

# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

Sixth Sunday  
of the Year

WEEK II

15 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 daily singing of 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

O lux, Beata Trinitas	<i>O light, O blessed Trinity</i>
et principalis Unitas,	<i>And princely might of Unity,</i>
iam sol recedit igneus:	<i>the fiery sun now goes his way:</i>
infunde lumen cordibus.	<i>shed thou within our hearts thy ray.</i>
Te mane laudum carmine,	<i>To thee our morning song of praise,</i>
te deprecemur vespere;	<i>to thee our evening prayer we raise;</i>
te nostra supplex gloria	<i>In humble worship thee adore</i>
per cuncta laudet sæcula.	<i>and glory for evermore.</i>
Christum rogamus et Patrem,	<i>We pray the Father and the Son</i>
Christi Patrisque Spiritum;	<i>who, with the Spirit reign as one;</i>
unum potens per omnia,	<i>O Trinity, containing all,</i>
fove precantes, Trinitas. Amen.	<i>console thy servants when they call. Amen.</i>

*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

## FIRST ANTIPHON

**I**uravit Dominus et non pænitebit eum:  
Tu es sacerdos in æternum.

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

## 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

**N**OS qui vivimus benedicimus  
Domino.

*We who live bless the Lord.*

## PSALM 113B (115)

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam super misericordia tua et veritate tua.	<i>Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name give the glory for the sake of your love and your truth,</i>
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Quare dicent gentes: «Ubi est Deus eorum?».	<i>lest the heathen say: ‘Where is their God?’</i>
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Deus autem noster in cælo, omnia, quæcumque voluit, fecit.	<i>But our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he wills.</i>
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Simulacra gentium argentum et aurum, opera manuum hominum.	<i>Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.</i>
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Os habent et non loquentur, oculos habent et non videbunt.	<i>They have mouths but they cannot speak; they have eyes but they cannot see;</i>
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Aures habent et non audient, nares habent et non odorabunt.	<i>they have ears but they cannot hear; they have nostrils but they cannot smell.</i>
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Manus habent et non palpabunt, pedes habent et non ambulabunt; non clamabunt in gutture suo.	<i>With their hands they cannot feel; with their feet they cannot walk. (No sound comes from their throats.)</i>
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Similes illis erunt, qui faciunt ea, et omnes, qui confidunt in eis.	<i>Their makers will come to be like them and so will all who trust in them.</i>
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Domus Israel speravit in Domino: adiutorium eorum et scutum eorum est.	<i>Sons of Israel, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield.</i>
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Domus Aaron speravit in Domino: adiutorium eorum et scutum eorum est.	<i>Sons of Aaron, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield.</i>
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Qui timent Dominum, speraverunt in Domino: adiutorium eorum et scutum eorum est.	<i>You who fear him, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield.</i>
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Dominus memor fuit nostri et benedicet nobis: *He remembers us, and he will bless us;*  
benedicet domui Israel, *he will bless the sons of Israel.*  
benedicet domui Aaron, *(He will bless the sons of Aaron.)*

benedicet omnibus, qui timent Dominum, *The Lord will bless those who fear him,*  
pusillis cum maioribus. *the little no less than the great:*

Adiciat Dominus super vos, *to you may the Lord grant increase,*  
super vos et super filios vestros. *to you and all your children.*

Benedicti vos a Domino, *May you be blessed by the Lord,*  
qui fecit cælum et terram. *the maker of heaven and earth.*

Cæli, cæli sunt Domino, *The heavens belong to the Lord*  
terram autem dedit filiis hominum. *but the earth he has given to men.*

Non mortui laudabunt te, Domine, *The dead shall not praise the Lord,*  
neque omnes, qui descendunt in silentium, *nor those who go down into the silence.*

sed nos, qui vivimus, benedicimus Domino *But we who live bless the Lord*  
ex hoc nunc et usque in sæculum. *now and for ever. Amen.*

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.*

## ANTIPHON

**N**OS qui vivimus benedicimus  
Domino.

*We who live bless the Lord.*

### THIRD ANTIPHON

**L**AUDEM 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 exsulemus et demus gloriam ei.	let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Quia venerunt nuptiæ 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 sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	world without end. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.

*The Antiphon is repeated.*



**W**E feel that we must be continually thanking God for you, brothers whom the Lord loves, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved by the sanctifying Spirit and by faith in the truth. Through the Good News that we brought he called you to this so that you should share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### SHORT RESPONSORY

Magnus Dominus noster, *Great is our Lord;*  
Et magna virtus eius. *great is his might.*

℣ Et sapientiæ eius *His wisdom*  
non est numerus. ℞ *can never be measured.*

℣ 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

**S**I offers munus tuum ante altare et recordatus fueris quia frater tuus habet aliquid adversus te, relinque ibi munus tuum ante altare et vade prius reconciliari fratri tuo; et tunc veniens offer munus tuum, alleluia.

*If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar; go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Alleluia.*

## MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat Primi 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

Through the gospel, the Lord Jesus calls us to share in his glory. Let us make our prayer with him to our heavenly Father.

**℟. Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations: that they may seek the way that leads to peace, that human rights and freedom may be everywhere respected, and that the world's resources may be generously shared. ℟.

We pray for the Church: that her leaders may be faithful ministers of your word, that all her members may be strong in faith and hope and that you may be recognized in the love she bears to all. ℟.

We pray for our families, and the community in which we live: that we may find you in them. ℟.

We pray for ourselves: that in the coming week we may serve others in our work, and find peace when we rest. ℟.

We pray for the faithful departed: that through your mercy they may rest in peace. ℟.

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

**T**O those who love you, Lord, you promise to come with your Son and make your home within them. Come, then, with your purifying grace and make our hearts a place where you can dwell. 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*

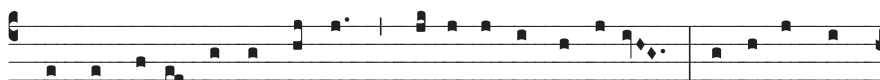
## THE MOTET

**O** sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord all the whole earth. Sing unto the Lord and praise his name, be telling of his salvation from day to day. For he cometh to judge the earth, and with righteousness to judge the world and the people with his truth.

*James MacMillan (b. 1959)*

*All sing*

**T**



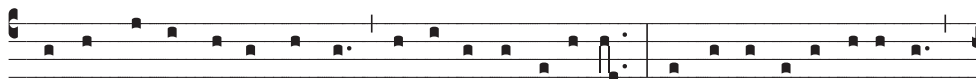
ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum \* Vene-rémur cégnu-i : et an-tí-quum  
*Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows*



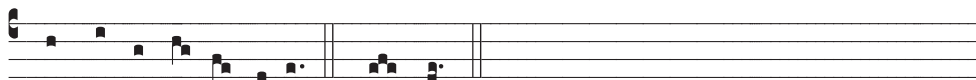
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum  
*have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,*



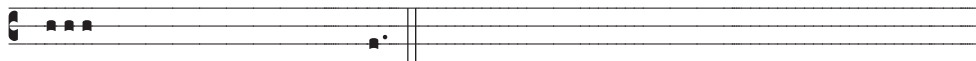
sénsu-um de-féc-tu-i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tó-que laus et iu-bi-la-ti-o,  
*makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,*



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.

**D**EUS, 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.*

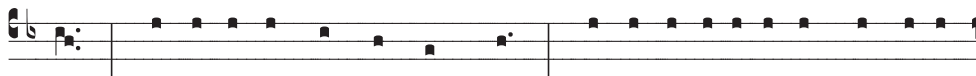
## THE DIVINE PRAISES



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



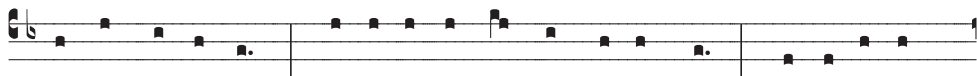
Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



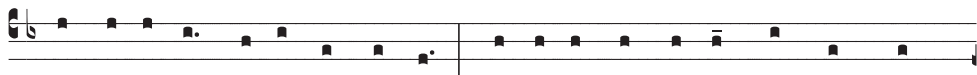
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



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

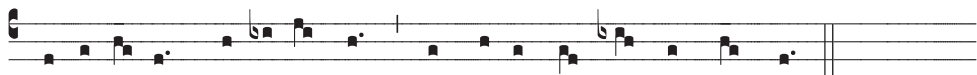


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



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

*As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing*



A-do-ré-mus \* 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-ré-mus \* 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

**A** -ve, Re-gí-na cæ-ló-rum, \* **ave, Dómi-na ange-lórum, salve, ra-dix,**  
*Hail, Queen of Heaven, beyond compare, to whom the angels homage pay; Hail, Root of*



**salve, porta, ex qua mundo lux est orta. Gaude, Virgo glo-ri- ó-sa, su-per**  
*Jesse, Gate of Light, that opened for the world's new Day. Rejoice, O Virgin unsurpassed, in whom*



**omnes spe-ci- ó-sa; va-le, o valde de-có-ra, et pro no-bis Christum exó- ra.**  
*our ransom was begun, for all your loving children pray to Christ, our Saviour, and your Son.*

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

'Fiddle' Fugue in D minor (BWV 539/ii)

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

**St Mary's Cathedral**

St Mary's Road

Sydney NSW 2000

[www.stmaryscathedral.org.au](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au)



**General enquiries**

Tel: (02) 9220 0400

Fax: (02) 9223 5208

Email: [info@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:info@stmaryscathedral.org.au)