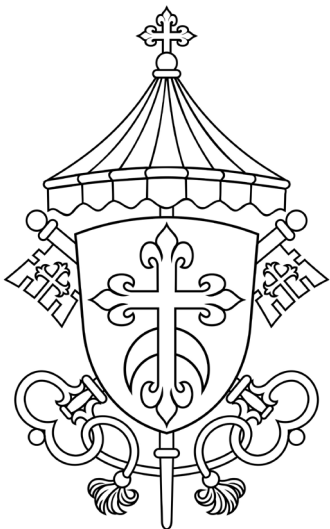


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Mass

First Sunday
of Lent

22 February 2026
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>

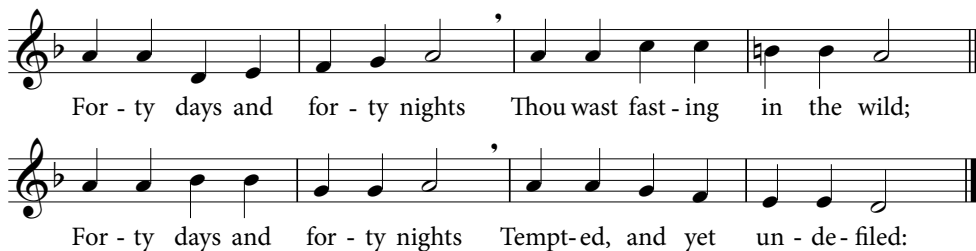
Download the weekly Music List at <http://musiclists.cathedralchoir.sydney>

**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



For - ty days and for - ty nights Thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt-ed, and yet un - de - filed:

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Shall not we thy sorrows share,
And from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Glad with thee to suffer pain?

So shall we have peace divine;
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us too shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

*Aus der tiefe
Nuremberg Gesangbuch (1676)*

*George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870)
and Francis Pott (1832-1909)*

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the INTROIT

cf. Psalm 90:15-16; 1

INVOCABIT me, et ego exaudiam eum: eripiam eum, et glorificabo eum: longitudine dierum adimplebo eum. Ƶ. Qui habitat in adiutorio Altissimi, in protectione Dei cæli commorabitur.

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days. Ƶ. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides in the shade of the Almighty.

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.

Ɲ: **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

Ɲ: **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.

Ɲ: **Amen.**

The Choir sings the KYRIE

from Missa Emendemus in melius

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

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

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

The Celebrant says the COLLECT

Let us pray.

Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
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.**

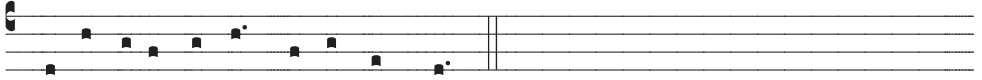
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50:3-6,12-14,17 ☩ *cf. v.3*



☩ **Be merciful , O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. ☩

My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. ☩

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. ☩

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. ☩

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

The Choir sings the TRACT

Psalm 90:1-2

QUI habitat in adiutorio Altissimi, in protectione Dei cæli commorabitur. Dicit Domino: Susceptor meus es tu, et refugium meum, Deus meus: sperabo in eum.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

The Lord be with you.

☩ **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

At the conclusion of the Homily all remain seated.

RITE OF ADMISSION OF NEW CHORISTERS 2026

The Candidates to be admitted into the Cathedral Choir are brought before the Dean.

The Director of Music says

Reverend Father, I present to you the following boys to be admitted as choristers in the Cathedral Choir: Massimo, Luca, Marcus, Henry and William.

With the grace of God, they have fulfilled their obligations as probationers and Singing Choristers, and passed their tests. I judge them ready to receive the chorister's surplice.

The Dean says

St Paul instructs us in the sacred scriptures that because the Word of Christ dwells within us, we are to teach and instruct one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts. It is the duty of Cathedral choristers to give of their best in the worship of the Church; by their conduct to set an example, and to strive to lift the hearts of all to God.

With this in mind, do you promise to be faithful members of the Cathedral Choir?

The Candidates respond I do.

Will you accept the discipline of those set over you, and serve God here with reverence and joy?

The Candidates respond I will.

May Almighty God accept the offering of your worship, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

The Candidates respond Amen.

The surplices are brought before the Dean for blessing

O God, who instructed Moses to construct sacred vessels and to weave sacred vestments to be used in your divine service, bless ☩ these surplices which will be worn during the sacred mysteries as a sign of our baptismal dignity; may those who wear them celebrate those mysteries well, so that they may carry out their sacred ministry with devotion and joy. Through Christ our Lord.

℟: **Amen.**

The surplices are sprinkled with holy water.

The Dean blesses the candidates, saying

O GOD, who were pleased to give your servant, David the King, the gifts of musical talent and joy in your liturgical service, ✠ bless your servants Massimo, Luca, Marcus, Henry and William, who desire to sing your praises in song and in their manner of life, so that those who are gladdened with holy songs here on earth may attain the everlasting happiness of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

The new choristers respond Amen.

When all choristers have been clothed in surplice, the Dean blesses them, saying:

LORD, in your love for the Church you have given these boys the gift of music. Bless them as they use this gift for your glory, and grant that what they sing with their lips they may believe in their hearts, and that what they believe in their hearts they may show forth in their lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟: **Amen.**

The Dean invites the congregation to congratulate the new choristers. All stand, and the Mass continues with the Creed.

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 Malcolm CBE, KSG (1917–1997)

SCAPULIS suis obumbrabit tibi Dominus, et sub pennis eius sperabis: scuto circumdabit te veritas eius.

The Lord will overshadow you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find hope: his truth will surround you with its shield.

The Celebrant says

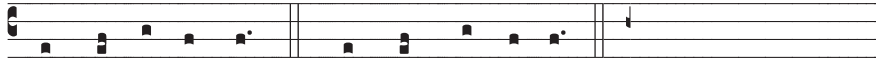
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

℟: **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 Celebrant says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

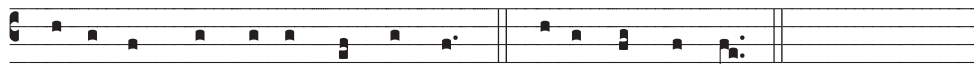
℟: **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

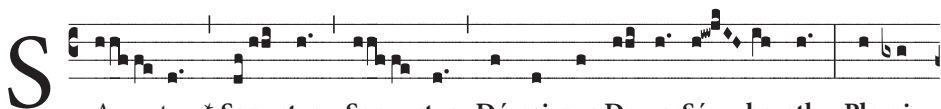


Lift up your hearts. ℟: **We lift them up to the Lord.**



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

THE PREFACE



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

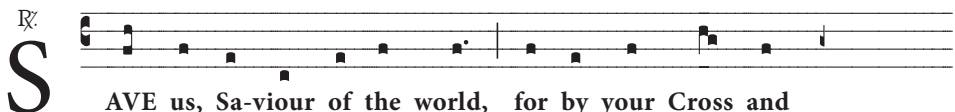


tus qui ve-nit in nó-mine Dómi-ni. Ho- sán-na in excél- sis.
 is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the Celebrant sings

The mystery of faith.

All sing



AVE us, Sa-viour of the world, for by your Cross and

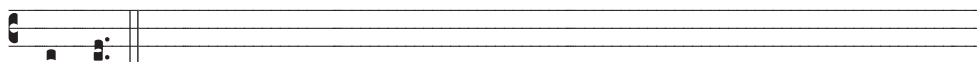


Re-sur-rec-tion you have set us free.

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

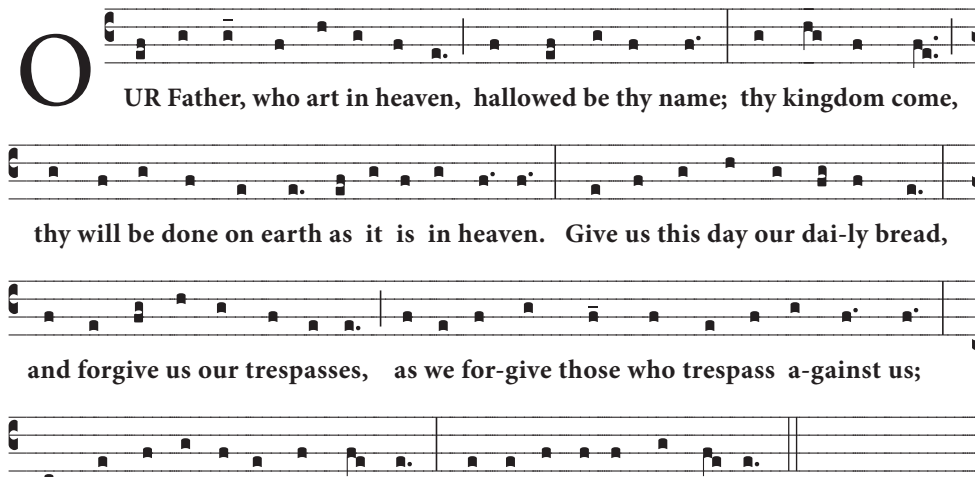


✠ **A-men.**

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 I

from Missa Emendemus in melius

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

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.

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

cf. Psalm 90:4-5

Scapulis suis obumbrabit tibi, et sub pennis eius sperabis: scuto circumdabit te veritas eius.

The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will trust. His truth will be your shield.

The Choir sings the AGNUS DEI II

from Missa Emendemus in melius

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

All sing

THE HYMN



God of mer - cy and com - pas - sion, Look with pi - ty — up-on me;



Fa-ther, let me call thee Fa - ther, 'Tis thy child re - turns to thee.



Je - sus, Lord, I ask for mer - cy; Let me not im - plore in vain; —



All my sins I now de - test — them, Nev - er will I — sin a - gain.

By my sins I have deservèd
Death and endless misery,
Hell with all its pain and torments,
And for all eternity.

*Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy;
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.*

By my sins I have abandoned
Right and claim to heaven above,
Where the saints rejoice for ever
In a boundless sea of love.

See our Saviour, bleeding, dying,
On the cross of Calvary;
To that cross my sins have nailed him,
Yet he bleeds and dies for me.

The Celebrant says the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

℟: **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

Bow down for the blessing.

MAY bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation, and eternal redemption be assured. Through Christ our Lord.

℟: **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.

℟: **Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

*Liturgical law requires that solo organ music is not played during Lenten services.
The Choir and sacred ministers return to the Sacristy in silence.*

LATER TODAY IN THE CATHEDRAL

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

5.00pm

A NEW CD FROM THE CHOIR OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SYDNEY

In Faith and Hope and Love

Favourite Hymns and Motets
from St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney



Daniel Justin • Simon Niemiński
Director of Music Organist

\$30 from the Cathedral Shop

Featuring favourite hymns, including:

**In Faith and Hope and Love, Hail Queen of Heaven,
Soul of my Saviour, Sweet Sacrament Divine,
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