VESPERS
in honour of
HILDEGARD OF BINGEN
Doctor of the Church

St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne,
Sunday 21st October, 6.00 pm
WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Nobilissima Viriditas

O most noble greenness, rooted in the sun,
shining forth in streaming splendour upon the wheel of the earth;
no earthly sense or being can comprehend you.
You are encircled by the very arms of Divine mysteries.
You are radiant like the red of dawn.
You glow like the incandescence of the sun!

(Hildegard)

HILDEGARD IS PROCLAIMED A DOCTOR OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Extracts from Apostolic Letter: St Hildegard of Bingen and from Homily of Pope Benedict XVI (7 October 2012)

PROCESSION AND LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Kneel/Sit

Refrain (following the invocation of the saints as directed by the Cantor)

All

All you ho - ly men and wom-en pray for us.

Last time: Holy Women, Doctors of the Church, pray for us!
LIGHT SERVICE

PROCLAMATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

Stand

Cantor: Rejoice, O people of God, the true light is present among us.

Let us live in the Light.

FESTAL EVENING HYMN

IESU, CORONA VIRGINUM
Now let us all our voices raise
to sing that holy woman's praise
Whose name with heavenly glory bright
Shines in the eternal realms of light.

Through suffering by the Spirit led
With prayer her hungering soul she fed
And strong in faith and patience, trod
The narrow path that leads to God.

O Christ the strength of all the strong
To whom alone high deeds belong
Like her, may we attend your call
To serve and love you best of all.

To you, Lord Jesus, glory be
In whom we hope eternally
That we may gain our true reward
And be forever with the Lord.

**PSALMODY**

**PSALM 135**

*Antiphon:*

*O current of power permeating all!*
*From you clouds Overflow, winds take wing,*
*stones Store up moisture,*
*waters well forth in streams,*
*and earth swells with living green.* (Hildegard)

*O give thanks to the Lord for you are good,*
Give thanks to the God of gods,
Give thanks to the Source of all Being,

You alone have wrought marvellous works,
Great is your love, love without end.
Your wisdom it was made the skies,
Great is your love, love without end.
You fixed the earth firmly on the seas,
Great is your love, love without end.

It was you who made the great lights,
Great is your love, love without end.
The sun to rule in the day,
Great is your love, love without end.
the moon and stars in the night,
Great is your love, love without end.

You give food to all living things,
Great is your love, love without end.
All peoples shall sing of your praise,
Great is your love, love without end.
To the God of Heaven give thanks,
Great is your love, love without end.
A READING FROM HILDEGARD ON CREATION
Earth has in it the greenness of all things that are born

Pause for silent prayer

Presider:

For Mother Earth
containing moisture and greenness and shoots
we praise you, sustaining God.
For your wisdom that made the skies
and the living green of the earth and all its elements
we praise you, sustaining God.
inflame us with your divine energy,
that we might befriend all that you have made,
and, with Hildegard and all the saints,
sing your praise for ever. Amen.

---- (GREECE) ----

PSALM 90/91
O Word of the Father
You are the light of the first dawn
in the sphere of the circle,
accomplishing all things with your divine power. (Hildegard)

Antiphon

Cantor then All

In Wisdom’s face
is the
radiance of Divinity.
You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High
and abide in the shade of the Almighty
say to the Lord: My Refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust. Ant.

It is you who will free us from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to destroy us
you who will conceal us with your pinions
and under your wings we will find refuge. Ant.

We will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon. Ant.

Upon us no evil shall fall
No plague approach where we dwell
For you have commanded your angels
to keep us in all your ways. Ant.

Since we cling to you in love, you will free us
protect us for we know your name
When we call you shall answer: I am with you
I will save you in distress and give you glory. Ant.

Give praise to the Father Almighty
to his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts
both now and forever. Amen. Ant.

A READING FROM HILDEGARD ON WISDOM
She who is Holy Spirit-Wisdom is with all and in all

Pause for silent prayer
Under your wings we find shelter, O Divine Wisdom.  
You watch over all people  
and all things in heaven and on earth.  
O Holy Spirit of Wisdom,  
shine your radiance upon us;  
be our safe dwelling place  
always and everywhere. Amen.

CANTICLE OF HILDEGARD

_Virtus Sapientiae_  
_O moving force of Wisdom encompassing all that is,  
all that has life, in one vast circle._  
_You have three wings:  
the first unfurls aloft in the highest heights;  
The second dips its way dripping sweat on the earth;  
Over, under, and through all things whirls the third.  
Praise to you, O Wisdom, worthy of praise!_

Pause for silent prayer.

SCRIPTURE

*A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION 22:1-7*  
The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations

Pause for silent prayer
RESPONSORY
From the tree of life, comes abundant fruit.

ALL From the tree of life, comes abundant fruit.
And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
ALL From the tree of life, comes abundant fruit.
All honour to God, the Giver of Life, to Christ the Risen One, and to the Spirit, Bond of Love.

ALL From the tree of life, comes abundant fruit.

CANTICLE OF MARY
Festal Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. Alleluia!
The Almighty works marvels for me; Holy his name! Alleluia!
His mercy is from age to age on those who fear him. Alleluia!
He puts forth his arm in strength; and scatters the proud hearted. Alleluia!
He casts the mighty from their thrones; and raises the lowly. Alleluia!
He fills the starving with good things; sends the rich away empty. Alleluia!
He protects Israel, his servant; remembering his mercy. Alleluia!
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Cantor: For this we pray:
ALL: Our hope is in you, O God!

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER
Ever-faithful God
as we pray before you in the peace of eventide,
we ask for the grace always to ponder in our hearts
your wondrous ways,
as Mary of Nazareth,
and Hildegard, Doctor of the Church,
also pondered.
Following their model,
may we grow in spiritual wisdom
and bear witness to it in our lives.
May all be done in the name of Christ Jesus,
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

Sit
HYMN OF HILDEGARD TO MARY, GREENEST BRANCH
O Viridissima Virga

Hail, O greenest branch, sprung forth in the airy breezes of the prayers of the saints.
So the time has come that your sprays have flourished:
hail, hail to you,
because the heat of the sun has exuded from you like the aroma of balm.
For the beautiful flower sprung from you which gave all parched perfumes their aroma.
And they have radiated anew in their full freshness.
Whence the skies bestowed dew upon the pasture and all the earth was made joyful because her womb brought forth corn, and because the birds of the firmament built their nests in her.

Then there was harvest ready for Man and a great rejoicing of banqueters whence, O sweet Virgin, no joy is lacking in you.
Eve rejected all these things Now let there be praise to the Highest!

HILDEGARD SPEAKS TO THE MODERN WORLD

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

Presider:
O Trinity, you are music, you are life. All of creation is a symphony of the Holy Spirit. (Hildegard)
Bless us, O Abba God, ignite in us the brilliance of your light. Amen.

Bless us, O Beloved Son, touch us with your enduring strength. Amen.

Bless us, O Holy Spirit, burn ardently in the minds and hearts of all. Amen.

And now, with the music and words of Hildegard ringing in our ears, and her memory warm in our hearts, let us go forth to carry the Divine Energy of the Trinity into our world.

Organ Postlude All are invited to process from the cathedral

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Prayers by Margaret Smith SGS, Deirdre Browne ibvm, Katharine Massam, 2012.

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