ST MARY’S CATHEDRAL

Vespers
The Office of Evening Prayer

THE NATIVITY OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8 September 2021
5.00pm
THE OFFICE OF VESPERS

Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus’ command to “pray continually”. Through hymns, psalms, canticles, readings, and prayers, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and intercession for the needs of the world.

The Liturgy of the Hours includes several specified times of prayer. The most important times are Morning Prayer: Lauds (which takes place upon rising) and Evening Prayer: Vespers (which takes place as dusk begins to fall). The Office of Vespers gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God.

Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer. The public singing of Lauds and Vespers is a regular part of the life and worship of St Mary’s Cathedral.
ORDER OF VESPERS

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

℣. Deus, in adiutorium meum intende. O God, come to our aid.
℟. Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

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. Alleluia.

OFFICE HYMN

Beata Dei Genetrix, Beata Dei Genetrix, O blessed Mother of our Lord, nitor humani generis, And glory of the human race, per quam de servis liberi lucisque sumus filii; Through you no longer are we slaves, But children of God's light and grace.

Maria, Virgo regia, Less noble is your dignity, David stirpe progenita, As one of David’s royal line, non tam paterna nobilis Than that bestowed on you by God quam dignitate subolis, As Mother of his Son divine.

Tu nos, avulso veteri, Destroy in us the roots of ill, complanta novo germini; Increase in us the good begun, per te sit genus hominum That Christians all may fully share regale sacerdotium. The royal priesthood of your Son.

Tu nos culparum nexibus For us, by your most powerful prayer sacris absolve precibus; Obtain the pardon we implore, tua promentes merita That we who now your praises sing ad cæli transfer prǽmia. May gain reward for evermore.

Sit Trinitati gloria, All glory to the Trinity, O Virgo nobilissima, Endowing you with gifts so rare, quæ te suorum munera quæ te suorum munera thesaurum dat magnificum. Amen. To be the cause of all our joy, Most holy Mary, Virgin fair! Amen.

All sit.
PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

De Jesse progenie processit Virgo Maria, in cuius thalamum introivit Spiritus Altissimi.

The Virgin Mary was born from the stock of Jesse, and the Spirit of the Most High came to dwell with her.

PSALM 121 (122)

Lætatus sum in eo quod dixerunt mihi: ‘In domum Domini ibimus’.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’

Stantes iam sunt pedes nostri in portis tuis, Ierusalem.

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Ierusalem, quæ edificata est ut civitas, sibi compacta in idipsum.

Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact.

Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus, tribus Domini, testimonium Israel, ad confitendum nomini Domini.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel’s law it is, there to praise the Lord’s name.

Quia illic sederunt sedes ad iudicium, sedes domus David.

There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David.

Rogate, quæ ad pacem sunt Ierusalem: ‘Securi sint diligentes te!’

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: ‘Peace be to your homes!’

Fiat pax in muris tuis, et securitas in turribus tuis!».

May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!’

Propter fratres meos et proximos meos loquar: ‘Pax in te!’.

For love of my brethren and friends I say: ‘Peace upon you!’

Propter domum Domini Dei nostri exquiram bona tibi.

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

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

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

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

The Antiphon is repeated.
SECOND ANTIPHON

HODIE nata est Regina mundi: paradisus gaudet et exsultat mundus.

Today the Queen of the world was born: heaven rejoices and earth exults.

PSALM 126 (127)

Nisi Dominus ædificaverit domum, in vanum laborant, qui ædificant eam.
If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour;

Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem, frustra vigilat, qui custodit eam.
if the Lord does not watch over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

Vanum est vobis ante lucem surgere et sero quiescere, qui manducatis panem laboris, quia dabit dilectis suis somnum.
In vain is your earlier rising, your going later to rest, you who toil for the bread you eat, when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Ecce hereditas Domini filii, merces fructus ventris.
Truly sons are a gift from the Lord, a blessing, the fruit of the womb.

Sicut sagittæ in manu potentis, ita filii iuventutis.
Indeed the sons of youth are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

Beatus vir, qui implevit pharetram suam ex ipsis: non confundetur, cum loquetur inimicis suis in porta.
O the happiness of the man who has filled his quiver with these arrows! He will have no cause for shame when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Antiphon is repeated.
THIRD ANTIPHON

NATIVITATEM hodiernam perpetuæ Virginis Genetricis Dei Mariæ solemniter celebremus, qua celsitudo throni processit, alleluia.

*Today we celebrate the birthday of Mary the ever-virgin Mother of God through whom we approach the heavenly throne, alleluia.*

CANTICLE

Ephesians 1:3-10

Benedictus Deus et Pater Domini nostri Iesu Christi, qui benedixit nos in omni benedictione spirituali in cælestibus in Christo, sicut elegit nos in ipso ante mundi constitutionem, ut essemus sancti et immaculati in conspectu eius in caritate, qui praedestinavit nos in adoptionem filiorum per Iesum Christum in ipsum, secundum beneplacitum voluntatis suæ, in laudem gloriae gratiæ suæ, in qua gratificavit nos in Dilecto, in quo habemus redemptionem per sanguinem eius, remissionem peccatorum, secundum divitias gratiæ eius, quae superabundavit in nobis in omni sapientia et prudentia, notum faciens nobis mysterium voluntatis suæ, secundum beneplacitum eius, quod proposuit in eo, in dispensationem plenitudinis temporum: recapitulare omnia in Christo, quæ in cælis et quæ in terra. Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

The Antiphon is repeated.
THEY are Israelites: they were made God’s sons; theirs is the splendour of the
divine presence, theirs the covenants, the law, the temple worship, and the
promises. theirs are the patriarchs, and from them, in natural descent, sprang the
Messiah. May God, supreme above all, be blessed for ever. Amen.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Ave, Maria, gratia plena; Dominus tecum. Hail Mary, full of grace:
the Lord is with you.

℣. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui. R. You are the most blessed of all women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

℟. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. R. Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

GLORIOSÆ Virginis Maríæ ortum dignissimum recolamus, cuius Dominus
humilitatem respexit, quæ, Angelo nuntiante, concepit Redemptorem mundi.

Let us remember the worthy birth of the glorious Virgin Mary. The Lord looked on her
in her lowliness and sent his angel to announce to her that she would conceive and bear
the Redeemer of the world.
MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat
anima mea Dominum,
et exsultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo,
quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent
omnes generationes,
quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,
et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;
deposuit potentes de sede; et exaltavit humiles;
esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiæ suæ, sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

The Antiphon is repeated.
Let us praise God the Father who chose Mary as the mother of his Son and wanted all generations to call her blessed. With confidence we pray:

May the Virgin Mary intercede for us.

Father, you did great things for the Virgin Mary and brought her, body and soul, to the glory of heaven; fill the hearts of your children with the hope of Christ’s glory.

Through the prayers of Mary, our mother, heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, pardon sinners; grant peace and salvation to all.

You favoured Mary with the fulness of grace; bestow on all men your overflowing blessing.

May your Church be united heart and soul, held fast by love, and may your faithful be joined in continuous prayer, with Mary the mother of Jesus.

Father, you exalted the Virgin Mary and crowned her queen of heaven; may the dead enter your kingdom and rejoice with your saints for ever.

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

All sing

O 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.
COLLECT

LORD God,
the day of our salvation dawned
when the Blessed Virgin gave birth to your Son.
As we celebrate her own nativity,
grant us your grace and your peace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In the absence of a Priest:

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and

nostra, sal-ve. Ad te clamámus, éx-su-les, fí-li-i Hevae. Ad te su-spi-rámus, our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up

ge-méntes et flén-tes in hac la-crimárum val-le. E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious

nos-tra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te. Et Ie-sum, advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us;

be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de. unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.
