



St. Mary's Priory Church, located in the centre of Warrington, is recognised as having one of the leading church choirs in the north west. The choir – and indeed the whole church – prides itself in continuing this ancient tradition that is part of our nation's cultural heritage.

Having a son or daughter who is a chorister is a considerable commitment for the whole family, but there are great rewards. For a start, the choir is a lively, enthusiastic and friendly group, which fosters a great sense of

teamwork and celebrates its achievements.

#### When does the choir sing?

There are rehearsals on Thursday evenings, and the choir sings 11am High Mass on Sundays. There are additional services around Christmas and Easter, but generally the choir holidays reflect those of schools.

#### What does the choir offer my son/daughter?

Singing at St Mary's provides a wonderful musical education: Training is given by professional musicians in all aspects of music and music theory. There is the opportunity for choristers to receive singing and piano lessons from a professional teacher, which could lead to Associated Board exams. There are also the associated skills that are learned by singing in a choir: the ability to concentrate for long periods; self-control and self-discipline; motivation; introduction to foreign languages and the understanding of great texts and great music. These are all



things that will enhance a child's overall academic achievement. In addition, there are parties, days out and fun trips, and there is the opportunity for the choristers to let off some steam after the Thursday rehearsal in the Choir Club.



#### Choir Tours

The choir usually tours each year – either to a cathedral, or other venues for concerts. In the past the choir has visited many Cathedrals, including St. Asaph, Chester, Liverpool Anglican, Liverpool Metropolitan, as well as singing in other local Churches. In the past the choir has also recorded several times and has been heard on local, national and world-wide radio and television.



#### Does it matter which school my son/daughter attends?

No – Choristers are drawn from many different schools in the local area. The church maintains excellent relations with these schools, and head teachers are made aware of the choir's activities.

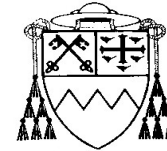
#### How do we apply?

We are looking for new choristers from age six upwards who are keen to sing and eager to learn. Joining the choir is by invitation, following a short, informal audition. During the audition, we will consider the following key points:

- musical and vocal potential
- interest and enthusiasm
- good reading skills

All choristers follow a carefully planned training pattern, resulting in a series of medals which can be worked towards, starting with the red ribbon, and after a few years the prestigious Gold Award.

To arrange an audition, or if you have any other questions about the choir, please contact the Director of Music.



Ampleforth Abbey

ST. MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH  
BUTTERMARKET STREET, WARRINGTON WA1 2NS

# Could your son or daughter be a chorister?

The Director of Music Mr Michael Wynne  
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St. Mary's Warrington is committed to providing a safe and caring environment for all. The Church has a child protection policy that follows national guidelines. Our aim is to ensure that the mandatory procedural guidelines and Safeguarding principles instituted by the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission and the CSAS (Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service) are observed and adhered to.

This ensures that every care is taken to protect your child. Our child protection policy stresses the importance of safe recruitment including CRB checks of all volunteers and employees as well as the maintenance of a safe physical environment.

