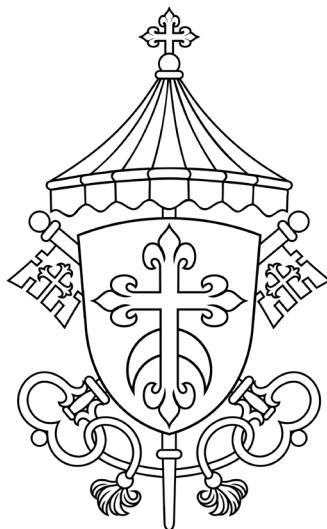


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

Fourth Sunday
of the Year

WEEK IV

1 February 2026
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;



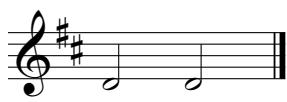
Bel - la pre-munt ho - stí - li - a, Da ro - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.
Our foes press hard on every side; thine aid supply; thy strength bestow.



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



Qui vi - tam si - ne té - 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.

℟. Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina.

Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio
et nunc et semper

et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia.

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Alleluia.*

OFFICE HYMN

O lux, Beata Trinitas
et principalis Unitas,
iam sol recedit igneus:
infunde lumen cordibus.

*O light, O blessed Trinity
And princely might of Unity,
the fiery sun now goes his way:
shed thou within our hearts thy ray.*

Te mane laudum carmine,
te deprecemur vespere;
te nostra supplex gloria
per cuncta laudet sæcula.

*To thee our morning song of praise,
to thee our evening prayer we raise;
In humble worship thee adore
and glory for evermore.*

Christum rogamus et Patrem,
Christi Patrisque Spiritum;
unum potens per omnia,
fove precantes, Trinitas. Amen.

*We pray the Father and the Son
who, with the Spirit reign as one;
O Trinity, containing all,
console thy servants when they call. Amen.*

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

Ex utero, ante luciferum genui
te.

*From the womb before the dawn I
begot you.*

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo:
«Sede a dextris meis,

donec ponam inimicos tuos:
scabellum pedum tuorum».

Virgam potentiae tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion:
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuæ,
in splendoribus sanctis:
ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

Iuravit Dominus et non pænititbit eum:
«Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum
ordinem Melchisedech».

Dominus a dextris tuis:
conquassabit in die iræ suæ reges.

De torrente in via bibet:
propterea exaltabit caput.

Gloria Patri et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*The Lord's revelation to my Master:
'Sit on my right:*

*your foes I will put
beneath your feet.'*

*The Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.*

*A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.*

*The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
'You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.'*

*The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.*

*He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.*

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

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

The Antiphon is repeated.

SECOND ANTIphon

IN mandatis eius cupid nimis.

He takes delight in all his commands.

PSALM 111 (112)

Beatus vir, qui timet Dominum:
in mandatis eius cupid nimis.

*Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.*

Potens in terra erit semen eius:
generatio rectorum benedicetur.

*His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.*

Gloria et divitiae in domo eius:
et iustitia eius manet in sæculum sæculi.

*Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.*

Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis:
misericors et miserator et iustus.

*He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.*

Iucundus homo, qui miseretur et commodat,
disponet res suas in iudicio:
quia in æternum non commovebitur.

*The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:*

In memoria æterna erit iustus:
auditione mala non timebit.

*he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;*

Paretum cor eius, sperans in Domino,
confirmatum est cor eius, non timebit:
donec despiciat inimicos suos.

*with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.*

Distribuit, dedit pauperibus;
iustitia eius manet in sæculum sæculi:
cornu eius exaltabitur in gloria.

*Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.*

Peccator videbit et irascetur,
dentibus suis fremet et tabescet:
Desiderium peccatorum peribit.

*The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.*

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.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIphon

LAUDEM dicite Deo nostro, omnes servi eius, pusilli
et magni, alleluia.

*Praise God, all you his servants, both great and small,
alleluia.*

CANTICLE Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

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

The Antiphon is repeated.

WHAT you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant and a blood for purification which pleads more insistently than Abel's.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Magnus Dominus noster,	<i>Great is our Lord;</i>
Et magna virtus eius.	<i>great is his might.</i>
℣. Et sapientiae eius	<i>His wisdom</i>
non est numerus. ℥.	<i>can never be measured.</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>

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIphon

BEATI pacifici, beati mundo corde, quoniam ipsi Deum videbunt.

'Happy the peacemakers. and happy the pure in heart: for they shall see God'.

MAGNIFICAT

Primi toni

Juan de Esquivel Barahona (c.1563–c.1613)

	Magnificat anima mea Dominum,	<i>My soul glorifies the Lord,</i>
	et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,	<i>my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.</i>
quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes,		<i>He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.</i>
quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,		<i>The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!</i>
et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.		<i>His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.</i>
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;		<i>He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted.</i>
depositus potentes de sede; et exaltavit humiles;		<i>He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly.</i>
esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.		<i>He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.</i>
Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiæ suæ,		<i>He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,</i>
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.		<i>the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.		<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
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>

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

In the Church, God has made known to us his hidden purpose: to make all things one in Christ. Let us pray that his will may be done.

R. Father, unite all things in Christ.

We give you thanks for the presence and power of your Spirit in the Church: give us the will to search for unity, and inspire us to pray and work together. **R.**

We give you thanks for all those whose work proclaims your love: help us to serve the communities in whose life we share. **R.**

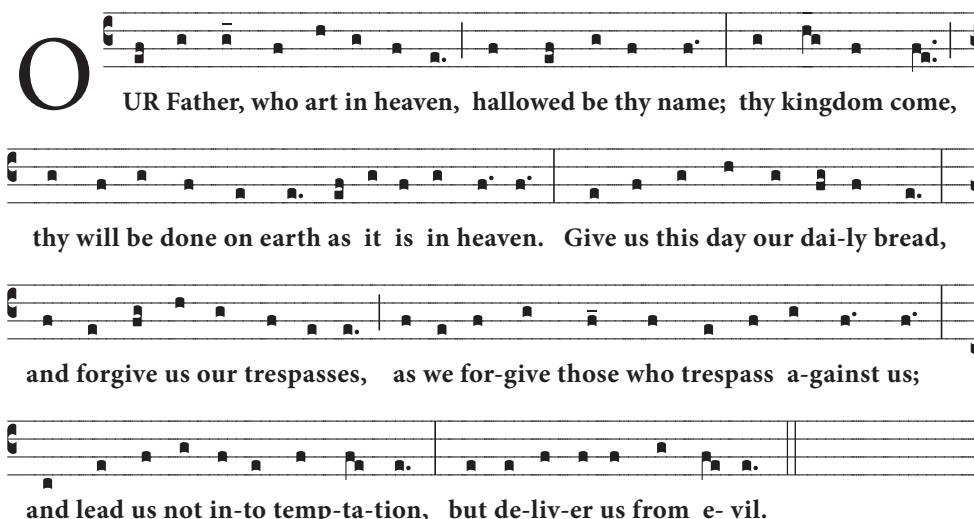
Father, care for all who serve in the Church as ministers of your word and sacraments: may they bring your whole family to the unity for which Christ prayed. **R.**

Your people have known the ravages of war and hatred: grant that they may know the peace left by your Son. **R.**

Fulfil the hopes of those who sleep in your peace: bring them to that final resurrection when you will be all in all. **R.**

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

All sing



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-against us;
and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil.

COLLECT

ORD our God, make us love you above all things, and all our fellow-men with a love that is worthy of you. 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.

R. Amen.

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

B EATI mundo corde, quoniam ipsi Deum videbunt: beati pacifici, quoniam filii Dei vocabuntur: beati qui persecutionem patiuntur propter iustitiam, quoniam ipsorum est regnum caelorum.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

William Byrd (c.1540–1623)

All sing

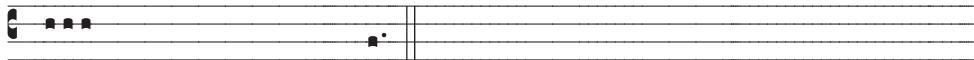
TANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cérnui : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows

do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí- tu- i : præstet fi-des suppléméntum
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-tóque 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 caelo præstitisti e- is.

You gave them bread from heaven.



¶ Omne delectaméntum in se habén- tem.

Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

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.

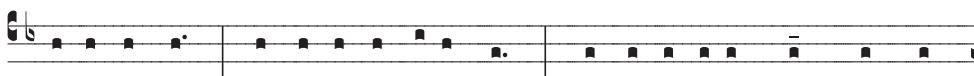
¶ Amen.

Let us pray.

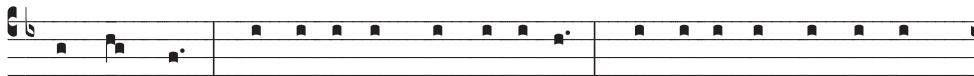
O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left us a memorial of your passion: grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

BENEDICTION *is given.*

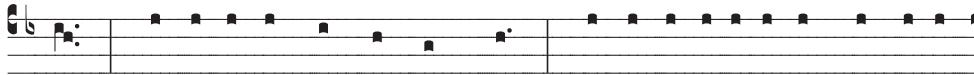
THE DIVINE PRAISES



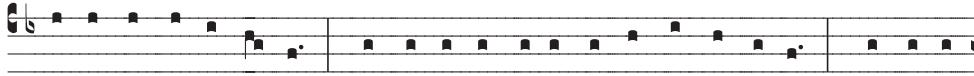
Blessèd be God. Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God



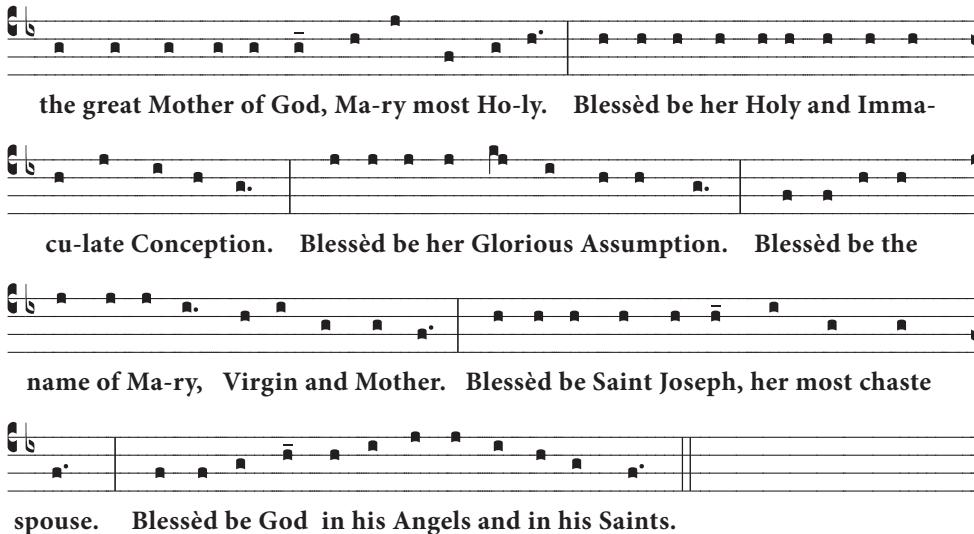
and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred



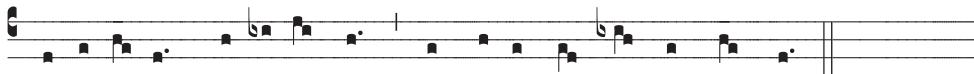
Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



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



As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing



Laudate Dominum omnes gentes:
laudate eum omnes populi.

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

Gloria Patri, et Filio:
et Spiritui Sancto,

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

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

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

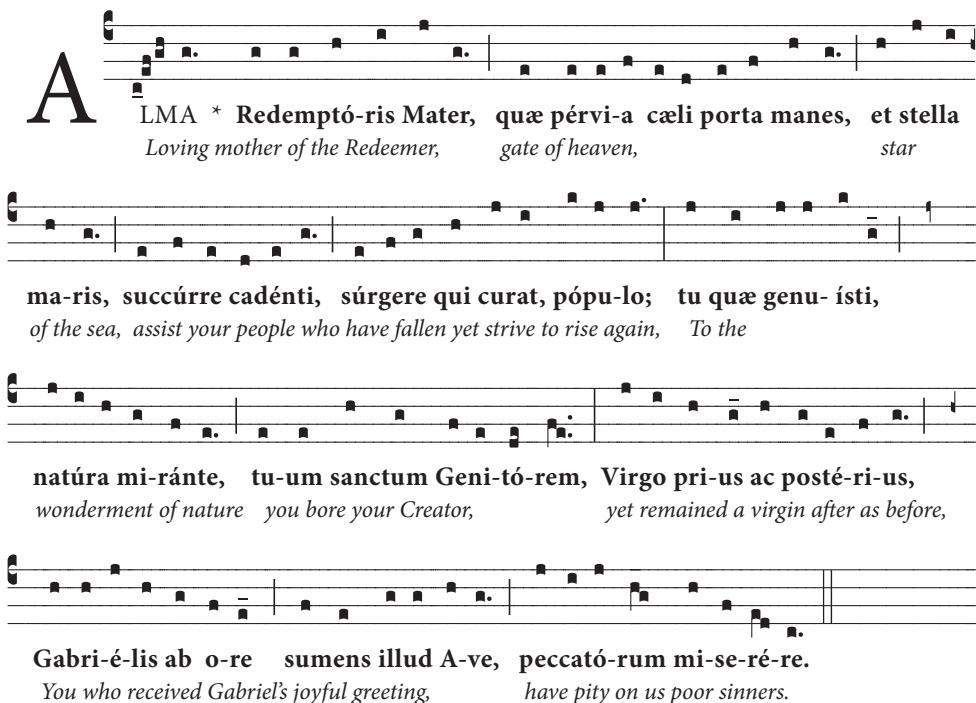
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,*

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



All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



A LMA * Redemptó-ris Mater, quæ pérvi-a cæli porta manes, et stella
Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star

ma-ris, succúrre cadénti, súrgere qui curat, pópu-lo; tu quæ genu- ísti,
of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, To the

natúra mi-ránte, tu-um sanctum Geni-tó-rem, Virgo pri-us ac posté-ri-us,
wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before,

Gabri-é-lis ab o-re sumens illud A-ve, peccató-rum mi-se-ré-re.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fiat lux

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

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