



**Services with the Anglican Cathedral Choirs of
Cork & Limerick
The 2nd Sunday before Advent
17th November 2024**



A message from the Dean

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

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

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

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of 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 cathedral 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.

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: Missa Brevis in D (K 194) – W.A. Mozart

Choral Eucharist ~ Order of Service

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

HYMN 10

1

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

3

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4

Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

PENITENCE

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

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

The Confession is introduced with appropriate words, such as:

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

Silence

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

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

Sung by the Celebrant

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Please Sit

Daniel 12: 1-3

At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Please Stand

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; ♦ I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, ♦ upon those who are noble in heart. Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦ their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦ in your hands alone is my fortune.

My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦ indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦ and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

I have set the Lord always before me; ♦ he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦ my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦ nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦ and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

THE EPISTLE

Please sit

Hebrews 10: 11-14, 15-18, 19-25

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds', he also adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL ANTHEM: *LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE (BAIRSTOW)*

THE GOSPEL

Please stand

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Mark chapter 13 beginning at verse 1

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

At the end the reader may say

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON: THE DEAN

Please sit

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 398

1

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by His blood."

2

Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Tho' the cloud from sight received Him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget His promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4

Alleluia! King Eternal
thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
you, within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here proclaimed as priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise: 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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope. Bring us at the last to that pure life for which we long, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **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 281

Please stand

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 Savior 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 heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:

4

He sits at God's right hand
Till all His foes submit,
And bow to His command,
And fall beneath His feet:

5

Rejoice in glorious hope
Jesus the judge shall come
And take his servants up
to their eternal home

THE BLESSING

Please kneel or sit

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will: and 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 peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary: Marche Nuptiale - Vierge
Please join us for refreshments in the Consistorial Court

Choral Evensong ~ Order of Service

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

HYMN 73

1

The day thou gavest Lord is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

2

We thank thee that thy Church, unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping
and rests not now by day or night.

3

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4

The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
Thy people neath the western sky
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high

5

So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands and grows forever
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

INTRODUCTION, WELCOME & COMMISSIONING

The minister says the Exhortation

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

Please kneel or sit

A GENERAL CONFESSION

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

THE ABSOLUTION

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

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

Responses: Radcliffe

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand

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

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

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

THE PSALM: 95

Please Sit

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

MAGNIFICAT: THE SONG OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, LUKE 1: 46-55

Sung by the Choir, Stanford in A

1 My soul doth | magnify the | Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in | God my | Saviour.

2 For | he · hath regarded the lowliness | of his | hand|maiden.

3 For be|hold from | henceforth all gener|ations · shall | call me | blessed.

4 For he that is mighty hath | magnified | me, and | holy | is his | Name.

5† And his mercy is on | them that | fear him through|out all | gene|rations.

6 He hath showed | strength · with his | arm,

he hath scattered the proud, in the imagin|ation | of their | hearts.

7 He hath put down the mighty | from their | seat

and hath ex|alted · the | humble · and | meek.

8 He hath filled the hungry with | good | things

and the rich | he hath · sent | empty · a|way.

9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his | servant | Israel,

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham | and his | seed for | ever.

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

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

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in | peace:
ac|cording | to thy | word.

2 For mine eyes have seen | thy sal|vation
which thou hast prepared be|fore the | face of · all | people;

3 To be a light to | lighten · the | Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy | people | Israel.

Glory | be · to the | Father, and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it | was in · the be|ginning, is now and ever shall be, | world with ·out | end. A|men.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE LESSER LITANY AND SUFFRAGES

The Lord be with you
And with thy Spirit

Please kneel or sit

Let us pray
Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy
will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us
not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

○ Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.
○ Lord, guide and defend our rulers
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.
○ Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, ○ Lord,

because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us

and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Collect of the day is sung and the collects for Peace & for Aid against all Perils

THE ANTHEM: A HYMN OF ST COLUMBA (BRITTEN)

Please sit

PRAYERS

Please kneel or sit

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

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

THE GRACE

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

HYMN OF THE COLLECTION 346

Please stand

1

Angel voices ever singing
round Thy throne of light,
angel harps, forever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless Thee
and confess thee Lord of might.

2

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of Thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
for Thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for Thy pleasure all combine.

3

In thy house, great God, we offer
of Thine own to Thee;
and for Thine acceptance proffer,
all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest psalmody.

4

Honor, glory, might, and merit
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity:
of the best that Thou hast given
earth and heaven render Thee.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Organ Postlude

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. No charges are made for those who come to join our worship or who wish to pray privately, and everyone is welcome.

The Cathedral Choir

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

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!

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

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