

 COVENTRY  
CATHEDRAL



## **Evening Prayer for Lent**

*with sacred music for meditation and devotion  
from Pergolesi's 'Stabat Mater'*

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, 4pm

# Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

During the season of Lent, our usual pattern of Choral Evensong gives way on these Sundays to a quieter form of Evening Prayer, shaped by music offered by the Cathedral Choir. In these weeks, sacred music becomes a companion to the liturgy, helping us to listen more deeply to scripture and to the still, small voice of God.

The music you will hear this evening is offered not as a performance but as prayer. Through the gift of sung prayer, the Choir carries the words of faith, lament, hope, and devotion on behalf of us all. You are warmly invited simply to rest in the beauty of the music, to allow the words and harmonies to speak to the heart, and to be held by the rhythm of prayer that has echoed in cathedrals and churches for centuries.

Whether you come in faith, curiosity or quiet seeking, may this time of prayer and music offer space for reflection, peace and a deeper awareness of God's presence among us.

*The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, is presiding. The Cathedral Choir is directed by Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music. The organists are Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. Our sincere thanks go to Shuwei Zuo and Sin-Yu Wang, our violinists for this evening.*

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*The image on the front cover is 'Crucifixion', painted in 1868 by Gabriel Wüger (1829–1892), Beuron Archabbey, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.*

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*Other material is reproduced CCL 17597*

*The Congregation are invited to be seated in the stalls in the chancel.*

## **Introduction**

*The Reverend Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship and Welcome, presiding, says;*

Dearly beloved in Christ,  
in this holy season of Lent we are called again to walk with our Lord in the way of penitence, renewal, and hope. This evening's service gives place for a time of listening and stillness; wherein sacred music shall be our teacher and our prayer.

For music has ever served the Church not only to adorn our worship, but to deepen it: to give voice to grief we cannot name, to longing we scarcely understand, and to the promise of redemption set before us in Christ Jesus.

Tonight, we are invited to listen and to dwell: to let these sacred sounds of our worship shape our thoughts, still our hearts, and draw us more fully into the mystery of these days that lead us towards Holy Week and the Cross.

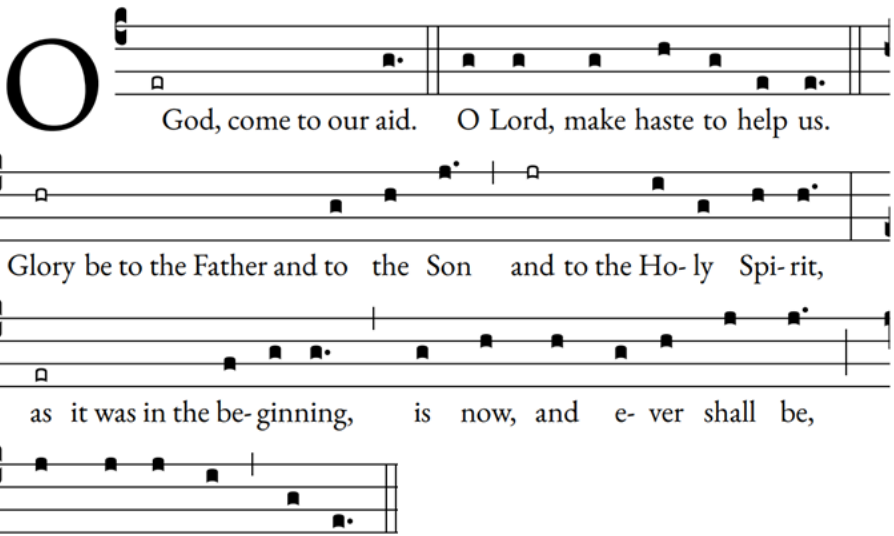
This evening, within our prayer, the Choir offers excerpts from Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, a setting of the ancient hymn that reflects on Mary standing at the foot of the Cross as her Son suffers.

Let us therefore keep silence before the Lord,  
and receive this offering of music as prayer,  
that our hearts may be prepared for the passion of Christ.  
and our lives renewed in his mercy.

*We keep a moment of silence.*

## Opening Responses

We *STAND*. All join in singing;



**O** God, come to our aid. O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit,  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and e-ver shall be,  
world without end. A-men.

We *SIT*.

## Psalm 30

1. I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up ♦  
and not made my foes to triumph over me.
2. O Lord my God, I cried unto thee ♦  
and thou hast healed me.
3. Thou, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell ♦  
thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.
4. Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his ♦  
and give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness.
5. For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye,  
and in his pleasure is life ♦  
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
6. And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be removed ♦  
thou, Lord, of thy goodness hast made my hill so strong.

7. Thou didst turn thy face from me ♦  
and I was troubled.
8. Then cried I unto thee, O Lord ♦  
and gat me to my Lord right humbly.
9. What profit is there in my blood ♦  
when I go down to the pit?
10. Shall the dust give thanks unto thee ♦  
or shall it declare thy truth?
11. Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me ♦  
Lord, be thou my helper.
12. Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy ♦  
thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.
13. Therefore shall every good man sing of thy praise without ceasing ♦  
O my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

## Reading

*The president reads from the precentor's stall.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

<sup>16b</sup> So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup> and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup> Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup> Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." <sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier.

They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

<sup>25</sup> And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*John 19:16b-27*

Here ends the lesson.

*We STAND. The choir sing;*

## **Magnificat, Tone I**

My soul doth magnify the Lord ♦  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded ♦  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth ♦  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me ♦  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him ♦  
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm ♦  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat ♦  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things ♦  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

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 Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*We SIT or KNEEL. The president says,*

It is through his Passion and his cross that Christ brings us to the glory of his resurrection. Let us ask him that we may be enabled by his grace to carry the cross with him, so that we may share in his victory over death.

Watch over, protect and guide thy Church, especially our own Bishop, Sophie, our clergy, and all thy faithful people.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Guide the hearts and minds of all thy people that they may strive to know thy will and follow it.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give peace and harmony in our homes, and a deep love of thy holy religion.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Comfort the suffering, console the lonely, protect the homeless and restore peace to those troubled in mind and body.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us commend ourselves, and all God's people, living and dead, to the mercy and protection of God.

*Silence*

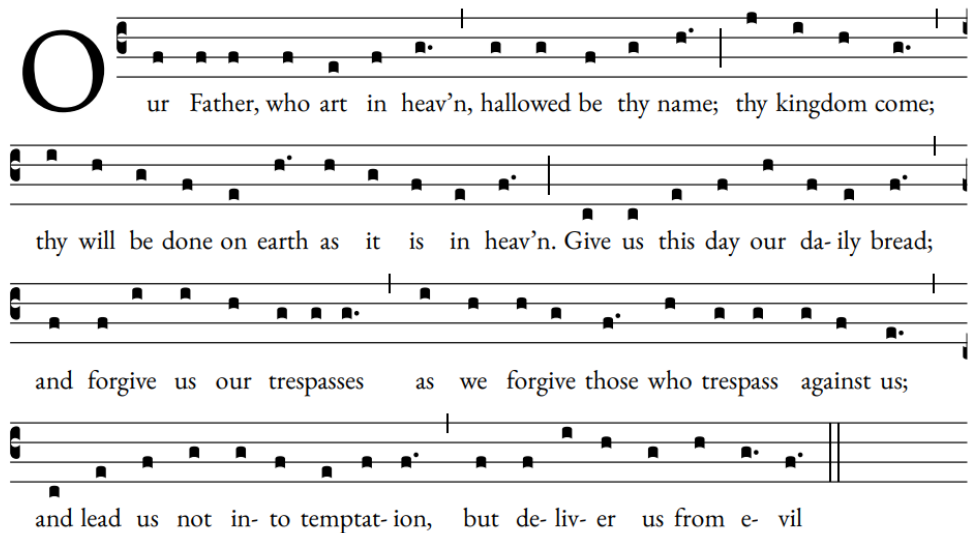
Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this n time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*The president says;*

Gathering our prayers into one,  
as Christ has taught, we are bold to pray:

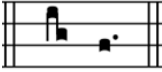
*All join in singing;*



**O**ur Father, who art in heav'n, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our da-ily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not in- to temptat-ion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil

## The Collect

We beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



A- men.

## Introduction to the sacred music meditation

*The president says;*

Friends in Christ, within our prayer this evening the Choir now offers music from Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. The title comes from the opening words of a medieval hymn: *Stabat mater dolorosa* – “The sorrowful mother stood.” The text invites us to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross as she watches her son suffer, entering into a meditation on compassion, grief and love in the face of Christ's Passion.

Pergolesi wrote this setting in 1736, in the final weeks of his life, and its music carries a remarkable tenderness and intimacy. Scored for two voices and strings, it unfolds like a prayerful dialogue, giving voice to sorrow yet also to the hope that lies beyond the Cross.

This evening, we receive these movements not as a performance but as part of our worship. As the music is sung, you are invited simply to listen in stillness, allowing the words and harmonies to draw you into the mystery of Christ's suffering and the faithful love that stands beside it.

## Sacred Music Meditation – Pergolesi’s ‘Stabat Mater’

*The Stabat Mater is a 13th-century hymn to the Blessed Virgin Mary that portrays her suffering as mother during the crucifixion of her son Jesus Christ. Its author may be either the Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi or Pope Innocent III.*

*The hymn is sung at the liturgy on the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. The Stabat Mater has been set to music by many Western composers, among them Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736).*

1. Stabat Mater dolorosa  
luxta crucem lacrimosa  
Dum pendeat Filius.

2. Cuius animam gementem  
Contristatam et dolentem  
Pertransivit gladius.

3. O quam tristis et afflicta  
Fuit illa benedicta  
Mater unigeniti!

4. Quae moerebat et dolebat,  
Pia Mater, dum videbat  
Nati poenas incliti.

5. Quis est homo qui non fleret,  
Matrem Christi si videret  
In tanto supplicio?

6. Vidit suum dulcem natum  
Moriendo desolatum  
Dum emisit spiritum.

7. Eja Mater, fons amoris  
Me sentire vim doloris  
Fac, ut tecum lugeam.

1. The grieving Mother  
stood weeping beside the cross  
where her Son was hanging.

2. Through her weeping soul,  
compassionate and grieving,  
a sword passed

3. O how sad and afflicted  
was that blessed Mother  
of the only-begotten!

4. Who mourned and grieved,  
seeing and bearing the torment  
of her glorious child.

5. Who is it that would not weep,  
seeing Christ’s Mother  
in such agony?

6. She saw her sweet child  
die desolate,  
as he gave up His spirit.

7. O Mother, fountain of love,  
make me feel the power of sorrow,  
that I may grieve with you.

8. Fac, ut ardeat cor meum  
In amando Christum Deum  
Ut sibi complaceam.

9. Sancta Mater, istud agas,  
Crucifixi fige plagas  
cordi meo valide.

10. Fac ut portem Christi  
mortem,  
passionis fac consortem,  
et plagas recolere.

11. Inflammatus et accensus  
per te, Virgo, sim defensus  
in die iudicii.

Fac me cruce custodiri  
morte Christi praemuniri  
confoveri gratia.

12. Quando corpus morietur,  
fac ut animæ donetur  
Paradisi gloria. Amen.

8. Grant that my heart may burn  
in the love of Christ my God,  
that I may greatly please Him.

9. Holy Mother, may you do thus:  
place the wounds of the Crucified  
deep in my heart.

10. Make me to bear Christ's  
death,  
sharing in His passion,  
and commemorate his wounds.

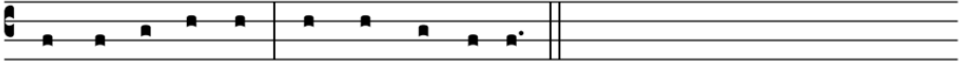
11. In flame and set on fire,  
may I be defended by you, Virgin,  
on the day of judgment.

Let me be guarded by the cross,  
armed by Christ's death  
and His cherished by His grace.

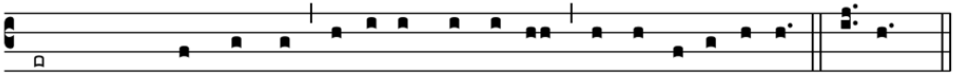
12. When my body dies,  
grant that to my soul is given  
the glory of paradise. Amen.

*A brief moment of silence is observed, before the president stands to pronounce the blessing.*

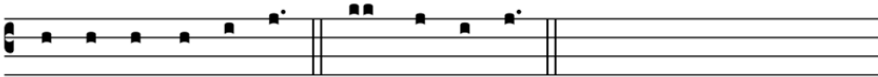
# Blessing



The Lord be with you. **And with thy Spi-rit.**



May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Ho-ly Spi-rit. **A-men**



Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

We **STAND** as the Ministers and Choir process out in silence.

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*If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.*

*Thank you for your support.*



## **Daily Services at the Cathedral:**

Regular services at the Cathedral follow this pattern. For special services and up-to-date information about one-off cancellations of the services below, please check the calendar on the Cathedral website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/full-calendar>

### **Monday - Friday**

8:30 – 9:00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

*(followed on Thursdays by BCP Holy Communion)*

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

*(or Wednesday and Thursday during school terms: Choral Evensong, 5:15 - 6pm)*

### **Saturday**

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

### **Sunday**

10:30 – 11:45am: *The Cathedral Eucharist*

4 – 5pm: *Choral Evensong*

## **JOINING OUR CHOIRS**

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing? There are many benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places, choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the Acting Director of Music to arrange a meeting. Email:

[Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk](mailto:Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk)

### ***Cathedral Chamber Choir***

The Cathedral Chamber Choir sing voluntarily at various services throughout the year and are currently open for auditions on all voice parts. Rehearsals usually take place on occasional Thursday evenings in the lead up to a service. If you would be interested in joining our Chamber Choir, please get in touch with Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music, for an audition.

Email: [Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:Liam.Condon@coventry.anglican.org)

## **Coventry Cathedral Chorus**

The Chorus is one of the Midlands' leading amateur choirs, bringing together around 60 singers to perform a wide range of choral music in and beyond Coventry.

Founded shortly after the consecration of Coventry Cathedral in 1963, the Chorus continues a rich tradition of singing in notable venues across the UK and Europe.

Rehearsals take place at the Cathedral on Tuesday evenings, 7.15–9.30pm. New singers are always welcome. To find out more or arrange to attend a rehearsal, visit [coventrycathedralchorus.com](http://coventrycathedralchorus.com) or contact the Membership Secretary at [membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com](mailto:membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com). Follow Coventry Cathedral Chorus on Facebook and [@CovCathChorus](#) on X.

## **Safeguarding at Coventry Cathedral**

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

Our Safeguarding Team are:



**Canon Kate**  
Chapter  
Safeguarding  
Lead



**Jane Williams**  
Cathedral  
Community  
Safeguarding  
Officer



**Jo Brake**  
Safeguarding  
Lead for Policy  
and Process

You can report a concern to our Safeguarding Team by emailing [cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk) or phoning 02476 52 1360

Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price by phoning 024 7652 1345 or emailing [safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org)

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Lenten Course: Testament**

This Lent, join us for a thought-provoking course built around *Testament*, the contemporary Christian series that brings the opening chapters of the Book of Acts vividly to life. Together we will explore the first ten chapters of Acts and reflect on what the birth of the Church might mean for faith and discipleship today.

***The course will meet every Tuesday evening in Lent at 7pm in St Michael's House.***

To sign up, or for further details, please speak to Rob Halligan, Canon Nitano or Revd. Gillian Roberts.

### **Cathedral AGM**

*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, immediately following the Eucharist in JLC*

In advance of this anyone that considers the Cathedral to be their place of worship is encouraged to join the Electoral Roll so that they might take part in proceedings, as well as be nominated for any of the roles that require the meeting's approval. At the meeting we will be approving the roles of Churchwarden, members of the Deanery Synod, and members of St. Michael's Committee. Have a chat with Canon Kate or Canon Nitano if you want to know more about what the roles entail.

### **Dean John's Farewell Celebration**

As we prepare to give thanks for Dean John's ministry among us, all members of the congregation are warmly invited to his Farewell Do on Saturday, 9 May. This will be a joyful moment to gather, share stories, and offer our appreciation for his leadership and friendship.

Dean John's final Eucharist service will be on Sunday, 17 May at 10.30am and his final Choral Evensong at 4pm, where he will preach and preside. If you wish to attend either or both of these, please scan this QR code to register your attendance.

There are lists at the back of the nave, should you prefer to register that way. We hope many of you will join us for this special occasion.



## **HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL**

Holy Week invites us to walk with Christ through the final days of his earthly ministry, from the joy of Palm Sunday to the light of Easter morning. Through worship, music and prayer, we enter the heart of the Christian story together.

A list of our services and events for Holy Week can be found here  
<https://tinyurl.com/53259d36>

Paper copies are also available by the West Screen.

All are warmly invited to share in this sacred journey from the Cross to the empty tomb, and into the hope and joy of Easter.