



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Staff Mass at the End of Term

Thursday 3 April 2025



**Celebrant:
Canon Peter Stanley**

ENTRANCE HYMN: IN CHRIST ALONE

(Keith Getty, Stuart Townend)

In Christ alone, my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all-in-all,
here in the love of Christ, I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fulness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied,
for ev'ry sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ, I live.

There in the ground his body lay;
Light of the World by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again.
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine,
bought with the Precious Blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny!
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from his hand.
'til he returns, or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Priest: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Priest: Let us pray:
Almighty ever-living God,
fervent desire of the human heart,
look with favour upon your people
who make their pilgrim journey in this year of grace,
so that, bound to Christ the rock of salvation,
they may happily attain
the goal of blessed hope.
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.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favour,
and the of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Sion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.
You shall be called the priests of the LORD;
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God.
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.



The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSE: Psalm 89: 21-22. 25, 27 **R.** 2a

R. I will sing for ever of your mercies, O LORD.

I have found my servant David,
and with my holy oil anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him,
and my arm shall make him strong. **R.**

My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him;
by my name his might shall be exalted.
He will call out to me, 'You are my father,
my God, the rock of my salvation.' **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 4:18

All: Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL: Luke 4:16-21

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord

At that time:

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up.

And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day,
and he stood up to read.

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.

He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it is written,

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

And he began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing’.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for Pope Francis, that as he recovers from his recent poor health, he will continue to be a source of inspiration and leadership in our Church.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for those places in our world where people are suffering: for those places where people are hurt or displaced due to war and conflict; for those places where people suffer injustice and persecution because of their race, religion, or gender; for those places in economic poverty whose people do not have access to food, water, safe places to live, or education.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for our friends and colleagues and all our school community. We give thanks especially for the hard work and commitment of Beverley; we will miss your attempts to coax us all – staff as much as pupils – into singing! We also give thanks for Simon's friendship and for his contributions to the Maths department and to the pastoral team. We hope that you both find joy and fulfilment in your new endeavours.

We also welcome Jyoti and Gemma to Holy Cross; we hope you will both be happy here.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for our families, whose support is invaluable.

We give thanks for the safe arrival of Mabel Ann McLear Hitchen; may she grow up secure in the knowledge that she is a beloved child of God.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves, giving thanks for all that we have achieved this term. May the Easter break will be an opportunity to rest, to spend time with those we love and to celebrate with joy the new life of the resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We ask Mary to join her prayer to ours as we say together:

All: Hail Mary

full of grace,

the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, prayer for us sinners,

now, and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness, we have received the bread we offer you; fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness, we have received the wine we offer you; fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

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

**All: 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.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Priest: Accept in compassion, Lord,
the offerings of your family,
so that under your protective care
they may never lose what they have received,
but gain the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



THE PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right and just.

The Priest continues with the Preface, at the end of which we say together:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts
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!

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer. After the consecration, he says:

Priest: The mystery of faith.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE DOXOLOGY and GREAT AMEN

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the Priest says:

Through him,
and with him,
and in him
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

All: Amen

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Priest invites us to say together:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever

All: Amen.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

As the Priest breaks the host, we say together

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him, who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

If you are unable to receive Communion today, please come forward with your arms across your chest, to receive a blessing.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION:

THIS IS MY BODY

(Jimmy Owens, Damian Lundy)



This is my body, broken for you,
bringing you wholeness, making you free.
Take it and eat it and when you do,
do it in love for me.

This is my blood, poured out for you,
bringing forgiveness, making you free.
Take it and drink it and when you do,
do it in love for me.

Filled with the Spirit, how you will grow!
You are my branches; I am the tree.
If you are faithful, others will know
you are alive in me.

Love one another – I have loved you
and I have shown you how to be free.
Serve one another and when you do,
do it in love for me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest: O God, who refresh us with the one Bread
and sustain us with one hope,
strengthen us likewise by your grace,
that, made one body and one spirit in Christ,
we may rise with him to glory.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

ALL STAND

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

All: Amen.

Priest: May he let his face shine upon you
and show you his mercy.

All: Amen.

Priest: May he turn his countenance towards you
and give you his peace.

All: Amen.

Priest: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father,
and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you
and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: The Mass is ended;
go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL:

JUBILEE SONG – SONG OF HOPE

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We are pilgrims on a journey,
journeying together, journeying together with you, O Lord.
We are called and chosen,
called and chosen, called and chosen by you, O Lord.

To sing a song of hope,
hope for all the world;
to bring the grace of jubilee alive!

**Fan the flame of hope, bringing light to all the world.
May my song of hope rise to you, God of love, Lord of all.**

We have hope within us,
hope within us, hope within us from you, O Lord.
We are called to shine bright;
children of light, children of light and truth, O Lord.

To sing a song of hope,
hope for all the world;
to bring the grace of jubilee alive!

**Fan the flame of hope, bringing light to all the world.
May my song of hope rise to you, God of love, Lord of all.**

Given gifts of service,
to serve one another, serve one another, and you, O Lord.

To sing a song of hope,
hope for all the world;
to bring the grace of jubilee alive!

**Fan the flame of hope, bringing light to all the world.
May my song of hope rise to you, God of love.
Fan the flame of hope, bringing light to all the world.
May my song of hope rise to you, God of love, Lord of all.**

