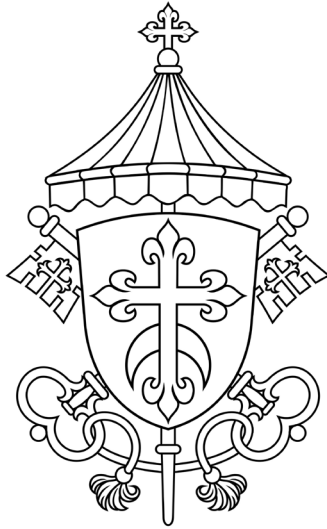


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

Fourth Sunday  
of Easter

26 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

**S**EDE a dextis meis, dixit Dominus  
Domino meo, alleluia.

*Sit on my right, said the Lord to my  
Master, 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

**E**XORTUM est in tenebris lumen  
rectis corde, alleluia.

*He has risen as a light in the darkness, for  
the upright of heart. Alleluia.*

### PSALM 111 (112)

Beatus vir, qui timet Dominum: *Happy the man who fears the Lord,*  
in mandatis eius cupit nimis. *who takes delight in all his commands.*

Potens in terra erit semen eius: *His sons will be powerful on earth;*  
generatio rectorum benedicetur. *the children of the upright are blessed.*

Gloria et divitiæ in domo eius: *Riches and wealth are in his house;*  
et iustitia eius manet in sæculum sæculi. *his justice stands firm for ever.*

Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis: *He is a light in the darkness for the upright:*  
misericors et miserator et iustus. *he is generous, merciful and just.*

Lucundus homo, qui miseretur et commodat, *The good man takes pity and lends,*  
disponet res suas in iudicio: *he conducts his affairs with honour.*  
quia in æternum non commovebitur. *The just man will never waver:*

In memoria æterna erit iustus: *he will be remembered for ever.*  
auditione mala non timebit. *He has no fear of evil news;*

Paretem cor eius, sperans in Domino, *with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.*  
confirmatum est cor eius, non timebit: *With a steadfast heart he will not fear;*  
donec despiciat inimicos suos. *he will see the downfall of his foes.*

Distribuit, dedit pauperibus; *Open-handed, he gives to the poor;*  
iustitia eius manet in sæculum sæculi: *his justice stands firm for ever.*  
cornu eius exaltabitur in gloria. *His head will be raised in glory.*

Peccator videbit et irascetur, *The wicked man sees and is angry,*  
dentibus suis fremet et tabescet: *grinds his teeth and fades away;*  
Desiderium peccatorum peribit. *the desire of the wicked leads to doom.*

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

**B**ENEDICTIO et claritas et sapientia et gratiarum actio, honor, virtus et fortitudo Deo nostro in sæcula sculorum. Amen. Alleluia.

*Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, honour and power and strength, to our God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.*

### CANTICLE

#### Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro: *Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,*  
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*  
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,*  
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*  
et qui timetis eum, pusilli et magni! *you who fear him, small and great.*  
Alleluia, alleluia. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Quoniam regnavit Dominus, *The Lord our God,*  
Deus noster omnipotens: *the Almighty, reigns,*  
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*

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,*  
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*  
et uxor eius præparavit se. *and his bride has made herself ready.*  
Alleluia, alleluia. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Gloria Patri et Filio: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*  
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*  
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,*  
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*  
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*  
Alleluia, alleluia. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

*The Antiphon is repeated.*

**C**HRIST 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.

### SHORT RESPONSORY

Surrexit Dominus vere, *The Lord has truly risen,*  
Alleluia, alleluia. *alleluia, alleluia.*

℣ Et apparuit Simoni. ℟ *He has appeared to Simon.*

℣ 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

**E**GO sum ostium, dicit Dominus; per me si quis introierit, salvabitur et pascua inveniet, alleluia.

*I am the door, says the Lord. Anyone who enters through me shall be safe and he will find a place of pasture, alleluia.*

# MAGNIFICAT

Octavi toni

Luca Marenzio (1550–1599)

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 to God the Father, who raised Jesus to life and exalted him at his own right hand.



✠ Exaudire digneris. ✠ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**

Father, through the victory of the cross you have lifted up Jesus from the earth; may he draw all people to himself. ✠

Through the exaltation of Christ send your Spirit into the Church; make her the sign of unity for the whole human family. ✠

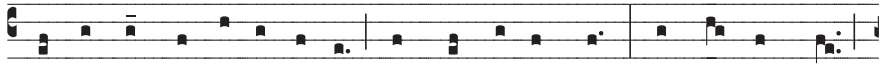
You have become the Father of all through water and the Spirit; keep them faithful to their baptism until they enter eternal life. ✠

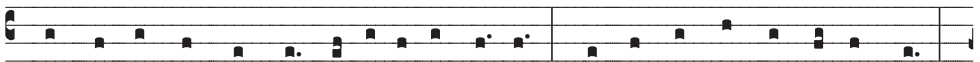
Through the exaltation of your Son raise up the sorrowful, set prisoners free, heal the sick; may the whole world rejoice in your wonderful gifts. ✠

You nourished the faithful departed with Christ's body and blood; let them share in his glory on the day of resurrection. ✠

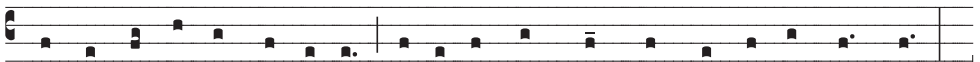
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

*All sing*

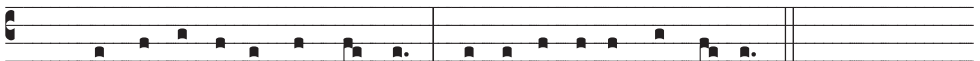
**O**  **UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,**



**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,  
bring us to the joy of your heavenly city:  
so that we, your little flock,  
may follow where Christ, our Good Shepherd,  
has gone before us by the power of his resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

℟: **Amen.**

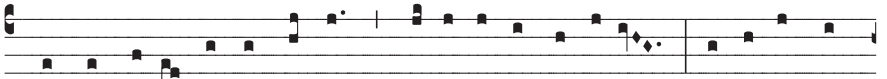
*The Choir sings*

## THE MOTET

**C**HRISt rising again from the dead now dieth not. Death from henceforth hath no power upon him. For in that he died but once to put away sin; but in that liveth unto God. And so likewise, count yourselves dead unto sin, but living unto God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Christ is risen again, the first fruit of them that sleep. For seeing that by man came death, by man also cometh the resurrection of the dead. For as by Adam all men do die, so by Christ all men shall be restored to life. Alleluia.

*William Byrd (c.1540–1623)*


All sing



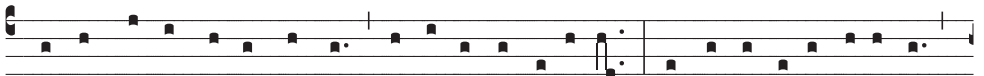
**T** ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum \* Vene-rémur cérnu- i : et an-tí-quum  
*Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows*




do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu- i : 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,*



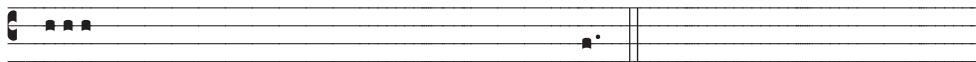
sa-lus, honor, virtus quoque sit et be-ne-dícti- o : pro-ce-dénti ab utró-que  
*honour, thanks, and praise addressing while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing,*



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.

**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 this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

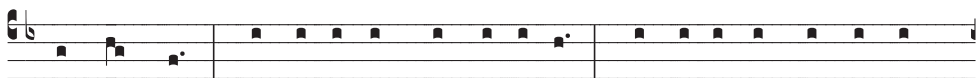
∞ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

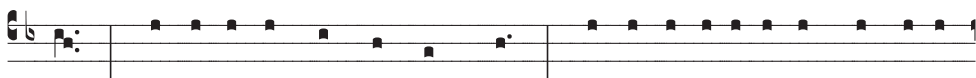
### THE DIVINE PRAISES



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:  
laudate eum omnes populi.

*O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim his all you peoples!*

Quoniam confirmata est super nos  
misericordia eius:  
et veritas Domini manet in æternum.

*Strong is his  
love for us;  
he is faithful for ever.*

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:  
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.*



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

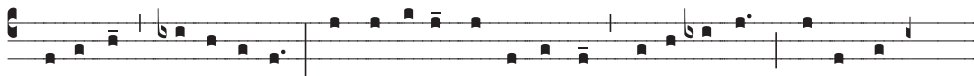
*Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.*

All sing

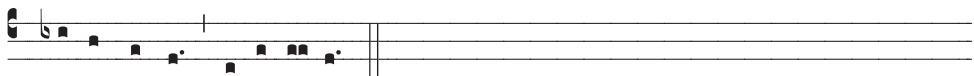
## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



**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

Toccata on 'O Filii et Filiæ'

Lynnwood Farnam (1885–1930)

**St Mary's Cathedral**

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Sydney NSW 2000

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