

**EASTER DAY 2025**





## **A message from the Dean**

Happy Easter! On behalf of the chapter and parish I welcome you to Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on this joyful day. You are very welcome, whether you are visiting for the first time or for the 1000th time! We hope this service booklet is easy to follow and that in the worship you will really know that God is close to you. Please say the words printed in bold text as your response during the worship. At times you are invited to stand, sit or kneel. These are helpful ways to engage in the service, but please be comfortable and don't worry if you need to do something different! Some parts of the service are louder and some quieter, as you will notice.

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest...

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of see the backs of others heads. Quietly explain the parts of the services and actions of the clergy, wardens, choir, etc. Sing the hymns, pray and join in the responses. Children learn liturgical behaviour by copying you.

The numbers in brackets denotes pages in the Children's Communion Book (available at the church door) and activity packs for children are also available. Feel free to use the space across at the back of the cathedral if your children become restless; please stay with your children in this area for their safety.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me". Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church of God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

To the adults

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents 😊

Finally, if you need any assistance during service, please speak to one of the Churchwardens by the church doors.

The Very Rev'd Niall J.W. Sloane, Dean.

## Devotional Prayers

### *Before Service*

O Lord, open our Lips, that our mouths may proclaim your praise, and purify our hearts that we may worthily magnify your glorious Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God You are here, may we come to You with a mixture of humility and joy.  
May we feel Your nearness and learn from You. Amen.

Lord, it is not easy to be humble; but in this service we ask for humility, so that it is You who may be seen by each person here. May Your will be done. Amen.

### *Before a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist*

Cleanse us, O Lord, and keep us undefiled, that we may be numbered among those blessed ones, who, having washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb, stand before your throne, and serve you day and night in Your Temple. Amen.

Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself; our hearts are restless until they rest in you.  
Fulfil this longing through Jesus, the bread of life, so that we may witness to him who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family.

By the power of your Spirit lead us to the heavenly table where we may feast on the vision of your glory forever and ever. Amen.

### *After Celebration*

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament left us a memorial of your Passion: grant, we implore you, that we may so venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, as always to be conscious of the fruit of your Redemption.  
You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

### *After Service*

Grant, O Lord, that what we have sung with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and may always steadfastly fulfil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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*The Organist is Mr Peter Barley*

*The Mass setting: Missa brevis in D (K194) W.A. Mozart*

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# Order of Service

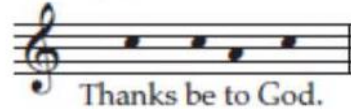
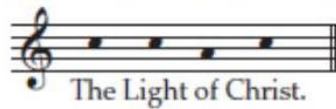


*The Cathedral is in darkness from Good Friday.*

*The Clergy & Choir assemble at the West Door for the Vestry Prayer.  
After 3 knocks on the West Door, please stand as the doors are opened*

*The Lighting of the Easter Candle*

*And all reply:*

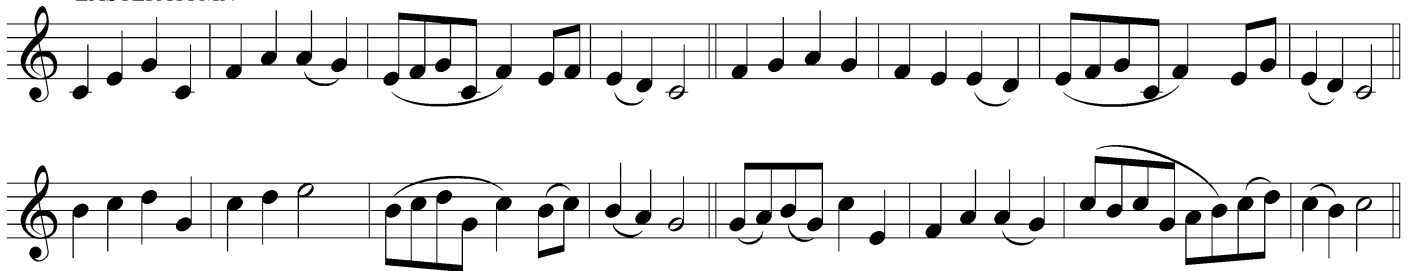


*The Celebrant says*

**Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## HYMN 271

EASTER HYMN



1

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

*Words: Anon. Lyra Davidica (1708)*

## INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PENITENCE

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

*The Confession is introduced with appropriate words, such as:*

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

*Silence*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The celebrant pronounces the Absolution*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Sung to a setting by Mozart (from Missa brevis in D K. 194)*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.  
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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Sung by the Celebrant*

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

### THE EPISTLE

*Please sit*

#### Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### THE EASTER ANTHEMS

*Please Stand*

- 1 Christ our passover has been | sacri•ficed | for us, therefore let us | cele|brate the | feast,
- 2 Not with the old leaven of cor|ruption • and | wickedness, but with the unleavened | bread of • sinc•erity  
• and | truth.
- 3 Christ, once raised from the dead | dies no | more; death has no | more do|minion | over him.
- 4 In dying, he died to sin | once for | all; in | living, • he | lives to | God.
- 5 See yourselves therefore as | dead to | sin; and alive to God in | Jesus | Christ our | Lord.
- 6 Christ has been | raised • from the | dead: the | firstfruits • of | those who | sleep.
- 7 For as by | man came | death, by man has come also the resur|rection | of the | dead.
- 8 For as in | Adam • all | die, even so in Christ shall | all be | made a|live.

### VICTIMAE PASCHALI, ARR ANDREW REID

### GRADUAL HYMN 277

*Please stand*

|

Love's redeeming work is done;  
fought the fight, the battle won:  
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,  
lo, he sets in blood no more.

2

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

3

Lives again our glorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?



Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St John chapter 20 beginning at verse 1

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!**

4

Soar we now where Christ hath led,  
following our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise;  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

5

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection Thou!



## THE NICENE CREED

*Please stand*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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.**

**We 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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please kneel or sit*

*The Response to 'Lord in your mercy' is 'hear our prayer'*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

### THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

## CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE [12]

### THE OFFERTORY HYMN 272

*Please stand*

*A collection of money is taken for charitable purposes*

St Albinus



1

Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can no more, O death, appal us:  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
now the grave, cannot enthrall us:  
Alleluia!

2

Jesus lives! for us he died:  
Then may we, for Jesus living,  
pure in heart, in him abide,  
glory to our saviour giving:  
Alleluia!

3

Jesus lives! Our hearts know well  
Not from us his love shall sever;  
Life nor death, nor powers of hell  
Tear us from his keeping ever.  
Alleluia!

4

Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
but the gate of life immortal;  
this shall calm our trembling breath  
when we pass its gloomy portal:  
Alleluia!

5

Jesus lives! to him the throne  
over all the world is given;  
may we go where he is gone,  
live and reign with him in heaven:  
Alleluia!

*Words: Christian F. Gellert, 1715-69*

### THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise: Above all we praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, the true paschal lamb who was sacrificed for us; by dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our life: And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!*

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us; he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death,  
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,  
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit

**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ  
**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## THE COMMUNION

*This communion service is according to the Church of Ireland/Anglican rite and all are welcome to receive in both kinds (bread & wine) at communion. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing (crossing your arms over your chest).*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

*Sung by the Choir*

## THE GREAT SILENCE

## GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Living God, for our redemption you gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection you have delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant us so to die daily unto sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*followed by*

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

# THANKSGIVING HYMN 288

*Please stand*

MACCABAEUS



1

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

2

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting. *Refrain*

3

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

*Words: Edmond Budry (1854 – 1932)*

## THE BLESSING

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, raise you up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Organ Voluntary – Marche pontificale – Charles-Marie Widor*

*Please join us for celebratory refreshments in the Consistorial Court*

## SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK

According to myth, Saint Mary's Cathedral is built on the site of the Viking thingmote, later the palace of the O'Brien kings of Thomond, and was given to the church by King Donal Mór O'Brien in 1168. This myth appears to have no foundation and obscures the extraordinary importance of Saint Mary's Cathedral - probably the most important medieval building to survive intact in Ireland, and still performing its original function.

The diocese of Limerick was formally established by the Synod of Rath Breasail in 1111, and the church of Saint Mary, in heart of the Norse city, was declared the cathedral of the diocese – the only cathedral in any diocese named by the synod. That church was replaced between 1150 and 1174 by the core of the present Saint Mary's Cathedral. The great pointed arcade arches of the nave (among the earliest in Ireland) and the round arched windows of the clerestory above them, with the narrow aisles, represent the only intact native Irish church built on a Continental scale to survive intact from before the Norman invasion in 1169 – all the others are in ruins. The design of the nave, aisles and chancel is a native Irish adaptation of the Burgundian style, introduced into Ireland by the Cistercians after 1142, further embellished by the fine Hiberno-Romanesque west door. The tombstone of its first great benefactor, King Donal Mór O'Brien, can still be seen in the chancel.

In the following centuries the cathedral was embellished by the wealthy merchants of Limerick who built the chantry chapels on the north and south sides of the nave - the largest surviving range of medieval chantry chapels in any Irish church. The cathedral boasts Ireland's largest medieval altar stone and Ireland's only surviving medieval choir stalls. These choir stalls, with their charming carved misericords, constitute the largest intact collection of carved woodwork and furniture from medieval Ireland. Thought to date from about 1480, they may actually date to before 1426. The misericords supported the choral posteriors during the long offices the Cathedral Chapter was obliged to perform.

Later centuries saw the installation of the massive 17th century Thomond Monument in the chancel, beside the tomb of Donal Mór O'Brien. In the early 19th century, the Pain brothers designed the Bishop's Throne or Cathedra, the screen to the Glentworth Chapel and the monument to Bishop John Jebb, the precursor of the Oxford Movement with his High Church opinions. The nineteenth century stained glass is particularly fine, the largest window, by the Harry Clarke Studio, was dedicated in 1961 by Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of York. Michael Pearse, the father of the patriot, Patrick Pearse, carved the reredos in the chancel, and the chancel screen was designed by Edward Conor O'Brien in 1921.

Saint Mary's Cathedral is an extraordinarily complex building representing developments from the mid-twelfth century to the later twentieth century – a treasure of Irish religious art. It continues to be a place of prayer and pilgrimage for all who enter its doors and a symbol of faith, hope and love to the city of Limerick.

[www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org)

## SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

### *Opening Times*

The Cathedral is open every day except the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January. No charges are made for those who come to join our worship or who wish to pray privately, and everyone is welcome.

### *Supporting the Cathedral*

Saint Mary's Cathedral is a registered charity, and we do not receive state aid. The average weekly running costs of the cathedral and its ministry to the city is €6,000. By purchasing a ticket or making a donation or legacy, you are contributing towards the maintenance of Saint Mary's Cathedral and helping preserve it for future generations. Thank you!

### *Become a Friend*

The Friends of Saint Mary's exist to support the Dean & Cathedral Chapter in maintaining and enhancing the Cathedral and its surroundings. Assisting and supporting the Dean and Chapter in maintaining and improving the services, music, fabric, fittings, furniture, ornaments, monuments and facilities of the Cathedral. Encouraging the interest and participation of young people through education and activities. Stimulating and maintaining public interest in the Cathedral. Supporting the needs of the Cathedral's mission in the modern world.

There Friends are united in their desire to support and maintain this 850-year-old Cathedral. Joining the Friends helps ensure that we can continue this important work.

*Please visit the website for full details – [www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org)*

### *Facilities*

Car parking is available in the grounds of the Cathedral or in the adjacent Car Park

There are toilets on site.

There is a small gift shop located within the Cathedral where visitors can purchase souvenirs of their visit.

Guided/Public Tours are available. School Groups can be accommodated.

### *Service Notes*

- Services will be recorded and may be viewed online on: [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) and the Cathedral website ([www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://www.saintmaryscathedral.ie)) within the 90 days following the service. After that time recordings will be destroyed however exceptions may apply and recordings could last longer if the Cathedral required it. Occasional services may be recorded and will be advertised on both websites [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) and [www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://www.saintmaryscathedral.ie) and/or other communication channels of the Cathedral). If you would like further information on a particular event, please contact the Cathedral office.
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