



***Darkness into Light***  
**The Advent Procession**  
*A Candlelit service of Carols, Music & Readings*  
**Advent Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**



# 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.





## 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 1000<sup>th</sup> time! We hope this service booklet is easy to follow and that in the worship you will really know that God is close to you. If you need any assistance during service, please speak to one of the Churchwardens by the church doors.

### *About this service - Darkness into Light*

In darkness and silence we await expectantly for the God-who-comes. Our darkened Cathedral corresponds to our darkened world and in the darkness we pray for all in despair, in desperate need, in misery and captivity.

The lighting of the candles as the Word of God is proclaimed, and as the procession moves through the Cathedral, displays our belief that God has not left his creation comfortless. We believe in the God who comes in flesh so that we might behold his glory, and the God who comes ultimately in power and judgement when all flesh shall see his glory together.

This is a pageant of light and darkness, of revelation and repentance, of procession and pilgrimage. We are called to know ourselves in the light of Christ, to be burnished into his likeness, and to prepare for his coming.

*Be ready then, for you know neither the day nor the hour  
when the bridegroom shall come. (Matthew 25: 13)*

The Advent Carol Service has its roots in the mediaeval church when it was customary at certain seasons of the Church's year to sing during Vespers a short versicle, known as an antiphon, which struck the keynote of the season. During Advent a special series of seven antiphons was used in preparation for Christmas. Each began with a long drawn-out 'O' expressing deep yearning for the coming of Christ. In each of them Christ was given a particular Old Testament title. These antiphons are the foundation of the second hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and the service then proceeds with a sentence, carol, reading and hymn appropriate to each theme; the final hymn concludes our worship with the confident affirmation "Lo! he comes".

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

# Order of Service



*The Choir is directed by Mr Peter Barley.  
The Organist is Ms Irina Dernova*

*Please Note! The first part of the service takes place in comparative darkness - so we ask you to study the service beforehand.*

*Please join in all those parts of the service in **bold** type.*

*The Choir & Clergy assemble in Saint James' chapel*

## **Choir - Matin responsory for Advent Sunday**

*Words from the first responsory of Advent Sunday in the office of Matins (early medieval Roman rite).  
Music adapted from a Magnificat by Palestrina*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

## **The Bidding Prayer – The Dean, the Very Rev'd Niall J.W. Sloane**

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> candle on the Advent Wreath is lit*

## Hymn 126

*The Congregation stand  
The Procession moves to the Consistorial Court*

1

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding,  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'

3

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven:  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven;

2

Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

4

that when next he comes in glory,  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.

5

Honour, glory, might and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.

*The Congregation sit*

**“O Emmanuel” - God with us** (*Dr Jessica Brown*)

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations, and their Saviour:

**All: Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

### **Choir - This is the truth**

*Words: Herefordshire carol Music: arr Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love;  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing that I do relate,  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run:  
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year  
Our blest redeemer did appear,  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

### Reading I - Isaiah 40: 1-8

*Read by Irina Dernova, a member of staff within the cathedral*

### Hymn 135

*The Congregation stand. The Procession moves to the chapels of Ss Nicholas & Catherine*

Cantor: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Choir: Redeem thy captive Israel, That into exile drear is gone  
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Cantor: O come, Thou Wisdom from above

Choir: Who ord'rest all things through thy love; To us the  
path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Cantor: O come, O come, Adonai!

Choir: Who in thy glorious majesty, From that high mountain  
clothed with awe gavest thy folk the elder law.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Cantor: O come, thou branch of Jesse!

Choir: Draw the quarry from the lion's claw; From the dread  
caverns of the grave, from nether hell, thy people save.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Cantor: O come, thou Lord of David's key!

Choir: The royal door fling wide and free; Safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
and bar the way to death's abode.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Cantor: O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!

Choir: Pour on our souls thy healing light; Dispel the long night's  
lingering gloom, and pierce the shadows of the tomb.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Cantor: O come, Desire of Nations,

Choir: Bring all peoples to their Saviour King; Thou Cornerstone,  
who makest one, complete in us thy work begun.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*The Congregation sit*

**“O Sapientia” – Wisdom**

○ Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, and sweetly ordering all things:

**All: Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

**Choir – Teach me thy way, O Lord**

*Words: Psalm 119 (vv 33-40) Music: John Hilton (the younger) (1599-1657)*

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes: And I shall keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law: Yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments: For therein is my desire.

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies: And not to covetousness.

○ turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity:

And quicken thou me in thy way.

○ stablish thy word in thy servant, that I may fear thee. Take away the rebuke that I am afraid of: for thy judgements are good. Behold, my delight is in thy commandments: ○ quicken thou me in thy righteousness.

**Reading 2 - Ecclesiasticus 1: 1-5, 8-10**

*Read by Ros Stevenson, a member of the Friends of the cathedral*

**Hymn 127**

*The Congregation stand*

*The Procession moves to Saint Mark's chapel*

1

Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,

Stirs on the earth and trembles in the air;

Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?

Is it the music of His people's prayer?

2

Surely He cometh, and a thousand voices

Shout to the saints, and to the deaf and dumb;

Surely He cometh, and the earth rejoices,

Glad in His coming who hath sworn: I come!

3

This hath He done, and shall we not adore Him?

This shall He do, and can we still despair?

Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before Him,

Cast at His feet the burden of our care.

Yea, through life, death, through sorrow and through sinning  
 He shall suffice me, for He hath sufficed:  
 Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,  
 Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

*The Congregation sit*

**“O Adonai” - Lord**

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appeared in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gave him the Law in Sinai:

**All: Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.**

**Choir – Out of your sleep**

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> century    Music: Richard Rodney Bennett (1936-2012)*

**Reading 3 - Exodus 19: 20 – 20: 3**

*Read by Mike Moloney, a volunteer within the cathedral*

**Hymn 432 (CH)**

*The Congregation stand*

*The Procession moves to the West Door*

I

Thy Kingdom come! On bended knee  
 The passing ages pray;  
 And faithful souls have yearned to see  
 On earth that Kingdom's day:

2

But the slow watches of the night  
 Not less to God belong;  
 And for the everlasting right  
 The silent stars are strong.

3

And lo, already on the hills  
 The flags of dawn appear;  
 Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
 Proclaim the day is near:

4

The day in whose clear-shining light  
 All wrong shall stand revealed,  
 When justice shall be throned in might,  
 And every hurt be healed;

5

When knowledge, hand in hand with truth,  
 Shall walk the earth abroad:  
 The day of perfect righteousness,  
 The promised day of God.

*The Congregation sits*

**“O Radix Jesse” - Root of Jesse**

○ Root of Jesse, which stands for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the gentiles shall seek:

**All: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.**

**Choir – I know a rose-tree springing**

*Words: from Spierschen Gesangbuch    Music: adapted by Michael Praetorius*

**Reading 4 - Isaiah 11: 1-9**

*Read by Professor Niamh Hourigan, a member of the Select Vestry*

**Hymn 124**

*The Congregation stand  
The Procession moves to the Crossing*

1

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

2

He comes the prisoners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

3

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the wounded soul to cure;  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

4

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

*The Congregation sit*

### **“O Clavis David” - Key of David**

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that opens, and no man shuts, and shuts, and no man opens:

**All: Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison, and him that sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

### **Choir - The Advent Prose**

*Words from ancient Advent Liturgies based on passages from Isaiah Music Plainsong: Mode I*

*Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

*Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

*Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

*Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

*Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

### **Reading 5 - Isaiah 61: 1-3**

*Read by Paul Cable, a member of the choir*

### **Hymn 119**

*The Congregation stand*

*The Procession moves to the Lady Chapel*

1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

2

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4

By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*The Congregation sit*

**“O Oriens” - Dayspring**

O Day-spring, Brightness of Light Everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness:

**All: Come and enlighten him that sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

**Choir – Advent ‘O’ Carol**

*Words: from the 7 Advent Antiphons    Music: Joanna Forbes L’Estrange*

**Reading 6 - Luke 1: 76-79**

*Read by Audrey Keane, a bell ringer of the cathedral*

**Hymn 281**

*The Congregation stand*

*The Procession move to their stalls*

**The candles given to members of the congregation on arrival are lit**

1

Rejoice the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore!  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart! lift up your voice!*

*Rejoice! again I say, rejoice!*

2

Jesus, the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love:  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.

3

His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given.

4

He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet

*The Congregation sit*

### **“O Rex Gentium” - King of Nations**

O King of the Nations, and their desire; the Cornerstone, who makes both one:  
**All: Come and save mankind, whom you formed out of clay.**

### **Choir – A Hymn of St Columba**

*Words: attrib. St Columba (521-597) Music: : Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)*

#### **Original Latin**

Regis regum rectissimi  
Propre est dies domini,  
Dies irae et vindicatae,  
Tenebrarum et nebulae,  
Regis regum rectissimi.  
Diesque mirabilium  
Tonitruorum fortium,  
Dies quoque angustiae,  
Maeroris ac tristitiae.  
Regis regum rectissimi.  
In quo cessabit mulierum  
Amor et desiderium,  
Nominumque contentio  
Mundi hujus et cupido.  
Regis regum rectissimi  
prope est dies domini.

#### **English translation**

King of kings and of lords most high,  
Comes his day of judgement nigh:  
Day of wrath and vengeance stark,  
Day of shadows and cloudy dark.  
King of kings and of lords most high.  
Thunder shall rend that day apart,  
Wonder amaze each fearful heart.  
Anguish and pain and deep distress  
Shall mark that day of bitterness.  
King of kings and of lords most high.  
That day the pangs of lust will cease,  
Man's questing heart shall be at peace;  
Then shall the great no more contend  
And worldly fame be at an end  
King of kings and of lords most high,  
Comes his day of judgement nigh.

### **Reading 7 - Revelation 22: 12, 16, 17, 20**

*Read by the Rev'd Canon Jane Galbraith, a member of the cathedral chapter*

### **Choir – Rejoice in the Lord always**

*Words: Philippians IV, vv 4-7 Music: attrib Redford (16<sup>th</sup> c.)*

## Hymn 468

### The Congregation stand and are invited to carefully extinguish their candles

*A collection will be taken in aid of the Companions of Saint Mary's Cathedral Music.*

1

How shall I sing that Majesty,  
Which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie;  
Sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around  
Thy throne, O God most high;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand sound  
Thy praise; but who am I?

2

Thy brightness unto them appears,  
While I Thy footsteps trace;  
A sound of God comes to my ears,  
But they behold Thy face.  
They sing because Thou art their Sun;  
Lord, send a beam on me;  
For where heaven is but once begun  
There alleluias be.

3

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,  
in flame it with love's fire;  
then shall I sing and bear a part  
with that celestial choir.  
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,  
with all my fire and light;  
yet when thou dost accept their gold,  
Lord, treasure up my mite.

4

How great a being, Lord, is Thine,  
Which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line  
To sound so vast a deep.  
Thou art a sea without a shore,  
A sun without a sphere;  
Thy time is now and evermore,  
Thy place is everywhere.

*The Congregation sit*

### **The Collect for Advent Sunday**

Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts and scatter the darkness from before you: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Hymn 132

*The Congregation stand*

1

Lo! he comes; with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train;  
Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

2

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

3

Those dear tokens of his Passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers:  
With what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4

Yea, Amen; let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne:  
Saviour, take the power and glory;  
Claim the kingdom for thine own,  
O come quickly!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Choral in A minor – Cesar Franck (1822-1890)*

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

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***Did you enjoy this service?***

*Then why not experience something similar after Christmas on  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm  
The Epiphany Carol Service*

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## SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK

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

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

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

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

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

## SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

### *Opening Times*

The Cathedral is open every day except from 26<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January. No charges are made for those who come to join our worship or who wish to pray privately, and everyone is welcome.

### *Supporting the Cathedral*

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

### *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@limerickangican.org](mailto:organist@limerickangican.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.

These 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.

### *Facilities*

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

There are toilets on site.

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

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

### *Service Notes*

- Services will be recorded and may be viewed online on: [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) and the Cathedral website ([www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://www.saintmaryscathedral.ie)) within the 90 days following the service. After that time recordings will be destroyed however exceptions may apply and recordings could last longer if the Cathedral required it. Occasional services may be recorded and will be advertised on both websites [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) and [www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://www.saintmaryscathedral.ie) and/or other communication channels of the Cathedral). If you would like further information on a particular event, please contact the Cathedral office.
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## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2024**

### **Sunday 1st December – Advent I**

10.00am – Advent Service, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square  
11.15am – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street  
7.00pm – The Advent Procession, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

### **Thursday 5th December - Candlelight Concert**

Fever Concert - see [www.feverup.com](http://www.feverup.com) for tickets and information

### **Friday 6th December - Candlelight Concert**

Fever Concert - see [www.feverup.com](http://www.feverup.com) for tickets and information

### **Sunday 8th December – Advent II**

10.00am – Children's Gift Service, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square  
10.00am – Morning Prayer, Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington (Murroe)  
11.15am – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

### **Tuesday 11th December - Candlelight Concert**

Fever Concert - see [www.feverup.com](http://www.feverup.com) for tickets and information

### **Friday 13th December - Irish Chamber Orchestra**

see [www.irishchamberorchestra.com](http://www.irishchamberorchestra.com) for tickets and information

### **Saturday 14th December**

5.30pm - Come and Sing Carols - (carol singing for all), Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

### **Sunday 15th December – Advent III**

9.30am – Holy Communion, Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington (Murroe)  
10.00am – Holy Communion, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square  
11.15am – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

### **Tuesday 17th December - Candlelight Concert**

Fever Concert - see [www.feverup.com](http://www.feverup.com) for tickets and information

### **Wednesday 18th December**

8.00pm – Community Carol Service, Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington (Murroe)

### **Thursday 19th December**

Christmas with Ancor 2024 see [www.ancorchoir.com](http://www.ancorchoir.com) for tickets and information

### **Friday 20th December**

12.00pm - Villiers School Carol Service

### **Sunday 22nd December – Advent IV**

10.00am – Carol Service, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square  
10.00am – Morning Prayer, Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington (Murroe)  
11.15am – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street  
4.00pm - A Blue Christmas Service, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street  
(a reflective service for those who find Christmas a challenging season)  
7.00pm – The Civic Carol Service, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

### **Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

10.00pm – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

### **Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day**

9.30am – Holy Communion, Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington (Murroe)  
10.00am – Holy Communion, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square  
11.15am – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

### **Sunday 29th December - Christmas I**

10.00am – A Christmas Service, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square  
11.15am – A Christmas Service, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

[www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://www.saintmaryscathedral.ie)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

St Luke 2:13-15



