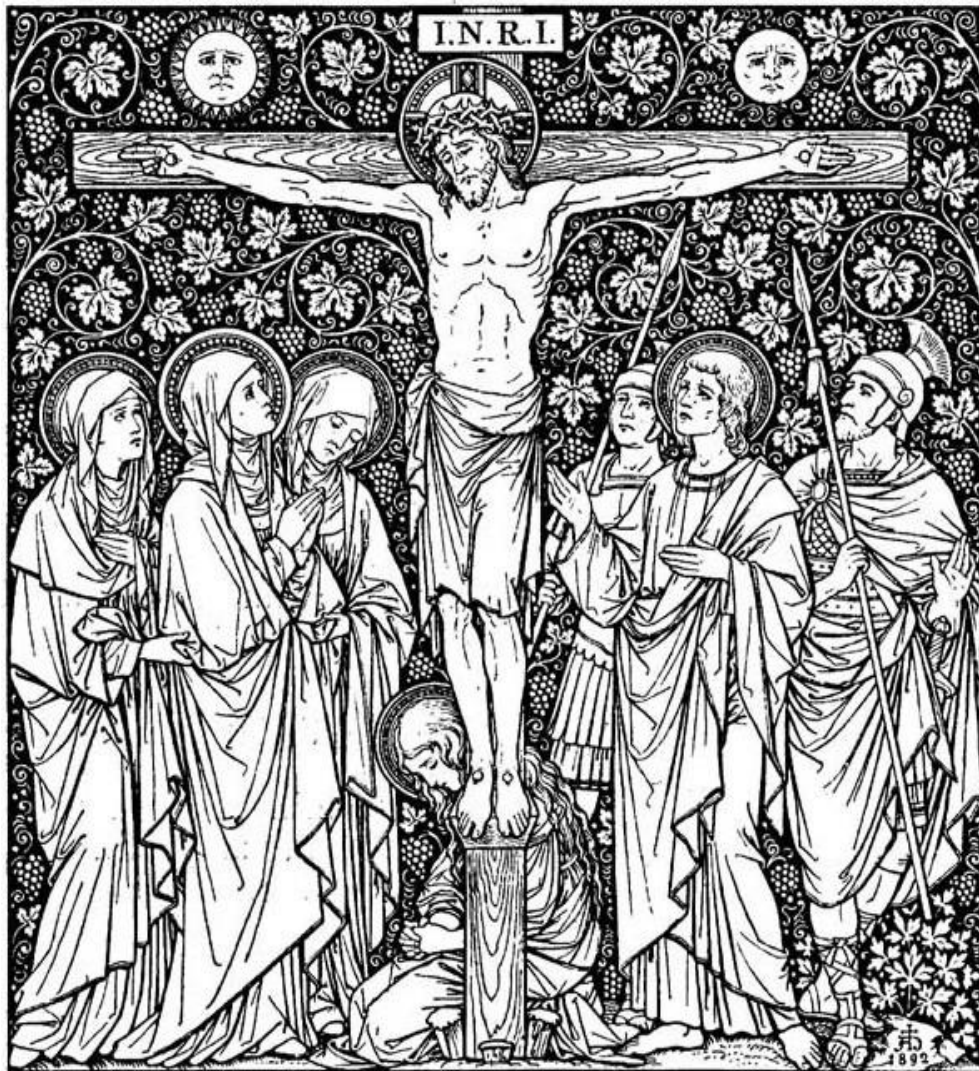


S^t Mary's Warrington



Tenebrae

Choral Music for Holy Week

Wednesday 23rd March 2016



WELCOME

Tenebrae is the name given to the service of Matins and Lauds belonging to the last three days of Holy Week. This service, as the *Cæremoniale episcoporum* expressly directs, is to be sung shortly after Compline at the close of day, in order to signify the setting of the Sun of Justice and the darkness of the Jewish people who knew not our Lord and condemned Him to the cross. Originally Matins on these days, like Matins at all other seasons of the year, were sung shortly after midnight and consequently if the lights were extinguished, the darkness was complete. Both in the first Ordo Romanus and in the Ordo of St. Amand published by Duchesne a great point is made of the gradual extinction of the lights during the Friday Matins; though it would seem that in this earliest period the Matins and Lauds of the Thursday were sung throughout with the church brightly illuminated (*ecclesia omni lumine decoretur*). On Friday the candles and lamps were gradually extinguished during the three Nocturns, while on Saturday the church was in darkness from beginning to end, save that a single candle was kept near the lectern to read by.

It was from the extinguishing of lights that the service came to be known as Tenebræ, though the name itself seems to have arisen somewhat later. The liturgist de Vert has suggested an utilitarian explanation of the putting out of the candles one by one, contending that the gradual approach of the dawn rendered the same number of lights unnecessary, and that the number was consequently diminished as the service drew to a close. This view seems sufficiently refuted by the fact that this method of gradual extinction is mentioned by the first Ordo Romanus on the Friday only. On the Saturday we are explicitly told that the lights were not lit. Moreover, the tone of the whole Office, which seems hardly to have varied in any respect from that now, is most noticeably mournful - the lessons taken from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, a partial setting of which by Thomas Talis we will hear this evening, the omission of the *Gloria Patri*, of the *Te Deum*, and of blessings etc., all suggest a service cognate to the *Vigiliæ Mortuorum*, just as the brilliant illumination of the Easter eve spoke of triumph and of joy, so the darkness of the preceding night's services seems to have been designedly chosen to mark the Church's desolation. In any case it is to be noticed that the Office of these three days has been treated by liturgical reformers throughout the ages with scrupulous respect. The lessons from Jeremiah in the first Nocturn, from the Commentaries of St. Augustine upon the Psalms in the second, and from the Epistles of St. Paul in the third remain now as when we first hear of them in the eighth century.

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|------------------------------|-----------|
| Stabat Mater | Chant |
| Crucifixus | Lotti |
| O vos omnes | Casals |
| Tristis est anima mea | de Cristo |
| Ad dominum dum tribularer | Scarlatti |
| Justitiae Domine | Scarlatti |
| Attende Domine | Chant |
| Crux fidelis | Victoria |
| Troisième Leçon des ténèbres | Couperin |
| O salutaris | Elgar |
| Ubi Caritas | Lauridsen |
| Miserere mei | Allegri |

HOLY WEEK 2016

Maundy Thursday, 24th March

Confessions 11am-1pm

[Attention: *No* Tenebræ; *no* 11:30am Holy Rosary; *no* 12:10pm Holy Mass]

8:00pm: Solemn High Mass

9:30pm to Midnight: Eucharistic Adoration

Good Friday, 25th March – Fast & Abstinence

Tenebræ 10am-11:30am

11:30am-1pm: Confessions

12noon: Solemn Stations of the Cross

3:00pm : Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday, 26th March

Tenebræ 10am-11:30am

Confessions: 2pm-4pm

10:00pm **Solemn Easter Vigil** followed by **Solemn High Mass**

Easter Sunday, 27th March

10:30am: Confessions

11.00am **Solemn High Mass**

[Attention: *No* 6pm Sunday Mass. Normal daily schedule resumes tomorrow.]

St. Mary's Shrine is open every day.
Visit our website www.stmaryswarrington.org.uk

Monday – Friday

11.40am-12.05pm: Confessions
11.30am: Holy Rosary
12noon: Angelus
12.10pm: Low Mass

Saturday

10.00am- 11.50am: Confessions
10.00am- 10.45am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10.45am: Benediction
12noon: Angelus
12.10pm; Low Mass

Sunday

10.30am- 10.55am: Confessions
11am Sung Mass
5.30pm- 5.55pm: Confessions
5.30pm Holy Rosary

Since its foundation in 1877, St. Mary's choir has occupied a unique and enviable position as a leading exponent in Sacred Music. At the Pontifical High Mass for the opening of the Church, records show that a vast choir, soloists, and orchestra were present to sing Haydn's Nelson Mass.

Fr. J E Turner OSB was curate at St. Mary's from 1891-93. A gifted organist, singer and composer, he composed 4 Masses and numerous motets, which are still in print today. His Mass in honour of St. Cecilia was premiered at St. Mary's at High Mass on Sunday 28 August 1892.

Unlike many Churches, St. Mary's maintained a tradition of performing Plainchant and polyphonic music. Fr. Turner, along with Sir R R Terry, Organist at Westminster Cathedral, was instrumental in the revival of the traditional chants of the church, as well as polyphonic masters such as Palestrina, Byrd and Lassus.

At the time of the Diamond Jubilee, the choir boasted 22 boy trebles, and 18 men, directed by Mr Aaron Kilburn, and the tradition continues today with an adult Schola Cantorum, boy and girl choristers, and a Choral Society. Visit the display in the Narthex to find out more about music at St. Mary's

Applications to join from experienced choral singers, as well as boys and girls aged 5+ are always welcome. Please contact the Director of Music, Michael Wynne.
music@stmaryswarrington.org.uk