

Midnight Mass



Thursday 24 December, 11.30pm
Christmas Eve

President – The Dean
Preacher – The Lord Bishop of Manchester

Missa Brevis in F, K.192 (W A Mozart)

Welcome to Manchester Cathedral for this celebration of Holy Communion

Welcome to the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George in the heart of the City of Manchester. The building is the old mediaeval Parish Church of Manchester. King Henry V first granted it Collegiate status in 1421 and it became Manchester's Cathedral on the creation of the Diocese of Manchester in 1847. It is believed that there has been a church on or near this site for over a thousand years.

Celebrating 600 years

2021 is a special year for Manchester Cathedral as it marks the 600th anniversary of the granting of our first Royal charter establishing a Collegiate Church. Even in these uncertain times, an exciting programme of events for the whole family is planned and we hope to be able to share more details in due course.

Safeguarding

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.



Hearing-loop

The Cathedral has a hearing-loop.
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

Have you turned off your mobile phone?

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

Photography

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

Please read carefully before the service begins

This service is being broadcast live on BBC Radio 4.

Please join in with the words in the bold type and observe the instructions to stand and sit, as appropriate.

Welcome to the Cathedral

We offer a very warm welcome to any who are visiting us today.

If you would normally receive communion in your own church you are very welcome to do so here. If you do not receive communion please feel free to come up for a blessing instead. Just bow your head when you come up so the Eucharistic Minister will know.

Gluten Free Wafer

If you require a gluten free communion wafer please indicate this by pointing to the Altar table as you come up to receive.

Today's Service

President

The Very Reverend Rogers Govender MBE
Dean of Manchester

Preacher

The Right Reverend Doctor David Walker
Lord Bishop of Manchester

Musicians

The Cathedral Choir is conducted by Christopher Stokes,
Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Geoffrey Woollatt, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service

Prelude on 'This endris nyght'

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

The Gathering

Christmas Acclamation

sung by the Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo. *Glory be to God on high.*
Behold, I bring you good tidings
of great joy which shall be to
all people: for unto you is
born in the city of David, a
Saviour, which is Christ the
Lord.
Alleluia.

Christopher Stokes

Luke 2. 10, 11

Hymn

sung by the Choir

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

*Traditional English melody
adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)*

Edmund Sears (1810-1876)

The Greeting

The president may say

President In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

President ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.

All **Now the Word is made flesh
and laid in a narrow manger.**

President From eternity to eternity you are God,

All **and now we see you as a newborn child.**

President Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All **and also with you.**

The president welcomes the people.

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon Christ the Light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Deacon God our Father,
 you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
 forgive our failure to receive him.
 Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon Jesus our Saviour,
 you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
 forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
 Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Deacon Spirit of love,
 your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
 forgive the hardness of our hearts.
 Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

President May the God of all healing and forgiveness
 draw you to himself,
 and cleanse you from all your sins
 that you may behold the glory of his Son,
 the Word made flesh,
 and be cleansed from all your sins,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please stand, if you are able.

Gloria in excelsis

sung by the Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.

Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe. Domine Deus,
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris.

Amen.

*Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,*

*we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son
Jesu Christ; O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that takest away
the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.*

*Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory
of God the Father.
Amen.*

The Collect

President Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last forever.

Silence is kept

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation
of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Please be seated

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 9.2-7

A reading from Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

At the end of the reading

All This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if you are able.

An acclamation (Alleluia) heralds the Gospel reading.

Choir



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - - le - lu - ia!

Cantor The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Choir Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glorify to you O Lord.

Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

Please stand with the president as we affirm our faith.

The Creed

**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 from the Holy Spirit
and 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Minister In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the body of Christ.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home,
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the fields heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
And saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, Christians the world over are celebrating
Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Father,

in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and
the saints through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Hymn

sung by the Choir

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
'Round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

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

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiance beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Franz Grüber (1787-1863)

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine

President Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.
In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Choir	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,	<i>Holy, holy, holy,</i>
	Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	<i>Lord God of hosts,</i>
	Pleni sunt caeli et terra	<i>heaven and earth are full</i>
	gloria tua.	<i>of thy glory.</i>
	Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>
	Benedictus qui venit	<i>Blessed is he that cometh</i>
	in nomine Domini.	<i>in the name of the Lord.</i>
	Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

President We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
On the night before he died, he had supper with his friends and,
taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did;
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Deacon
All

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes,
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms,
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

President We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Giving of Communion

President Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

Prayer for Spiritual Holy Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there,
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

St Alphonsus Liguori

The President receives communion and then says:

All The body of Christ
Amen.

Please follow the direction of the Vergers as you come forward to receive Holy Communion.

If you would normally receive communion in your own church you are very welcome to do so here. If you do not wish to receive communion, please feel free to come up for a blessing instead, just bow your head and keep your hands down so the Eucharistic Minister will know.

Online worshippers may donate via this link
www.manchestercathedral.org/get-involved/donate
Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

During the administration of communion, the Choir sings the Agnus Dei and Christmas anthems.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

Please stand, if you are able.

Prayer after Communion

President God our Father,
 In this night, you have made known to us again
 the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
 confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him,
 until the day dawns
 and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

All **Father of all,
 we give you thanks and praise,
 that when we were still far off
 you met us in your Son and brought us home.
 Dying and living, he declared your love,
 gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
 May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
 we who drink his cup bring life to others;
 we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
 Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
 so we and all your children shall be free,
 and the whole earth live to praise your name;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

sung by the Choir

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

*Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)
Descant by Howard Arman (b 1954)*

Charles Wesley & others

The president may offer Christmas greetings before The Dismissal.

The Dismissal

The Blessing

Bishop May the Father,
 who has loved the eternal Son
 from before the foundation of the world,
 shed that love upon you his children.

All **Amen.**

 May Christ,
 who by his incarnation gathered into one
 things earthly and heavenly,
 fill you with joy and peace.

All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Deacon Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

Music after the service

Toccatà

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

The Dean & Chapter would like to take this opportunity in wishing you a very Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Weekly Notices
24 December 2020
Upcoming Special Events and Services

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist (live on Facebook)

12pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Saturday 26 December

11am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)

3.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Sunday 27 December - The First Sunday of Christmas

9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)

4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Monday 28 December

9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)

4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Tuesday 29 December

9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)

4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Wednesday 30 December

9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)

4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Thursday 31 December

9am Morning Prayer (live on Facebook)

4.30pm Evening Prayer (live on Facebook)

Christmas 2020

at Manchester Cathedral

Manchester
Cathedral



Comfort
and Joy

The Fourth Sunday of Advent Sung Eucharist

Sunday 20 December, 10.30 am

A Christmas Meditation: Festive Music & Readings

Tuesday 22 December, 7.30 pm

Midnight Mass (Live BBC Radio 4 Broadcast)

Christmas Eve, 11.30 pm
with The Bishop of Manchester
(Incense will be used at this service)

Christmas Day Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day, 10.30 am
with The Bishop of Bolton
(Incense will be used at this service)

The First Sunday of Christmas The Eucharist

Sunday 27 December, 10.30 am
with The Bishop of Middleton

The Epiphany

Sunday 3 January 2021, 10.30 am

The Baptism of Christ Sung Eucharist

Sunday 10 January 2021, 10.30 am

You are very welcome to all our services
but you will require a free ticket(s) here:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/manchester-cathedral-7097457847
otherwise worship with us live on Facebook.

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