SAINT FIN BARRE'S
CATHEDRAL · CORK

Sunday 25th October 2026
The Fifth Sunday before Advent
Choral Evensong - 3.30pm
Sung by the Cathedral Choir

Choral Evensong is essentially a service of reflection, leaving ourselves open so that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service. In the Anglican tradition the music finds its natural setting in the office of Evensong, a combination of the ancient monastic offices of Vespers and Compline.

There are no announcements during the service. Please join in all spoken parts (in bold print) and in the singing of the hymns (from the green hymn book) and follow the rubrics (in red print) which direct you when to sit and stand.

Stand for the
HYMN OF THE PROCESSION - 353 (OMIT * VERSES)

GREETING
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

PENITENCE
The Invitation to Penitence is read, after which all kneel and say
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**.

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 Preces

William Byrd (1543 - 1623)

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

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.
Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Stand

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.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

All sing

The Office Hymn - 150

Sit

Psalm 119: 89-104

89. O Lord, thy word : endureth for ever in heaven.
90. Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another :
thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.
91. They continue this day according to thine ordinance : for all things serve thee.
92. If my delight had not been in thy law : I should have perished in my trouble.
93. I will never forget thy commandments : for with them thou hast quickened me.
94. I am thine, O save me : for I have sought thy commandments.
95. The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me : but I will consider thy testimonies.
96. I see that all things come to an end : but thy commandment is exceeding broad.
89. O Lord, thy word : endureth for ever in heaven.
90. Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another :
thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.
91. They continue this day according to thine ordinance : for all things serve thee.
92. If my delight had not been in thy law : I should have perished in my trouble.
93. I will never forget thy commandments : for with them thou hast quickened me.
94. I am thine, O save me : for I have sought thy commandments.
95. The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me : but I will consider thy testimonies.
96. I see that all things come to an end : but thy commandment is exceeding broad.
97. Lord, what love have I unto thy law : all the day long is my study in it.
98. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies :
for they are ever with me.
99. I have more understanding than my teachers : for thy testimonies are my study.
100. I am wiser than the aged : because I keep thy commandments.
101. I have refrained my feet from every evil way : that I may keep thy word.

102. I have not shrunk from thy judgements : or thou teachest me.

103. O how sweet are thy words unto my throat : yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth.

104. Through thy commandments I get understanding : therefore I hate all evil ways.

Gloria

THE FIRST LESSON - Ecclesiastes 11

Stand

Magnificat *Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695) in G minor*

The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessèd. 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 shewed 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. *Gloria.*

Sit

THE SECOND LESSON - 2 Timothy 2: 1-7

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695) in G minor*

The Song of Simeon

Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel. *Gloria.*

All say

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 *William Byrd (1543 - 1623)*

Cantor: The Lord be with you
Choir: and with thy Spirit.
Cantor: Let us pray. *Kneel*
Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Choir sings the LORD'S PRAYER followed by the VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Cantor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
Choir: and grant us thy salvation.

Cantor: O Lord, guide and defend our rulers
Choir: and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor: Endue thy ministers with righteousness
Choir: and make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor: O Lord, save thy people
Choir: and bless thine inheritance.

Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord,
Choir: because there is none other that fighteth for us but only thou, O God.

Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us
Choir: and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR PEACE
O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS
Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ANTHEM *Sit.*

Beati quorum via integra est : qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way : and walk in the law of the Lord.

Words: Psalm 119:1 Music: Charles Villers Stanford (1852 -1924)

THE PRAYERS *Kneel*

HYMN 243 *Stand*

CLOSING PRAYER *and* **BLESSING**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY 'Gavotte' from Concerto no. 2 – *Matthew Camidge (1758–1844)*

Please remain seated in silence until the Organ Voluntary has ended.