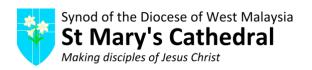
Christmas Eucharist (Sung) 25 December 2023 | 9.00 am



Livestream of the 9am Christmas Day Liturgical Service Privacy Notice

Kindly note that the 9am Liturgical Service is being livestreamed on the internet and that your image may be captured during the church service and when you come forward to receive the bread and wine during Holy Communion.

If you do not consent to this, please inform the welcomer who will sit you away from the cameras and arrange for the bread and wine to be brought to you. Alternatively, you can come back at 11am as there is no livestream at the 11am service.

Introduction

Minister: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

(Luke 2:10-11)

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin, 18th century, tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880 and others

Congregation, please stand.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light, lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb; very God, begotten, not created;

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, fain we embrace thee, with awe and love; who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

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Greeting

Minister: The light and peace of Jesus Christ

be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

All: 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.

Gloria In Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest All: and peace to his 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.

Collect

Collect for Christmas Day

All: Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

(Please be seated)

- ⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent.
- You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest,
- ⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.
- ⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:
- "I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,
- and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have laboured;
- ⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD,
- and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary."

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones;

lift up a signal over the peoples.

¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes;

behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD;

and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

(Please stand: the Psalm will be said responsively.)

- ¹The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
- ² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- ³ Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.
- ⁴ His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.
- ⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.
- ⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.
- ⁷ All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!

- ⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.
- ⁹ For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹⁰ O you who love the LORD, hate evil!
 He preserves the lives of his saints;
 he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- ¹¹ Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.
- ¹² Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever.

Amen.

New Testament Reading: Titus 3:3-7

(Please be seated)

³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

At the end of the reading the reader says

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-21

After the reader announces the reading (the people all standing up), all shall say Glory to Christ our Saviour

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I

bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

At the end of the reading the reader shall say
This is the Gospel of Christ

All shall respond

Praise to Christ our Lord

Sermon: Room For The Saviour

Luke 2:1-21

The Nicene Creed

(Please stand)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, All: 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, one in being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfilment of 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, With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified, He 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

(Please kneel or be seated)

Leader: Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ has promised that

you will hear us when we ask in faith:

receive the prayers we offer.

We pray for *Melter* our Archbishop,

Steven our Bishop, Andrew our Dean

and for all who serve in this Cathedral and Diocese.

Strengthen your people for their witness and work

in the world.

Fill your ministers with your Spirit,

that they may faithfully preach the gospel

and administer your holy sacraments.

Unite in the truth all who confess your name,

that we may live together in love

and proclaim your glory in all the world.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our Yang Di Pertuan Agong,
for the Prime Minister and his cabinet and for all
who hold office in our country.

Give wisdom to those in authority in this and every land, and give to all peoples a desire for righteousness and peace, and the will to work together in trust, to seek the common good and to share with justice the resources of the earth.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the aged and the infirm, for widows and orphans, and for the sick and suffering.

We also pray for the poor and oppressed, for prisoners and captives, and for all who care for them.

Comfort and heal, merciful Father, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble.

Give them a firm trust in your goodness; help those who minister to them; and bring us all into the joy of your salvation.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: We praise you, Lord God, for your faithful servants in every age and ask that we may share with them Christ's resurrection glory, through his death and rising again for our salvation.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

accept our prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

(Please stand)

The Greeting of Peace is introduced in these or other suitable words:

Minister: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,

and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace (please avoid physical touch while doing so in this time.)

Hymn: Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 and others

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 the 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, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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.

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Prayer of Penitence and Confession

The minister may use this or another call to confession

Minister: Brothers and sisters: as we come together to share in the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ, the Scriptures urge us to examine our lives and repent of our sins. As we do so, let us be thankful that God the Son humbled himself, becoming man, to die for us on the Cross. And by the shedding of his precious blood, he obtained for us forgiveness of sins, and life with him forever. In remembrance of his death, and as a pledge of his love, Jesus instituted this holy sacrament, to our great and endless comfort.

> You, then, who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, seek to live in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from now on in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort. But first, let us make our humble confession to almighty God.

(Please kneel or be seated)

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father All: we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The minister declares God's forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Then the minister shall say,

Hear the words of comfort our Saviour Christ says unto all that truly turn to him.

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

(Matthew 11:28)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

Hear also what St Paul says.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

(1 Timothy 1:15)

Hear also what St John says.

If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins.

(1 John 2:1-2)

The Eucharist

(Please remain kneeling or seated)

Minister: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is indeed right it is our duty and our joy,

at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,

holy Father, heavenly King,

almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

All: 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!]

This Prayer of Humble Access may be said by all

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 we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.

Amen.

The Minister prays

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who in your tender mercy gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world; and who instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again: Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers, by faith, of his most blessed body and blood:

who, in the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given you thanks, 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 you thanks, he gave it to them saying, "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."

All: Amen.

All: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.

The Distribution

Minister:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Eat and drink this in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr, 1702-1848

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, heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia!

Christ the Saviour is born!

Christ the Saviour is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Hymn: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

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 blessèd angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look, now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;

O rest beside the weary road, 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.

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Hymn: O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Philips Brooks, 1835-1893

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

Hymn: Angels From The Realms Of Glory

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship
Christ the new-born King;
Come and worship,
Worship Christ the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star:

Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill his Father's throne, gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:

Hymn: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English carol, 18th cent.

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day, to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came; and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

Fear not, then, said the angel, let nothing you affright; this day is born a Saviour of a pure, virgin bright, to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might:

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Prayers of Response

(Please kneel or be seated)

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 forever.
Amen.

All: 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 into the world
in the power of your Spirit,
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Announcements

The Blessing

The gathering ends with a blessing.

Minister: May the joy of the angels,

the wonder of the shepherds,

and the peace of the Christ child,

fill your hearts this Christmas time,

And the blessing of God Almighty:

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Joy To The World

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Connect with us

Thank you for joining our service. If you would like for us to get in touch with you, or have any feedback for us, please fill in our Connection Card at stmarys.my/connect.

English Services

Please join us for our English services on Sundays:

- Liturgical Services 7am, 9am, 11am
- Contemporary (SMACC) Services 11am, 5pm

If you are joining us online on Sundays, the Liturgical service will be livestreamed at 9am.

More information about our services can be found here: stmarys.my/services.

Kids' Church

The Kids' Church classes run on Sunday mornings. The different age groups meet at their respective classrooms

on the ground floor of the Cathedral. Parents may pick up their children after the 11am church services ends.

Please email kidschurch@stmaryscathedral.org.my or speak to our Kids' Church teachers for further information.

Youth Fellowship

Our Youth Fellowship (ages 13-18) meets on Sundays at 9am in the GF3 room (the room between the Pantry and the Old Office). If you would like to join us, please sign up at stmarys.my/youth.

Youth Confirmation Programme

The Youth Confirmation Programme for 2024 will begin on 7 January at 9am. Please sign up your teenager (aged 13-17) for the course if they have not been confirmed. The programme will double up as a Youth Baptism Programme for youth who were not baptised as infants. Please register at

stmarys.my/youthbaptismconfirmation.

The Reason For God

Please join us for 4 discussion sessions as we look at some of the biggest objections to Christianity through Tim Keller's 'Reason for God'.

Day: 4 Sundays in January 2024

Time: 2-4pm

Venue: GF2 (Old Office), St Mary's Cathedral

Free of charge.

Please register at stmarys.my/reasonforgod

7 January Isn't the Bible a myth?

14 January How can you say there is only one way to God?

21 January What gives you the right to tell me how to live my life?

28 January Why does God allow suffering?

Giving

Online transfer

Bank name: Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd

Account name: St Mary's Cathedral

Account number: 312 142 334 691

Recipient reference: If giving a pledge, enter your 3-

digit pledge number.

Otherwise, enter Online Service

or the service you normally

attend.

For one-off giving, please email the bank-in slip or online transfer receipt to: collections@stmaryscathedral.org.my

E-wallet

Scan the following QR code using any e-wallet app (Touch n Go/GrabPay/Boost). Please ensure "St Mary's Cathedral" is listed as the payee.



St Mary's Cathedral Main Hall

Note: This method of giving is analogous to putting cash into the offertory bag/box. Your donation will go to the General Fund. You will not be given a receipt. Do not use this to give a pledge.

Details on our webpage: stmarys.my/give.