



Founded 1168

**SAINT MARY'S
CATHEDRAL**
LIMERICK



Harvest Thanksgiving

**The 19th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 22)
6th October 2024**



A message from the Dean

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

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

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of see the backs of others heads. Quietly explain the parts of the services and actions of the clergy, wardens, choir, etc. Sing the hymns, pray and join in the responses. Children learn liturgical behaviour by copying you. The numbers in brackets denotes pages in the Children's Communion Book (available at the church door) and activity packs for children are also available. Feel free to use the space across at the back of the church if your children become restless; please stay with your children in this area for their safety. If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me". Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church of God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

To the adults

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents 😊
Finally, if you need any assistance during service, please speak to one of the Churchwardens by the church doors.

The Very Rev'd Niall J.W. Sloane, Dean of Saint Mary's Cathedral.

What is a Harvest Thanksgiving?

Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*, "Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon which falls in the month of September.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Rev'd Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service. The first Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Ireland is understood to have been held in Saint Jude's Church, Kilmainham, Dublin in 1899.

Devotional Prayers

Before Service

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

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

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

Before a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

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

Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself; our hearts are restless until they rest in you. 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.

The Organist is Mr Peter Barley
Service Setting: Archer – The Lincoln Service

Order of Service



The Choir & Clergy assemble at Saint James' Chapel for the Vestry Prayer. Please Stand.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

HYMN 47

WIR PFLUGEN



REFRAIN

1
We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes, and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

2
He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children
he gives our daily bread.

3
We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer,
for all your love imparts,
and that which you most welcome,
our humble, thankful hearts.

Words: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815

COLLECT FOR PURITY [3]

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

PENITENCE

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

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

The Confession is introduced with appropriate words, such as:

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

Silence

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

The celebrant pronounces the Absolution

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Sung by the Choir

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 [6]

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season: Grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD [7]

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: JOEL 2: 21-27

Please Sit

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt

wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

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

THE PSALM: 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, ♦ then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter ♦ and our tongue with songs of joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, ♦ ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’
- 4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, ♦ and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, ♦ as the river beds of the desert.
- 6 Those who sow in tears ♦ shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping bearing the seed, ♦ will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

THE EPISTLE: I TIMOTHY 2: 1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

THE GRADUAL ANTHEM: THOU VISITEST THE EARTH - GREENE

THE GOSPEL

Please stand

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Matthew chapter 6 beginning at verse 25
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

At the end the reader may say
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED [8]

Please stand

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN 39

1

For the fruits of his creation,
thanks be to God!

For his gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God!

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping;
future needs in earth's safe keeping,
thanks be to God.

2

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing;
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God!
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God!
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us;
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [10]

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please kneel or sit

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

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

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE [12]

THE OFFERTORY HYMN 450 [*a collection of money for charitable purposes is taken*]

1

Upon thy table, Lord, we place
These symbols of our work and thine,
Life's food won only by thy grace,
Who givest all, the bread and wine.

2

Within these simple things there lie
The height and depth of human life,
The thoughts we own, our tears and toil,
Our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.

3

The faith that sows, the car that tends,
The ceaseless work of farm and field,
Have wrought these elemental things
That they in turn our wealth should yield

4

Accept them, Lord; from thee they come;
We take them humbly to thy hand:
These gifts of thine to higher use
Obedient to thine own command.

5

All life is thine: O give us faith
To know thee in the broken bread,
And drink with thee the wine of life,
Thou Lord supreme of quick and dead.

6

To thee we come; refresh us thou
with food from thy most holy board,
Until the kingdoms of this world
Become the kingdoms of the Lord.

7

And let this feast, so simply spread,
Assure us that we all are one
Whate'er our colour or our race
Within the kingdom of God's Son.

Words: Maurice F.C. Wilson, 1884 -1944

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING [16]

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: And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

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

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

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us; he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again: On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

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

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

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world. Happy are those
who are called to his supper.

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

THE AGNUS DEI [*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 [23]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and wine of the kingdom. By your grace plant within us such reverence for all that you give us that will make us wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

followed by

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

THANKSGIVING HYMN 37

please stand



1

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest-home.

2

All the world is God's own field;
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

4

Even so, Lord, quickly come,
to thy final harvest-home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified
in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home.

Words: Henry Alford, 1810-71

THE BLESSING

May God our creator, who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air, bestow on you his care and increase the harvest of your righteousness; and may the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

Organ Voluntary: Carillon - Murrill

Please join us for refreshments in the Consistorial Court

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK

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

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

The Cathedral Choir

Whilst St 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.

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

Please visit the website for full details – www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org

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.

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America

Material in this service is reproduced from The Book of Common Prayer under licence, copyright © RCB 2004

One License number: A-738650

