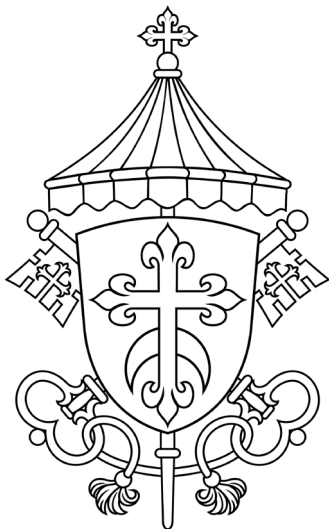


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Mass

The Ascension Sunday
of the Lord

17 May 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>Full Choir</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>Cathedral Scholars</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



**There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluia!
Take the King of Glory in. Alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia!
Far above yon azure height, Alleluia!
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia!
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluia!**

**There we shall with thee remain, Alleluia!
Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluia!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!**

*Llanfair
Melody by Robert Williams (1781–1821)*

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)
and Thomas Cotterill (1779–1823)*

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the INTROIT

Acts 1:11; Psalm 46

VIRI Galilaei, quid admiramini aspicientes in caelum? alleluia: quemadmodum vidistis eum, ascendentem in caelum, ita veniet, alleluia. ƿ. Omnes gentes plaudite manibus: iubilate Deo in voce exultationis.

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia. ƿ. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy.

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Celebrant says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

℟: **Amen.**

The Lord 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 Celebrant 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 and GLORIA

from Missa Brevis: The Road to Emmaus

Judith Bingham (b. 1952)

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te,
benedicimus te,
adoramus te,
glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
 propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili Unigenite, Iesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
 miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi,
 suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
 miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
 tu solus Altissimus,
Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks
 for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
 receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

The Celebrant says the COLLECT

℟: **Amen.**

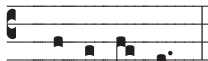
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

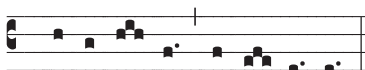
Acts 1:1-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 46:2-3, 6-9



Alleluia. All peoples, clap your hands, *℟* **Al-le- lú- ia.**



cry to God with shouts of joy! *℟* **Al-le- lú- ia, al- le- lú- ia**

Alleluia. For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, *℟* **Alleluia.**
great king over all the earth. *℟* **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia. God goes up with shouts of joy; *℟* **Alleluia.**
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast. *℟* **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia. Sing praise for God, sing praise, *℟* **Alleluia.**
sing praise to our king, sing praise. *℟* **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia. God is king of all the earth. *℟* **Alleluia.**
Sing praise with all your skill. *℟* **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia. God is king over the nations; *℟* **Alleluia.**
God reigns on his holy throne. *℟* **Alleluia, alleluia.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

The Choir sings the ALLELUIA

℣ *Psalms 67:18-19*

Alleluia.

℣ Dominus in Sina in sancto, ascendens in altum, captivam duxit captivitatem.

The Lord has come from Sinai to the holy place. You have gone up on high; you have led captivity captive.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

✠ **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord.

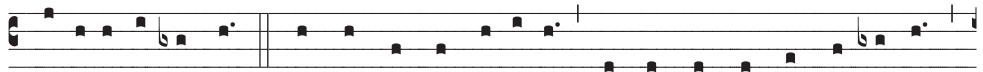
✠ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

All sing alternate lines of the CREED

Credo III

<p><i>Celebrant</i></p> <p>C</p>	<p><i>Choir</i></p>
<p>Redo in unum De-um, <i>I believe in one God,</i></p>	<p>Patrem omni-pot-éntem, factó-rem caeli et <i>the Father almighty, maker of heaven and</i></p>
<p><i>All</i></p>	
<p>terrae, vi-si-bí-li-um ó-mnium, et in-vi-si-bí-li-um. <i>earth, of all things visible and invisible.</i></p>	<p>Et in unum Dómi-num <i>I believe in one Lord</i></p>
<p>Ie-sum Christum, Fí-li-um De-i u-ni-gé-ni-tum. <i>Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,</i></p>	<p>Et ex Patre na-tum ante <i>born of the Father before</i></p>
<p>ó-mni-a saé-cu-la. <i>all ages.</i></p>	<p>Deum de De-o, lumen de lúmi-ne, Deum ve-rum de <i>God from God, Light from Light, true God from</i></p>
<p>De-o ve-ro. <i>true God,</i></p>	<p>Gé-ni-tum, non fa-ctum, consubstanti-á-lem Pa-tri : per quem <i>begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him</i></p>



ó-mni-a fa-cta sunt. **Qui propter nos hómines, et propter nostram sa-lú-tem**
all things were made. For us men and for our salvation

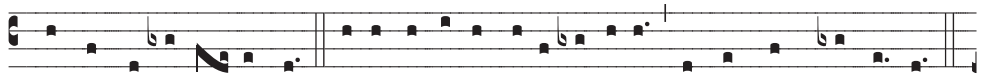
All bow



descéndit de cae-lis. Et incarnátus est de Spí-ri-tu Sancto ex Ma-rí-a Vír-gi-ne :
he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,



Et homo factus est. **Cru-ci-fí-xus é-ti-am pro no-bis : sub Pónti-o Pi-lá-to**
and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,



passus, et se-púltus est. Et re-surré-xit térti-a di-e, se-cúndum Scriptú-ras.
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.



Et ascéndit in cae-lum : se-det ad dexte-ram Pa-tris. Et í-te-rum ventú-rus
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again



est cum gló-ri-a, iu-di-cá-re vi-vos et mórtu-os : cu-ius regni non e-rit fi-nis.
in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.



Et in Spí-ri-tum Sanctum, Dó-mi-num, et vi-vi-fi-cántem : qui ex Patre Fi-li-
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the



óque pro-cé-dit. Qui cum Patre et Fí-li-o simul ad-o-rá-tur, et conglo-ri-fi-
Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,



cá-tur : qui lo-cú-tus est per Prophé-tas. **Et unam sanctam cathó-li-cam et**
who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and



a-postó-li-cam Ecclé-si-am. Confi-te-or unum ba-ptísma in remissi- ó-nem
apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness



pecca-tó-rum. **Et expécto re-surrecti-ó-nem mortu-ó-rum. Et vi-tam ventú-ri**
of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world



saé-cu-li. A- men.
to come.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Choir sings the OFFERTORY MOTET

Patrick Gowers (1936–2014)

ALLELUIA. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which said unto them: Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up to heaven? In like manner as ye have seen him going up into heaven, so shall he come again. God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Christ to highest heaven ascending led captivity captive. Sing ye to the Lord who ascended to the heaven of heavens, to the sun rising. See the conqueror mounts in triumph, see the king in royal state, riding on the clouds his chariot to his heavenly palace gate. Hark! The choirs of angel voices joyful alleluias sing, and the portals high are lifted to receive their heavenly King. Alleluia.

The Celebrant 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 Celebrant says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

℟: **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

T HE Lord be with you. R And with your spi-rit.

Lift up your hearts. R We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R It is right and just.

THE PREFACE

IT is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended today to the highest heavens, as the Angels gazed in wonder. Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All sing the **SANCTUS**

Mass I

S Anctus, * Sanctus, Sanctus Dómi-nus De-us Sá-ba-oth. Ple- ni sunt
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven

cae- li et ter- ra gló- ri- a tu- a. Ho- sánna in ex- cél- sis. Be- ne- díc- tus qui
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he

ve- nit in nó- mi- ne Dó- mi- ni. Ho- sánna in excél- sis.
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the Celebrant sings

The mystery of faith.

All sing

℞
W

E proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur-rectio

until you come a-gain.

When the Celebrant 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

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.

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.


✠ **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.


✠ **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.


✠ **And with your spirit.**



A - gnus De-i, * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mun-di: mi-se-ré- re no-bis.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.



Agnus De- i * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mun-di: mi-se-ré- re no- bis.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.



Agnus De- i * **qui tol-lis pec-cá- ta mun-di: do-na no- bis pa- cem.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Celebrant 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

Matthew 28:18-19

DATA est mihi omnis potestas in caelo et in terra, alleluia: euntes, docete omnes gentes, baptizantes eos in nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, alleluia.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, alleluia; go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, alleluia.

The Choir sings the AGNUS DEI II

from Missa Brevis: The Road to Emmaus

Judith Bingham

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



Lord, en-throned in hea-venly splen-dour, First-be-got-ten from the dead,



Thou a-lone, our strong de-fend-er, Lift-est up thy peo-ple's head.



Al - le-lu - ia, Al - le-lu - ia, Je - su, true and liv - ing bread.

**Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine Angels hail thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We in worship join with them.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Life-imparting heav'nly Manna,
Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

*St Helen
George Martin (1844–1916)*

G H Bourne (1840–1925)

The Celebrant says the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

℟: **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

Bow down for the blessing.

May almighty God bless you, for on this very day his Only Begotten Son pierced the heights of heaven and unlocked for you the way to ascend to where he is.

℟: **Amen.**

May he grant that, as Christ after his Resurrection was seen plainly by his disciples, so when he comes as Judge he may show himself merciful to you for all eternity.

℟: **Amen.**

And may you, who believe he is seated with the Father in his majesty, know with joy the fulfilment of his promise to stay with you until the end of time.

℟: **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

Transports de joie (LAscension)

Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

LATER TODAY IN THE CATHEDRAL

Solemn Vespers and Benediction *sung by the Girls & 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
gift of \$10,000.

Your generosity will directly support travel and
accommodation costs, and ensure that
participation is not limited by financial means.

*Please scan the QR code to make a tax-deductible
donation and help make this tour a reality today:*

