



# 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.**

**THE FIRST READING**

Isaiah 40.27-31

*Read by Mrs Pauline Caruana, Interim Registrar*

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”?

<sup>28</sup>Have 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.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but 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)*

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Behold, he that keepeth Israel:  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord himself is thy keeper:  
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

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

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

<sup>8</sup>The 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. <sup>2</sup>We 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. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In 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. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For 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.

<sup>7</sup>But 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 ...,**  
**Ama namin..., Göklerdeki Babamız..., ...الَّذِي أَبَانَا..., ...ای پدر ما که در آسمانی، ...بمارے اے...**

**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

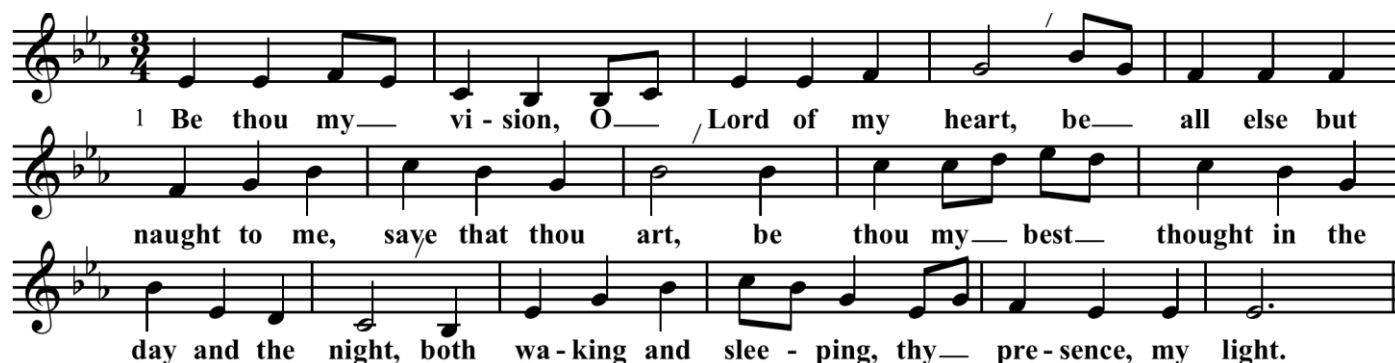
*Stand to sing*

### 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](http://www.cathedral.org.au/donate)*

*or by EFT BSB: 083-088, Account: 53-728-8315*



1 Be thou my— vi - sion, O— Lord of my heart, be— all else but  
naught to me, saye 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.**

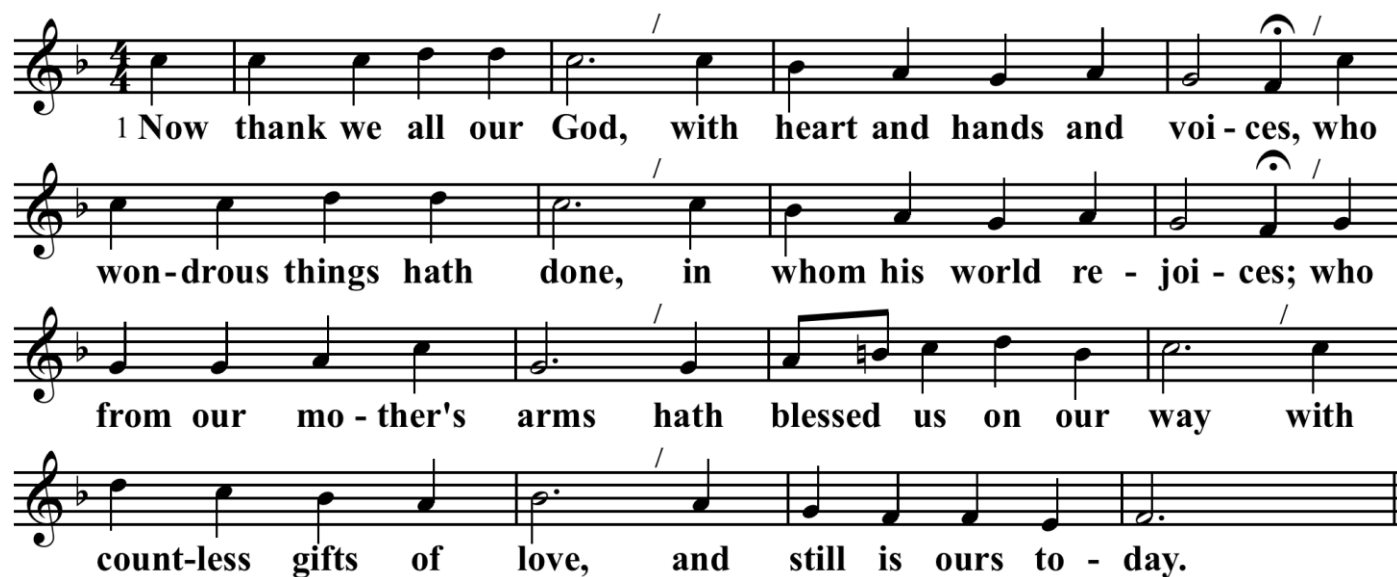
May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. **Amen.**

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<br>2.30pm English Conversation Class<br>5.10pm Evening Prayer in Simple English  |
| Tuesday             | 12.15pm Holy Communion<br>5.10pm Choral Evensong  |
| Wednesday           | 12.15pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion<br>1.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Sarvenaz Monfaredi (Soprano)<br>and Stephen Kerr (Organ)<br>6pm Ash Wednesday Service   |
| Thursday and Friday | 12.15pm Holy Communion<br>5.10pm Choral Evensong  |
| Saturday            | 12.15pm Holy Communion<br>1pm Farsi Fellowship<br>کلیسای جامع پولس رسول ملبورن پذیرای فارسی زبانان عزیز می باشد و جلسات پرستشی به زبان فارسی، هر هفته شنبه ها ساعت ۱۲:۱۵ ظهر برگزار می شود  |
| Sunday              | 8.00am Holy Communion ( <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> )<br><i>Preacher: Ms Jo Knight, CEO Anglican Overseas' Aid</i><br>10.00am Choral Eucharist<br><i>Preacher: Ms Jo Knight, CEO Anglican Overseas' Aid</i><br>1.00pm Mandarin Service<br>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<br><i>Preacher: The Revd Simon Li, Assistant Curate</i><br>4.00pm Choral Evensong<br><i>Preacher: Canon Philip Nicholls, Director of Music</i><br>6.00pm Gather at St Paul's Sung Eucharist<br><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

[www.cathedral.org.au](http://www.cathedral.org.au) • [welcome@stpaulscathedral.org.au](mailto:welcome@stpaulscathedral.org.au) • 03 9653 4333