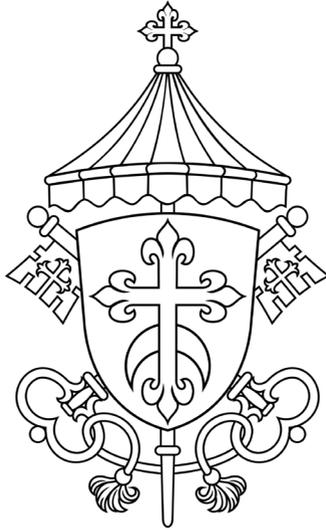


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

PALM SUNDAY  
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

29 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

## 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

Vexilla regis prodeunt, fulget crucis mysterium, quo carne carnis conditor suspensus est patibulo;	<i>The banners of the King go forth, the gleaming mystery of the Cross, by which the Maker of all flesh was yoked in flesh upon the wood;</i>
Quo, vulneratus insuper mucrone diro lanceæ, ut nos lavaret crimine, manavit unda et sanguine.	<i>Where, wounded as he hung on high by dreaded blade of sharpened spear, there flowed forth water mixed with blood, to wash us clean from every sin.</i>
Arbor decora et sanguine ornata regis purpura, electa digno stipite tam sancta membra tangere!	<i>O noble tree with blood adorned, the splendid purple of the King, selected from a worthy stock to touch and bear such holy limbs.</i>
Beata, cuius brachiis sæcli pendit pretium; statera facta est corporis prædam tulitque tartari.	<i>O blessed! From your branches hung the price and ransom of the world; like scales it weighed the body's worth and bore away the spoils of hell.</i>
Salve, ara, salve, victima, de passionis gloria, qua vita mortem pertulit et morte vitam reddidit!	<i>Hail altar, victim, sacrifice, for glory gained through grief and death, by which our life endured to die and by his death restored our life.</i>
O crux, ave, spes unica! hoc passionis tempore piis adauge gratiam reisque dele crimina.	<i>All hail! O Cross, our one true hope! in this most holy Passiontide, increase the grace of loving hearts and rid the guilty of their sin.</i>
Te, fons salutis, Trinitas, collaudet omnis spiritus; quos per crucis mysterium salvas, fove per sæcula. Amen.	<i>O Triune God, let all sing praise to you, the font of saving grace; sustain for ever those you save by mystery of the Holy Cross. Amen.</i>

# PSALMODY

## FIRST ANTIPHON

**A**PPROPINQUABAT autem dies festus, et quærebant principes sacerdotum quomodo Iesum interficerent, sed timebant plebem.

*The festival of Unleavened Bread was near, and the chief priests were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.*

## 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 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

**C**ONSILIUM fecerunt inimici mei dicentes:  
Conteramus eum de terra viventium.

*My enemies conspired against me, saying: Drive  
him out of the land of the living.*

### PSALM 113B (115)

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis,     *Not to us, Lord, not to us,*  
sed nomini tuo da gloriam     *but to your name give the glory*  
super misericordia tua et veritate tua.     *for the sake of your love and your truth,*

Quare dicent gentes:     *lest the heathen say:*  
«Ubi est Deus eorum?».     *'Where is their God?'*

Deus autem noster in cælo,     *But our God is in the heavens;*  
omnia, quæcumque voluit, fecit.     *he does whatever he wills.*

Simulacra gentium argentum et aurum,     *Their idols are silver and gold,*  
opera manuum hominum.     *the work of human hands.*

Os habent et non loquentur,     *They have mouths but they cannot speak;*  
oculos habent et non videbunt.     *they have eyes but they cannot see;*

Aures habent et non audient,     *they have ears but they cannot hear;*  
nares habent et non odorabunt.     *they have nostrils but they cannot smell.*

Manus habent et non palpabunt,     *With their hands they cannot feel;*  
pedes habent et non ambulabunt;     *with their feet they cannot walk.*  
non clamabunt in gutture suo.     *(No sound comes from their throats.)*

Similes illis erunt, qui faciunt ea,     *Their makers will come to be like them*  
et omnes, qui confidunt in eis.     *and so will all who trust in them.*

Domus Israel speravit in Domino:     *Sons of Israel, trust in the Lord;*  
adiutorium eorum et scutum eorum est.     *he is their help and their shield.*

Domus Aaron speravit in Domino:     *Sons of Aaron, trust in the Lord;*  
adiutorium eorum et scutum eorum est.     *he is their help and their shield.*

Qui timent Dominum, speraverunt in Domino:     *You who fear him, trust in the Lord;*  
adiutorium eorum et scutum eorum est.     *he is their help and their shield.*

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

**C**ONSILIUM fecerunt inimici mei dicentes:  
Conteramus eum de terra viventium.

*My enemies conspired against me, saying: Drive  
him out of the land of the living.*

### THIRD ANTIPHON

**C**HRISTUS peccata nostra ipse  
pertulit in corpore suo super lignum.

*Christ carried our sins in his own body on  
the cross.*

### 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

Adoramus te, Christe, *We worship you, Christ,*  
Et benedicimus tibi. *and we bless you.*

℣ Quia per crucem tuam *By your cross*  
redemisti mundum. ℞ *you have redeemed the world.*

℣ 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**CRIPITUM est enim: Percutiam pastorem et dispergentur oves gregis; postquam autem resurrexero, præcedam vos in Galilæam; ibi me videbitis, dicit Dominus.

*It is written, 'I will strike the shepherd down and the sheep of his flock will be scattered.' But after my resurrection I will go before you into Galilee; there you will see me, said the Lord.*

## MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat Octavi Toni

Orlande de Lassus (1532–1594)

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.*

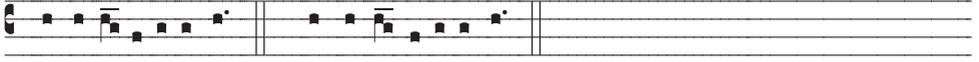
Gloria Patri et Filio,      *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*  
et Spiritui Sancto.      *and to the Holy Spirit,*

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

Let us pray humbly to the Saviour of all. He went up to Jerusalem to endure the passion and enter into his glory.



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

Christ our Redeemer, let us share in your passion by works of penance; let us attain the glory of your resurrection. ✠

Grant us the protection of your Mother, the comforter of the afflicted; help us to extend to others the consolation you have given us. ✠

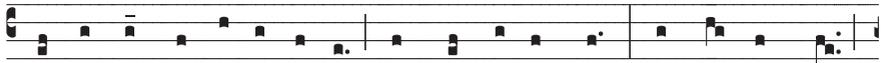
Take care of those we have discouraged and those we have wronged; help us to learn from our sufferings so that justice and love may prevail in the end. ✠

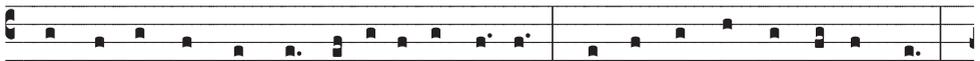
You humbled yourself even to accepting death, death on a cross; grant to your servants obedience and patience. ✠

Share with the dead your bodily glory; let us rejoice one day with them in the fellowship of the saints. ✠

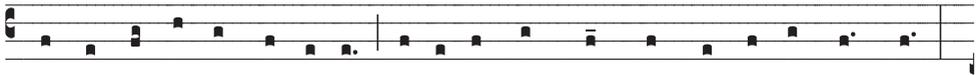
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

*All sing*

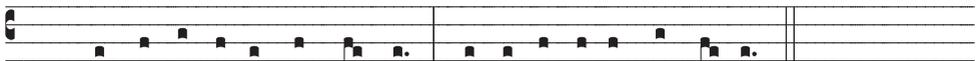
**O**  UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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

**A**LMIGHTY ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow  
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,  
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering  
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

✠ **Amen.**

*The Choir sings*

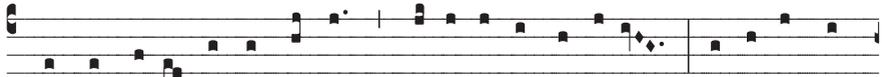
## THE MOTET

**I**N monte Oliveti oravit ad Patrem: Pater, si fieri potest transeat a me. Spiritus  
liquidem promptus est, caro autem infirma: fiat voluntas tua. Vigilate et orate ut non  
intretis in tentatione.

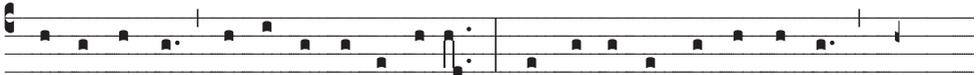
*On the Mount of Olives he prayed to his father: Father, if it be possible, let this chalice  
pass from me. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak: your will be done. Watch and  
pray lest you enter into temptation.*

*Orlande de Lassus (1532–1594)*

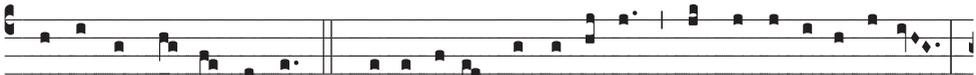
All sing



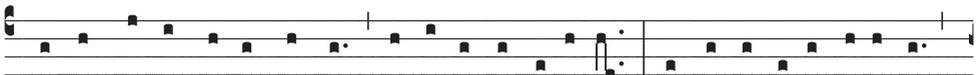
**T** ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum \* Vene-rémur cérnu- i : et an-tí-quum  
*Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows*



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



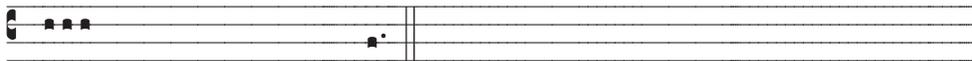
sénsu-um de-féc-tu- i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tó-que laus et iu-bi-la-ti-o,  
*makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,*



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.

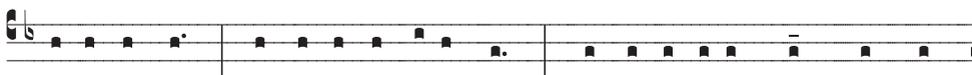
**D**EUS, qui nobis sub sacramento mirabili passionis tuæ memoriam reliquisti: tribue quæsumus, ita nos corporis et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut redemptionis tuæ fructum in nobis iugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula sæculorum.

*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.*

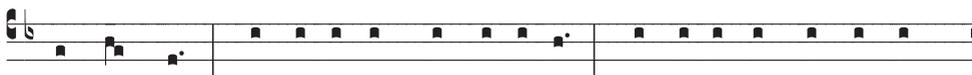
⌘ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

### THE DIVINE PRAISES



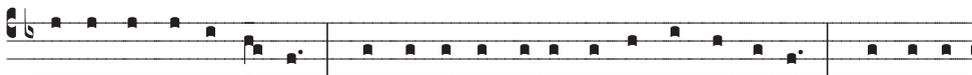
Blessèd be God. Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God



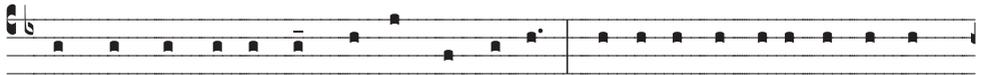
and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred



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



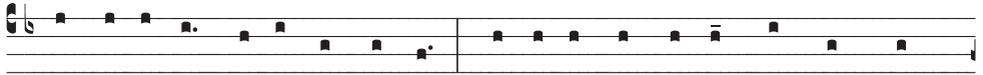
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



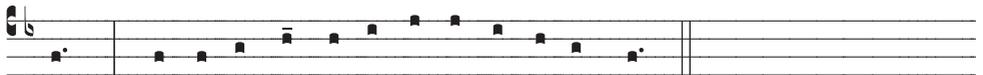
the great Mother of God, Ma-ry most Ho-ly. Blessèd be her Holy and Imma-



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

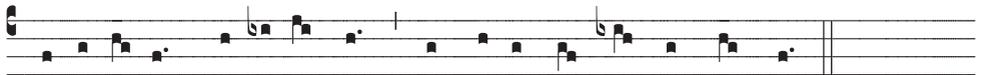


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



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.*



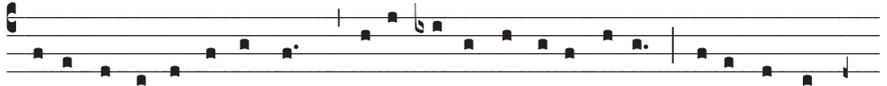
**A-do-ré-mus \* in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.**

*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.*

*By tradition solo organ music is not played during Lenten services.*

*The Choir and sacred ministers return to the Sacristy in silence.*

**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)