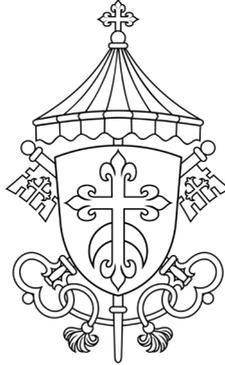


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## A Celebration of Readings and Carols



20 December 2020  
5.00pm

# 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.

[www.cathedralchoir.sydney](http://www.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 SERVICE

*All stand at the sound of the Sacristy bell.*

*All remain silent as the first two verses are sung.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*A boy chorister sings*

**O**NCE in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

*The Choir alone sings*

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

*All sing*

**And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.**

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

*Irby*

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)*

*Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876)*

*revised by A H Mann (1850–1929)*

*arr. James O'Donnell (b. 1961)*

## INTRODUCTION

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the Dean 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.**

*The Dean welcomes the congregation, and then says*

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

**A**LMMIGHTY ever-living God, as we see how the Nativity of your Son according to the flesh draws near, we pray that to us, your unworthy servants, mercy may flow from your Word, who chose to become flesh of the Virgin Mary and establish among us his dwelling, Jesus Christ our Lord. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

℟: **Amen.**

*All sit.*

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC?

WHAT sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heav'nly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!  
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honour to this day  
That sees December turn to May.  
Why does the chilling winter's morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn  
Thus on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth  
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,  
To heaven and the underearth.  
We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his show'rs,  
Turns all the patient ground to flow'rs.  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here, is the heart,  
Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do him honour; who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

*Robert Herrick (1592–1674)  
abridged and altered*

## FIRST READING

*Luke 1:26-38*

**I**N the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

*The Choir sings*

### A MAIDEN MOST GENTLE

**A** MAIDEN most gentle and tender we sing;  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.  
Ave Maria.

How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child,  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.  
Ave Maria.

The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of Creation, and Saviour of all.  
Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;  
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.  
Ave Maria.

*arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939)*

*The Venerable Bede (673–735)  
paraphrased by Andrew Carter*

## SECOND READING

*Luke 2:1-7*

**I**N those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*All stand and sing*

**O** LITTLE town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**O** morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

*The Choir alone sings*

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

*All sing*

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

*English traditional*  
*arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*  
*Descant, Thomas Armstrong (1898–1994)*

*Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)*

*All sit.*

### THIRD READING

*Luke 2:8-16*

AND in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

*The Choir sings*

### SILENT NIGHT

SILENT night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!  
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Hirten erst kundgemacht  
Durch der Engel Halleluja,  
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:  
Christ, der Retter ist da!  
Christ, der Retter ist da!

*Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!*

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

*Franz Grüber (1787–1863)*

*Josef Mohr (1792–1848)  
English translation by John F Young (1820–1885)*

## FOURTH READING

*Matthew 2:1-11*

**N**OW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

THE THREE KINGS

THREE kings from Persian lands afar  
To Jordan follow the pointing star;  
And this the quest of the travellers three,  
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
And there in worship they bend the knee.  
As Mary's child in her lap they see;  
Their royal gifts they show to the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.  
Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem,  
The kings are travelling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
Shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
Offer thy heart to the infant King,  
Offer thy heart!

CHORALE TEXT (*sung by the choir*):

How brightly shines the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heav'n afar  
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.  
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
My soul with love o'erfloweth.  
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

*Peter Cornelius (1824–1874)*  
*Chorale: Phillipp Nicolai (1556–1608)*  
*arr. Ivor Atkins (1869–1953)*

*Peter Cornelius*  
*English translations: H N Bate (1871–1941)*

## THE SERMON

*is given by*

The Very Reverend Donald Richardson

*Dean of St Mary's Cathedral*

*The Choir sings*

### THE SILVER STARS ARE IN THE SKY

**T**HE silver stars are in the sky,  
The red-gold moon is riding high,  
O, sleep my little one, sleep!  
Once long ago against her breast,  
A mother hush'd a babe to rest  
Who was the Prince of Heav'n above,  
The Lord of gentleness and love,  
O, sleep, my little one, sleep.

The boo-book calls across the night,  
The brown moths flutter in the light,  
O, sleep my little one, sleep!  
In Bethlehem long, long ago,  
When roads and paddocks gleamed with snow;  
On this same night, that mother mild  
Lull'd into dreams her Royal Child.  
So, sleep, my little one, sleep!

*William G. James (1892–1977)*

*John Wheeler (1901–1984)*

*All stand.*

## FIFTH READING

*John 1:1-14*

**I**N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

*All sit.*

*The Cathedral Scholars sing*

### BORN ON A NEW DAY

**Y**OU are the new day.  
Meekness, love, humility  
Come down to us this day:  
Christ your birth has proved to me  
You are the new day.

Quiet in a stall you lie,  
Angels watching in the sky  
Whisper to you from on high  
'You are the new day'.

When our life is darkest night  
Hope has burned away;  
Love, your ray of guiding light,  
Show us the new day.

Love of all things great and small  
Leaving none, embracing all,  
Fold around me where I fall,  
Bring in the new day.

This new day will be  
A turning point for everyone.  
If we let the Christ-child in, and  
Reach for the new day.

Christ the Way, the Truth, the Life;  
Healing sadness, ending strife;  
You we welcome, Lord of life,  
Born on a new day.  
You are the new day.

*John David (b. 1946)  
arr. Peter Knight (1917–1985)*

*John David  
New words by Philip Lawson (b. 1957)*

*All stand and sing*

**O** COME, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:

See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:

Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

*Adeste fideles  
John Francis Wade's MS book c. 1740  
arr. David Hill (b. 1957)*

*Latin, 18th century  
tr. Frederick Oakley (1802–1880)*

*All remain standing.*

*The Dean says*

## THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

℟: **Amen.**

## BLESSING

**M**AY God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

℟: **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 in peace.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

*All sing*

**H**ARK! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:

*Hark! the herald Angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

*Hark! the herald Angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth:

*Hark! the herald Angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

*Mendelssohn  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–1847)  
Descant, David Hill*

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)  
and others*

*Music after the service:*

In dulci iubilo (BWV 729)  
Toccatà (Douze piéces)

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)  
Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)*

# CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

## THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER

5.00pm	First Vespers of Christmas	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>
6.00pm	Vigil Mass <i>with congregational carols</i>	
8.00pm	Choral Vigil Mass	<i>St Mary's Singers</i>
10.00pm	Mass <i>with congregational carols</i>	
11.15pm	Sung Matins with Carols	<i>Cathedral Scholars</i>

## FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER

Midnight	Midnight Mass	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>
6.00am	Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form	
7.00am	Said Mass	
8.00am	Mass ( <u>in Cathedral Crypt</u> ) <i>with congregational carols</i>	
9.00am	Mass <i>with congregational carols</i>	
10.30am	Solemn Mass	<i>Cathedral Choir</i>
6.00pm	Mass <i>with congregational carols</i>	

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL  
TO ATTEND CATHEDRAL SERVICES

[www.stmaryscathedral.org.au](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au)