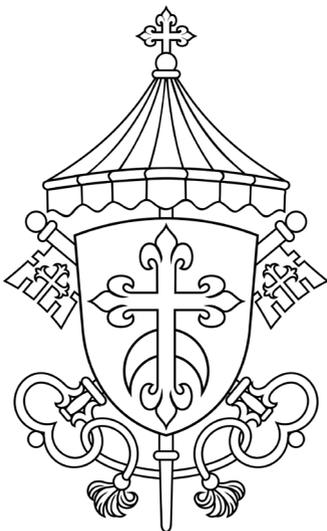


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Solemn Mass

Third Sunday  
of Lent

*Opening Mass of the  
Catholic Institute of Sydney Academic Year*

8 March 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 | <b>Solemn Mass</b> <i>Boy/Girl Choristers &amp; Lay Clerks</i> |
|           | 1700 | <b>Solemn Vespers and Benediction</b> <i>Lay Clerks</i>        |
| Monday    | 1700 | <b>Vespers</b> <i>Lay Clerks</i>                               |
|           | 1730 | <b>Mass</b> <i>Boy Choristers &amp; Lay Clerks</i>             |
| Tuesday   | 1700 | <b>Vespers</b> <i>Cathedral Scholars</i>                       |
|           | 1730 | <b>Mass</b> <i>Boy &amp; Girl Choristers</i>                   |
| Wednesday | 1700 | <b>Vespers</b> <i>Lay Clerks</i>                               |
|           | 1730 | <b>Mass</b> <i>Girl Choristers &amp; Lay Clerks</i>            |
| Thursday  | 1700 | <b>Vespers</b> <i>Lay Clerks</i>                               |
|           | 1730 | <b>Mass</b> <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



Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, ad - ore him; Praise him, an - gels in the height;



Sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him, Praise him, all ye stars and light:



Praise the Lord! for he has spo - ken, Worlds his migh - ty voice o - beyed;



Laws, which ne - ver shall be bro - ken, For their gui - dance he has made.

**Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;  
Never shall his promise fail:  
God hath made his saints victorious.  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
Host on high, his power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth, and all creation,  
Laud and magnify his name!**

**Worship, honour, glory, blessing,  
Lord, we offer to thy name;  
Young and old, thy praise expressing,  
Join their Saviour to proclaim.  
As the saints in heaven adore thee,  
We would bow before thy throne;  
As thine angels serve before thee,  
So on earth thy will be done.**

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

*The Choir sings the INTROIT*

*cf. Psalm 24:15-16; 1-2*

**O**CULI mei semper ad Dominum, quia ipse evellet de laqueo pedes meos: respice in me, et miserere mei, quoniam unicus et pauper sum ego. ☩ Ad te Domine levavi animam meam: Deus meus, in te confido, non erubescam.

*My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor. ☩ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. I trust you, let me not be disappointed.*

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the Archbishop says*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ **Amen.**

Peace be with you.

☩ **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 Archbishop gives the absolution, saying*

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

☩ **Amen.**

*The Choir sings the KYRIE*

*from Missa Ad te levavi*

*Philippe de Monte (1521–1603)*

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

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

*The Archbishop says the COLLECT*

Let us pray.

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,  
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving  
have shown us a remedy for sin,  
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,  
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,  
may always be lifted up by your mercy.  
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.**

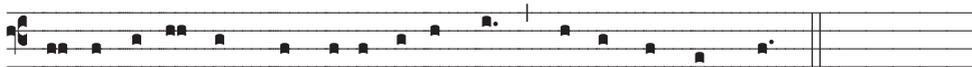
# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*Exodus 17:3-7*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 94:1-2,6-9* ☩: v.8



☩: **O that to-day you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. ☩:

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us: for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. ☩:

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ ☩:

SECOND READING

*Romans 5:1-2,5-8*

*The Choir sings the TRACT*

*Psalm 122:1-3*

**A**D te levavi oculos meos, qui habitas in cælis. Ecce sicut oculi servorum in  
amanibus dominorum suorum.

*To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of  
slaves on the hand of their lords.*

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

℟: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

℟: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

*Given by*  
The Most Revd Anthony Fisher OP  
*Archbishop of Sydney*

## 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*

*Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)*

**A**D te levavi animam meam: Deus meus, in te confido, non erubescam, neque  
irrideant me inimici mei. Et enim universi qui te exspectant non confundentur.

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. I trust you, let me not be disappointed; do not let my  
enemies triumph. Those who hope in you shall not be disappointed.*

*The Archbishop says*

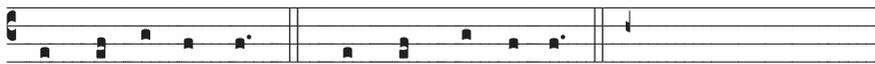
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable  
to God, the almighty Father.

✠ **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.**

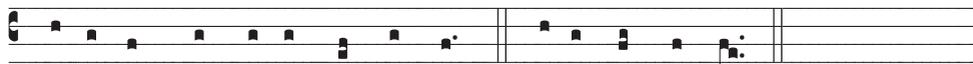
*The Archbishop says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS*

✠ **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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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.

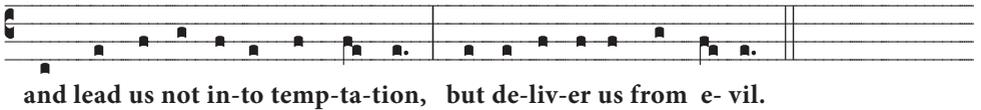
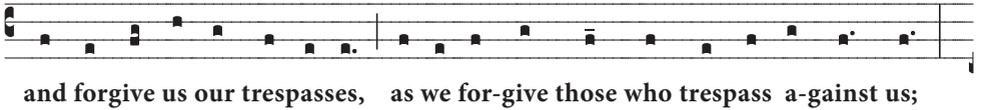
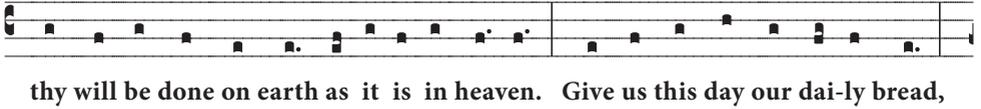
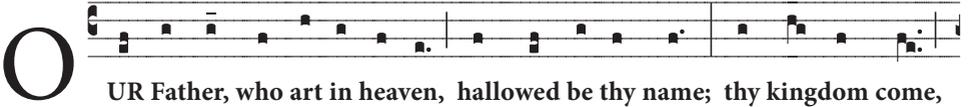
*All respond*

⌘ **A-men.**

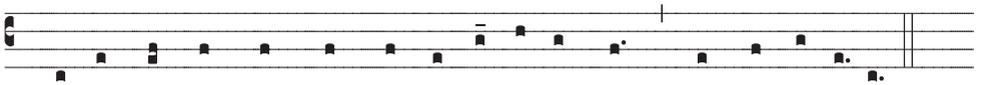
# COMMUNION RITE

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

*All sing*



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.

For **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

For **And with your spirit.**

*The Choir sings the* AGNUS DEI

*from* Missa Ad te levavi

*Philippe de Monte*

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

*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.*

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

*The Archbishop 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

*John 4:13-14*

**Q**UI biberit aquam, quam ego do, dicit Dominus Samaritanæ, fiet in eo fons aquæ salientis in vitam æternam.

*For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, (to the Samaritan woman) the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.*

*The Choir sings the* COMMUNION MOTET

*William Byrd (c.1540–1623)*

**O**salutaris hostia, quæ cæli pandis ostium, bella premunt hostilia, da robur, fer auxilium. Uni trinoque Domino sit sempiterna gloria, qui vitam sine termino nobis donet in patria. Amen.

*O saving victim, opening the gate of heaven; hostile wars press on, give strength, bring us help. To the Lord, the One in Three, be everlasting glory, that he may give us life without end in our native land. Amen.*

All sing

## THE HYMN



Be thou my\_ vi - sion, O\_ Lord of my heart,  
Be\_ all else but naught to me, save that thou art,  
Be thou my\_ best thought in the day and the night,  
Both wak - ing and sleep - ing, thy\_ pres - ence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
Be thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Slane  
Traditional Irish melody

Irish (c. 8th century)  
tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)

*The Archbishop says the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

℟: **Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

Bow down for the blessing.

**D**IRECT, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfil the whole of your commands. 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 Lay Clerks  
of St Mary's Cathedral Choir*

**5.00pm**



# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR TOUR 2026

A PILGRIMAGE OF MUSIC

Rome • Edinburgh • London



HELP  
US SHARE  
AUSTRALIA'S  
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WITH THE WORLD!

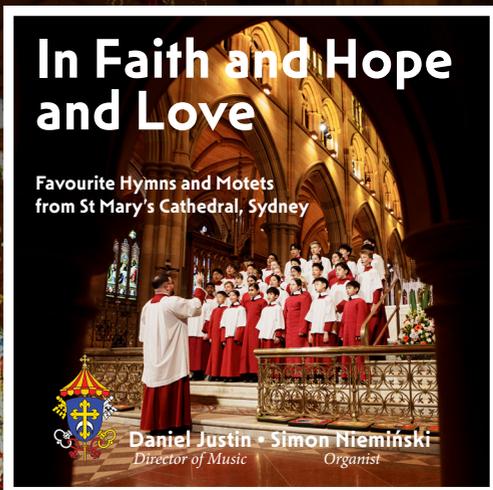
You are invited to sponsor a  
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