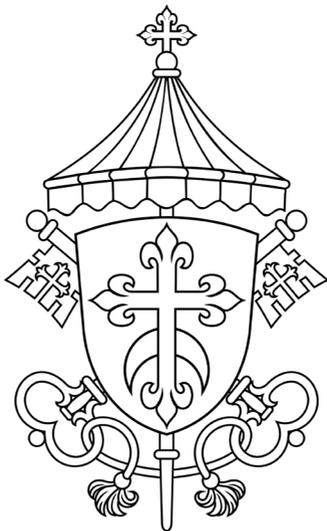


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

Fifth Sunday  
of Lent

22 March 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 - 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

*At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.*

## 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 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>

## OFFICE HYMN

Audi, benigne Conditor, nostras preces cum fletibus, sacrata in abstinentia fusas quadragenaria.	<i>Loving Maker, hear the prayers we offer you with tears and sighs, as we observe these forty days with holy fast and abstinence.</i>
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Scrutator alme cordium, infirma tu scis virium; ad te reversis exhibe remissionis gratiam.	<i>You search all hearts with love and care, you know the weakness of our powers; show mercy and forgive the sins of those who turn to seek your grace.</i>
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Multum quidem peccavimus, sed parce confitentibus, tuique laude nominis confer medelam languidis.	<i>Though we, indeed, have greatly sinned, yet spare us who with faith confess, and as we praise your holy name restore and heal our ailing souls.</i>
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Sic corpus extra conteri dona per abstinentiam, ieiunet ut mens sobria a labe prorsus criminum.	<i>Grant us the grace through abstinence to train the body in this way, that inwardly with sober mind we fast from every stain of sin.</i>
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Præsta, Beata Trinitas, concede, simplex Unitas, ut fructuosa sint tuis hæc parcitatis munera. Amen.	<i>Grant us, O Blessed Trinity and Undivided Unity, to see this service of our fast; bring forth your fruit within our hearts. Amen.</i>
---	--

*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

## FIRST ANTIPHON

**S**ICUT exaltatus est serpens in eremo, ita  
exaltari oportet Filium hominis.

*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,  
so the Son of Man must be lifted up.*

## 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 potentiae tuae 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 tuae, *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

**E**GO qui loquor iustitiam, et  
propugnator sum ad salvandum.

*It is I who speak justice, and am a  
defender to save.*

### PSALM 113A (114)

In exitu Israel de Ægypto,      *When Israel came forth from Egypt,*  
domus Iacob de populo barbaro,      *Jacob's sons from an alien people,*

factus est Iuda sanctuarium eius,      *Judah became the Lord's temple,*  
Israel potestas eius.      *Israel became his kingdom.*

Mare vidit et fugit,      *The sea fled at the sight:*  
Iordanis conversus est retrorsum;      *the Jordan turned back on its course,*

montes saltaverunt ut arietes,      *the mountains leapt like rams*  
et colles sicut agni ovium.      *and the hills like yearling sheep.*

Quid est tibi, mare, quod fugisti?      *Why was it, sea, that you fled,*  
Et tu, Iordanis,      *that you turned back, Jordan,*  
quia conversus es retrorsum?      *on your course?*

Montes, quod saltastis sicut arietes,      *Mountains, that you leapt like rams;*  
et colles, sicut agni ovium?      *hills, like yearling sheep?*

A facie Domini contremisce, terra,      *Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,*  
a facie Dei Iacob,      *in the presence of the God of Jacob,*

qui convertit petram      *who turns the rock*  
in stagna aquarum      *into a pool*  
et silicem in fontes aquarum.      *and flint into a spring of water.*

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.*

### THIRD ANTIPHON

**V**ULNERATUS est propter iniquitates nostras, attritus  
est propter scelera nostra et livore eius sanati sumus.

*He was wounded for our faults, he was bruised for our sins.  
Through his wounds we are healed.*

### CANTICLE

1 Peter 2:21-24

Christus passus est pro vobis     *Christ suffered for you,*  
vobis relinquens exemplum,     *leaving you an example*  
ut sequamini vestigia eius:     *that you should follow in his steps.*

qui peccatum non fecit,     *He committed no sin;*  
nec inventus est dolus in ore ipsius;     *no guile was found on his lips.*

qui cum malediceretur, non remaledicebat,     *When he was reviled, he did not revile in return.*  
cum pateretur, non comminabatur,     *When he suffered, he did not threaten;*  
commendabat autem iuste iudicanti;     *but he trusted to him who judges justly.*

qui peccata nostra ipse pertulit     *He himself bore our sins*  
in corpore suo super lignum,     *in his body on the tree,*

ut peccatis mortui iustitiæ viveremus;     *that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*  
cuius livore sanati estis.     *By his wounds you have been healed.*

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.*

**M**Y brothers, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent! For the people who live in Jerusalem and their leaders did not know that he is the Saviour, nor did they understand the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath day. Yet they made the prophets' words come true by condemning Jesus. And even though they could find no reason to pass the death sentence on him, they asked Pilate to have him put to death. And after they had done everything that the Scriptures say about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a grave. But God raised him from the dead.

### SHORT RESPONSORY

Attende, Domine, et miserere, *Hear us, Lord, and have mercy,*  
 Quia peccavimus tibi. *for we have sinned against you.*

‡ Exaudi, Christe, *Listen, Christ,*  
 supplicantum preces. † *to the prayers of those who cry to you.*

‡ 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

**C**LAMABAT Dominus Iesus ad monumentum Lazari, voce magna cum lacrimis dicens: Lazare, veni foras. Qui statim surrexit; et iussit eum solvere.

*The Lord Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, and cried out, with tears, saying, with a loud voice: Lazarus, here! Come out! The dead man arose and was unbound.*

# MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat Primi Toni

David Bevan (1951-2021)

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.*

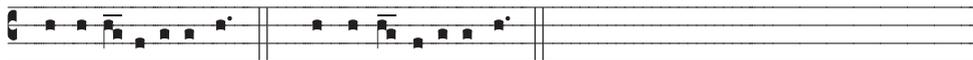
Gloria Patri et Filio,      *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*  
et Spiritui Sancto.      *and to the Holy Spirit,*

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

God the Father has chosen for himself a people, who are born again, not from any mortal seed but from his everlasting Word. Let us praise his name and turn to him in prayer.



∞ Ky-ri-e e-lé-i-son. ∞ Ky-ri-e e-lé-i-son.

Merciful God, hear our prayers for all your people; may they hunger more for your word than for any human food. ∞

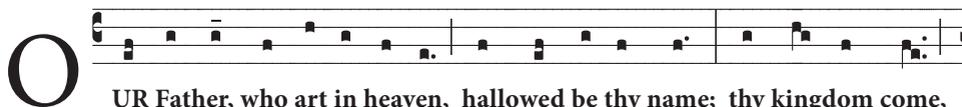
Teach us to love sincerely the people of our nation and of every race on earth; may we work for their peace and welfare. ∞

Strengthen those who will be reborn in baptism; make them living stones in the temple of your Spirit. ∞

May the dying go forward in hope to meet Christ, their judge; may they see your face and be happy for ever. ∞

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

*All sing*



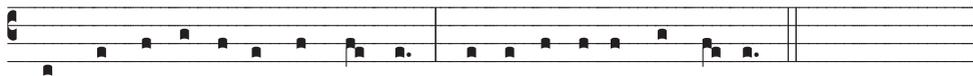
OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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

**L**ORD our God,  
Your Son so loved the world  
that he gave himself up to death for our sake.  
Strengthen us by your grace,  
and give us a heart willing to live by that same love.  
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

**S**ALVATOR mundi, salva nos: qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos; auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.

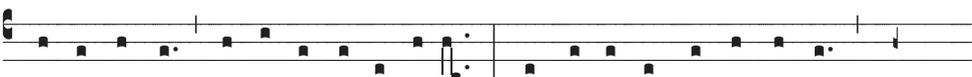
*Saviour of the world, save us: by your Cross and Blood you have redeemed us; help us, we pray you, our God.*

*Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)*

All sing



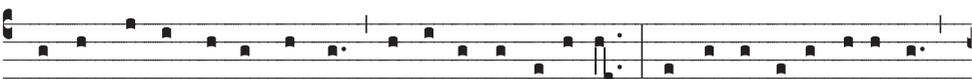
**T** ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum \* Vene-rémur cérnú-i : et an-tí-quum  
*Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows*



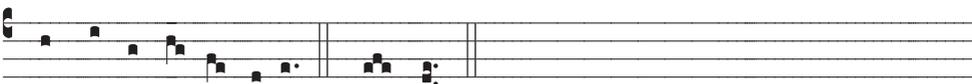
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum  
*have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,*



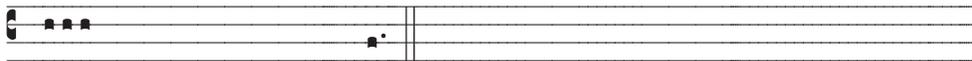
sénsu-um de-féc-tu-i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tó-que laus et iu-bi-la-ti-o,  
*makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,*



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.

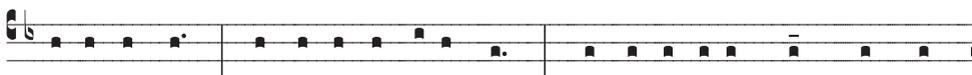
**D**EUS, qui nobis sub sacramento  
 mirabili passionis tuæ memoriam  
 reliquisti: tribue quæsumus, ita nos corporis  
 et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut  
 redemptionis tuæ fructum in nobis iugiter  
 sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula  
 sæculorum.

*O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament  
 has left us a memorial of your passion:  
 grant us so to venerate the sacred  
 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.*

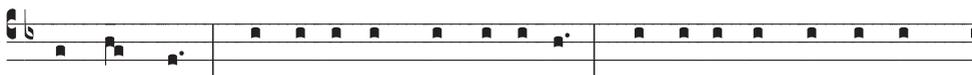
⌘ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

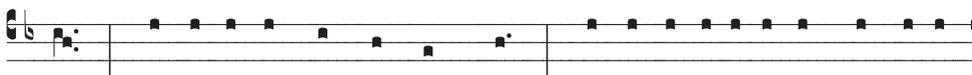
### THE DIVINE PRAISES



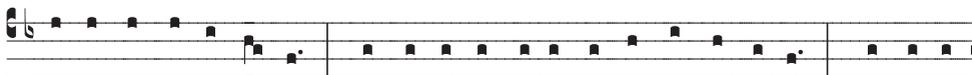
Blessèd be God. Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God



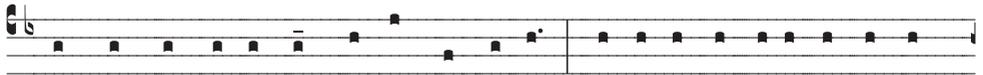
and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred



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



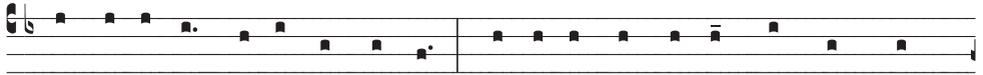
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



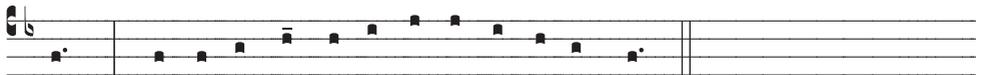
the great Mother of God, Ma-ry most Ho-ly. Blessèd be her Holy and Imma-



cu-late Conception. Blessèd be her Glorious Assumption. Blessèd be the

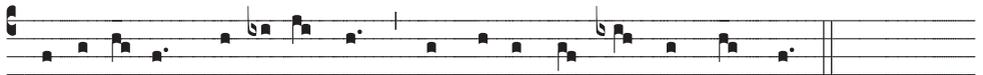


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



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: *O praise the Lord, all you nations,*  
laudate eum omnes populi. *acclaim his all you peoples!*

Quoniam confirmata est super nos *Strong is his*  
misericordia eius: *love for us;*  
et veritas Domini manet in æternum. *he is faithful 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.*



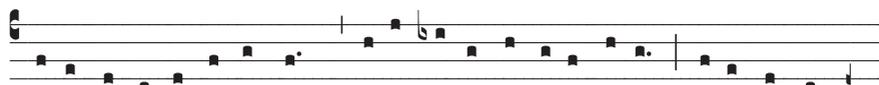
**A-do-ré-mus \* in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.**

*Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.*

All sing

## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

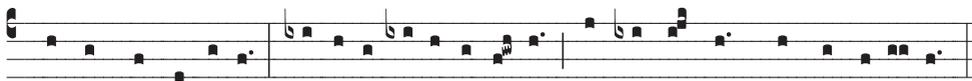
**A**



-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.*

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

**St Mary's Cathedral**

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