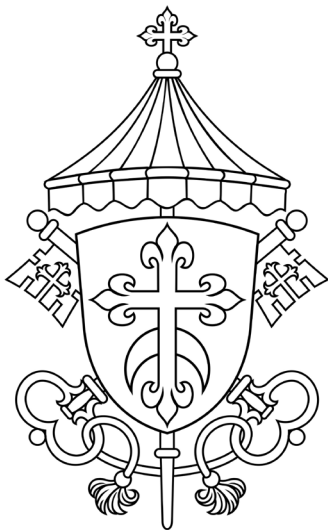


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

PENTECOST SUNDAY

23 May 2026  
5.30pm

## 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.**

# ORDER OF VESPERS

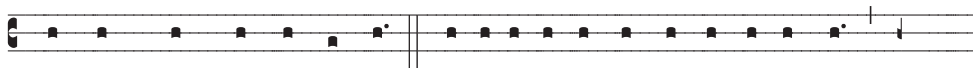
*At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

♯



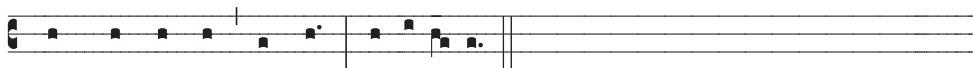
**O** God, come to our aid.



♯ **O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son**



**and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**



**world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.**

All sing

## THE OFFICE HYMN



Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor, come From thy bright heav'n-ly throne,



Come take pos - ses - sion of our souls, And make them all thy own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,  
Best gift of God above;  
The living spring, the living fire,  
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sev'nfold in thy grace,  
Finger of God's right hand;  
His promise, teaching little ones,  
To speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blest light,  
With love our hearts inflame;  
And with thy strength, which ne'er decays,  
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;  
True peace unto us bring;  
And through all perils lead us safe  
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know  
Through thee th'eternal Son,  
And thee the Spirit of them both,  
Thrice-blessèd Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,  
With his co-equal Son;  
The same to thee, great Paraclete,  
While endless ages run.

*Tallis' ordinal*  
*Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

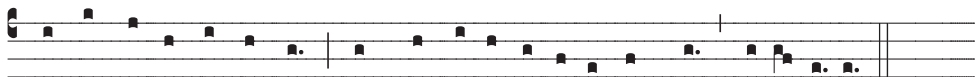
*Veni, creator Spiritus*

All sit.

# PSALMODY

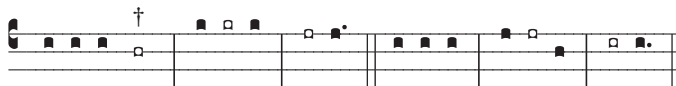
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode III



On the day of Pen-te-cost they were all together in one place, al-le- lu-ia.

## PSALM 112 (113)



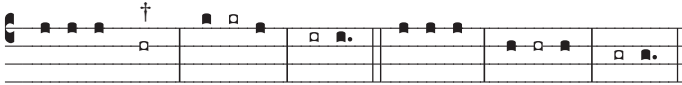
- Cantor* 1 Praise, O servants | of the | Lord, \*  
praise the | name of the | Lord!
- All* 2 **May the name of the | Lord be | blessed \*  
both now and for | ever- | more!**
- 3 From the rising of the sun | to its | setting \*  
praised be the | name of the | Lord!
- 4 **High above all nations | is the | Lord, \*  
above the | heavens his | glory.**
- 5 Who is like the | Lord, our | God, \*  
who has risen on | high to his | throne
- 6 **yet stoops from the | heights to look | down, \*  
to look down upon | heaven and | earth?**
- 7 From the dust he | lifts up the | lowly, \*  
from his misery he | raises the | poor
- 8 **to set him in the compa- | ny of | princes, \*  
yes, with the princes | of his | people.**
- 9 To the childless wife he | gives a | home \*  
and gladdens her | heart with | children.
- 10 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
and to the | Holy | Spirit,**
- 11 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \*  
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.



Tongues of fire appeared to the apostles, al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 146 (147A)



- Cantor* 1 Praise the Lord for he is good; †  
sing to our God for | he is | loving: \*  
to him our | praise is | due.
- All* 2 **The Lord | builds up Je- | rusalem \*  
and brings back | Israel's | exiles,**
- 3 he heals the | broken- | hearted, \*  
he binds up | all their | wounds.
- 4 **He fixes the number | of the | stars; \*  
he calls each one | by its | name.**
- 5 Our Lord is | great and al- | mighty; \*  
his wisdom can | never be | measured.
- 6 **The Lord | raises the | lowly; \*  
he humbles the wicked | to the | dust.**
- 7 O sing to the Lord | giving | thanks; \*  
sing psalms to our God | with the | harp.
- 8 **He covers the | heavens with | clouds; \*  
he prepares the rain | for the | earth,**
- 9 making mountains | sprout with | grass \*  
and with plants to | serve man's | needs.
- 10 **He provides the beasts | with their | food \*  
and young ravens that | call up- | on him.**
- 11 His delight is | not in | horses \*  
nor his pleasure in | warriors' | strength.
- 12 **The Lord delights in those | who re- | vere him, \*  
in those who wait | for his | love.**

- 13    Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
       and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 14    **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \***  
       **world without | end. A- | men.**

*All repeat the Antiphon.*

*All sing the* THIRD ANTIPHON

*Mode VIII*



The Holy Spirit will glo-ri-fy me, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

CANTICLE  
 Apocalypse 15:3-4



- Cantor*    1    Great and wonderful | are your | deeds, \*  
                   O Lord God | the Al- | mighty!
- All*         2    **Just and true | are your | ways, \***  
                   **O King | of the | ages!**
- 3    Who shall not fear and glorify your | name, O | Lord? \*  
                   For you a- | lone are | holy.
- 4    **All nations shall come and | worship | you, \***  
                   **for your judgements have | been re- | vealed.**
- 5    Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
                   and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 6    **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \***  
                   **world without | end. A- | men.**

*All repeat the Antiphon.*

**I**F the Spirit of God who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Jesus Christ from the dead will give life to your perishable bodies too, for the sake of his Spirit who dwells in you.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.



∇ He will teach you everything. ℞ Al-le- lu- ia, al-le- lu- ia.

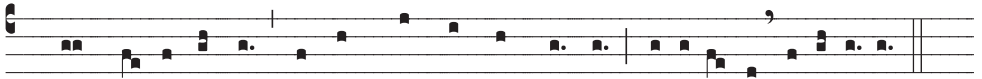


∇ Glory be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi- rit.



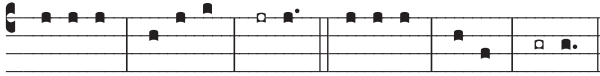
℞ The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.

*All stand.*



Come, Ho-ly Spi-rit, fill the hearts of your faithful, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

MAGNIFICAT

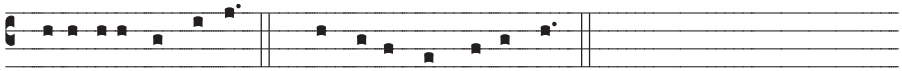


- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the great- | ness of the | Lord, \*  
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on | his lowly | servant, \***  
**and from this day all generations will | call me | blessèd.**
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, \*  
holy | is his | Name.
- 4 **He has mercy | on those who | fear him \*  
in every | gene- | ration.**
- 5 He has shown the | strength of his | arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in | their con- | ceit.
- 6 **He has cast down the migh- | ty from their | thrones, \*  
and has lifted | up the | lowly.**
- 7 He has filled the | hungry with | good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent | away | empty.
- 8 **He has come to the help of | his servant | Israel \*  
for he has remembered his pro- | mise of | mercy,**
- 9 the promise he | made to our | fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his child- | ren for | ever.
- 10 **Glory be to the Father | and to the | Son \*  
and to the | Holy | Spirit,**
- 11 as it was in the beginning, is now, | and ever | shall be, \*  
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

## INTERCESSIONS

The apostles waited and prayed for the coming of the Spirit. Gathered together in their company, we pray for his coming tonight, and joyfully proclaim the greatness of God.



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

In Christ you restored the universe which you made; through your Spirit renew the face of the earth. ∞

You breathed into Adam the breath of life: breathe your Spirit into the Church, that the world may find life in her. ∞

May your Spirit bring light to our darkness; turn hatred into love, sorrow into joy, and doubt into hope. ∞

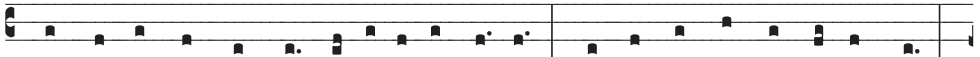
Cleanse and refresh us in the waters of the Spirit; where there is anguish and sin, bring healing and rebirth. ∞

Through the Holy Spirit you bring us to life and glory: may the dead enter their home in heaven to enjoy your love forever. ∞

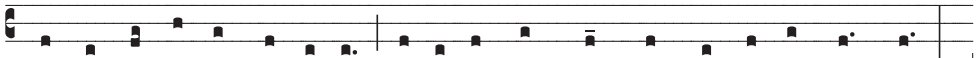
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

*All sing*

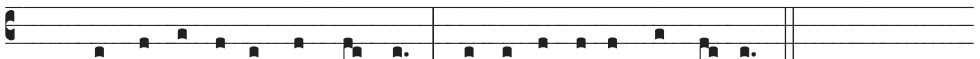
**O** UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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,  
you ordained that the paschal mystery  
should be completed by the mystery of Pentecost.  
Gather together, by your gift of grace,  
the scattered nations and divided tongues  
to one faith in your Name.

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.**

## CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

℟: **Amen.**

**L**  ET us bless the Lord, al-le-lú- ia, al-le- lú- ia.



℟: **Thanks be to God, al- le- lú- ia, al- le- lú- ia.**

*In the absence of a Priest:*

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

℟: **Amen.**

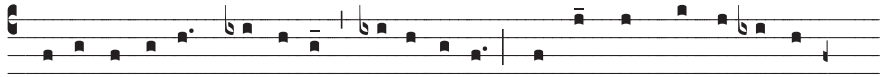
Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

℟: **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

All sing

## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

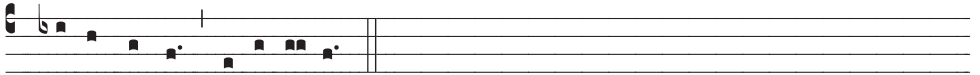
**R**



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.*

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