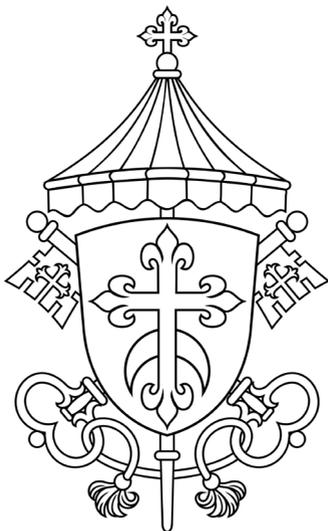


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Mass

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

Laetare

15 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	Solemn Mass <i>Boy / Girl Choristers & Lay Clerks</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>Lay Clerks</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



Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most won - der - ful, Most sure in all his ways.

**O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight,
And to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail.**

**And in the garden secretly,
And on the Cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.**

Richmond

Melody by Thomas Haweis (1734–1820)

Harmony by Samuel Webbe the younger (c1770–1843)

Saint John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the INTROIT

cf. Isaiah 66:10-11; Psalm 121:1

LÆTARE Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam: gaudete cum lætitia, qui in tristitia fuistis: ut exsultetis, et satiemini ab uberibus consolationis vestræ. ¶ Lætatus sum in his quæ dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus.

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. ¶ I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to God's house.

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 Brevis 'Sancti Ioannis de Deo'

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

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,
who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten toward
the solemn celebrations to come.
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.**

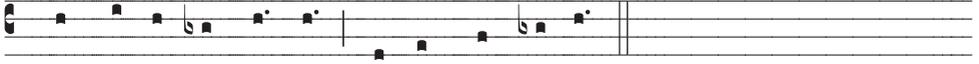
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22 ℣. *v. 1*



℣. **The Lord is my shepherd; nothing shall I want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. ℣.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. ℣.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. ℣.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. ℣.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

The Choir sings the TRACT

Psalm 124:1

QUI confidunt in Domino, sicut mons Sion: non commovebitur in æternum, qui habitat in Ierusalem.

Those who put their trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, that cannot be shaken, that stands for ever in Jerusalem.

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

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 Archbishop.

The Director of Music says

Most Reverend Father, I present to you the following girls to be admitted as choristers in the Cathedral Choir: Maddy, Pearl, Sophia and Sylvie.

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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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 Maddy, Pearl, Sophia and Sylvie, 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 Archbishop blesses them, saying:

LORD, in your love for the Church you have given these girls 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 Archbishop 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

Jonathan Battishill (1738–1808)

O Lord, look down from heaven,
and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory:
Where is Thy zeal and Thy strength,
Thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

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

S 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

S 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.

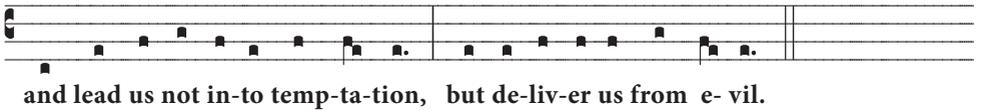
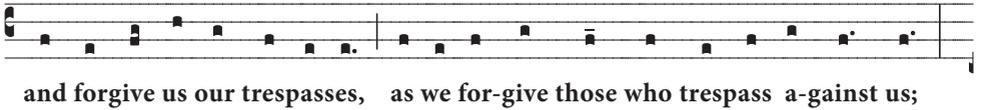
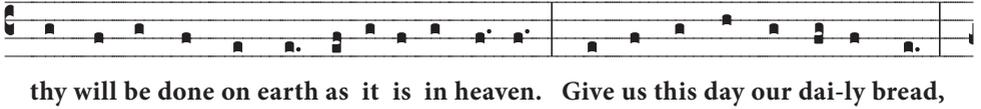
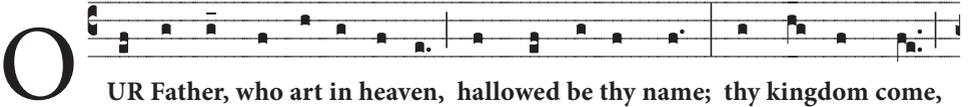
All respond

A-men.

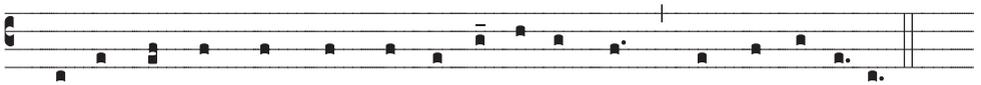
COMMUNION RITE

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.**



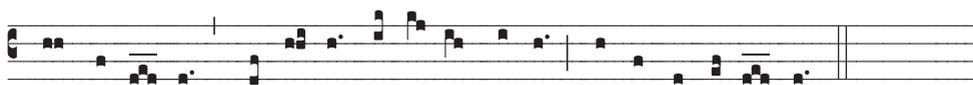
A-gnus De- i, * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mundi: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.



A-gnus De- i, * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mundi: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.



A-gnus De- i, * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mundi: do-na no-bis pa-cem.**

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 9:6, 11, 38

Lutum fecit ex sputo Dominus, et linivit oculos meos: et abii, et lavi, et vidi, et credidi Deo.

The Lord made a paste with spittle, and anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

During Holy Communion, the Choir sings the AGNUS DEI

from Missa Brevis 'Sancti Ioannis de Deo'

Joseph Haydn

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: grant us peace.

All sing

THE HYMN



Je-sus, my Lord, my God, my all, — How can I love thee as I ought?



And how re - vere_ this won-drous gift_ So far sur-pass-ing hope or thought?

Refrain



Sweet Sa-cra-ment, we thee a - dore; Oh, make us love thee



more and more. Oh, make us love thee more and more.

Had I but Mary's sinless heart
To love thee with, my dearest King,
Oh, with what bursts of fervent praise
Thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing!

*Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore;
Oh, make us love thee more and more.*

Thy body, soul, and Godhead, all;
O mystery of love divine!
I cannot compass all I have,
For all thou hast and art are mine.

Sound, sound his praises higher still,
And come, ye angels, to our aid;
'Tis God, 'tis God, the very God,
Whose power both man and angels made.

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.

LOOK upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. 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.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Allegro assai vivace (Sonata 1)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

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
SACRED MUSIC
WITH THE WORLD!

You are invited to sponsor a
Chorister's place on this tour with a
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Your generosity will directly support travel and
accommodation costs, and ensure that
participation is not limited by financial means.

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