



**A Celebration of Ministry  
with the Enthronement  
of  
The Rt Revd Mark Tanner  
as  
the 41<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Chester**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm**

## Welcome from Tim Stratford, Dean of Chester

A very warm welcome to Chester Cathedral on this significant day in the life of the Church of God and Diocese of Chester. It seems to have taken a long time coming. There has been a long process of discernment and selection which led up to the announcement that Bishop Mark Tanner, then Bishop of Berwick, was to be the forty-first and next Bishop of Chester. This included consultations in communities across the diocese and meetings of the Crown Nominations Commission in which the diocese was represented. Following an announcement made by 10 Downing Street, the College of Canons of this Cathedral met and unanimously elected him.

Bishop Mark was confirmed as the Bishop of Chester during online proceedings presided over by the Archbishop of York on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July last year. At the time we were still in the midst of the first coronavirus lockdown. Archbishop Stephen's own confirmation had only been completed the week before, and he was still unable to move to York from Chelmsford Diocese. During these proceedings Archbishop Stephen laid a charge on Bishop Mark which is included in these pages.

Bishop Mark picked up the reins here in Chester following an innovative "Crozier Service" on 20<sup>th</sup> September that was created to mark the beginning of his ministry in these unusual times. He was unable formally to occupy the Bishop's Seat, known as the Cathedra, in the Cathedral Quire until paying homage to Her Majesty the Queen. In November he moved house and on 28<sup>th</sup> April this year he met with the Queen by video link to pay her homage. In the midst of all this Bishop Mark has picked up his responsibilities for ministry and leadership amongst us and is now deeply immersed in the complexities of pastoral care and leadership.

Today Bishop Mark will be enthroned in the Cathedra, thus completing what has been a long period of transition. This seat is the symbol of the Bishop's teaching office and is a reminder that in the ancient world a teacher sat down to teach. Whilst his ministry in the Chester Diocese has been forged through lockdown and restrictions, we now look forward to a time when society opens up once more, we are free to visit one another, and the opportunity for in-person ministry becomes the norm once more. Fittingly, this service ends with the hymn, "Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!" after which Bishop Mark prays a prayer of blessing for the city and the diocese. We pray for him, that his ministry here may be a blessing for the church and for the world as well as to himself.

*Tim Stratford*

## Words from +Mark and Lindsay Tanner

Bishop Mark trained for ministry at Cranmer Hall in Durham and was ordained Deacon here in Chester Cathedral in 1998. He is married to Lindsay, a Social Worker and a Licensed Reader, and they have two children, Jonathan and Pippa, who are both studying at University.

Bishop Mark has degrees from Oxford, Durham, and Chester. He started work as a Youth Worker and then served as a curate on the Wirral, as a Vicar in Doncaster and then Ripon, where he was also Area Dean and a part-time Army chaplain. He then returned to Durham as Warden of Cranmer Hall and Vice-Principal of St. John's College. In 2016 he was consecrated in York to serve as the second Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle, a suffragan See which had been vacant since 1572.

This service, then, is many things: celebration, thanksgiving, prayer, but perhaps above all a statement of hope as we look forward together in faith. God is always faithful, and calls us afresh today in the love of Christ.

### About this service

After many months of waiting, the congregation from across the Diocese and beyond, gathers in person and online for Bishop Mark Tanner's Enthronement. The service commences with the Dean of Chester inviting the congregation to be faithful in taking up their vocation to serve God as ordained and lay people.

As the west doors of the cathedral are opened, Bishop Mark is met by pupils from schools in Chester and responds to their questions identifying his call as Bishop to be a servant of Jesus Christ. He will then legally take the oaths to be faithful to the people of the Diocese and his ministry will be affirmed by four representatives of the church - reminding him of the vows made at his baptism and those offered at his ordinations as deacon, priest and bishop. Finally the Chancellor of the diocese will read the Archbishop's Mandate which is the legal instrument that authorises the placing of Bishop Mark in his throne.

Bishop Mark is then welcomed by ecumenical and civic leaders before scripture is read and he delivers God's word to us. We will then be called to proclaim that word afresh in prayer and the sending out. Bishop Mark finally processes to the West End to both bless the congregation and the city outside.

Through the service, the congregation responds to the words in **Bold Type**.

## The Walton Bible

Bishop Mark takes his oath on the Walton Bible from the Cathedral Library's set of *Biblia Sacra Polyglotta*, which was published in six folio volumes between 1654 and 1657. Generally referred to as the London Polyglot or Walton's Polyglot, it was edited by Brian Walton (1600-1661). The Bible text is printed in Hebrew, Aramaic, Samaritan, Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Ethiopic, Greek and Latin.

After the Restoration, Walton was elected Bishop of Chester on 19 October 1660, confirmed to that See on 22 November, and consecrated a bishop on 2 December. He paid one brief visit to his diocese in autumn 1661; shortly after his return to London he died on 29 November.

## Acknowledgements

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# Archbishop's Charge

## A CHARGE TO THE RIGHT REVEREND MARK TANNER BISHOP OF CHESTER

Our well-beloved brother in Christ, Mark, now Bishop of Chester.

Recalling God's mission entrusted by Christ to His Church to proclaim God's Kingdom, to heal the sick and to make disciples of all nations, I share with you the tasks and ministries discerned in consultation, prayer and reflection by those called to serve on the Crown Nominations Commission for the See of Chester. I hope these will guide you as you take up your new office and ministry.

In your episcopal oversight of the Diocese of Chester and in your wider ministry with fellow bishops caring for the life of the Church and Nation in their faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Bishop Mark you are called

- To lead the diocese in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ by inspiring and equipping local churches and communities in their witness and lives;
- To enable the whole church to flourish and grow:
  - by leading the Diocese in discerning and living out a common vision drawn from the five marks of mission;
  - by challenging the "status quo" whilst encouraging and building on what is working well;
  - by addressing the significant structural and financial challenges that the diocese is facing;
  - by drawing on the strong relationships across church traditions to provide for mutual flourishing and the space to help people explore differences of opinion on contentious issues and to deepen connection; and
  - by championing witness and mission to young people including through churches and schools.

## Archbishop's Charge

Bishop Mark you are called

- To lead and develop a strong safeguarding culture for all ensuring that sufficient resources and energy are allocated to the protection of children and vulnerable adults;
- To build relationships with civic and community leaders, taking and encouraging opportunities for the Church to speak prophetically and to shape and contribute to the public good; and
- To deepen connections with the wider Church nationally and internationally through opportunities provided by the Anglican Communion the House and College of Bishops and other corporate bodies of the Church of England.

Mark – as a disciple of our Lord you are also called to tend to your own spiritual life in prayer and study.

So may the Lord of heaven, who gives you the will to undertake these things, give you also the strength to perform them, and by his divine providence may his holy angels succour and defend you on earth; and may his Grace and Blessing be with you at all times. Amen

July 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

+ Stephen, Ebor

# The Gathering

*Before the start of the service:*

*The Chester Cathedral Bell ringers, ring a quarter peal on six bells*

*Graham Eccles, Organist, plays*

Trio Sonata No. 3, BWV 527

*J S Bach (1685-1750)*

*Andante*

*Adagio e dolce*

*Vivace*

Wir glauben all' an einen Gott, BWV 680

*J S Bach (1685-1750)*

Pastorale

*Amédée Reuschel (1875-1931)*

*As the Processions enter, the Cathedral choir sings*

Sing joyfully unto God our strength:

sing loud unto the God of Jacob.

Take the song, and bring forth the timbrel:

the pleasant harp, and the viol.

Blow the trumpet in the new moon:

even in the time appointed, and at our feast-day.

For this is a statute for Israel:

and a law of the God of Jacob.

*Psalm 81. 1-4*

*William Byrd (c 1540-1623)*

# The Order of Processions

The Visiting Clergy  
The Diocesan Clergy and Honorary Canons  
The Honorary Lay Canons

**All stand**

A Verger  
The Assistant Bishops  
The Chapter and Bishops of the Diocese of Newcastle

The Librarian (carrying the Walton Bible)  
The Diocesan Registrar  
The Chancellor of the Diocese

The Canon Diocesan escorts  
Revd Allison Claxton, Mersey Synod, United Reformed Church  
Canon Stephen Coonan, Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury  
Major Gareth Dickens, Salvation Army  
Revd Charlotte Truman, Churches Together in Cheshire

The Canon Missioner escorts  
The Mayor of Stockport and Mrs Diane Nottingham  
The Mayor Cheshire East and Mr Jon Pochin  
The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Chester

The Canon Precentor escorts  
The High Sheriff of Cheshire and Mrs Hayley Mee  
The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and Mr Stephen Hawkins  
The High Sheriff of Merseyside and Mrs Libby Lanceley

The Dean escorts  
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire and Mrs Michelle Briggs  
The Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and Mr John Kennedy  
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside

**All then sit and then stand when the final procession enters**

Cross and Acolytes  
The Archdeacon of Macclesfield  
The Archdeacon of Chester  
The Residentiary Canons  
The Dean of Chester

# The Greeting

*The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, Dean, welcomes the congregation, and says*

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
our Lord Jesus is the head of the church,  
and he alone is the source of all Christian ministry.  
Through the ages it is Christ  
who has called men and women to lives of joyful service.  
By the Holy Spirit,  
all who believe and are baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity  
receive a ministry to proclaim Jesus as Saviour and Lord,  
and to love and serve the people with whom they live and work.  
In Christ they are called to bring redemption,  
to reconcile and to make whole.  
They are to be salt for the earth;  
they are to be light to the world.

On this day of celebration,  
we gather for the ongoing faithfulness in Christ,  
to pray for the Diocese of Chester  
and to commit +Mark to the Lord.  
As he continues to lead us  
as our chief shepherd, pastor and teacher,  
let us remember our vocation  
that each of us may be faithful to and strengthened  
in the ministry to which we are called as the People of God.

**Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified,  
hear our prayer for all your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servant Mark now to be enthroned,  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

# Welcoming Bishop Mark

*Bishop Mark arrives at the West Door of the Cathedral and knocks three times with his pastoral staff*

*Dean Tim says*

Let the Cathedral doors be opened, that we may greet Bishop Mark.

*All turn to face the West Doors; a trumpeter sounds a fanfare as the doors are opened*

*Dean Tim and Bishop Christine Hardman are processed to the West End as the Cathedral Choir sings,*

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace,  
eternal source of love,  
in flame, we pray, our inmost hearts  
with fire from heav'n above.

As thou dost join with holiest bonds  
the Father and the son,  
so fill us all with mutual love,  
and knit our hearts in one.

All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
while endless ages run.

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)*

*Christopher Tye (1505-72)*

# The Reception

*Dean Tim says*

Bishop Mark,  
**we greet you in the name of Christ.**

*Bishop Mark is then welcomed by students from Hoole Church of England Primary School and Bishop's Blue Coat High School, Chester.*

*George Edwards from Bishop's Blue Coat High School, says*

Who are you and why do you request entry?

*Bishop Mark responds*

I am Mark, a servant of Jesus Christ,  
and I come as one seeking the grace of God,  
to walk together with you in his service.

*Matilda Weaver from Hoole C of E School, says*

Why have you been sent to us?

*Bishop Mark responds*

I am sent as Bishop to serve you and all the people of this Diocese,  
to proclaim the gospel of Christ,  
and with you to worship and love him with heart and soul,  
mind and strength.

# The Reception

*Issy Fabby from Bishop's Blue Coat High School, says*

How do you come among us and with what confidence?

*Bishop Mark responds*

I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified.  
I come trusting that his strength is made perfect in my weakness.

*Elias Weaver from Hoole C of E School, says*

Who accompanies you on your journey to be here today?

*Bishop Mark responds*

I have travelled with Lindsay my wife,  
and come with +Christine, Bishop of Newcastle,  
with whom I have served as Suffragan Bishop in that Diocese.

*Bishop Christine Hardman brings greetings from the Diocese of Newcastle, and says*

I bring you loving greetings from the Diocese of Newcastle.  
I come in Christ's name to express our gratitude  
for shared service and friendship,  
our fellowship in the task we each face,  
and our hope for all that is to come  
as we continue to serve the people of God  
in the Northern Province.

*Lindsay Tanner then says*

We rejoice to be among you as family,  
as brothers and sisters in Christ,  
and as fellow servants of the Gospel.  
We give thanks that the Lord's plans  
have brought us together in this place  
and for the communities and people of this Diocese of Chester.

Pray for us as we pray for you:  
In our Lord, may those who search find life,  
those who despair find hope,  
those who seek love find a home,  
and may Christ always be glorified among us.

## Procession to the Nave Dais

*Dean Tim, Bishop Christine followed by Bishop Mark and Lindsay Tanner are verged to the Nave Dais as the Cathedral Choir sings*

Come people of the risen king,  
who delight to bring him praise;  
come all and tune your hearts to sing  
to the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
we will lift our eyes to him,  
where steady arms of mercy reach  
to gather children in.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

**All sit**

*Bishop Mark offers words of thanks and encouragement for those who have supported him in his ministry especially in the last year*

# The Declaration of Assent

*Dean Tim says to Bishop Mark*

Mark,  
we now request you to make the Declaration of Assent.

The Church of England is part of the One,  
Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church,  
worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures  
and set forth in the Catholic Creeds,  
which faith the Church is called upon  
to proclaim afresh in each generation.

Led by the Holy Spirit,  
it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies,  
the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion,  
the Book of Common Prayer  
and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

In the declaration you are about to make,  
will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith  
as your inspiration and guidance under God  
in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation  
and making him known to those in your care?

*Bishop Mark responds*

I, Mark Simon Austin Tanner,  
do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief  
in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures  
and set forth in the catholic creeds  
and to which the historic formularies  
of the Church of England bear witness;  
and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments,  
I will use only the forms of service  
which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

# The Administration of the Oath

*Dean Tim then says to Bishop Mark*

Mark, our Father in God,  
I ask you to promise that you will be a faithful pastor  
to all in this diocese  
and that you will observe  
the Statutes and Ordinances of this Cathedral Church.

*Bishop Mark lays his hand on the Walton Bible, and responds*

I, Mark Simon Austin Tanner,  
by divine permission forty-first Bishop of Chester,  
promise that I will be a faithful pastor to the clergy  
and people of this Diocese.

I solemnly swear that I will faithfully uphold  
and observe the Constitution and Statutes of this Cathedral Church;  
and I will do all in my power  
to further its work as a centre for worship and mission in this Diocese,  
for the service of God and for the benefit of his Church.  
So help me God.

# The Affirmation of Episcopal Ministry

*As Bishop Mark moves to the rear of the Dais and kneels to pray, the Cathedral Choir sings*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,  
and those weeping through the night;  
come, those who tell of battles won,  
and those struggling in the fight.  
For his perfect love will never change,  
and his mercies never cease,  
but follow us through all our days  
with the certain hope of peace.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

*Revd Andy Glover, Hoole Baptist Church, brings Waters of Baptism, and says*

Mark, remember that at your baptism  
you were washed and cleansed from sin,  
that you might fight valiantly as his disciple against sin,  
the world, and the devil,  
and remain faithful to him to the end of your life.  
As you teach and guide his flock,  
may God give you grace to continue in his way.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil:  
**it is he who shall keep your soul.**

*Julie Withers, St Peter's Hale, gives +Mark a towel, and says*

Mark, remember that when  
you were ordained deacon in the Church of God  
you were called to share in the ministry of Christ,  
who took the form of a servant,  
and came not to be served but to serve.  
He taught that the one who would be great among us  
must be the servant of all.  
God give you grace to continue in his way.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:  
**from this time forth for evermore.**

# The Affirmation of Episcopal Ministry

*The Ven Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield, gives +Mark a chalice, and says*

Mark, remember that when  
you were ordained priest in the Church of God,  
you were given care of the people in your charge:  
to watch over them, to absolve them and bless them in God's name,  
and to proclaim the Gospel of salvation.  
God give you grace to continue in his way.

The Lord himself is your keeper:  
**The Lord is your defence upon your right hand.**

*The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle, blesses +Mark, and then says*

Mark, remember that when  
you were ordained a bishop in the Church of God,  
you were given oversight of the Church, to further its unity,  
to uphold its discipline, to guard its faith, and to promote its mission.  
Remember that the ring you wear on your right hand  
is a sign of authority:  
it is also a sign of loving trust  
that the waiting father places on the finger of his returning son.  
God give you grace to continue in his way.

The Lord will not suffer your foot to stumble  
**He who watches over you will not sleep.**

# The Induction and Enthronement

*All stand as the Procession moves to the Quire, as the Cathedral choir sings*

Come, young and old from every land  
men and women of the faith;  
come, those with full or empty hands  
find the riches of his grace.  
Over all the world, his people sing-  
shore to shore we hear them call  
the truth that cries through every age  
'Our God is all in all'!

*Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

*Kristyn Getty, Keith Getty (born 1974) and Stuart Townend (born 1963)  
© 2007 Thankyou Music/Adm by Kingswaysongs*

*Dean Tim hands the Mandate to the Judge David Turner QC, Chancellor of the  
Diocese of Chester, saying*

David, I invite you to read the Archbishop's Mandate.

*Judge David Turner QC, reads the following*

Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell,  
by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of York Primate of England  
and Metropolitan to Our Beloved in Christ,  
The Very Revd Dr Timothy Richard Stratford, Dean of Chester, greeting.

Whereas the Episcopal See of Chester  
became vacant by the resignation of  
the Right Reverend Peter Robert Forster  
late Bishop thereof, and the College of Canons of the Cathedral Church  
of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester  
have petitioned for and obtained Her Majesty's Royal Licence  
and did elect Mark Simon Austin Tanner  
for their and the said Cathedral Church's Bishop and Pastor.

## The Induction and Enthronement

And whereas We have by Her Majesty's Letters Patent confirmed the said Election and have also committed to the Bishop so elected the care, government and administration of the Spiritualities of the said Bishopric, and have also decreed that the said Bishop shall be inducted and installed into the possession of the said Bishopric. We therefore require that you do induct and install the said Mark Simon Austin Tanner into the real actual and corporeal possession of the said Bishopric of Chester, with full Episcopal rights and that you assign him the Episcopal Seat in the Cathedral Church usually assigned and appointed to the Bishop thereof, and that you place him therein in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as soon as these acts have been completed to certify in writing accordingly to our Registrar.

In Witness whereof We have caused our Seal to be hereunto affixed Dated the tenth day of June in the year of Our Lord Two thousand and twenty-one.

*Dean Tim places Bishop Mark in his Episcopal Seat, saying*

By virtue of the Mandate of the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Geoffrey by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of York, I, Timothy Richard Stratford, Dean of Chester, induct, install and enthrone you, Mark Simon Austin Tanner, into possession of the Bishopric of Chester, with its rights and dignities and all its opportunities of service; and I place you in the episcopal seat of this Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chester, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The trumpeter sounds a fanfare and the congregation applaud as Bishop Mark is finally enthroned as Bishop of Chester*

*The procession returns to the Nave Dais*

**All then sit**

# **The Greeting and Continued Dedication to Partnership in Ministry**

*Bishop Mark is joined by*

*Revd Allison Claxton, Mersey Synod, United Reformed Church  
Canon Stephen Coonan, Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury  
Major Gareth Dickens, The Salvation Army  
Revd Charlotte Truman, Churches Together in Cheshire*

*together with Bishop Mark, they say*

We, leaders of the Church in this region,  
supported by the prayers of God's holy people,  
pledge ourselves to continue to work and pray together  
for the spread of the Gospel  
and the increase of God's Kingdom;  
in the name of Christ,  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Bishop Mark is greeted by*

*Mark Blundell, Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside  
David Briggs, CVO, MBE, K.St.J. Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire  
Susan Craig, DL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester*

*who say*

On behalf of all who hold Civic Office within the Diocese,  
we look forward to continue to working with you  
in serving God's people in this City and Region.

*Bishop Mark then informally responds*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## The First Reading

read by David Hermitt  
St Mary's Church, Alsager  
Chair of Diocesan Safeguarding Group

The first reading is taken from the prophecy of Isaiah, chapter 52, beginning to read at the first verse.

Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the uncircumcised and the unclean shall enter you no more. Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter Zion! For thus says the Lord: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says the Lord God: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. Now therefore what am I doing here, says the Lord, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says the Lord, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Here ends the first reading.

# The Liturgy of the Word

## The Second Reading

read by Rebecca Wray  
Family Friend of Mark and Lindsay

The second reading is taken from the Gospel according to St Mark, chapter I, beginning to read at the first verse.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Here ends the second reading.

**The Sermon**  
Bishop Mark Tanner

*At the end, after a short silence, the Cathedral Choir sings*

## Veni Creator Spiritus

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire;  
thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above  
is comfort, life and fire of love;  
enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
with the abundance of thy grace;  
keep far our foes, give peace at home;  
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of Both, to be but One;  
that through the ages all along  
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Veni Creator John Cosin 1594–1672*

*Plainsong mode vii*

# The Intercessions

*The Cathedral Choir sings the response*

*Through your lives and by our prayers, your Kingdom come.*

*The intercessions are then led by*

*Mia Wallwork, Chester Cathedral Sunday Groups, says*

Heavenly Father, we pray for +Mark, that he may lead your people with humility, love and vision and that together we may work to grow the Church.

*The Cathedral Choir sings the response*

*Through your lives and by our prayers, your Kingdom come.*

*Sue Noakes, Deputy Director of Education, Diocese of Chester, says*

Lord Jesus, you call us to be courageous as we seek to be your disciples. Help us to be imaginative as we seek to proclaim the Gospel afresh to this generation, in our lives, work and schools.

*The Cathedral Choir sings the response*

*Through your lives and by our prayers, your Kingdom come.*

*Tina Lightfoot, St James Christleton and Ordinand in the Diocese of Chester, says*

Holy Spirit, enable us as we seek together to transform our world. That all may know the hope we share and the life of the Kingdom. Equip us to take risks that we may be both salt and light to our communities.

*The Cathedral Choir sings the response*

*Through your lives and by our prayers, your Kingdom come.*

*The Ven Dr Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester, says*

Faithful God, in Jesus Christ we find our Way, Truth and Life. Strengthen Mark with your spirit, that he may continue to trust you as the one to whom we follow to find true life, hope and salvation for this world.

*The Cathedral Choir sings the response*

*Through your lives and by our prayers, your Kingdom come.*

*John L Bell (born 1949)*

*© 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow*

# The Lord's Prayer

*The intercessions conclude with the Lord's Prayer; which Archdeacon Mike leads*

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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**All stand**

*The Cathedral Choir then sings*

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take;  
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,  
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call:  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

# The Sending Out

*Dean Tim says*

We are God's pilgrim people, empowered by the Holy Spirit and sent to a world in need. I call upon you to live out all that we have heard and proclaimed today.

Will you share the good news of Christ in word and deed, wherever the Spirit leads you?

**We will.**

*Dr Alan Downen, Reader, Ashton Hayes and Lay Chair of Chester Deanery, says*

Will you teach the faith of the church that we may grow in righteousness and service to Christ?

**We will.**

*Wendy Sykes, President of the Mothers' Union, says*

Will you share the care and compassion of Christ to a wounded world in desperate need of God's love, healing and restoration?

**We will.**

*Revd Vanessa Layfield, Diocesan Engagement and Inclusion Officer, and Curate of St Mary's Nantwich, says*

Will you work for the justice of Christ to transform and revive our society, standing alongside the weak, the voiceless and the vulnerable?

**We will.**

*Revd Lyndon Bannon, Bishop's Office for Self Supporting Ministry and Assistant Priest at Willaston, says*

Will you treasure the earth, living a life that sings in harmony with the whole of creation to the glory of Christ our Saviour?

**We will.**

*The Cathedral Choir sings*

Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;  
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:  
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,  
a love like yours which cares for all humankind.

## The Blessing of the People

*Bishop Mark says*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no-one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak; help the afflicted;  
honour all people; love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

*As a Verger, the Crucifer and Acolytes lead Bishop Mark and Lindsay, the Dean and Residentiary Canons, and Civic Representatives out of the Cathedral.*

*The Cathedral Choir sings*

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
share God's good gifts-let no one be denied;  
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!  
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore.

*James E Seddon (1915-1983)*

*© The Representatives of the late James Edward Seddon/Admin by The Jubilate Group*

## **The Blessing of the City and Diocese**

*The congregation remains standing and turns to face the West Doors which are opened wide.*

*Bishop Mark says*

God bless this City, its homes and its people,  
its commerce and industry,  
its places of healing and places of learning;  
God bless this Diocese, its towns and villages,  
its parishes and churches.

May God visit you with his mercy,  
surround you with his love  
and fill your hearts  
with courage, strength and peace,  
now and in all the days to come.

**Amen.**

*Graham Eccles, plays*

'Prelude' to the Te Deum

*Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)*

*All are asked to remain in their seats until the processions have left the Cathedral; sidespeople will direct members of the congregation to leave at appropriate times.*

*A retiring collection is taken for the Diocese of Chester Family Charitable Trust, please give generously as you leave the Cathedral.*

***Please remember to social distance when outside the Cathedral***