



Founded 1168

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

LIMERICK

SERVICE BOOKLET

Please do not remove from the Cathedral

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

On behalf of the chapter and parish I welcome you to Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. You are very welcome, whether you are visiting for the first time or for the 1000th time! We share in worship which has been offered here for 850 years.

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 seeing 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 required, the Churchwardens can direct you to the toilets.

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. 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.

Spirit of God, without Your presence our worship is in vain.
May each one of us feel You near, may we be uplifted, may our worship be true, may we go from this place with Your presence in our hearts. 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.
Fulfill 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.

CHORAL EUCHARIST

Order of Service



The Choir, Clergy and other ministers assemble in Saint James' Chapel for the Vestry Prayer

Please stand for procession

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

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.

During Advent and Lent, the confession is omitted and the Kyrie is sung

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)

Christe Eleison (Christ, Have Mercy)

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)

The president 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 by the Choir (said during Choir recess); it is omitted during Advent & Lent

*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

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Please Sit

At the end the reader may say
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

THE EPISTLE

At the end the reader may say
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL ANTHEM (OR HYMN)

THE GOSPEL

Please stand and face the reader

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

At the end the reader may say

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE SERMON

Please sit

Please stand as the preacher leaves the pulpit

THE NICENE CREED

Please face the Altar

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.

HYMN (OPTIONAL)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please kneel or sit

Lord in your mercy:

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.

THE PEACE

Please stand

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The peace may be exchanged with others

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE OFFERTORY HYMN (*a collection of money for charitable purposes is taken*)

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:

A Proper Preface may follow here

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/saying:

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 AGNUS DEI *[may be sung by the Choir]*

Please sit

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).

THE GREAT SILENCE

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A prayer is said, 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

Please stand

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Please join us for refreshments in the Consistorial Court

CHORAL MATINS

Order of Service



The Choir, Clergy and other Ministers assemble in Saint James' Chapel for the Vestry Prayer

Please stand for the procession

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

HYMN

The minister says the Exhortation

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

Please kneel or sit

A GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The congregation remain seated or kneeling; the ministering priest stands

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If no priest is present, the absolution is omitted; both congregation and minister remain seated or kneeling, and the minister says:

O God, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive; Receive our humble petitions; and, though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The minister stands

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

A CANTICLE (ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MAY BE USED)

Please sit

I JUBILATE *Psalm 100*

1 O be joyful in the Lord | all ye | lands; serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his | presence | with a | song.

2 Be ye sure that the Lord | he is | God; it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves
we are his people | and the | sheep of · his | pasture.

3 O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his | courts with | praise;
be thankful unto him and speak | good of | his | name.

4 For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is | ever|lasting,
and his truth endureth from gene|ration · to | gene|ration.

Glory | be · to the | Father, and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;

as it | was in · the be|ginning, is now and ever shall be, | world with ·out | end. A|men.

2 VENITE *Psalm 95*

- 1 O come let us | sing un · to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the | strength of | our sal|vation.
- 2 Let us come before his | presence · with | thanksgiving
and show ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God
and a great | King a ·bove | all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the | corners · of the | earth
and the strength of the | hills is | his | also.
- 5† The sea is his and | he | made it,
and his | hands pre|pared the · dry | land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down
and kneel be|fore the | Lord our | Maker.
- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God;
and we are the people of his pasture, | and the | sheep of · his | hand.
- 8 Today if ye will | hear his | voice: harden not your hearts, as in the provocation
and as in the day of temp|tation | in the | wilderness;
- 9 When your | fathers | tempted me,
provèd | me and | saw my | works.
- 10 Forty years long was I grieved with this gene|ration · and | said,
It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they | have not | known my | ways;
- 11 Unto whom I swear | in my | wrath,
that they should not | enter | into · my | rest
Glory | be · to the | Father,
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning,
is now and ever shall be, | world with ·out | end. A|men.

3 GREAT AND WONDERFUL *Revelation 15: 3,4 and 5: 13b*

- 1 Great and wonderful are your deeds Lord | God, · the Al|mighty:
just and true are your | ways O | King · of the | nations.
- 2 Who shall not revere and praise your | name O | Lord?
for | you a|lone are | holy.
- 3 All nations shall come and worship | in your | presence:
for your just | dealings · have | been re|vealed.
- 4 To him who sits on the throne and | to the | Lamb
be praise and honour, glory and might,
for ever and | ever. | A|men.

4 BENEDICTUS *The Song of Zechariah Luke 1: 68-79*

1 Blessèd be the Lord | God of | Israel,
for he hath visited | and re|deemed his | people,
2 And hath raised up a mighty sal|vation | for us
in the | house of · his | servant | David;
3 As he spake by the mouth of his | holy | Prophets
which have been | since the | world be|gan;
4 That we should be | saved · from our | enemies,
and from the | hands of | all that | hate us,
5 To perform the mercy | promised · to our | forefathers,
and to re|member · his | holy | covenant;
6 To perform the oath which he sware to our | fore father | Abraham:
that | he would | give | us,
7 That we being delivered out of the | hand of · our | enemies
might serve | him with|out | fear,
8 In holiness and | righteous ·ness be|fore him
all the | days | of our | life.
9 And thou, child, shalt be called the | Prophet · of the | Highest,
for thou shalt go before the face of the | Lord · to pre|pare his | ways;
10 To give knowledge of salvation | unto · his | people,
for the re|mission | of their | sins,
11 Through the tender mercy | of our | God
whereby the day-spring from on | high hath | visit ·ed | us,
12 To give light to them that sit in darkness
and in the | shadow · of | death,
and to guide our feet | into · the | way of | peace.
Glory | be · to the | Father,
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning,
is now and ever shall be, | world with ·out | end. A|men.

5 TE DEUM

Part 1

- 1 We praise | thee O | God,
we acknowledge | thee to | be the | Lord.
- 2 All the earth doth | worship | thee, the | Father | ever|lasting.
- 3 To thee all angels cry aloud the heavens and all the | powers there|in,
to thee Cherubim and Seraphim con|tin ual|ly do | cry,
- 4 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord | God · of Sa•baoth:
heaven and earth are full of the | majes ty | of thy | glory.
- 5 The glorious company of the apostles | praise | thee;
the goodly fellowship of the | prophets | praise | thee.
- 6 The | noble | army of | martyrs | praise | thee.
- 7 The | holy | Church throughout all the world | doth ac|knowledge | thee;
- 8 The Father of an | infin ite | majesty, thine honourable, true, and only Son,
also the | Holy | Spirit · the | Comforter.

Part 2

- 9 Thou art the King of | glory · O | Christ
Thou art the ever|lasting | Son of · the | Father.
- 10 When thou tookest upon thee to de|liver | man,
thou didst not ab|hor the | Virgin's | womb.
- 11 † When thou hadst overcome the | sharpness · of | death,
thou didst open the kingdom of | heaven · to | all be|lievers.
- 12 Thou sittest at the right | hand of | God, in the | glory | of the | Father.
- 13 We be•lieve that | thou shalt | come to | be our | judge.
- 14 We therefore pray thee | help thy | servants,
whom thou hast re|deemed · with thy | precious | blood.
- 15 Make them to be numbered | with thy | saints
in | glory | ever|lasting.

Part 3

- 16 O Lord, save thy people and | bless thine | heritage:
govern them and | lift them | up for | ever.
- 17 Day by day we | magni · fy | thee:
and we worship thy Name ever, | world with|out | end.
- 18 Vouchsafe, O | Lord, to | keep us · this | day with ·out | sin.
- 19 O Lord, have | mercy · up|on us, have | mercy · up|on | us.
- 20 O Lord, let thy mercy | lighten · up|on us, as our | trust | is in | thee.
- 21 O Lord, in | thee · have I | trusted: let me | never | be con|founded.

6 URBS FORTITUDINIS *Isaiah 26: 1-4,7,8*

- 1 We have a | strong | city:
salvation will God ap|point for | walls and | bulwarks.
 - 2 Open | ye the | gates:
that the righteous nation which keepeth the | truth may | enter | in.
 - 3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is | stayed on | thee
be|cause he | trusteth · in | thee.
 - 4 Trust ye in the | Lord for | ever:
for our rock of | ages | is the | Lord.
 - 5 The way of the | just is | uprightness;
thou that art upright dost di|rect the | path · of the | just
 - 6 Yea in the way of thy judgments O Lord have we | waited · for | thee;
the desire of our soul is to thy Name, |
and · to the re|embrance · of | thee.
- Glory | be · to the | Father,
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning,
is now and ever shall be, | world with ·out | end. A|men.

7 THE SONG OF CHRIST'S GLORY *Philippians 2: 6-11*

- 1 Christ Jesus was in the | form of | God,
but he did not | cling · to e|quality · with | God.
- 2 He emptied himself, taking the | form · of a | servant,
and was | born · in our | human | likeness.
- 3 And being found in human form he | humbled · him|self,
and became obedient unto death, | even | death · on a | cross.
- 4 Therefore God has | highly · ex•alted him,
and bestowed on him the | name a ·bove | every | name.
- 5 That at the name of Jesus every | knee should | bow,
in heaven and on | earth and | under · the | earth;
- 6 and every tongue confess that Jesus | Christ is | Lord,
to the glory of God the | Father. | A|men.

8 THE SONG OF WISDOM *Wisdom 7: 26 - 8: 1*

- 1 Wisdom is the brightness of eternal light,
the spotless mirror of God's | power at | work,
the | image | of God's | goodness.
 - 2 Wisdom is but one, yet | she can · do | all things;
herself un|changing, · she makes | all things | new.
 - 3 Age after age, she enters holy souls
and makes them friends of | God, and | prophets,
beloved of | God as | her com|panions.
 - 4 Wisdom is more beautiful | than the | sun,
surpassing every constel|lation | of the | stars.
 - 5 Her radiance is greater than the | light of | day;
for day's light is | followed | by the | night.
 - 6 Against wisdom no | evil · can pre|vail;
she reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,
and | orders | all things | well.
- Glory | be · to the | Father,
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning,
is now and ever shall be, | world with · out | end. A|men.

9 SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

- 1 Jesus, Saviour of the world,
come to us | in your | mercy:
we look to | you to | save and | help us.
- 2 By your cross and your life laid down
you set your | people | free:
we look to | you to | save and | help us.
- 3 When they were ready to perish you | saved · your dis|ciples:
we look to | you to | come to · our | help.
- 4 In the greatness of your mercy, loose us | from our | chains,
forgive the | sins of | all your | people.
- 5† Make yourself known as our Saviour and | mighty · De|liverer;
save and | help us · that | we may | praise you.
- 6 Come now and dwell with us | Lord Christ | Jesus:
hear our | prayer · and be | with us | always.
- 7 And when you | come in · your | glory:
make us to be one with you
and to share the life of your | kingdom. | A|men.

10 THE EASTER ANTHEMS

- 1 Christ our passover is | sacri · ficed | for us,
therefore | let us | keep the | feast,
 - 2 Not with the old leaven nor with the leaven of | malice · and | wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread | of sin|cerity · and | truth.
 - 3 Christ being raised from the dead | dieth · no | more;
death hath no | more do|minion | over him.
 - 4 For in that he died, he died unto | sin | once;
but in that he liveth, he | liveth | unto | God.
 - 5 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed | unto | sin;
but alive unto God through | Jesus | Christ our | Lord.
 - 6 Christ is | risen · from the | dead:
and become the | first-fruits · of | them that | slept.
 - 7 For since by | man came | death,
by man came also the resur|rection | of the | dead.
 - 8 For as in Adam | all | die,
even so in Christ shall | all be | made a|live.
- Glory | be · to the | Father,
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning,
is now and ever shall be, | world with ·out | end. A|men

11 THE SONG OF ISAIAH *Isaiah 12: 2-6*

- 1 Surely God is | my sal|vation;
I will | trust, · and will | not · be a|fraid.
 - 2 for the Lord God is my | strength · and my | might;
he has be|come | my sal|vation.
 - 3 With joy you will draw water from the | wells of · sal|vation.
And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the | Lord, | call on · his | name;
 - 4 Make known his deeds a|mong the | nations;
pro|claim · that his | name is · ex|alted.
 - 5 Sing praises to the Lord, for | he has · done | gloriously;
let this be | known in | all the | earth.
 - 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal | Zion,
For great in your midst is the | Holy | One of | Israel.
- Glory | be · to the | Father,
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning,
is now and ever shall be, | world with ·out | end. A|men

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*At the end the reader may say
Here endeth the First Lesson*

Please remain seated

THE PSALM

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

*At the end the reader may say
Here endeth the Second Lesson*

A CANTICLE *(alternatively a hymn may be sung)*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand and face East

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE LESSER LITANY AND SUFFRAGES

The Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit
Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

The congregation remain seated or kneeling; the minister stands

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.
O Lord, guide and defend our rulers
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

The Collect of the day is sung/said and the following collects

THE SECOND COLLECT, FOR PEACE

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE THIRD COLLECT, FOR GRACE

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ANTHEM

Please sit (alternatively a hymn may be sung)

THE SERMON

Please stand as the preacher leaves the pulpit

HYMN

[THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM MAY BE ADMINISTERED AT THIS POINT, PLEASE SEE PAGE 33]

PRAYERS

Please kneel or sit

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, We thine unworthy servants Do give thee most humble and hearty thanks For all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life: But above all, for thine inestimable love In the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; For the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, And that we show forth thy praise, Not only with our lips but in our lives; By giving up ourselves to thy service, And by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, To whom with thee and the Holy Spirit Be all honour and glory, World without end. Amen.

A PRAYER OF SAINT CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen

HYMN OF THE COLLECTION

Please stand

[a collection of money for charitable purposes is taken]

BLESSING

Organ Voluntary

Please join us for refreshments in the Consistorial Court

MORNING PRAYER

Order of Service



THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Stand

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Sentence of Scripture

HYMN

The minister may introduce the service in these or other suitable words:

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

The minister says

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Kneel or sit. Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The priest stands to pronounce 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.**

If no priest is present, the absolution is omitted; both congregation and minister remain seated or kneeling, and the minister says:

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

Stand

○ Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.
Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

FIRST CANTICLE *(alternatively a hymn may be sung)*

Please be seated for the first reading

FIRST READING

PSALM

Please remain seated

SECOND READING

Stand

SECOND CANTICLE *(alternatively a hymn may be sung)*

THE SERMON

Sit

Please stand as the preacher leaves the pulpit

[THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM MAY BE ADMINISTERED AT THIS POINT, PLEASE SEE PAGE 33]

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand and face towards the east

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.
Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit

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

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 versicles and responses may be said.
The congregation remain seated or kneeling; the minister stands*

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers
and grant our government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECTS

The Collect of the day is sung/said and the following collects

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

HYMN

THE BLESSING

*Organ voluntary
Please join us for refreshments in the Consistorial Court*

CHORAL EVENSONG

Order of Service



The Choir, Clergy and other Ministers assemble in Saint James' Chapel for the Vestry Prayer

Please stand for the procession

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

HYMN

The minister says the Exhortation

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

Please kneel or sit

A GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The congregation remain seated or kneeling; the ministering priest stands

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If no priest is present, the absolution is omitted; both congregation and minister remain seated or kneeling, and the minister says:

O God, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive; Receive our humble petitions; and, though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitifulness of thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The minister stands

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.

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

THE PSALM

Please sit

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*At the end the reader may say
Here endeth the First Lesson*

THE MAGNIFICAT *The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Luke 1: 46-55*

Please stand

1 My soul doth | magni fy the | Lord, and my spirit hath re|joiced in | God my | Saviour.
2 For | he · hath re|garded the lowliness | of his | hand|maiden.
3 For be|hold from | henceforth all gener|ations · shall | call me | blessèd.
4 For he that is mighty hath | magni fied | me, and | holy | is his | Name.
5† And his mercy is on | them that | fear him through|out all | gene|rations.
6 He hath showèd | strength · with his | arm, he hath scattered the proud, in the imagin|ation | of their | hearts.
7 He hath put down the mighty | from their | seat and hath ex|alted · the | humble · and | meek.
8 He hath filled the hungry with | good | things and the rich | he hath · sent | empty · a|way.
9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his | servant | Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham | and his | seed for | ever.
Glory | be · to the | Father, and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning, is now and ever shall be, | world with · out | end. A|men.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Please sit

*At the end the reader may say
Here endeth the Second Lesson*

THE NUNC DIMITTIS *The Song of Simeon: Luke 2: 29-32*

Please stand

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de|part in | peace: ac|cording | to thy | word.
2 For mine eyes have seen | thy sal|vation
which thou hast prepared be|fore the | face of · all | people;
3 To be a light to | lighten · the | Gentiles and to be the glory of thy | people | Isra|el.
Glory | be · to the | Father, and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning, is now and ever shall be, | world with · out | end. A|men.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand and face towards the east

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE LESSER LITANY AND SUFFRAGES

The Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit.
Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

The congregation remain seated or kneeling; the minister stands

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

The Collect of the day is sung/said and the following collects

THE SECOND COLLECT, FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

THE THIRD COLLECT, FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ANTHEM

Please sit (alternatively a hymn may be sung)

A SERMON (OPTIONAL)

Please stand as the preacher leaves the pulpit

HYMN (IF A SERMON IS PREACHED)

PRAYERS

Please kneel or sit

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, We thine unworthy servants Do give thee most humble and hearty thanks For all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life: But above all, for thine inestimable love In the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; For the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,

And that we show forth thy praise, Not only with our lips but in our lives; By giving up ourselves to thy service, And by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, To whom with thee and the Holy Spirit Be all honour and glory, World without end. Amen.

A PRAYER OF SAINT CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen

HYMN OF THE COLLECTION

Please stand

[a collection of money for charitable purposes is taken]

BLESSING

Organ Voluntary

HOLY BAPTISM

Order of Service



Those being presented for baptism come forward with their sponsors

Holy Baptism is administered to infants on the understanding that they will be brought up in the fellowship of Christ's Church; that they will be taught the Christian faith; and that, when they have publicly confessed this faith, they will be confirmed by the bishop and admitted to the Holy Communion.

THE PRESENTATION

We welcome those who come to be baptized. I invite the sponsors to present them now.

We present ... to be baptized.

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing ... for baptism and answer on his/her behalf? By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage him/her in the life and faith of the Christian Community?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism, this child begins his/her journey in faith. You speak for him/her today. Will you care for him/her, and help him/her to take his/her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

To the Parents and Godparents

Do you turn to Christ?

I do.

Do you then renounce the devil and all his works?

I do, by God's help.

Will you obey and serve Christ?

I will, by God's help.

To the Congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ. Will you support them in this calling?

We will support them.

The baptismal party move to the font

THE BAPTISM

Water is poured into the font

Praise God who made heaven and earth.
Who keeps his promise for ever.

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

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now *sanctify this water* that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, this child may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may he/she walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Parents and Godparents do you believe the Christian faith into which ... is to be baptized?
I do.

To the Sponsors and Congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Celebrant says

... will you name your child please?

... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Oil of Chrism may be used to anoint the candidate

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross. ✠

Live as a disciple of Christ,

fight the good fight,

finish the race,

keep the faith.

Confess Christ crucified,

proclaim his resurrection,

look for his coming in glory.

God has called you into his Church.

We therefore receive and welcome you as a member with us of the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father, and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.

A candle may be presented with the words

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in his light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

A hymn may be sung or prayers said

THE ADVENT WREATH

Order of Service



Advent 1

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen. Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king: be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today. Amen.

The Candle is lit

People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Advent 2

God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen. Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen.

The Candle is lit

People of God: be glad! Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light. Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the love of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Advent 3

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen. Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.

The Candle is lit

People of God: return! You are called to be God's own. From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Advent 4

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen. Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

The Candle is lit

People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK – A HISTORY

According to tradition, Saint Mary's Cathedral is built on the site of the Viking place of assembly – the thing; subsequently the palace of the O'Brien kings of Thomond, and was given to the Church by King Donal Mór O'Brien in 1168. This legend 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 that still performs its original function.

The diocese of Limerick was formally established by the Synod of Ráth Breasail in 1111, and the church of Saint Mary, in the 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 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 seventeenth-century Thomond Monument in the chancel, beside the tomb of Donal Mór O'Brien. In the early nineteenth 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 pioneer 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

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Opening Times

The Cathedral is open every day except the 26th, 27th December and 1st January (subject to change). 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 guaranteed regular state aid. It costs approximately €4000 a week to run the cathedral. By purchasing a ticket or making a donation or legacy, you are contributing towards the maintenance, mission and ministry of Saint Mary's Cathedral and helping preserve it for future generations. Thank you!

The Cathedral Choir

Whilst Saint Mary's Cathedral is a church in the full tradition of the Church of Ireland, membership of that church is not a pre-requisite for joining the cathedral choir. If you love singing, church/choral music and historic buildings, then why not get in touch with us? We'd be pleased to hear from you. You don't need to be an expert singer. What we are looking for are young people with a pleasant singing voice, who are able to sing in tune and who have an interest in, and commitment to, this kind of music-making within the context of this magnificent medieval cathedral. Potential choir members should please contact the Organist and Choirmaster to arrange an informal meeting at the cathedral. Contact: organist@limerick.anglican.org / 061 310293

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.

The 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

Services will be recorded and may be viewed online on: www.churchservices.tv and the Cathedral website (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 and 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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