



Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King Liverpool

Good Shepherd Choir 2020 Sign Up Information Sheet

This pack is intended to give you information about the Good Shepherd Choir that will lead the music at the 2020 Mass, and to let you know how you can sign your school up.

The Good Shepherd Choir

In 2016-2019, over 2500 children from 65 schools across the Archdiocese have participated in leading the music at the Good Shepherd Masses in Liverpool and Leyland.

For the fifth year, it is planned once again to have a large choir of young people from Catholic schools across the Archdiocese lead music at this year's Good Shepherd Masses, which will take place on:

St Mary's Church, Leyland: **Wednesday 24th June 2020 at 10.45**

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral: **Tuesday 30th June 2020 at 13.00**

Schools can choose children to take part in the choir in either the Liverpool OR Leyland Masses. Both masses will use the same music.

Schools taking part will work in partnership with music staff from the Metropolitan Cathedral music department in preparing and performing the music at the liturgy.

How it works

For your school to take part, you must be able to agree to the following:

- To choose between 10-30 young people from your school who would like to lead the singing at the Good Shepherd Mass.
- To agree to host 2 rehearsal visits, each 30 minutes in length, with a member of the Metropolitan Cathedral music department in the weeks leading up to the Mass. These rehearsals would take place in your school just for your children. Ideally the room that the rehearsal takes place in should have a piano/keyboard. The time/dates of these visits would follow a mutually convenient schedule.
- To agree to spend some time preparing the chosen children before and in between the 2 rehearsal visits from a member of the Metropolitan Cathedral music department. Sound files and sheet music will be provided to you to assist with this.
- To agree to attend a rehearsal on the day of your Mass, as follows:

St Mary's, Leyland Wednesday 24th June 2020

Rehearsal: 9.30-10.15, Mass begins at 10.45.

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Tuesday 30th June 2020

Rehearsal: 11.00-12.00, Mass begins at 13.00.

After the rehearsal, all the children singing in the choir will eat their packed lunch before Mass begins at 13.00.

The rehearsals held on the day will be the first time all of the children who have been practising in their schools will come together to sing as one big choir!

- To agree to pay £30 to the Cathedral towards the cost of the musical resources and leadership.

Further details

Your school will receive two visits from members of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral's music department. All members of the music department who will undertake these visits hold DBS (enhanced) clearance, and have experience in working with young people.

Both at school visits and on the day of the Mass all children remain in the care of, and under the supervision of, staff from their school. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the necessary permissions and risk assessments are satisfactorily completed and that transport is arranged.

School rehearsal visits will take place in May/ June at a mutually agreed time. Rehearsal packs will be sent in late April containing the music we will be singing, and sound files to enable your school to begin learning the music.

The choir for the Good Shepherd Mass in both Liverpool and Leyland will be directed by Dr Christopher McElroy, Director of Music at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

How to register

If you would like to register your school, please complete the form:

<https://forms.gle/1WYmzJMxSsh1aZY76>

If you are having difficulties registering on the google form, please email

music@metcathedral.org.uk with the following details:

- Name/ Address of School
- Contact details (tel/ e-mail) of person completing the form
- Number of children you would like to bring to sing in the choir
- Whether you wish to attend the Leyland or Liverpool Good Shepherd Mass (or both!)
- Confirmation that you have read this document and that you agree to its conditions

Feedback from 2016-2019

Some of the feedback received from school staff following last four years Good Shepherd Masses:

'Very well organised! The rehearsals were great. We had Stuart who was fantastic and very encouraging. Having the music in advance was useful because we did some practice before he came. The information we had beforehand was great. The day itself was very well organised. Thank you so much for organising it all and involving us.'

'I thought yesterday was wonderful. The children loved every minute and I got goosebumps listening to them sing with the choristers. It was fantastic. The children sang all the way home which made me chuckle listening to them sing in Greek and Latin as we drove along Edge Lane. I was a little worried initially when I received the music files as I am not a singer and couldn't reach the notes and thought the songs a little complex for the children. I had been expecting more 'child friendly' songs. Luckily we have a music teacher who comes to school and she started the children off. Then the fabulous singing teacher (who the children loved) really helped and I think when we listened to the choir all the children really knew what they were singing. I then changed my mind as I realised that the children enjoyed those songs - to see primary children belting out Hail Redeemer was unbelievable! thought it was a really well organised process and the whole day was a fantastic opportunity. Thankyou. We felt really proud to be in the choir and one child said it was her best day ever!'

'We had a great day - the children thoroughly enjoyed their time at the cathedral and are still talking about it - thank you for a lovely experience'

'I just wanted to let you know how much we all enjoyed the celebration mass yesterday and wanted to give some feedback on the project, we were part of the choir and we just thought it was all brilliant. We had a brilliant time and have learned a lot. The visitor into school was really helpful and great with the children. We would love to be involved in this project if it is an opportunity next year as well.'

'it was brilliant, fantastic experience and staff.'

'Excellent preparation provided by the singing leader on his visits to school. The singing content was challenging for the pupils, yet enjoyable - however I would have struggled to fully prepare the children without support from the singing leader. The musical expertise of the Cathedral Choir and Team is outstanding which was evident yesterday. If future musical links between the Cathedral and Schools could be developed it would be a wonderful way of bringing schools together within the Archdiocese - especially for schools that aren't within Liverpool - then children might appreciate that the Archdiocese is not just Liverpool, but something greater. Yesterday was a wonderful experience for the children eg. the organ was demonstrated to the children in terms of how it can be played. Thanks to all involved in the preparation beforehand, rehearsal on the day and then the actual celebration.'