



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of Musicians

16 – 17 August 2025

This weekend, we celebrate the Jubilee of Musicians, giving thanks for the gift of music and the talented individuals who use their gifts to glorify God and enrich our lives. We honour their creativity, their dedication, and the way they bring us closer to the divine through the beauty of sound. Musicians, with their instruments, voices, and compositions, help elevate our prayers, strengthen our communities, and inspire our hearts.

Today, we give thanks for the musicians who lead us in worship, provide comfort, and foster joy through their art. May they continue to be blessed with inspiration and grace as they share their gifts with the world.

Prayers

Example prayers of the faithful

For musicians, that they may facilitate music that brings glory to God and joy to their communities. May their music become the instrument that brings people together to build up communities that foster faith, hope, and charity. **E te Ariki ...**

We pray for our musicians: that they are filled with the Holy Spirit, and their music may be instruments of God's love and grace. May their songs touch the hearts of those who hear, bringing them closer to God. **E te Ariki ...**

Other prayers for Musicians

Prayer to Saint Cecilia (patron saint of musicians)

O glorious Saint, who chose to die
instead of denying your King.
We pray you please to help us
as His fair praise we sing!
We lift our hearts in joyous song
to honour Him this way.
And while we sing, remembering
to sing is to doubly pray.





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At once in our hearts and our
tongues we offer double prayer
Sent heavenward on winged notes
to praise God dwelling there.
While with our hearts and tongues
we try with song to praise God twice.
We ask dear Saint to help us be
united close with Christ!

From <https://www.catholicfaithstore.com/daily-bread/prayers-saint-cecilia/?srsltid=AfmBOopTqvnxpDzFfp1YzcsKquhYoaTrUfzKwbB4n8jmgFlhQvn4Mqox>

Blessing of Musicians

Loving Father,
we give You praise and glory for all Your gifts:
You have called us to follow Your Son Jesus,
You have invited us to be Your people of praise.
Father, we give You honour and glory.

In Your love for Your Church
You have given the gift of musical ability
to these men and women of faith.
Bless them as they use their talents for Your glory
and for the good of Your holy people.
Give them strength to continue their efforts
to lead Your Church in song and music.
Fill them with joy
as they carry out their ministry of praise.

Heavenly Father,
we give You praise through Christ Your Son
in the love of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

From <https://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english/p01115.htm>





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Reflection on the Jubilee of Musicians

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the week of 16 – 17 August 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.

“To sing is to pray twice”. This quote from St. Augustine has often been in my mind over the years. What does it mean?

To me it means that when we sing our spirits are uplifted to proclaim and praise God, which inspires and unifies those singing and the assembly.

Singing solo and with choirs has been a big part of my life. As a twelve-year-old I remember how certain I was that St Cecilia, patron saint of singers was to be my Confirmation name. Her feast day is November 22nd which coincides with the date chosen to celebrate the Jubilee of Choirs in 2025.

I came to the music ministry many years ago when as a young mother I felt drawn by a voice in my head to share my talents. I feel sure it was the Holy Spirit giving me a nudge!

At that time our music resources were somewhat limited especially psalm settings. We had a real desire to ensure the responsorial psalm appropriately matched to the readings of the day.

In the early 1990s with the blessing of the bishop, a small group of us attended an international liturgical music convention in Melbourne. We attended workshops led by composers and musicians from USA, UK and Australia and were able to source psalm settings and contemporary music to bring back to our parish. This was the catalyst for growth giving us confidence in moving forward musically and vocally and we greatly appreciated the opportunity.

Music is a joyful form of prayer and singing adds beauty to our liturgy. The gift of vocal music enables us to praise God through song in such a way as to enhance the worship experience of others. Through the power of the Holy Spirit music ministry brings richness to the Mass by supporting and encouraging the active participation of the assembly through song and response. This is shown particularly in the singing of the psalms during Sunday Mass.

In a choir many voices come together to create a unique sound, resulting in feelings of connection beneficial to one’s sense of well-being. I have found this to be true and have enjoyed choral singing very much over the years. At times of significance and celebration in our Cathedral, e.g. the ordination of priests and bishops, Mass of the Oils etc. singing with others is a real joy.

It has been and continues to be a privilege and a blessing to be involved in the music ministry. It was a real leap of faith to take the step to come forward and share my talents all those years ago. I encourage anyone out there who is blessed with the talent of music or voice to share your





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gift. With the Holy Spirit on one shoulder and St Cecilia on the other giving confidence and strength you will be awesome!!

“Sing with your voices, your hearts, your lips and your lives; Sing to the Lord a new song.”

Janice Keenan

Music Ministry member at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the provided prayers of the faithful or write your own**
Tailor prayers to celebrate the talents of musicians and ask for God’s continued blessings on their work. Pray for their creativity, inspiration, and for music to remain a powerful tool for spreading the Gospel.
- **Host a special mass or liturgy with music led by musicians**
Organise a Mass where musicians from your community lead the music, highlighting their contributions to the life of the Church. Invite them to perform hymns, contemporary Christian songs, or instrumental pieces.
- **Organise a concert or musical event**
Hold a concert showcasing the musical talents of local musicians. This could be a classical music performance, a gospel choir, or even a contemporary Christian music event, bringing the community together in celebration.
- **Organise a praise and worship event**
Host a dynamic praise and worship event where music becomes the heart of the prayer experience. Include live performances of uplifting songs, hymns, and contemporary worship music, allowing the congregation to join in song and praise. Incorporate moments of reflection and silent prayer, using music to invite deeper connection with God and foster a spirit of worship and community.
- **Encourage the community to join the music ministry**
Use the Jubilee to invite more people to become involved in the music ministry. Announce opportunities for people to join the choir, serve as instrumentalists, or help with sound and technical aspects of worship services.

