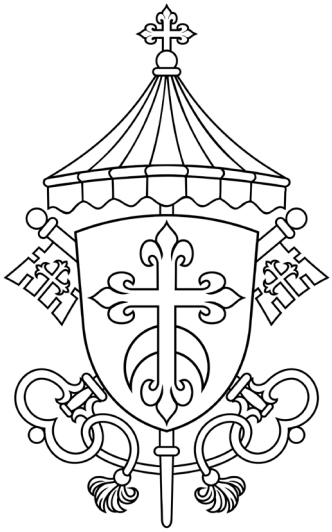
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Mass

First Sunday
of Advent

29 November 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 is formed of men and boys, preserving the historical character of Catholic liturgical and musical heritage. St Mary's is the only Catholic Cathedral in Australia to have an on-site Choir School where the twenty-four boy 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** *Full Choir*
	1700	**Solemn Vespers and Benediction** *Lay Clerks*
Monday	1700	**Vespers** *Lay Clerks*
	1730	**Mass** *Full Choir*
Tuesday	1700	**Vespers** *Cathedral Scholar Cantor*
	1730	**Mass** *Boys' voices*
Wednesday	1700	**Vespers** *Cathedral Scholars*
	1730	**Mass** *Cathedral Scholars*
Thursday	1700	**Vespers** *Lay Clerks*
	1730	**Mass** *Lay Clerks*

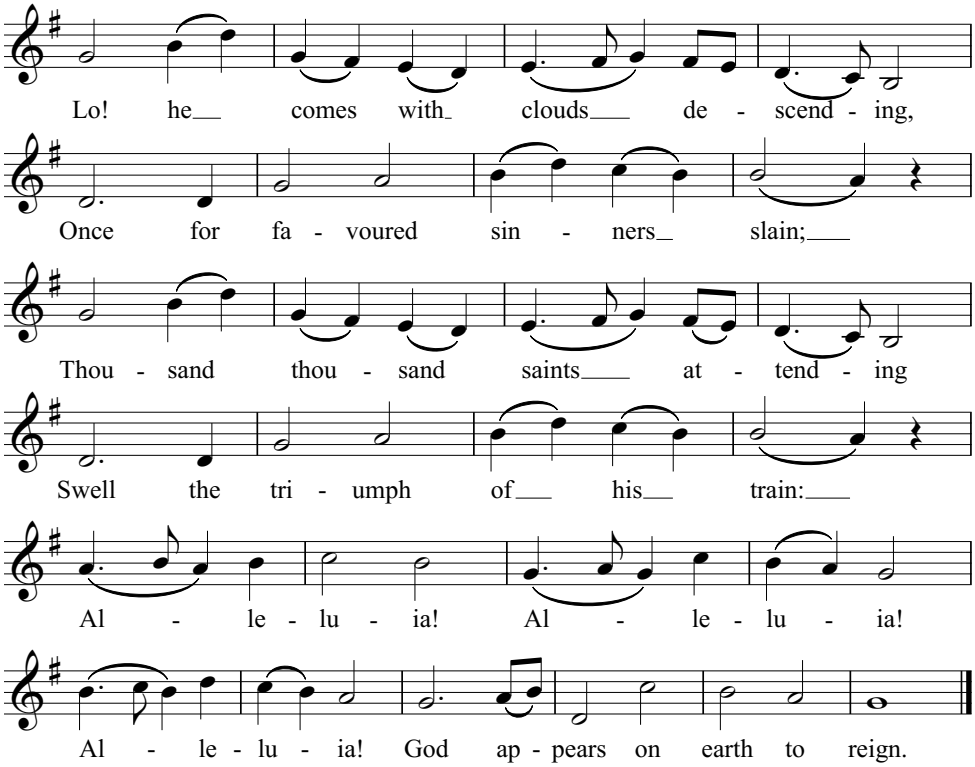
Download the weekly Music List at http://musiclists.cathedralchoir.sydney

**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



2

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.

3

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Helmsley
Thomas Olivers (1725–1799)
adapted Martin Madan (1726–1790)

John Cennick (1718–1755)
and Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Choir sings the Introit *cf. Psalm 24:1-4*

AD te levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confido, non erubescam: neque irrideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur.
℣. Vias tuas, Domine, demonstra mihi: et semitas tuas edoce me.

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.
℣. *Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.*

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

from Mass in G — *Franz Schubert (1797–1828)*

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

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

The Celebrant says the Collect

℟ **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

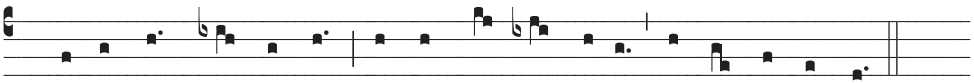
First Reading — *Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8*

YOU, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19* ℟ *v.4*



℟ **God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. ℟

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. ℟

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. ℟

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

MAY God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

The Choir sings the Alleluia ℣. *Psalm 84:8*

Alleluia.

℣. Ostende nobis Domine misericordiam tuam: et salutare tuum da nobis.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Alleluia.

Gospel *Mark 13:33-37*

The Lord be with you.

℟. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

℟. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

JESUS said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Profession of Faith

**I BELIEVE in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

All bow during the following line:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Universal Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Choir sings the Offertory Motet — *Orlande de Lassus (1532–1594)*

AD te Domine levavi animam meam, Deus meus in te confido, non erubescam, delicta iuventutis meae et ignorantias meas, ne memineris.

To you, O Lord, I have lifted up my soul; my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my faults of ignorance.

The Celebrant says

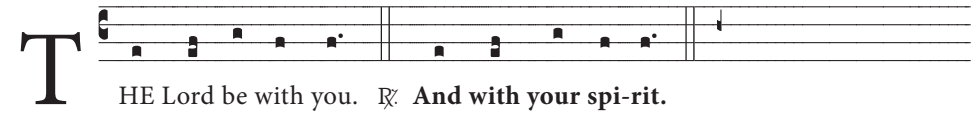
Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

℟ **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.**

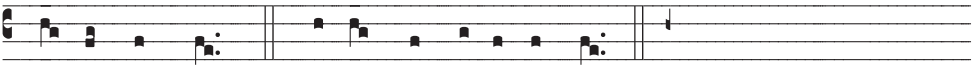
The Celebrant says the Prayer over the Offerings

℟ **Amen.**

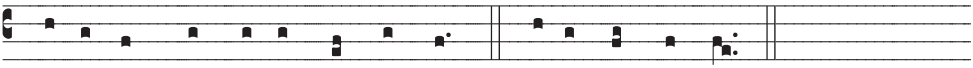
THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



THE Lord be with you. ℟ **And with your spi-rit.**

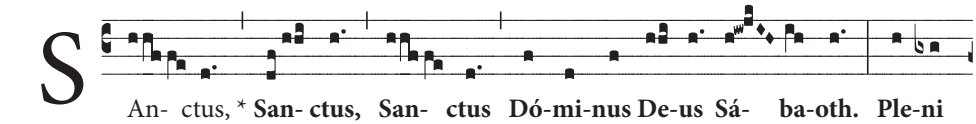


Lift up your hearts. ℟ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

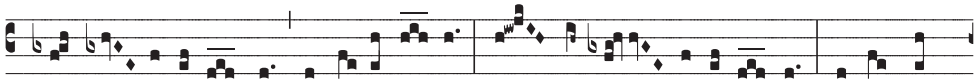


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ℟ **It is right and just.**

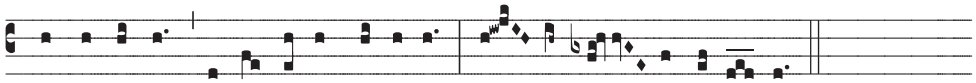
The Preface



An- ctus, * **San- ctus, San- ctus Dó-mi-nus De-us Sá- ba-oth. Ple-ni**
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.



sunt cæ- li et ter- ra gló-ri- a tu- a. Ho- sán-na in ex-cél-sis. Be-ne-díc-
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed



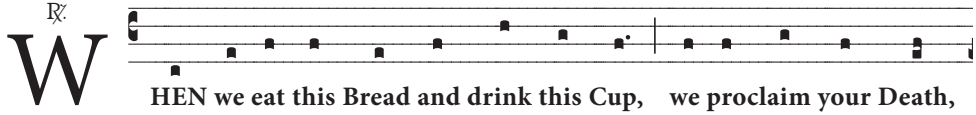
tus qui ve-nit in nó-mine Dómi-ni. Ho- sán-na in excél- sis.
is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the Celebrant sings

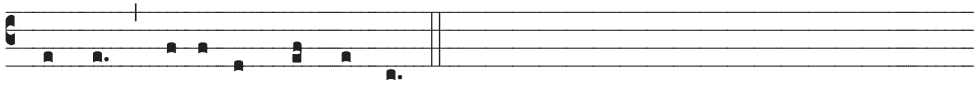
The mystery of faith.

All sing

℟.



HEN we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death,

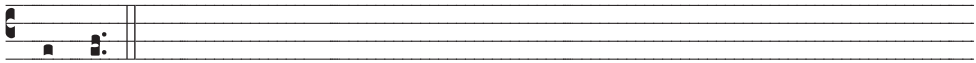


O Lord, until you come a-gain.

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

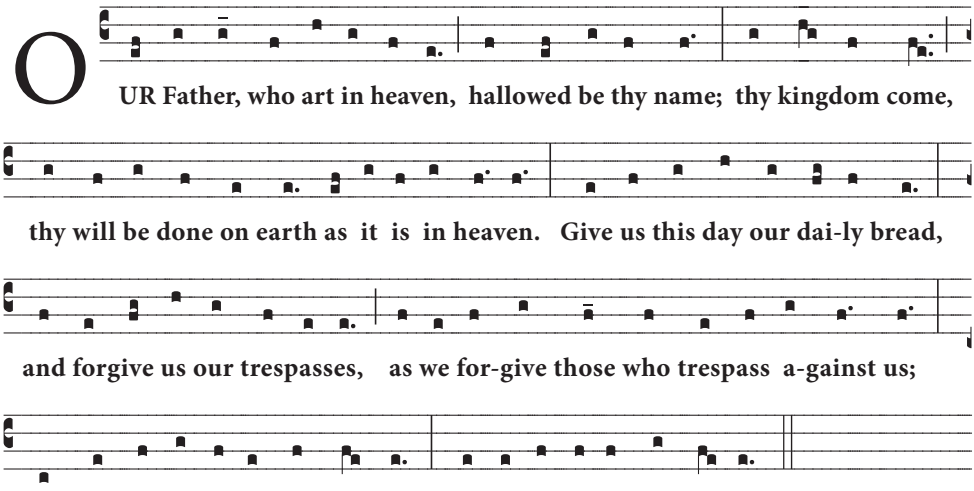


℟. **A-men.**

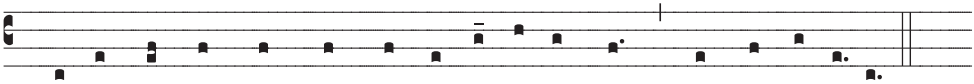
COMMUNION RITE

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

All sing



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.**

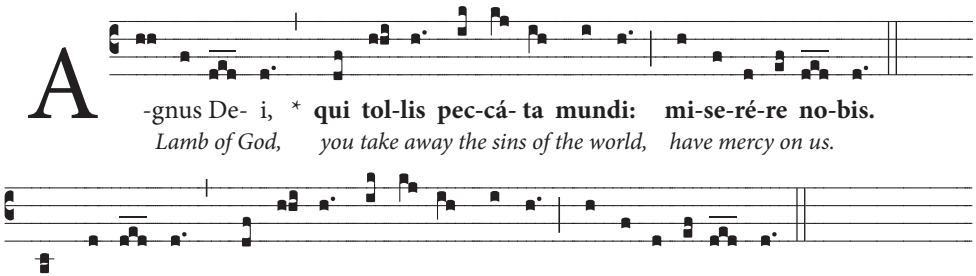
Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

℟. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

℟. **And with your spirit.**

All sing the Agnus Dei Mass XVII



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 *Psalm 84:13*

Dominus dabit benignitatem: et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

During Holy Communion, the Choir sings the Agnus Dei

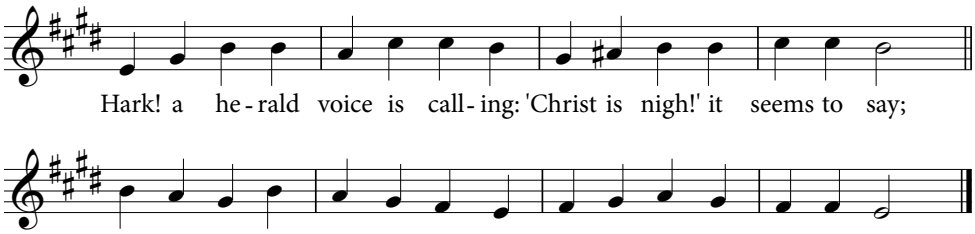
from Mass in G *Franz Schubert*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.
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: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

All sing

THE HYMN



Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run.

Merton
W H Monk (1823–1889)

Vox clara ecce intonat
tr. E Caswall (1814–1878)

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 the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing.

℟ **Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

℟ **Amen.**

So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

℟ **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

Fantasy on 'Helmsley' (Six Fantasies on Hymn Tunes, Op. 72)

Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

LATER TODAY IN THE CATHEDRAL

Solemn Vespers and Benediction	*sung by the Lay Clerks of St Mary's Cathedral Choir*	**5.00pm**

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY PRESENTS

CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL 2026

Christmas music by Michael & Hieronymus Praetorius

St Mary's Cathedral Choir · The Cathedral Scholars · St Mary's Singers · Sinfonia Australis



Featuring *Magnificat quinti toni, Puer natus in Bethlehem* and *In dulci jubilo*, with Scripture readings, a homily by the Archbishop of Sydney and congregational carols.

SCAN TO BOOK

stmaryscathedral.org.au/Carols2026

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER

11AM & 7PM

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

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Photo: Keith Saunders

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