



**Metropolitan Cathedral  
of Christ the King Liverpool**

## **INFORMATION FOR VISITING CHOIRS SINGING AT CHORAL SERVICES**

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Director of Music: Dr Christopher McElroy

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## WELCOME

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We are delighted to welcome visiting choirs to lead our services on appropriate occasions and when the Cathedral Choir is in recess. We very much appreciate the generosity and enthusiasm that visiting choirs bring to the Cathedral community.

The Cathedral is a busy centre of many activities and the following notes are intended to help the smooth arrangements of your visit and to make the most effective use of your talents in worship here.

You will appreciate that it is a matter of great concern to us that as the mother church of the diocese we should be an exemplar of best practice and inspire musicians from parish churches to strive to reach high standards. This we endeavour to do in all our liturgies. The Cathedral is an unusual building on a grand scale, with its own characteristic acoustic: as a result, not everything that works in a smaller church will necessarily succeed in our vast space.

### CONTACTS FOR VISITING CHOIRS

#### **Jacqueline Larrosa**

Music Administrator

*First point of contact for visiting choirs*

0151 708 7283

[j.larrosa@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:j.larrosa@metcathedral.org.uk)

#### **James Luxton**

Assistant Director of Music

*Contact for advice on repertoire*

0151 708 7283

[j.luxton@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:j.luxton@metcathedral.org.uk)

### CATHEDRAL STAFF

Canon Anthony O'Brien, *Cathedral Dean*

Claire Hanlon, *Executive Assistant to the Dean*

Dr Christopher McElroy, *Director of Music*

James Luxton, *Assistant Director of Music*

Richard Lea, *Organist*

Jacqueline Larrosa, *Music Administrator*

### MUSIC

We request that you return your chosen music on the Google Form [here](#) as soon as possible to avoid duplication of repertoire, and so that our Order of Services and Music and service sheets containing details of your music, can be published. **The Google Form should be completed no later than three months prior to your visit.**

The Cathedral reserves the right for the Director of Music to suggest adjustments to the proposed music, where, in his judgement, this would be prudent. We scrupulously observe the legal requirements of all music protected under copyright. It is not permitted to bring photocopied music to the Cathedral without written permission of the copyright owner.

Choir directors are asked to bear in mind the difficulties of adjusting to an unfamiliar building when choosing the music. Because the service is being held in a Cathedral, there is sometimes felt to be the need to produce something on a grand scale – this is not so! The choice of music should be suited to the capabilities of the singers. The duration of settings and motets should balance so that the service is not over long. Something simple, performed well, is likely to be more conducive to worship.

Final approval of the musical programme rests with the Cathedral authorities and once agreed, the programme should not be changed without further consultation.

## **SUNG SERVICES**

We welcome visiting choirs to sing at our two principle Sunday liturgies in the Cathedral on Sundays when the Cathedral choir is not in residence. These take place at 11am (Solemn Mass) and 3pm (Choral Evening Prayer, or Vespers). We regret that we are unable to welcome visiting choirs to sing choral services on other days of the week.

## **DRESS**

Overall presentation is important and so we expect an appropriate standard of dress and reverence both inside and outside the Cathedral. When rehearsing in the choir stalls, we ask robed choirs to wear their cassocks. If your choir does not use robes, then please wear the clothes that you will wear to sing at the service.

Robed choirs are welcome to join the ministers' procession and recession; unrobed choirs should make their way into the choir stalls informally before services. Choir should be in place (on the sacristy corridor if they are processing, in the choir stalls if they are not) no later than 5 mins prior to the service beginning.

## **REHEARSAL TIME**

The usual rehearsal times for Sunday services are as follows:

Sunday Solemn Mass: 9.30-10.30

Sunday Evening Prayer: 13.30-14.30

Generally a member of the music department will be on hand to greet and assist you during your visit. Rehearsal times can be varied, within limits, to suit choirs travelling longer distances.

## **FACILITIES**

The Song Room or the Meeting Room may be used for rehearsals and storage of robes, etc. The Song Room contains a set of choir stalls and a piano; the Meeting Room is slightly larger but has no choir stalls. When these rooms are not in use, they can be locked. Please note that the Cathedral authorities cannot accept responsibility for any valuables left unattended in the Song Room or Meeting Room.

## **REFRESHMENTS**

Usually, tea and coffee/soft drinks can be provided between the rehearsal and the service. *The Piazza* restaurant in the Cathedral Visitor Centre can provide lunch and other meals with advance booking (0151 707 3536).

## **THE ORGAN**

The organ is a fine 4-manual Walker instrument. Details of the organ, including a full specification can be found on the Cathedral website at <https://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/music/the-cathedral-organs/>

For a Sunday Solemn Mass and Choral Evening Prayer a staff organist will be provided by the Cathedral. If you wish to bring your own organist, that can be arranged provided they are of the required standard.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Unfortunately, the Cathedral is not in a position to offer accommodation. The website <http://www.visitliverpool.com/> offers a large selection of accommodation possibilities, along with other resources to help make your visit to Liverpool a success.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The Cathedral takes Safeguarding matters very seriously. You are asked to complete the Safeguarding section on the Google Form when you submit your music choices.

## SOLEMN MASS

**Nb. Items marked \* require for you to complete details on the [Google Form](#).**

*Entrance Hymn* This is chosen by the Cathedral and will be advised in advance of your visit.

*Introit\* (optional)* The Latin Introit is usually taken from the Graduale Romanum and is set according to the liturgical calendar. The selection of whether to sing the introit is best made based on the abilities of your choir.

*Penitential Rite\* (Kyrie)* The Penitential Rite is generally spoken, except in Lent and Advent (when there is no Gloria). If your visit takes place in Advent or Lent, please indicate the setting from which you will sing the Kyrie.

*Gloria\** The Gloria in Excelsis Deo is to be sung on all Sundays except those that fall during Lent and Advent. The Gloria can be sung in Latin or English.

*Responsorial Psalm* The responsorial psalm comes after the first reading, and can be led by the choir as a whole from the stalls or by one of the choir acting as a cantor and singing from the Ambo (the latter method is our normal practice). **The musical setting of this will be provided to you.**

*Gospel Acclamation* Before the Gospel, a short organ improvisation leads into the Alleluia which is sung (choir or cantor first then all), and these are followed by the Gospel Acclamation verse. The Alleluias are repeated after the verse and again **after** the Gospel. During Lent the Alleluia is replaced by an alternative acclamation. **The musical setting of the Gospel Acclamation will be provided to you.**

*Profession of Faith\* (Creed)* The Latin Credo is usually taken from the Graduale Romanum and led by the Cathedral Choir at the Sunday Solemn Mass. If your choir regularly sings Credo III then you are welcome to do so, otherwise the profession of faith will be spoken. Please note we do not permit the Credo to be sung to a choral setting.

*Preparation of the Gifts\** During the preparation of the gifts, the choir would ordinarily sing a motet. The text/theme of the motet can be anything relevant to the liturgical day. (Please do not sing Marian Motets unless it is a Marian feast.)

*The Preface Dialogue* The Preface Dialogue ('The Lord be with you ...') is sung between the celebrant and the choir/congregation. **The musical setting of this will be provided to you.**

*Sanctus\** This may either be sung chorally, from your chosen Mass setting, or to Gregorian Chant Mass VIII (de Angelis). If the Benedictus is a separate movement from the Sanctus in your chosen Mass setting, please do not include it as this causes an imbalance to the Eucharistic prayer as a whole. (The Benedictus can be sung as a motet if you are looking to sing a complete Mass setting during the service.)

*Memorial Acclamation & Great Amen* **The musical setting of this will be provided to you.**

*Agnus Dei\** The Agnus Dei is normally sung by the choir to your chosen Mass setting.

*Communion Antiphon\* (optional)* The Latin Communio is usually taken from the Graduale Romanum and is set according to the liturgical calendar. The selection of whether to sing the communio is best made based on the abilities of your choir.

*Motet during Communion\** During the administration of Holy Communion, the choir would ordinarily sing a motet. This text/theme of the motet should either be Eucharistic or something relevant to the liturgical day. Marian texts are not appropriate during Holy Communion.

*Post Communion Hymn* This is chosen by the Cathedral and will be advised in advance of your visit.

*Organ Voluntary\** The retiring procession is accompanied by an organ voluntary.

## CHORAL EVENING PRAYER

*Evening Prayer is the title normally given to the English version of the Office of Vespers. It has been revised since the Second Vatican Council. Together with Morning Prayer, it is the most important of the Offices.*

*Evensong in the Anglican rite is a combination of Vespers and Compline and this should aid the understanding of the form of Evening Prayer, which is rather shorter. Evening Prayer as celebrated in the Cathedral takes the form as below.*

**Nb. Items marked \* require for you complete details on the [Google Form](#).**

*Introit\** This would be a short motet sung by the choir. The text/theme of the motet can be anything relevant to the liturgical day.

*Introduction* The beginning of the office is sung between the celebrant and the choir/congregation. **The musical setting of this will be provided to you.**

*Office Hymn* This is chosen by the Cathedral and will be advised in advance of your visit. **The musical setting of this will be provided to you.**

*Psalmody and New Testament Canticle* These are set according to the breviary. **The musical setting of this will be provided to you.**

*Motet\** Sung by the choir. The text/theme of the motet can be anything relevant to the liturgical day.

*Magnificat\** Sung by the choir. Your choice of setting may be either in English or Latin.

*Lord's Prayer, Collect and Blessing* This is a dialogue between the celebrant and the choir/congregation. **The musical setting of this will be provided to you.**

*Motet to the Blessed Virgin Mary\** Sung by the choir from the choir stalls.