

Visiting Choirs: Information for Services

4 5.30 pm Weekday Solemn Eucharist

Common Worship Order One

Music required:

- Mass setting: Gloria, Sanctus, (Benedictus if desired) and Agnus Dei
- Plainsong propers (Gradual and post-Communion)
- Two hymns

You will be sent hard copies of the following:

- Order of service
- Copy of the appointed plainsong propers
- Gospel sentence (for use with the Alleluia)
- “Music for the Eucharist” booklet for your organist containing harmonisations for the Alleluia, Sursum Corda and Acclamations (sung by the choir and congregation in unison from the order of service).

Instructions to be used alongside the congregational order of service:

There is no organ music before the service.

The choir processes in silence to the south choir aisle to arrive by 5.28 pm. After the Cathedral clock has struck the organist will be given a green light signal and the **first hymn** begins immediately.

The choir follows the Crucifer via the west end and nave to the stalls. The organist improvises if necessary until the altar has been censed and the clergy have returned to the Lectern just west of the altar rail.

After the **Gloria**, the organist immediately gives a quiet note for the President to intone the **Collect** (between tenor G and B flat, as best fits the key of the Gloria). The choir leads the congregation in singing “Amen” on a monotone, unaccompanied.

When the first reading is over, the choir stands to sing the **Gradual** (the first of the two plainsong Propers provided, usually just a single sentence). As soon as this ends, the choir sings the **Alleluia**. The choir sings from the printed order of service and the organist plays the harmonised version from the “Music for the Eucharist” booklet provided.

The organist sounds an octave F and the choir sings the Alleluia once. It is then repeated with the congregation (with much louder organ accompaniment). The Gospel sentence follows (sung in harmony from the separate sheet provided) and then the Alleluia is sung one final time by the congregation and choir.

Immediately after the sentence “Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N” the organ sounds a loud octave B flat. The choir and congregation then sing “Glory to you, O Christ” in unison on a B flat, moving to A on the word “Lord”. This is harmonised by the organist.

After the Deacon says “This is the Gospel of the Lord” the organ sounds another loud octave B flat. The choir and congregation sing “Praise to you, O Christ” in unison on a B flat, moving to A on the word “Christ”. This is again harmonised by the organist.

There is no post-Gospel organ music.

Allow about 20 seconds for the peace to be exchanged before beginning the **Offertory hymn**. The organist should improvise afterwards until the censing has finished (the altar will be censed first, then the choir, and nave).

The organist will find harmonisations for the Sursum Corda and Acclamation in the “Music for the Eucharist” booklet. The printed intonations should be played quietly to give the President / Deacon their note. The organ should then lead the congregation and choir clearly and quite loudly in the replies.

The **Benedictus** is normally sung during the Communion but may be sung immediately after the **Sanctus** if both are short.

A tenor G-B flat-G should be given promptly for the President to sing “Through Christ and with Christ...”. Sometimes the doxology (“Blessing and honour and glory and power...”) is sung straight after this, with organ accompaniment.

During the Communion, the **Benedictus** (if not already sung) and **Agnus Dei** are sung. The choir receives Communion after the congregation. The organist plays until the choir has received and is back in the stalls and then gives the note for the **post-Communion sentence** (the second of the two plainsong Propers provided) which is sung as the clergy are clearing up.

At the end of the service, the voluntary begins immediately and the choir follows the Crucifer and clergy in procession (out the same way as it entered) via the south choir aisle and to the crypt. No prayer is said.