

The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary & St Dominic, The Rosary Shrine

Southampton Road, London, NW5 4LB



Choral Scholarships 2024

Salary: **£3575 per annum**, beginning immediately

The Scheme

The Rosary Shrine is seeking competent Catholic singers of all voice types (SATB) to enhance the Sunday liturgies by augmenting the existing voluntary choirs. One choir sings weekly for the **12pm New Rite Mass (English)** and another choir sings monthly at the **5pm Dominican Old Rite Mass**. Both choirs enjoy a varied repertoire of Gregorian and Dominican plainchant and sacred polyphony, as well as cantor-led congregational singing, equipping scholars with singing and leadership skills applicable to a variety of liturgical settings.

These scholarships are for singers of any age (including sixth-form school leavers) who are confident in solo and choral singing as well as committed, reliable, and enthusiastic about Catholic sacred music. Excellent sight-singing skills are essential and previous experience is preferable but not necessary.

The Parish

Established in 1883 and served by the Dominican Friars, the Parish runs a lively schedule with five public Sunday Masses, in addition to daily Mass, Lauds, Vespers, and Eucharistic Adoration throughout the week. In addition to monthly Rosary Processions, formation talks and scriptural study groups, the Dominicans also host England's largest Catholic radio station, Radio Maria. In 2016, the church received the status of Archdiocesan Rosary Shrine.

Unlike any other parish in London, Our Lady of the Rosary and St Dominic offers the Mass daily in the New Rite (English) as well as weekly in the Dominican Old Rite (Latin). The preservation of the Church's patrimony through this ancient usage is important to the Friars and continues to attract many younger parishioners.

It has a spacious acoustic and one of the finest historically important organs in the country, built by 'Father' Henry Willis. The entire building has been restored and refurbished over the past two decades, drawing Catholics from all over London to witness its unique 14 side chapels (dedicated to each mystery of the Rosary) as well as an ornate Lady Chapel where concerts are sometimes held. In addition, the Shrine also hosts organ recitals and welcomes choirs and ensembles (both amateur and professional) to use the space. Martin Stacey as Director of Music since 2000, is an international concert organist and composer and directs the weekly 12pm Masses as well as running the concert schedule. Rachael Shipard is a concert pianist and church musician who runs the monthly choir at the 5pm Dominican Rite Mass. Both are available to offer support and training as required.

Choral Scholar Responsibilities

Scholars would be expected to attend the two livestreamed Sunday Liturgies:

- **12 pm Mass** (New Rite, weekly), and
- **4:45pm Benediction** immediately followed by **5 pm Mass** (Dominican Old Rite, monthly, 3rd Sunday of the month)

For the 12pm Mass, rehearsals begin at 11am and for the monthly **Dominican Rite, at 3:30pm**. Scholars must also be available for all services during the Paschal Triduum (April 17-19) and Christmas (Dec 24-25) periods. Any additional Masses will be compensated at **£55 per service**. The atmosphere is friendly and

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professional. Everyone is there to enjoy the beautiful music, share the joy of singing together for the liturgies, and make good friends.

Auditions

Auditions will be held prior to a Dominican Rite Mass choir rehearsal. You will be asked to sing a choral part agreed with you in advance and to sight-sing a piece of Renaissance polyphony with piano accompaniment, following which you will stay for the rehearsal and sing at the Mass to experience the format of the liturgy. Plainchant will be taught over time if you do not already have previous knowledge.

To apply, please email Rachael Shipard at rachaelshipard@gmail.com, copying in Martin Stacey (Director of Music) at festivaldirector@gmail.com, stating your interest and any background information about your experience to date.