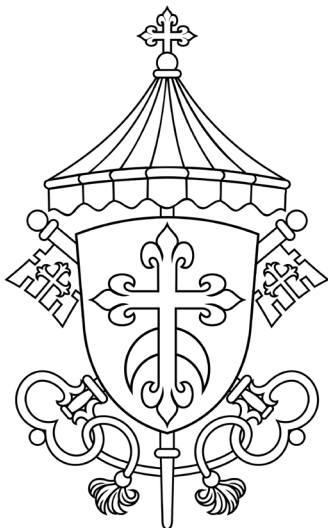


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

17 May 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. Alleluia.	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.</i>

## OFFICE HYMN

Iesu, nostra redemptio amor et desiderium, Deus creator omnium, homo in fine temporum,	<i>O Jesus, our redeeming Lord, the source of love and all desire, true God, creator of the world, true Man beyond the end of time,</i>
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Quæ te vicit clementia, ut ferres nostra crimina, crudelem mortem patiens, ut nos a morte tolleres;	<i>What clemency has mastered you, that you should bear our grievous sins, and suffer cruel and bitter death to rescue us from death's domain?</i>
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Inferni claustra penetrans, tuos captivos redimens; victor triumpho nobili ad dextram Patris residens?	<i>For us you breached the walls of hell, and ransomed all your captives there; as victor at the Father's right, in noble triumph you preside.</i>
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Ipsa te cogat pietas, ut mala nostra superes parcendo, et voti compotes nos tuo vultu saties.	<i>May this same love impel you still to overcome our evil deeds, to pardon them and grant our prayer, to gaze for ever on your face.</i>
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Tu esto nostrum gaudium, qui es futurus præmium; sit nostra in te gloria per cuncta semper sæcula. Amen.	<i>Lord Jesus, be all joy for us, for you shall be our great reward; may all our glory be in you through endless ages evermore. Amen.</i>
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*All sit.*

# 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

**A**SCENDIT Deus in iubilatione, et  
Dominus in voce tubæ, alleluia.

*God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord  
ascends with trumpet blast. Alleluia.*

### PSALM 46 (47)

Omnes gentes, plaudite manibus, *All peoples, clap your hands,*  
iubilare Deo in voce exsultationis, *cry to God with shouts of joy!*

quoniam Dominus Altissimus, terribilis, *For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,*  
rex magnus super omnem terram. *great king over all the earth.*

Subiecit populos nobis *He subdues peoples under us*  
et gentes sub pedibus nostris. *and nations under our feet.*

Elegit nobis hereditatem nostram, *Our inheritance, our glory, is from him,*  
gloriam Iacob, quem dilexit. *given to Jacob out of love.*

Ascendit Deus in iubilo, *God goes up with shouts of joy;*  
et Dominus in voce tubæ. *the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

Psallite Deo, psallite; *Sing praise for God, sing praise,*  
psallite regi nostro, psallite. *sing praise to our king, sing praise.*

Quoniam rex omnis terræ Deus, *God is king of all the earth,*  
psallite sapienter. *sing praise with all your skill.*

Regnavit Deus super gentes, *God is king over the nations;*  
Deus sedet super sedem sanctam suam. *God reigns on his holy throne.*

Principes populorum congregati sunt *The princes of the people are assembled*  
cum populo Dei Abraham, *with the people of Abraham's God.*

quoniam Dei sunt scuta terræ: *The rulers of the earth belong to God,*  
vehementer elevatus est. *to God who reigns over all.*

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

**C**LARIFICATUS est Filius hominis, et Deus  
clarificatus est in eo, alleluia.

*Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and in  
him God has been glorified, alleluia.*

### CANTICLE

Apocalypse 1:17-18,12:10-12

Gratias agimus tibi,      *We give thanks to you,  
Domine Deus omnipotens,      Lord God Almighty,*

qui es et qui eras,      *who are and who were,  
quia accepisti virtutem tuam magnam      that you have taken your great power  
et regnasti.      and begun to reign.*

Et iratæ sunt gentes,      *The nations raged,  
et advenit ira tua,      but your wrath came,  
et tempus mortuorum iudicari,      and the time for the dead to be judged,  
et reddere mercedem servis tuis      for rewarding your servants,  
prophetis et sanctis      the prophets and saints,  
et timentibus nomen tuum, pusillis et magnis.      and those who fear your name, both small and great.*

Nunc facta est salus et virtus      *Now the salvation and the power  
et regnum Dei nostri      and the kingdom of our God  
et potestas Christi eius,      and the authority of his Christ have come,  
quia proiectus est accusator      for the accuser of our brethren  
fratrum nostrorum,      has been thrown down,  
qui accusabat illos      who accuses them  
ante conspectum Dei nostri die ac nocte.      day and night before our God.*

Et ipsi vicerunt illum      *And they have conquered him  
propter sanguinem Agni      by the blood of the Lamb,  
et propter verbum testimonii sui;      and by the word of their testimony,  
et non dilexerunt animam suam      for they loved not their lives  
usque ad mortem.      even unto death.*

Propterea lætamini, cæli      *Rejoice, then, O heaven  
et qui habitatis in eis.      and you that dwell therein.*

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.*

**C**HRISt himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life. He has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

### SHORT RESPONSORY

Ascendo ad Patrem meum *I am ascending to my Father*  
 et Patrem vestrum, Alleluia, alleluia. *and your Father, alleluia, alleluia.*

℣. Deum meum et Deum vestrum. ℟. *I go to my God and your God.*

℣. 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

**O**REX gloriæ, Domine virtutum, qui triumphator hodie super omnes cælos ascendisti, ne derelinquas nos orphanos; sed mitte promissum Patris in nos, Spiritum veritatis, alleluia.

*King of Glory, Lord Almighty, today you have ascended victoriously above the heavens. Do not leave us as orphans without a guide, but send us the one whom you promised, the gift of the Father, the Spirit of Truth. Alleluia.*

# MAGNIFICAT

Secundi 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.*

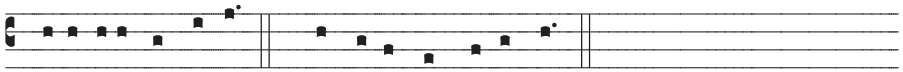
Gloria Patri et Filio,      *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*  
et Spiritui Sancto.      *and to the Holy Spirit,*

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

Rejoicing, let us pray to Christ who is seated at the right hand of the Father.



✠ Exaudíre di-gnéris. ✠ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**

King of glory, in you our mortal flesh has been lifted to the heights: deliver us from the corruption of sin and restore us to immortal life. ✠

Following the path of love, you came down to us from heaven: let us follow that same path in our ascent to you. ✠

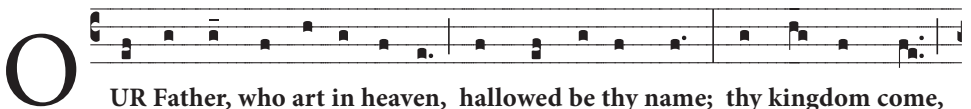
You promised to draw all people to yourself: do not let any of us be separated from your body. ✠

You have ascended into heaven: let us be there with you in our minds and hearts. ✠

We await your coming in majesty on the great day of judgement: may we then gaze upon your glory, with all the faithful departed. ✠

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

*All sing*



**OUR 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-tation, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.**

## COLLECT

**A**LMIGHTY God,  
fill us with a holy joy;  
teach us how to thank you with reverence and love  
on account of the ascension of Christ your Son.  
You have raised us up with him:  
where he, the head, has preceded us in glory,  
there we, the body, are called in hope.  
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.**

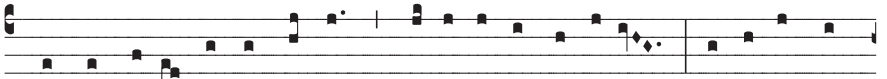
*The Choir sings*

## THE MOTET

**G**OD is gone up with a triumphant shout; the Lord with sounding trumpets'  
melodies: Sing praise, sing praises out, unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!  
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing, and let the King of glory enter in.  
Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly in flakes of glory down, him to attend,  
and hear heart-cramping notes of melody surround his chariot as it did ascend,  
mixing their music, making every string more to enravish as they this tune sing.

*Gerald Finzi (1901–1956)*


All sing



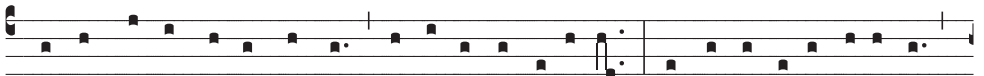
**T** ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum \* Vene-rémur cérnu-i : et an-tí-quum  
*Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows*




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,*



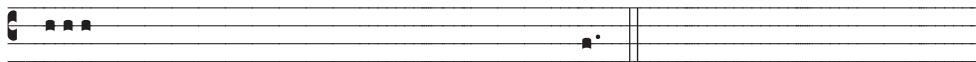
sa-lus, honor, virtus quoque sit et be-ne-dícti-o : pro-ce-dénti ab utró-que  
*honour, thanks, and praise addressing while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing,*



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.*

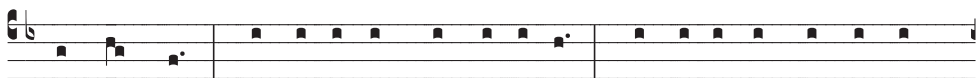
∞ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

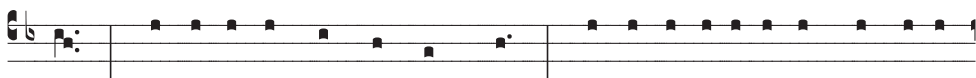
### THE DIVINE PRAISES



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



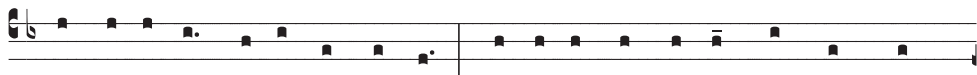
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



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

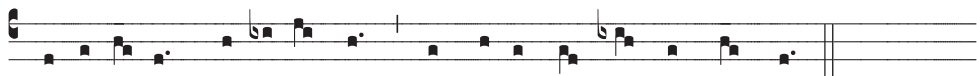


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



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.*

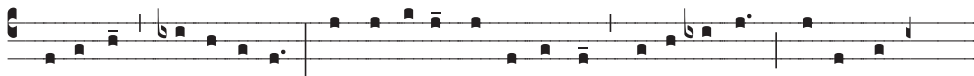
All sing

## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

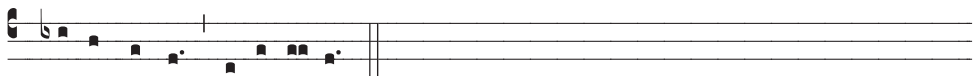


**R**

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

Christus Vincit (Le Tombeau de Duruflé)

David Briggs (b. 1962)

**St Mary's Cathedral**  
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