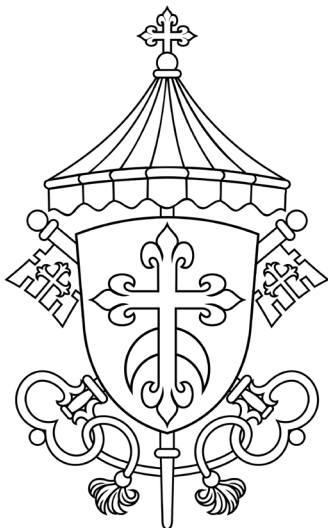


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

EASTER SUNDAY

5 April 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.

O God, come to our aid.

☩ Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

*as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,*

et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia.

world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

OFFICE HYMN

Ad cenam Agni providi,
 stolis salutis candidi,
post transitum maris Rubri
Christo canamus principi.

*The Lamb's high banquet we await
in snow-white robes of royal state:
and now, the Red Sea's channel past,
to Christ our Prince we sing at last.*

Cuius corpus sanctissimum
 in ara crucis torridum,
sed et cruorem roseum
gustando, Deo vivimus.

*Upon the Altar of the Cross
His Body hath redeemed our loss:
and tasting of his roseate Blood,
our life is hid with him in God.*

Protecti paschæ vespero
 a devastante angelo,
de Pharaonis aspero
sumus erepti imperio.

*That Paschal Eve God's arm was bared,
the devastating Angel spared:
by strength of hand our hosts went free
from Pharaoh's ruthless tyranny.*

Iam pascha nostrum Christus est,
 agnus occisus innocens;
 sinceritatis azyma
qui carnem suam obtulit.

*Now Christ, our Paschal Lamb, is slain,
the Lamb of God that knows no stain,
the true Oblation offered here,
our own unleavened Bread sincere.*

O vera, digna hostia,
per quam franguntur tartara,
 captiva plebs redimitur,
redduntur vitæ præmia!

*O thou, from whom hell's monarch flies,
O great, O very Sacrifice,
Thy captive people are set free,
and endless life restored in thee.*

Consurgit Christus tumulo,
 victor redit de barathro,
tyrannum trudens vinculo
et paradisum reserans.

*For Christ, arising from the dead,
from conquered hell victorious sped,
and thrust the tyrant down to chains,
and Paradise for man regains.*

Esto perenne mentibus
paschale, Iesu, gaudium
 et nos renatos gratiæ
tuis triumphis aggrega.

*We pray thee, King with glory decked,
in this our Paschal joy, protect
from all that death would fain effect
Thy ransomed flock, thine own elect.*

Iesu, tibi sit gloria,
 qui morte victa prænitēs,
cum Patre et almo Spiritu,
in sempiterna sæcula. Amen.

*To thee who, dead, again dost live,
all glory Lord, thy people give;
all glory, as is ever meet,
to Father and to Paraclete. Amen.*

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

VENERUNT ad monumentum Maria Magdalene
et altera Maria videre sepulcrum, alleluia.

*Mary Magdalen came with the other Mary to see the
tomb where the Lord had been laid, alleluia.*

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 pœnitebit 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

VENITE, et videte locum ubi
positus erat Dominus, alleluia.

*Come and see where the Lord was
laid, alleluia.*

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

ITE, nuntiate fratribus meis, alleluia, ut
eant in Galilæam; ibi me videbunt, alleluia.

*Go, and tell my brethren that they are to leave
for Galilee: they will see me there. Alleluia.*

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro: *Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
quia vera et iusta iudicia eius. his judgements are true and just.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Laudem dicite Deo nostro, omnes servi eius: *Praise our God, all you his servants,
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,
Gaudeamus et exultemus et demus gloriam ei. let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Quia venerunt nuptiæ Agni: *The marriage of the Lamb has come,
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
et Spiritui Sancto. and to the Holy Spirit,
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.*

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.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

CHRIST has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying.

ANTIPHON

HÆC dies quam fecit Dominus: exsultemus
et lætemur in ea.

*This is the day which was made by the Lord: let us
rejoice and be glad.*

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

CUM esset sero die illo una sabbatorum et fores essent
clausæ ubi erant discipuli congregati, stetit Iesus in medio
et dixit eis: Pax vobis, alleluia.

*On the evening of that Sunday, when the disciples were gathered
behind locked doors, Jesus came and stood among them. He said
to them, 'Peace be with you.' Alleluia.*

MAGNIFICAT

Primi toni

Giovanni Gabrieli (c.1553–1612)

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 with joy to Christ the Lord. He rose from the dead and is living now to intercede for us.



✠ Exaudire di-gnérís. ✠ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**

Christ, you are the light of the world and the salvation of nations; set us on fire with your Spirit as we proclaim the wonder of your resurrection. ✠

Let Israel recognize in you the Messiah it has longed for; fill all people with the knowledge of your glory. ✠

Keep us united in the communion of saints; may we find rest with them, when life's work is done. ✠

You have overcome death, the last enemy of mankind; destroy everything in us that is at enmity with God. ✠

Christ, our Saviour, you became obedient to death, but God raised you to the heights; receive our brothers into the kingdom of your glory. ✠

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

All sing

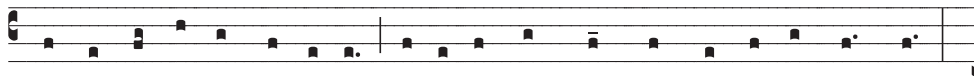
O



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

ON this day, Lord God,
you opened for us the way to eternal life
through your only Son's victory over death.
Grant that as we celebrate the feast of his resurrection
we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit
and rise again in the light of life.
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

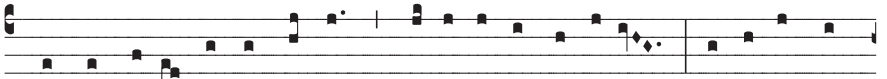
THE MOTET

HÆC dies quam fecit Dominus: exultemus et lætemur in ea. Alleluia.

This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia.

William Byrd (c.1540–1623)


All sing



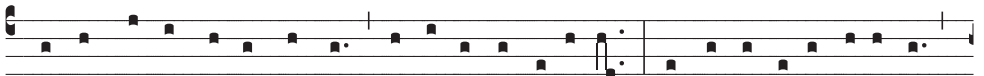
TANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cérnu-i : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows



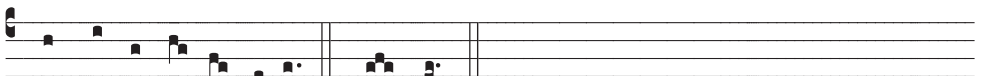
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum
have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,



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,



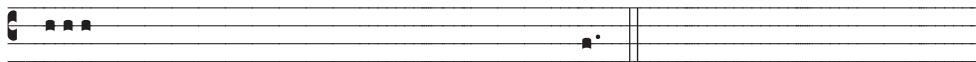
sa-lus, honor, virtus quoque sit et be-ne-dícti-o : pro-ce-dénti ab utró-que
honour, thanks, and praise addressing while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing,



compar sit lau-dá-ti-o. A-men.
who from both with both is One.



∇ Panem de cælo præstitisti eis, allelú- ia.
You gave them bread from heaven.



∴ **Omne delectaméntum in se habéntem, allelú- ia.**
Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

Let us pray.

DEUS, 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.

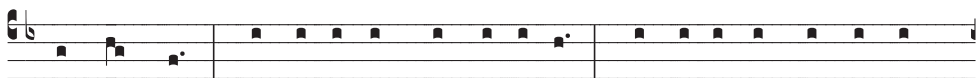
∴ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

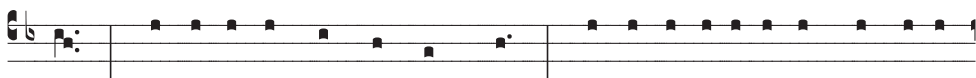
THE DIVINE PRAISES



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



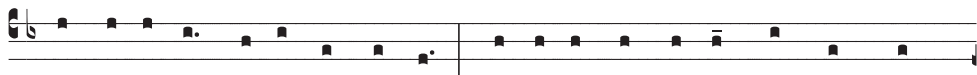
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



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

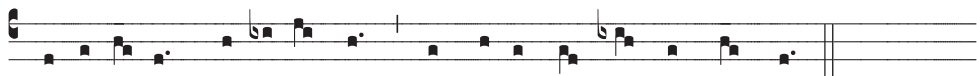


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



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.

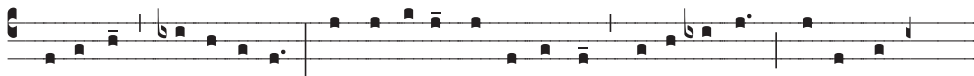
All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

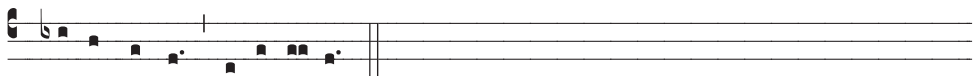


R

E-gí-na cæ-li, * læ-tá-re, al-le-lú-ia, qui-a quem me-ru-ís-ti
Queen of Heaven, rejoice, for he whom you did merit



portá-re, al-le-lú-ia, re-surréxit sic-ut di-xit, al-le-lú-ia; o-ra pro
to bear, has risen, as he said; pray for



nobis De-um, al-le-lú-ia.
us to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Christus Resurrexit!

Oreste Ravanello (1871–1938)

St Mary's Cathedral

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