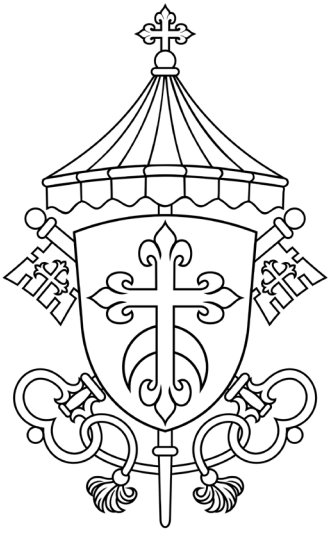
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

ALL SAINTS

1 November 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 daily singing of 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:

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 — *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto. — *and to the Holy Spirit,*
Sicut erat in principio — *as it was in the beginning,*
et nunc et semper — *is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia. — *world without end. Amen. Alleluia.*

OFFICE HYMN

Christe, redemptor omnium, — *O Christ, Redeemer of us all,*
conserva tuos famulos, — *Protect thy servants when they call,*
beatæ semper Virginis — *And hear with reconciling care*
placatus sanctis precibus. — *The Blessed Virgin's holy prayer.*

Beata quoque agmina — *And ye, O ever blissful throng*
cælestium spirituum, — *Of heavenly Spirits, guardians strong,*
præterita, præsentia, — *Our past and present ills dispel;*
futura mala pellite. — *From future peril shield us well.*

Vates æterni iudicis — *Ye Prophets of the Judge adored*
apostolique Domini, — *Ye twelve Apostles of the Lord,*
suppliciter exposcimus — *For us your ceaseless prayer outpour,*
salvari vestris precibus. — *Salvation for our souls implore.*

Martyres Dei incliti — *Martyrs of God, renowned for aye,*
confessoresque lucidi, — *Confessors ranged in bright array,*
vestris orationibus — *Let all your orisons unite*
nos ferte in cælestibus. — *To bear us to the realms of light.*

Chori sanctarum virginum — *O sacred Virgin choirs, may ye,*
monachorumque omnium, — *With Monks of holy ministry*
simul cum sanctis omnibus — *And every Saint of Christ, obtain*
consortes Christi facite. — *That we his fellowship may gain.*

Sit Trinitati gloria, — *To thee, O Father, born of none,*
vestrasque voces iungite — *And thee, O sole-begotten Son,*
ut illi laudes debitas — *One with the Holy Paraclete,*
persolvamus alacriter. Amen. — *Be glory ever as is meet. Amen.*

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

DIXIT Dominus Domino meo: Sede a dextris meis.

The Lord's revelation to my Master: 'Sit on my right'.

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: «Sede a dextris meis,	*The Lord's revelation to my Master:* *'Sit on my right:*
donec ponam inimicos tuos: scabellum pedum tuorum».	*your foes I will put* *beneath your feet.'*
Virgam potentiæ tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.	*The Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power:* *rule in the midst of all your foes.*
Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuæ, in splendoribus sanctis: ex utero ante luciferum genui te.	*A prince from the day of your birth* *on the holy mountains;* *from the womb before the dawn I begot you.*
Iuravit Dominus et non pænitebit eum: «Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech».	*The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.* *'You are a priest for ever,* *a priest like Melchizedek of old.'*
Dominus a dextris tuis: conquassabit in die iræ suæ reges.	*The Master standing at your right hand* *will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.*
De torrente in via bibet: propterea exaltabit caput.	*He shall drink from the stream by the wayside* *and therefore he shall lift up his head.*
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.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

SECOND ANTIPHON

FIDELIA omnia mandata eius,
confirmata in sæculum sæculi.

The Lord is full of merciful love; he makes us remember his wonders, alleluia.

PSALM 110 (111)

Confitebor Domino in toto corde meo, in consilio iustorum et congregatione.	*I will thank the Lord with all my heart* *in the meeting of the just and their assembly.*
Magna opera Domini, exquirenda omnibus qui cupiunt ea.	*Great are the works of the Lord;* *to be pondered by all who love them.*
Decor et magnificentia opus eius, et iustitia eius manet in sæculum sæculi.	*Majestic and glorious his work,* *his justice stands firm for ever.*
Memoriam fecit mirabilium suorum, misericors et miserator Dominus.	*He makes us remember his wonders.* *The Lord is compassion and love.*
Escam dedit timentibus se; memor erit in sæculum testamenti sui.	*He gives food to those who fear him;* *keeps his covenant ever in mind.*
Virtutem operum suorum annuntiavit populo suo, ut det illis hereditatem gentium;	*He has shown his might to his people* *by giving them the lands of the nations.*
opera manuum eius veritas et iudicium. Fidelia omnia mandata eius,	*His works are justice and truth.* *His precepts are all of them sure,*
confirmata in sæculum sæculi, facta in veritate et æquitate.	*standing firm for ever and ever:* *they are made in uprightness and truth.*
Redemptionem misit populo suo, mandavit in æternum testamentum suum. Sanctum et terribile nomen eius.	*He has sent deliverance to his people* *and established his covenant for ever.* *Holy his name, to be feared.*
Initium sapientiæ timor Domini, intellectus bonus omnibus facientibus ea; laudatio eius manet in sæculum sæculi.	*To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;* *all who do so prove themselves wise.* *His praise shall last 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.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIPHON

REGNAVIT Dominus Deus noster omnipotens, alleluia.

The Lord is King: our God, the Almighty, alleluia.

CANTICLE
Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
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.*
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.*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Quoniam regnavit Dominus,	*The Lord our God,*
Deus noster omnipotens:	*the Almighty, reigns,*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Gaudeamus et exsultemus et demus gloriam ei.	*let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.*
Alleluia, alleluia.	*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.*
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.*
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.

THE temple of the living God is what we are. God's own words are: 'I will live and move and have my being among them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.' Such are the promises that have been made to us, dear friends. Let us therefore cleanse ourselves from all that can defile our spirit, and in the fear of God complete our consecration.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Sancti et iusti, In Domino gaudete.	*Let the saints* *rejoice in the Lord.*
℣. Vos elegit Deus in hereditatem sibi.	℟. *God has chosen you for his own.*
℣. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.	℟. *Glory be to the Father and to the Son* *and to the Holy Spirit.*

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

O QUAM gloriosum est regnum, in quo cum Christo gaudent omnes sancti; amicti stolis albis sequuntur Agnum quocumque ierit.

How full of splendour is the kingdom where all the saints exult with Christ! The white-robed throng follows the Lamb of God in all his ways.

MAGNIFICAT

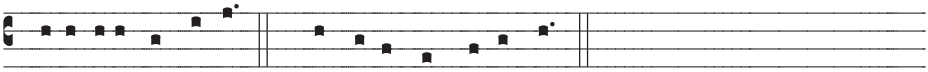
Quinti toni — *Hieronymus Prætorius (1560–1629)*

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,	*My soul* *glorifies the Lord,*
et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,	*my spirit rejoices* *in God, my Saviour.*
quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes,	*He looks on his servant in her lowliness;* *henceforth all ages* *will call me blessed.*
quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,	*The Almighty works marvels for me.* *Holy his name!*
et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.	*His mercy is from age to age,* *on those who fear him.*
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;	*He puts forth his arm in strength* *and scatters the proud-hearted.*
deposuit potentes de sede; et exaltavit humiles;	*He casts the mighty from their thrones* *and raises the lowly.*
esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.	*He fills the starving with good things,* *sends the rich away empty.*
Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiæ suæ,	*He protects Israel, his servant,* *remembering his mercy,*
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.	*the mercy promised to our fathers,* *to Abraham and his sons 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.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we are encouraged to run steadily in the race we have started. We pray to Christ, for he is the author of our faith, and he will bring it to fulfilment:



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

Lord, you chose the apostles to be the foundation of your Church: keep us faithful to all that you left in their care. ℟.

Your martyrs testified to you, even to the shedding of their blood: make all Christians faithful witnesses to your word. ℟.

Lord, be with those who have consecrated their lives to you in virginity: may their hope and generosity be a sign to the world of the glorious life they await at the end of time. ℟.

In the saints you reveal your presence and your care: as we venerate them, may we be drawn closer to you. ℟.

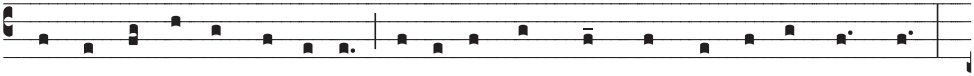
Welcome our departed brothers and sisters into the company of Mary, Joseph and all the saints: through their intercession, grant us a place in your kingdom. ℟.

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

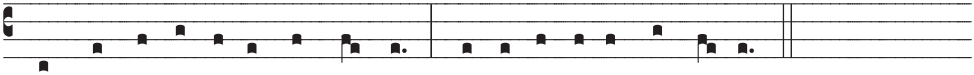
All sing

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

ALMIGHTY, ever-living God,
we are celebrating with joy
the triumph of your grace in all the saints.
With so vast a multitude praying for us,
may we receive from you
the fullness of mercy we have always desired.
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.**

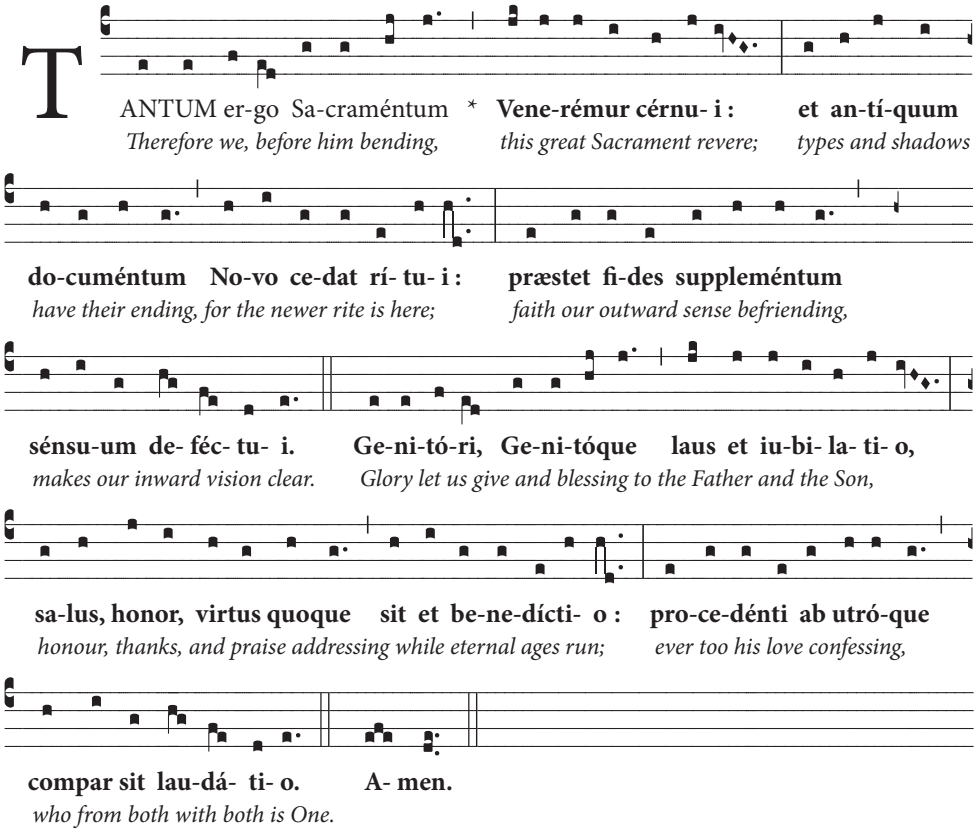
The Choir sings

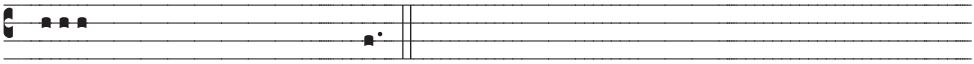
THE MOTET

GLORIOUS in Heaven are the souls of all saints who walked in the way of Christ the Lord Jesus: they loved him and followed his footsteps: and as they died for the saviour, losing life for his sake, they reign with him for ever. Amen.

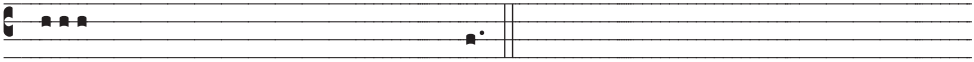
Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

All sing


TANTUM 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-tóque 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 præstitísti e- is.
You gave them bread from heaven.



℟ **Omne delectaméntum in se habén- tem.**
Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

DEUS, 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.

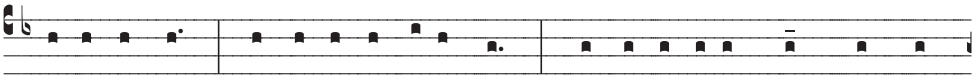
℟ **Amen.**

Let us pray.

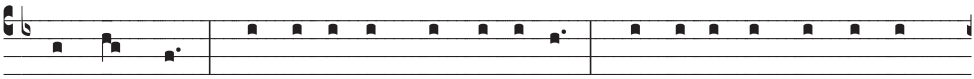
O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

BENEDICTION *is given.*

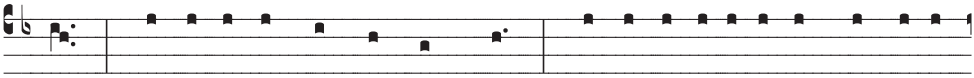
THE DIVINE PRAISES



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-rémus * **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:	*O praise the Lord, all you nations,*
laudate eum omnes populi.	*acclaim his all you peoples!*
Quoniam confirmata est super nos	*Strong is his*
misericordia eius:	*love for us;*
et veritas Domini manet in æternum.	*he is faithful 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.*

A-do-rémus * 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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Placare Christe Servulis (Le Tombeau de Titelouze) *Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)*

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