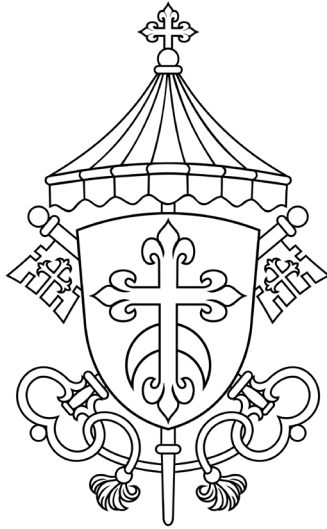


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Second Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS

8 August 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 center 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.

SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS

(1842–1909)

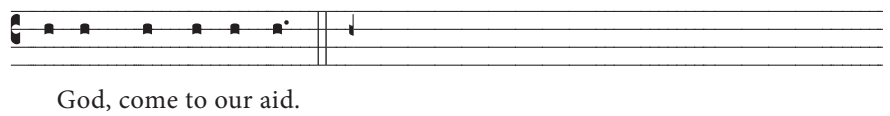
Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. She took the religious name Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. She is remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny, and for her abiding trust in God's providence. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on 17 October 2010: the first Australian saint.

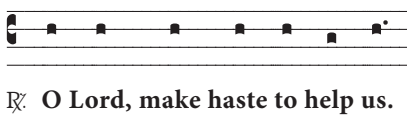
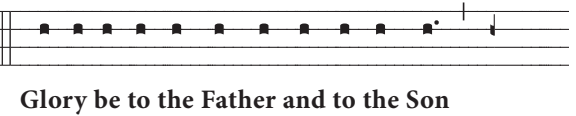
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

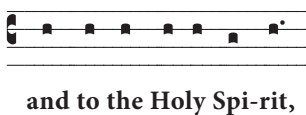
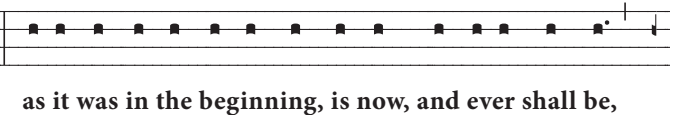
ORDER OF VESPERS

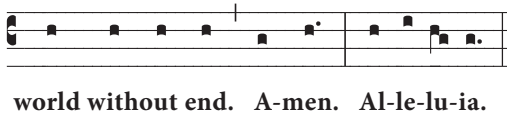
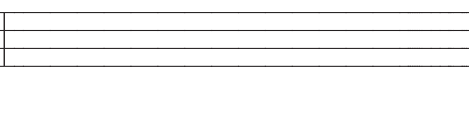
At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

 
God, come to our aid.

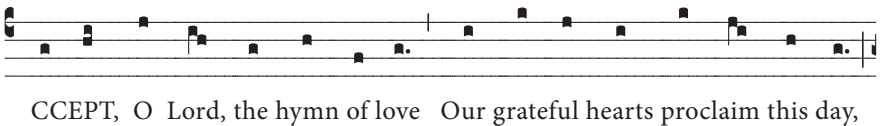
 
O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son

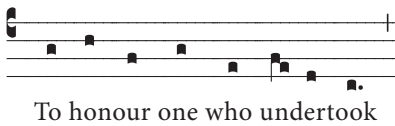
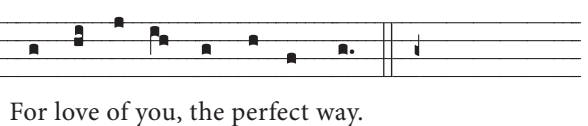
 
and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

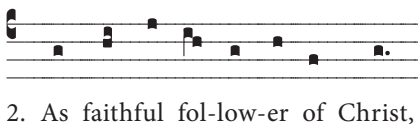
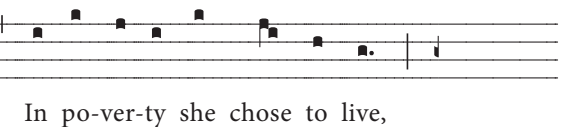
 
world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.

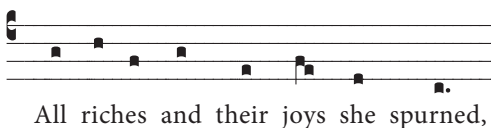
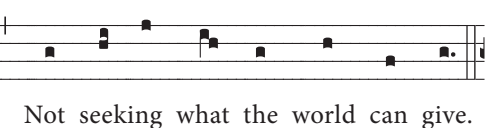
All sing

THE OFFICE HYMN

 
ACCEPT, O Lord, the hymn of love Our grateful hearts proclaim this day,

 
To honour one who undertook For love of you, the perfect way.

 
2. As faithful fol-low-er of Christ, In po-ver-ty she chose to live,

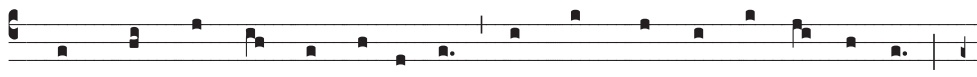
 
All riches and their joys she spurned, Not seeking what the world can give.



3. De-vot-ing heart and soul to you, She strove for true hu-mi-li-ty,



That im-it-ates in thought and deed The Spouse of Vir-gin's pu-ri-ty.



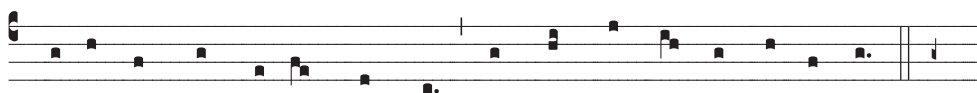
4. She sought to serve but you a-lone, To please you was her one de-sire,



Her in-most soul, each word and act, Was prompted by love's ardent fire.



5. Wholeheart-ed-ly she served on earth, At-tached to you by bonds of love,



Un-til her freed, tri-um-phant soul At-tained its great re-ward a-bove.



6. Grant us the grace of ea-ger-ness To tread the path she brave-ly trod,



That with her we may prais-es sing To you, blest Tri-ni-ty, our God. A-men.

All sit.

PSALMODY

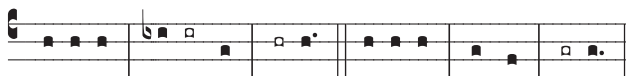
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode I



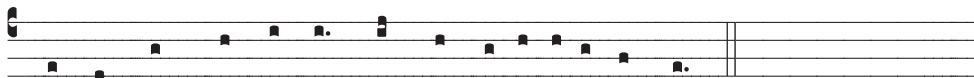
Lord, your servant re-joices, because you have saved her.

PSALM 121 (122)



- Cantor* 1 I rejoiced when I | heard them | say: *
Let us go | to God's | house.
- All* 2 **And now our | feet are | standing *
within your gates, | O Je- | rusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem is | built as a | city *
strong- | ly com- | pact.
- 4 **It is there that the | tribes go | up, *
the tribes | of the | Lord.**
- 5 For Israel's | law it | is, *
there to praise | the Lord's | name.
- 6 **There were set the | thrones of | judgment *
of the | house of | David.**
- 7 For the peace of Je- | rusalem | pray: *
Peace be | to your | homes!
- 8 **May peace | reign in your | walls, *
in your pa- | laces, | peace!**
- 9 For love of my | brethren and | friends *
I say: | Peace up- | on you.
- 10 **For love of the | house of the | Lord *
I will ask | for your | good.**
- 11 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 12 **As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world without | end. A- | men.**

All repeat the Antiphon.



The commandments of God stand firm for ev-er in her heart.

PSALM 126 (127)



- Cantor* 1 If the Lord does not | build the | house, *
in vain do its | builders | labour;
- All* 2 **if the Lord does not watch | over the | city, ***
in vain does the | watchman keep | vigil.
- 3 In vain is your | earlier | rising, *
your going | later to | rest,
- 4 **you who toil for the | bread you | eat, ***
when he pours gifts on his beloved | while they | slumber.
- 5 Truly sons are a | gift from the | Lord, *
a blessing, the | fruit of the | womb.
- 6 **Indeed the | sons of | youth ***
are like arrows in the | hand of a | warrior.
- 7 O the happiness | of the | man *
who has filled his quiver | with these | arrows!
- 8 **He will have no | cause for | shame ***
when he disputes with his foes | in the | gateways.
- 9 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 10 **As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

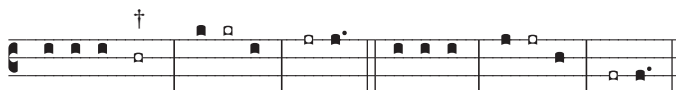
All repeat the Antiphon.



God's right hand has given her strength: she will be blessed for ever.

CANTICLE

Ephesians 1:3-10



- Cantor* 1 Blessed be the | God and | Father *
of our Lord | Jesus | Christ,
- All* 2 **who has | blessed us in | Christ ***
with every spiritual blessing in the | heavenly | places.
- 3 He chose | us in | him *
before the foundation | of the | world,
- 4 **that we | should be | holy ***
and | blameless be- | fore him.
- 5 He destined us in love †
to be his sons through | Jesus | Christ, *
according to the purpose | of his | will,
- 6 **to the praise of his | glorious | grace ***
which he freely bestowed on us in | the Be- | loved.
- 7 In him we have redemption | through his | blood, *
the forgiveness | of our | trespasses,
- 8 **according to the riches | of his | grace ***
which he | lavished up- | on us.
- 9 He has made known to us †
in all | wisdom and | insight *
the mystery | of his | will,
- 10 **according | to his | purpose ***
which he set | forth in | Christ.
- 11 His purpose he set | forth in | Christ *
as a plan for the | fullness of | time,
- 12 **to unite all | things in | him, ***
things in heaven and | things on | earth.



- 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

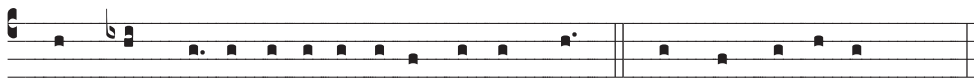
Romans 8:28-30

WE are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



God has chosen her. * He chose her before she was born.



∇ He brought her to live in his ho-ly dwelling-place. ℞ **He chose her before...**



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



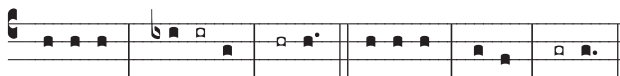
℞ **God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.**

All stand.



You have left all things and have followed me.

MAGNIFICAT

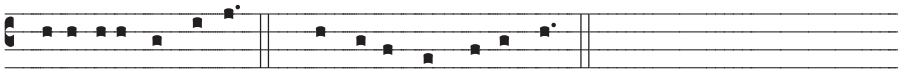


- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the greatness | of the | Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant, ***
and from this day all generations will | call me | blessèd.
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, *
holy | is his | 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 mighty | 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

Through the holy women let us pray to the Lord for all the needs of his Church.



℣ Exaudíre di-gnéris. ℟ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**

Through the women martyrs who overcame death with undying courage, strengthen your Church in time of trial. ℟

Through the married women who graced the lives of the human family, renew the Church in her apostolic mission. ℟

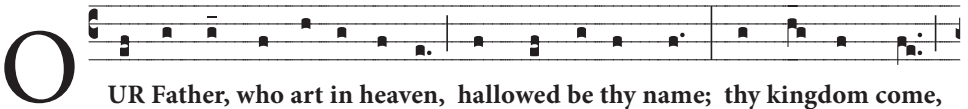
Through all the widows who sanctified loneliness with prayer and hospitality, make your Church a telling sign of your love for all the world. ℟

Through all the mothers who introduced their children to the kingdom of God and true human life in society, may your Church bring all people to eternal life and salvation. ℟

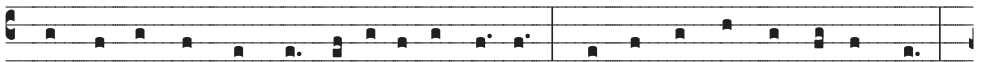
Through all the holy women who live in the light of your glory, grant to the faithful departed the everlasting vision of happiness. ℟

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

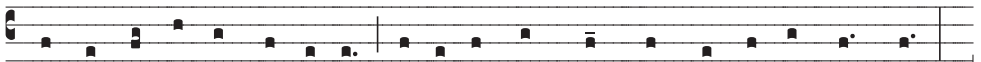
All sing



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-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

COLLECT

O GOD,
source of all goodness,
who have shown us in Saint Mary
a woman of faith living by the power of the Cross,
teach us, we pray, by her example
to live the Gospel in changing times
and to respect and defend
the human dignity of all in our land.
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.

R: **Amen.**

CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

R: **And with your spirit.**

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

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **Thanks be to God.**

In the absence of a Priest:

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

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

S

Al-ve, Re-gí-na, * **ma-ter mi-se-ri-cór-di-ae** : Vi-ta, dul-cé-do, et spes
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and

nostra, sal-ve. Ad te clamámus, éx-su-les, fí-li-i Hevae. Ad te su-spi-rámus,
our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up

ge-méntes et flén-tes in hac la-crimárum val-le. E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta
our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious

nos-tra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te. Et le-sum,
advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; And show

be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de.
unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.

O cle-mens : O pi-a : O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-rí-a.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Road

Sydney NSW 2000

www.stmaryscathedral.org.au

General enquiries

Tel: (02) 9220 0400

Fax: (02) 9223 5208

Email: info@stmaryscathedral.org.au