

St Dunstan's Catholic Church, Kings Heath

Consecration of the Astar



by the Most Reverend Bernard Longley,
Archbishop of Birmingham

11.00am Saturday 6th November 2021

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this special Mass in the life of the parish as the altar is consecrated.

It is a joy to welcome Archbishop Bernard Longley to celebrate Mass with us today, along with Fr Dominic and Fr Craig as MCs. We also welcome visiting priests who have been a part of this parish over the years, and we remember today in our prayers all those priests whose vocation was nurtured here.

We thank the Provost of the Birmingham Oratory, Fr Ignatius Harrison, for donating to the parish a relic of St John Henry Newman for the altar.

We thank our altar servers, those who have come together leading the singing for the Mass, Mrs Barbara Hogg and, as ever, Godfrey our organist who makes a wonderful contribution to the liturgy. Thanks also to our cleaning team, our stewards and flower arrangers, and those who have organised tickets and catering.

We welcome Mr Eric Knight of Knights Building and Restoration, Barton-under-Needwood. Following the restoration and building work completed by Kavanagh Construction under Aidan O’Gara and Declan Staunton, Eric and his team crafted and installed the altar and other sanctuary furniture. During the Mass he will seal the relic of St John Henry Newman into the altar.

During the January Covid restrictions Fr Philip quietly celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. As service at the altar and the offering of Mass is the greatest privilege of the priest, today’s ceremony is an appropriate way of marking that day in thanksgiving for all those whose encouragement and prayers led to that snowy January day at St Chad’s Cathedral when he was ordained by Archbishop Maurice.

The altar is the most important structure in the church, for it is the primary symbol of Christ who, as on the day of resurrection when he stood in the midst of his disciples, stands in our midst in the mystery of the Holy Mass. The altar is honoured and treated with great reverence – not least as it is the place where the Sacrifice of the Cross is made truly present through sacramental signs.

The altar is marked with five crosses carved into the mensa, crosses which represent the five sacred wounds of Christ on the cross and so these crosses will be anointed with sacred chrism as the altar is consecrated.

Today’s ceremony reminds us that ‘truly the Lord is in this place...this is nothing less than a house of God, this is the gate of heaven.’ (Gen 28:17).

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.
2. O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.
3. O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail.
4. And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.
5. O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo.
6. And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.
7. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

GREETING

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

Amen.

The grace and peace of God be with all of you in his holy Church.

And with your spirit.

BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF THE WATER

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a day of rejoicing: we have come together to dedicate this altar by offering the sacrifice of Christ.

May we respond to these holy rites, receive God's word with faith, share at the Lord's table with joy, and raise our hearts in hope.

Gathered around this one altar we draw nearer to Christ, the living stone, in whom we become God's holy temple.

But first let us ask God to bless this gift of water. As it is sprinkled upon us and upon this altar, may it be a sign of our repentance and a reminder of our baptism.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

God of mercy, you call every creature to the light of life, and surround us with such great love that when we stray you continually lead us back to Christ our head.

For you have established an inheritance of such mercy, that those sinners, who pass through water made sacred, die with Christ to rise restored as members of his body and heirs of his eternal covenant.

Bless + this water; sanctify it.

As it is sprinkled upon us and upon this altar make it a sign of the saving waters of baptism, by which we become one in Christ, the temple of your Spirit.

May all here today, and all those in days to come, who will celebrate your mysteries on this altar, be united at last in the holy city of your peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

The Archbishop then sprinkles the altar and then the people with holy water while the following is sung:

VIII
V

I-di aquam * egre- di- éntem de tem-plo,
a lá- te-re dex- tro, alle- lú- ia: et omnes, ad
quos pervé-nit a- qua i-sta, sal- vi fa- cti sunt,
et di- cent, alle-lú- ia, al- le- lú- ia. Ps. Confi- té-
mi-ni Dómino quó- ni- am bonus: * quó- ni- am in sæcu-lum
mi-se-ri-cór-di- a e-jus. Gló- ri- a Patri, et Fí- li- o, et
Spi- rí- tu- i Sancto. * Sic- ut e-rat in princí- pi- o, et nunc, et
semper, et in sæcu- la sæcu- ló- rum. Amen. Vidi aquam.

*I saw water flowing from the temple
From its right-hand side, alleluia;
and all to whom that water came were
saved,
and they shall say, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Praise the Lord, for he is good;
for His mercy endures forever.*

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

*I saw water flowing from the temple
from its right-hand side, alleluia;
and all to whom that water came were
saved,
and they shall say, alleluia, alleluia.*

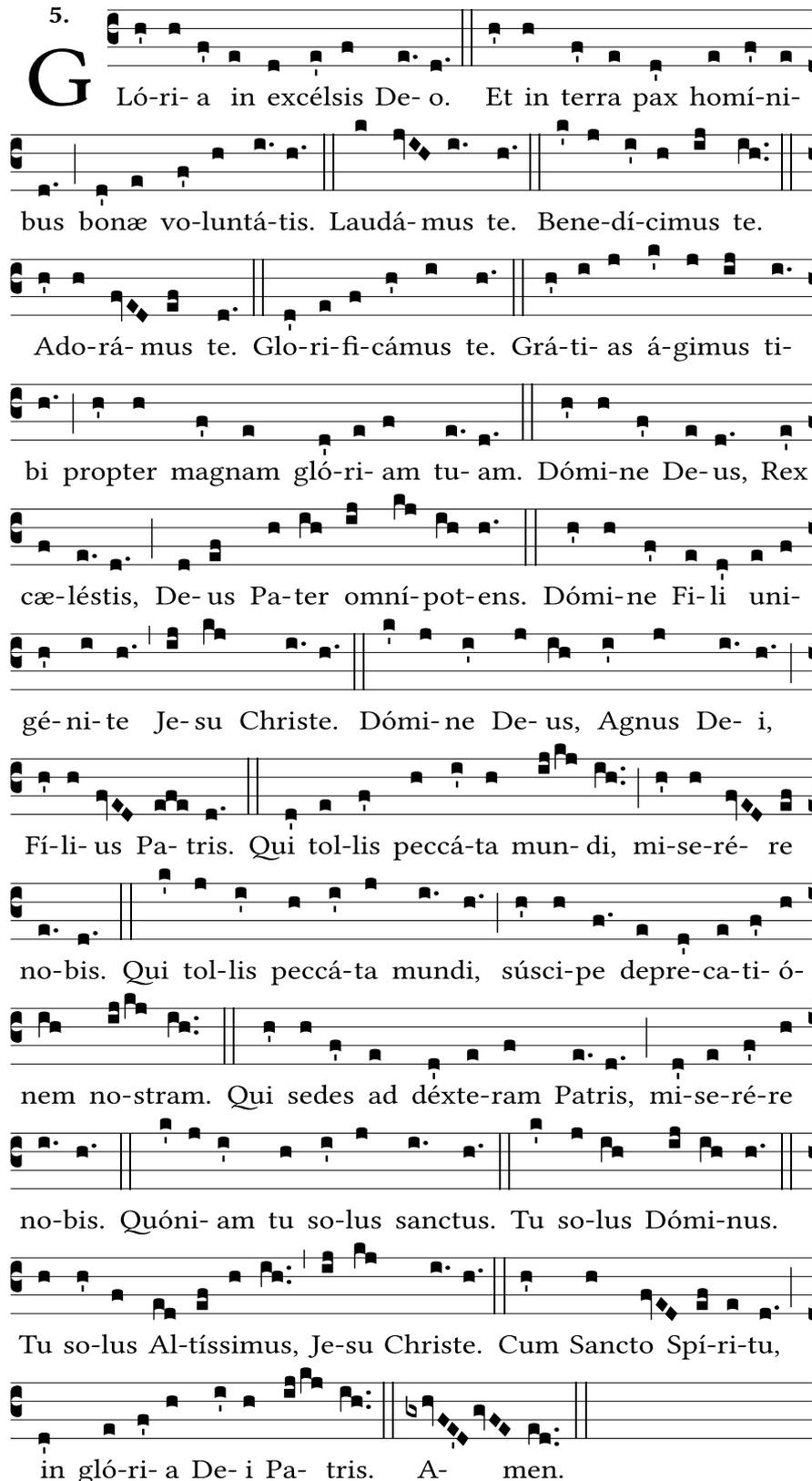
The Archbishop then says:

May God, the Father of mercies, to whom we dedicate this altar on earth, forgive us our sins and enable us to offer an unending sacrifice of praise on his altar in heaven.
Amen.

GLORIA

XVI. s.

5.



G Ló-ri-a in excélsis De-o. Et in terra pax homí-ni-
bus bonæ vo-luntá-tis. Laudá-mus te. Bene-dí-cimus te.
Ado-rá-mus te. Gló-ri-fi-cá-mus te. Grá-ti-as á-gimus ti-
bi propter magnam gló-ri-am tu-am. Dómi-ne De-us, Rex
cæ-léstis, De-us Pa-ter omní-pot-ens. Dómi-ne Fi-li uni-
gé-ni-te Je-su Christe. Dómi-ne De-us, Agnus De-i,
Fí-li-us Pa-tris. Qui tol-lis peccá-ta mun-di, mi-se-ré-re
no-bis. Qui tol-lis peccá-ta mundi, sú-sci-pe depre-ca-ti-ó-
nem no-stram. Qui sedes ad déxte-ram Patris, mi-se-ré-re
no-bis. Quóni-am tu so-lus sanctus. Tu so-lus Dómi-nus.
Tu so-lus Al-tíssimus, Je-su Christe. Cum Sancto Spí-ri-tu,
in gló-ri-a De-i Pa-tris. A- men.

COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God, who willed to draw all things to your Son, lifted high on the altar of the Cross, fill your Church, we pray, with heavenly grace as she dedicates to you this altar, the table at which you will plentifully nourish the faithful you gather as one and will shape day by day, through the outpouring of the Spirit, a people consecrated to yourself.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of Genesis

(28:11-18)

When Jacob had reached a certain place he passed the night there, since the sun had set. Taking one of the stones to be found at that place, he made it his pillow and lay down where he was. He had a dream: a ladder was there, standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and there were angels of God going up it and coming down. And the Lord was there, standing over him, saying, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. I will give to you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants shall be like the specks of dust on the ground; you shall spread to the west and the east, to the north and the south, and all tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants. Be sure that I am with you; I will keep you safe wherever you go, and bring you back to this land, for I will not desert you before I have done all that I have promised you.' Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Truly, the Lord is in this place, and I never knew it!' He was afraid and said, 'How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than a house of God, this is the gate of heaven!' Rising early in the morning, Jacob took the stone he had used for his pillow, and set it up as a monument, pouring oil over the top of it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: Let us come before the Lord, giving thanks.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R**

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands. **R**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

I shall make my home above them, says the Lord;
I will be their God,
they shall be my people.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

(5:23-24)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY - The Archbishop

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
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.

I 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 adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND ANOINTINGS

Let our prayers go forth to God the Father through Jesus Christ, his Son, with whom
are joined all the saints who have shared in his suffering and now sit at his table of
glory.

Deacon: Let us kneel.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS



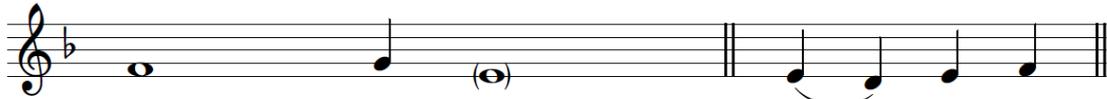
V. Lord, have mer - cy. R. Lord, have mer - cy.



V. Christ, have mer - cy. R. Christ, have mer - cy.



V. Lord, have mer - cy. R. Lord, have mer - cy.



Holy Mary, Mother of God, R. Pray for us.

Saint Michael,	Pray for us.
Holy Angels of God,	Pray for us.
Saint John the Baptist,	Pray for us.
Saint Joseph,	Pray for us.
Saint Peter and Saint Paul,	Pray for us.
Saint Andrew,	Pray for us.
Saint John,	Pray for us.
Saint Mary Magdalene,	Pray for us.
Saint Stephen,	Pray for us.
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,	Pray for us.
Saint Lawrence,	Pray for us.
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity,	Pray for us.
Saint Agnes,	Pray for us.
Saint Gregory,	Pray for us.
Saint Augustine,	Pray for us.
Saint Athanasius,	Pray for us.
Saint Basil,	Pray for us.
Saint Martin,	Pray for us.
Saint Dunstan,	Pray for us.
Saint Benedict,	Pray for us.
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic,	Pray for us.
Saint Francis Xavier,	Pray for us.
Saint John Vianney,	Pray for us.
Saint John Henry Newman,	Pray for us.
Blessed Dominic Barberi,	Pray for us.
Saint Catherine of Siena,	Pray for us.
Saint Teresa of Jesus,	Pray for us.
All holy men and women, Saints of God,	Pray for us.

Lord, be mer - ci - ful, R. Lord, de - liv - er us, we pray.

From all e - vil R. Lord, de - liv - er us, we pray.

From every sin,
 From everlasting death,
 By your Incarnation,
 By your Death and Resurrection,
 By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

**Lord, deliver us, we pray.
 Lord, deliver us, we pray.**

Be merciful to us sin - ners, R. Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

Govern and protect your ho - ly Church, R. Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.

Keep the Pope and all the ordained in faithful service to your Church,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bring all peoples together in peace and true harmony,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Strengthen us and keep us in your holy service,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Consecrate this altar for your worship,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Jesus, Son of the living God,
Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Christ, hear us. R. Christ, hear us.

Christ, gra - cious - ly hear us. R. Christ, gra - cious - ly hear us.

Lord, may the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints make our prayers acceptable to you. May this altar be the place where the great mysteries of redemption are accomplished: a place where your people offer their gifts, unfold their good intentions, pour out their prayers, and echo every meaning of their faith and devotion. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Deacon: Let us stand.

DEPOSITION AND SEALING OF THE RELIC OF SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

The Archbishop places the relic in the altar and Mr Eric Knight, who fashioned the altar, will then seal the relic into the altar as the following hymn is sung by Mrs Barbara Hogg.

1. Give me the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.
2. Once they were mourning here below,
and wet their couch with tears:
they wrestled hard, as we do now,
with sins, and doubts, and fears.
3. I ask them whence their victory came:
they, with united breath,
ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.
4. They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast;
and following their incarnate God,
possess the promised rest.
5. Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern given;
while the long cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heaven.

The Archbishop then prays the prayer of dedication.

Father, we praise you and give you thanks, for you have established the sacrament of true worship by bringing to perfection in Christ the mystery of the one true altar prefigured in those many altars of old.

Noah, the second father of the human race, once the waters fell and the mountains peaked again, built an altar in your name. You, Lord, were appeased by his fragrant offering and your rainbow bore witness to a covenant refounded in love.

Abraham, our father in faith, wholeheartedly accepted your word and constructed an altar on which to slay Isaac, his only son. But you, Lord, stayed his hand and provided a ram for his offering.

Moses, mediator of the old law, built an altar on which was cast the blood of a lamb: so prefiguring the altar of the cross.

All this Christ has fulfilled in the paschal mystery: as priest and victim he freely mounted the tree of the cross and gave himself to you, Father, as the one perfect oblation. In his sacrifice the new covenant is sealed, in his blood sin is engulfed.

Lord, we therefore stand before you in prayer.

Bless this altar built in the house of the Church, that it may ever be reserved for the sacrifice of Christ, and stand for ever as the Lord's table, where your people will find nourishment and strength.

Make this altar a sign of Christ from whose pierced side flowed blood and water, which ushered in the sacraments of the Church.

Make it a table of joy, where the friends of Christ may hasten to cast upon you their burdens and cares and take up their journey restored.

Make it a place of communion and peace, so that those who share the body and blood of your Son may be filled with his Spirit and grow in your life of love.

Make it a source of unity and friendship, where your people may gather as one to share your spirit of mutual love.

Make it the centre of our praise and thanksgiving until we arrive at the eternal tabernacle, where, together with Christ, high priest and living altar, we will offer you an everlasting-sacrifice of praise.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE ANOINTING OF THE ALTAR

We now anoint this altar. May God in his power make it holy, a visible sign of the mystery of Christ, who offered himself for the life of the world.

The Archbishop now pours sacred chrism on the middle of the altar and on each of its four corners which have been carved with the sign of the cross, and then he anoints the entire mensa.

During the anointing, the following antiphon is sung with Psalm 43, with the antiphon repeated between verses:

Antiphon: **God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness.**

Defend me, O God, and plead my cause
against a godless nation.
From deceitful and cunning men
rescue me, O God. **Ant:**

Since you, O God, are my stronghold,
why have you rejected me?
Why do I go mourning
oppressed by the foe? **Ant:**

O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell. **Ant:**

And I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God. **Ant:**

Why are you cast down my soul,
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,
my saviour and my God. **Ant:**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. **Amen. Ant:**

INCENSE ON THE ALTAR

A brazier is placed in the centre of the altar and incense is burned on it.

Lord, may our prayer ascend as incense in your sight. As this building is filled with fragrance so may your Church fill the world with the fragrance of Christ.

The Archbishop incenses the altar, he returns to the chair and is incensed, then sits.

A minister incenses the people and during the incensing, the following antiphon is sung with Psalm 138, with the antiphon repeated between verses:

Antiphon: **An angel stood by the altar of the temple, holding a golden censer.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **Ant:**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **Ant:**

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' **Ant:**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes. **Ant:**

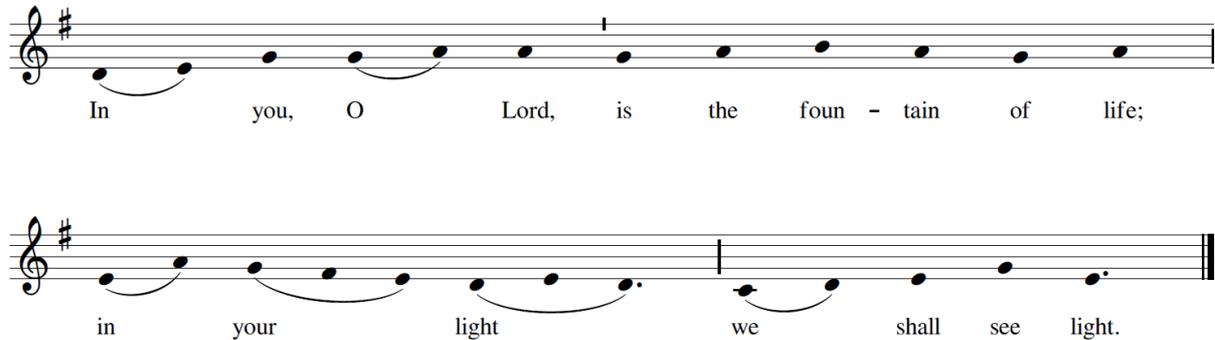
You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **Ant:**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. **Ant:**

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is then covered with a wax cloth followed by the altar cloth. The altar candles are placed on the altar along with relics - including those of Blessed Dominic Barberi who received Cardinal Newman into the Church. Flowers are brought to decorate the altar. The deacon is given a lighted candle from which he lights the altar candles.

Light of Christ, shine on this altar and be reflected by those who share at this table.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture
in the Body and the Blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish,
as the darkness clears away.
4. At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church

May your Holy Spirit come down upon this altar, we pray, O Lord our God, to sanctify the gifts of your people and graciously to cleanse the hearts of all who receive them. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

Having become both the true Priest and the true oblation, he has taught us to celebrate for ever the memorial of the Sacrifice that he himself offered to you on the altar of the Cross.

Therefore, Lord, your people have raised this altar, which we dedicate to you with joyful praise.

Truly this is an exalted place, where the Sacrifice of Christ is ever offered in mystery, where perfect praise is rendered to you and redemption flows forth for us.

Here is prepared the table of the Lord, where your children, fed by the Body of Christ, are gathered into the one, the holy Church.

Here the faithful drink of your Spirit from the streams that flow from Christ, the spiritual rock, through whom they, too, become a holy oblation, a living altar. And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:

XIII. s.

S Anctus, * Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus De- us Sába-
oth. Ple-ni sunt cæ-li et terra gló-ri- a tu- a. Ho-sánna
in excélsis. Bene-díctus qui ve-nit in nó-mi-ne Dó-mi-ni.
Ho-sánna in excélsis.

Following the consecration:

M Ysté-ri-um fi-de-i.
R. Mortem tu-am annunti-ámus, Dó-mi-ne, et tu-am re-sur-
recti-ónem confi-témur, do-nec vé-ni- as.
XII. s.
A -gnus De- i, * qui tol-lis peccá-ta mundi : mi-se-
ré-re no-bis. Agnus De- i, * qui tol-lis peccá-ta mundi :
mi-se-ré-re no-bis. Agnus De- i, * qui tol-lis peccá-ta mun-
di : dona no-bis pa-cem.

During Holy Communion: Barbara Hogg will sing Panis Angelicus by Cesar Franck.

COMMUNION HYMN

1. O bread of heaven, beneath this veil
thou dost my very God conceal:
my Jesus, dearest treasure, hail!
I love thee and, adoring, kneel;
each loving soul by thee is fed,
with thine own self in form of bread.
2. O food of life, thou who dost give
the pledge of immortality;
I live, no 'tis not I that live;
God gives me life, God lives in me:
he feeds my soul, he guides my ways,
and every grief with joy repays.
3. O bond of love that dost unite
the servant to his living Lord;
could I dare live, and not requite
Such love - then death were meet
reward:
I cannot live unless to prove
some love for such unmeasured love.
4. Beloved Lord, in heaven above
there, Jesus, thou awaitest me,
to gaze on thee with changeless love;
yes, thus I hope, thus shall it be:
for how can he deny me heaven,
who here on earth himself hath given?

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Keep us, O Lord, ever close to your altar where the Sacrament of sacrifice is celebrated, so that, united in faith and charity, we, who by Christ are nourished, into Christ may be transformed. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing.

May God, who adorns you with a royal priesthood, grant that, as you exercise it in holiness, you may share worthily in the sacrifice of Christ.

Amen.

And may he, who gathers you at one table and renews you with one Bread, make of you one heart and one soul.

Amen.

By the example of your love may you draw to Christ those to whom you proclaim him.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father+, and the Son+, and the Holy+ Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Deacon: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Firmly I believe and truly
God is Three, and God is One;
and I next acknowledge duly
manhood taken by the Son.
2. And I trust and hope most fully
in the manhood crucified;
and each thought and deed unruly
do to death, as he has died.
3. Simply to his grace and wholly
light and life and strength belong,
and I love supremely, solely,
him the holy, him the strong.
4. And I hold in veneration,
for the love of him alone,
Holy Church as his creation,
and her teachings as his own.
5. Adoration aye be given,
with and through th'angelic host,
to the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

