



St Paul's Cathedral

Together transforming our City and Diocese

Choral Evening Prayer Farewelling Karen and the Right Reverend Dr Bradly Billings, Bishop of Oodthenong

Quinquagesima—The Sunday before Lent
15 February 2026, 4pm

WELCOME

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral, home church for Anglicans in Melbourne and Victoria. We want to be a place of transformation for our city and church where all people can come to experience and know God's love in Christ Jesus. We are an international community and are delighted that you're here!

SERVICE LEADERS

Officiants: The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne; the Most Revd Dr Richard Thorpe, Archbishop of Melbourne.

Preacher: Mrs Karen Billings and the Right Revd Dr Bradly Billings, Bishop of Oodthenong.

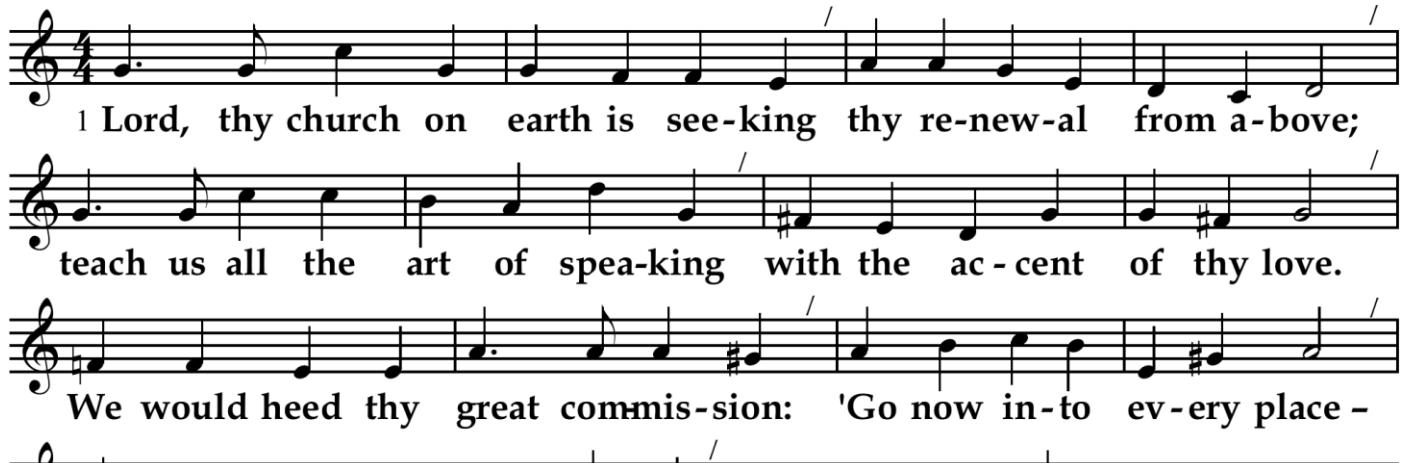
The Cathedral Choir, directed by Canon Philip Nicholls.

We are delighted you have joined our service If you have any questions and would like to speak to a staff member, please phone the Cathedral office 9653 4333. If we cannot answer, please always leave a message and someone will get back to you – these messages are checked seven days a week and urgent pastoral concerns will be addressed in a timely way. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a Welcome Card available from the back of the Cathedral, so we can keep in touch with you.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please join in singing the hymns and saying the responses printed in bold type.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1 Lord, thy church on earth is see-king thy re-new-al from a-bove;
teach us all the art of spea-king with the ac-cent of thy love.
We would heed thy great commis-sion: 'Go now in-to ev-ery place -
preach, bap-tize, ful-fil my mis-sion, serve with love and share my grace'.

2 Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength
and courage,
grant release from fears within.
Light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife;
these and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

3 In the streets of every city
where the bruised
and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell;
to all lands and peoples bringing
all the richness of thy word,
till the world, thy praises singing,
hails thee Christ, Redeemer, Lord.

Text: Hugh Sherlock (1905-98)
Ancient & Modern 2013 498
Reproduced with permission

THE GREETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **Amen.**

The Dean welcomes the people, and acknowledges the Country on which we meet

We meet on land that was taken, not ceded—the Sovereign Country of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We give thanks for their ancestors, acknowledge the ongoing right and responsibility of their elders to care for this Country, and pay our respects to all First Peoples here today.

THE OPENING RESPONSES

Led by the Archbishop

There are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit.

There are varieties of service,
but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working,
but the same God is at work in all.

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all,
to whom Christ ascended on high.

And through his Spirit he gives us gifts:
some are apostles, some are his prophets;
evangelists, pastors and teachers he gives us,
so that we can minister together
to build up his body,
to be mature in the fullness of Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3.16

Let us pray,

**Gracious God, we humbly thank you
for life and health and safety,
for freedom to work, leisure to rest,
and for all that is beautiful in creation and human life.**

**But, above all, we praise you for our Saviour,
Jesus Christ,
for his death and resurrection;
for the gift of your Spirit;
and for the hope of sharing in your glory.
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated for the Bible readings

THE FIRST READING

Read by Mrs Pauline Caruana, Interim Registrar

Isaiah 40.27-31

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

Hear the Word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

Chant: Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

¹I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills:
from whence cometh my help.

²My help cometh even from the Lord:
who hath made heaven and earth.

³He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

⁴Behold, he that keepeth Israel:
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The Lord himself is thy keeper:
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

⁶So that the sun shall not burn thee by day:
neither the moon by night.

⁷The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

⁸The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in:
from this time forth for evermore.

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.

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4.1-7

Read by The Venerable Michael Hopkins, Archdeacon of La Trobe

A reading from the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

Hear the Word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Please stand as the Choir sings

NUNC DIMITTIS

St Paul's Service – Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The Song of Simeon, St Luke 2.29-32

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.

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.

THE PRAYERS FOR LEADERSHIP AND VISION

Led by the Dean

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that each, in our vocation and ministry
may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts,
by your Holy Spirit you have appointed
various orders of ministry in the Church:
look with mercy on your servants Brad and Karen
now called from this diocese to Adelaide;
maintain them in truth and renew them in holiness,
that by word and good example they may faithfully serve you
to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church;
through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
you have entrusted to your Church
a share in the ministry of your Son our great high priest:
inspire by your Holy Spirit the hearts of many
to offer themselves for the ministry of your Church,
that, strengthened by his power,
they may work for the increase of your kingdom
and set forward the eternal praise of your name;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All these prayers, and the silent prayers of our hearts, we unite in the Prayer
Christ himself has commanded and taught us, each praying in our own heart
language:

Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., Vater unser..., 我們在天上的父..., Πάτερ ἡμῶν...
हे हमारे स्वरगिक पिता..., Bapa kami..., E to matou Matua..., 天の父よ ...,
اى پدر ما كە در آسمانى،... الَّذِي أَبَانَا...، ہمارے اے...، Ama namin..., Göklerdeki Babamız...,

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. Save us from the time of trial and

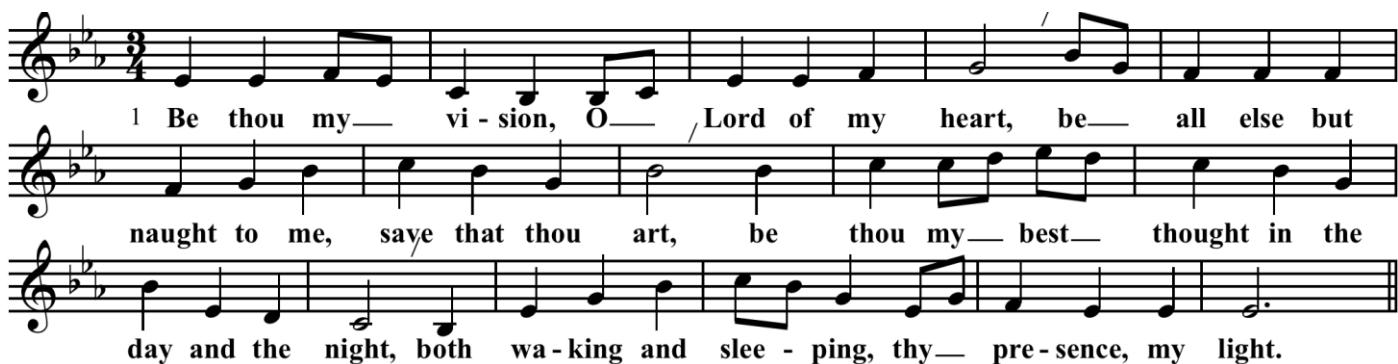
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

THE INSTALLATION OF SENIOR CHORISTERS

Stand to sing

THE HYMN BEFORE THE ADDRESS

*We rely entirely on your gift. Please be generous.
You can also donate online via our website www.cathedral.org.au/donate
or by EFT BSB: 083-088, Account: 53-728-8315*



1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, be all else but
naught to me, save that thou art, be thou my best thought in the
day and the night, both wa-king and slee-ping, thy pre-sence, my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,
be thou my great Father, thy child let me be,
be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor earthly vain praise,
be thou my inheritance now and always,
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)

Versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

New English Hymnal 339

The people are seated at the invitation of the preachers.

THE ADDRESS

The Rt Revd Dr Bradly Billings and Mrs Karen Billings

Remain seated as the choir sings

THE ANTHEM

The Lord bless you and keep you – John Rutter (b.1945)

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you,
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace,
Amen.

Numbers 6.24-26

During the Anthem, those who wish to join in the laying on of hands may make their way to the Nave Altar Platform

THE PRAYER AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

Led by the Archbishop

Almighty God,
we give you thanks that you call us to be one in Christ
members together of his body, the Church:
now bless your servants Brad and Karen
as they are called from this place to Adelaide,
equip them with the needful gifts of grace;
sustain in faith, encourage them with hope,
and fill them with love for you
and the people entrusted to their care.

Brad and Karen,
May God the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word. **Amen.**

May Christ the Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Stand to sing

THE DISMISSAL HYMN



1 Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voi - ces, who
won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joi - ces; who
from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way with
count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.

²
O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

³
All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)
New English Hymnal 413

THE BLESSING

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you, may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you, may the gifts of the Spirit equip you to serve and worship God; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you, always. **Amen.**

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Prelude in G major, BWV541 – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Mr Siegfried Franke, Cathedral Organist

PERMISSIONS *Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer* © 2025 Crown Copyright. Scriptures: *The Holy Bible—New Revised Standard Version*, © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. Hymns are reproduced by permission. © 2026 The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral.

PRAY WITH US

FOR THE WORLD This week, we pray for Iran and the wider Middle East, where fear, conflict, and political tension weigh heavily upon daily life. We remember those living under threat of violence, those displaced from homes, those grieving loved ones, and those striving for peace amid deep division. We pray for Jewish people across the world in the face of rising antisemitism — for those who feel unsafe in their streets, schools, and places of worship. Strengthen them in hope, surround them with solidarity, and move the hearts of all people to reject hatred, prejudice, and violence in every form. We hold before you the nations and regions where extreme poverty crushes human flourishing — prosper the work of aid agencies and local leaders and help us to share more justly the resources of this earth. God of mercy, where there is war, bring peace; where there is hatred, sow love; where there is injustice, raise up courage; and where there is despair, kindle hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean (Bp Gilbert Rateloson Rakotondravelo).

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN CHURCH The Diocese of North West Australia (Bp Darrell Parker, Clergy & People).

FOR THE DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE The Parish of St James' Dandenong (Graeme Peters, Oyem Amaylek, George Ladu).

FOR OUR CATHEDRAL Our Succentor, the Revd Lydia Thangadurai; leaders of Bible readings & intercessions; Associate Clergy, the Revd Canon Dr Stephen Ames, the Revd Canon Dr Bob Derrenbacker, the Revd Dr Garry Deverell, the Revd Canon Prof. Dorothy Lee AM FAHA, the Revd Canon Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins, the Revd Canon Glenn Loughrey, the Revd Canon Peter MacPherson, the Ven Archdeacon Ray McInnes, the Revd Canon Robert Vun, and the Revd Canon Jane Window.

FOR THOSE IN SICKNESS OR NEED Stephen Ames, Cynthia Balderstone, Chris Carolane, Jessica Carr, Cecilia Cheng, Ken and Robyn Dusting, Reynaldo Ferreccio, Cecilia Francis, Greg Hurworth, Lisa, Gaye Loughrey, Esme Mitchell, Mavis Payne, Alyssa Sigamoney, Skipper family, Vinson family, Lesley and Ray Way, Whittaker family and those struggling with mental health challenges, addictions, loneliness, and despair that they would find hope, support, and the healing love of Christ.

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS WEEK

- 15 Bette Teed (Congregation) 2007
Barbara Brinsley Darling (Bishop, Canon) 2015
- 16 Iain Charles Medgett (Lay Clerk) 1989
- 18 Edna Grace Thomas (wife of Dean Tom Thomas) 1994
- 18 Marjorie Georgina Arthur (Congregation, Anglican Historical Society) 2000
Crawford Atchison Denman Pasco (Lay Canon) 1898
- 19 George Emery (Lay Canon) 1937
- 20 Francis Henry Joseph Archer (Lay Canon) 1958

NOTICES

We are delighted you have joined our service If you have any questions and would like to speak to a staff member, please phone the Cathedral office 9653 4333. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a Welcome Card available from the back of the Cathedral, so we can keep in touch with you.

Lunchtime Concert 1.15pm 18 February: Ash Wednesday Lunchtime Concert – Sarvenaz Monfaredi (Soprano) and Stephen Kerr (Organ) Rooted in the spirit of Ash Wednesday, this program moves from reflection, sorrow, and the Passion of Christ to the hope that follows the Crucifixion. Works by J.S. Bach and Handel trace themes of repentance and sacrifice, while contemporary settings deepen the sense of inner contemplation. The final songs turn toward promise and light—calling the faithful to follow Christ, proclaim peace, and discover joy in abiding within the Lord's love.

* Please note the later start time, due to the Ash Wednesday Eucharist.

Lent Study During Lent our Sunday morning study groups will be using the following resource: "Called to Care" by Jo Knight, CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid. Copies are now available from the Cathedral Shop. Jo will be here in person to start the series at both the 9.00am and 11.45am study groups on Sunday 22 February. If you are new to the Cathedral and would like to join in just come along and introduce yourself to the leaders. Any questions to Canon Peter MacPherson.

King's Singers Wed 4 March 7pm The King's Singers have set the gold standard in a cappella singing for over 50 years. This Grammy Award winning ensemble returns to Melbourne for one performance only on 4 March 2026 at 7pm. The Cathedral is delighted to host the King's Singers for a Lenten programme of Renaissance sacred music, specially chosen for their performance at St Paul's. We're also pleased to inform you that the promoters of this concert, Classical Music Australia, are offering tickets on a **Pay What You Can** basis to ensure the widest possible access, allowing concert-goers to choose a price that suits their circumstances, no questions asked. Tickets are accessible on the web via the QR code: simply select the amount you are able to pay when booking.



THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Monday	12.15pm Holy Communion 2.30pm English Conversation Class 5.10pm Evening Prayer in Simple English
Tuesday	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Wednesday	12.15pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Sarvenaz Monfaredi (Soprano) and Stephen Kerr (Organ) 6pm Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday and Friday	12.15pm Holy Communion 5.10pm Choral Evensong
Saturday	12.15pm Holy Communion 1pm Farsi Fellowship کلیسای جامع پولس رسول ملبورن پذیرای فارسی زبانان عزیز می باشد و جلسات پرسنلی به زبان فارسی، هر هفته شنبه ها ساعت ۱۵:۱۲ ظهر برگزار می شود
Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) <i>Preacher: Ms Jo Knight, CEO Anglican Overseas' Aid</i> 10.00am Choral Eucharist <i>Preacher: Ms Jo Knight, CEO Anglican Overseas' Aid</i> 1.00pm Mandarin Service 圣保罗大座堂有一个中文群体在每个星期日下午一点正崇拜 <i>Preacher: The Revd Simon Li, Assistant Curate</i> 4.00pm Choral Evensong <i>Preacher: Canon Philip Nicholls, Director of Music</i> 6.00pm Gather at St Paul's Sung Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Revd Simon Li, Assistant Curate</i>

CATHEDRAL OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sundays during Services

LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

Sunday 8am & 10am