HYMN



Sleep\_ in hea-ven-ly

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia; Christ, the Saviour, is born, Christ, the Saviour, is born!

peace,\_

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Stille Nacht Franz Grüber (1787–1863)

Sleep

in hea-ven-ly

Stille Nacht Joseph Mohr (1792–1849) tr. John Freeman Young (1820–1885)

peace.

The Archbishop says the Prayer after Communion

R. Amen.

# THE CONCLUDING RITES

### The Deacon announces the Apostolic Blessing, saying

The Most Reverend Father, Anthony, by the grace of God and the Apostolic See, Bishop of this holy Church of Sydney, will give the Apostolic Blessing with a plenary indulgence, in the name of the Roman Pontiff, to all present who are truly penitent and have confessed their sins and received Holy Communion. Pray to God for our Most Holy Father, Pope Leo, our Archbishop, Anthony, and for holy Mother Church and strive, by holiness of life, to walk in full communion with it.

The Lord be with you.

# R: And with your spirit.

Bow down for the blessing.

May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night, drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

#### R. Amen.

May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

#### R. Amen.

And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

#### R. Amen.

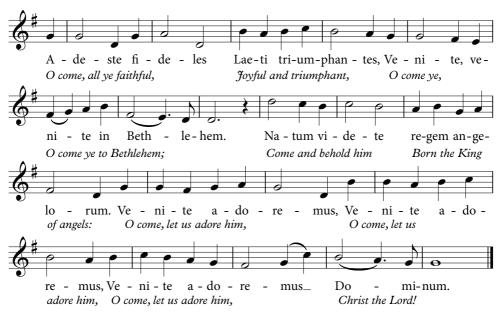
Through the intercession of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

#### R. Amen.

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

#### **R**<sup>'</sup> Thanks be to God.





2

God of God, Light of Light, Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God,

Begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of Angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God

In the highest:

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

Adeste fideles John Francis Wade's MS book c. 1740 arr. David Hill (b. 1957) and Simon Niemiński Latin, 18th century tr. Frederick Oakley (1802–1880)

Organ Voluntary

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet (1878-1967)