



## SOLEMN MASS

with Blessing of Palms and Procession

Principal Celebrant  
The Most Reverend Richard Moth  
Archbishop of Westminster

Sung by the Choir of Westminster Cathedral

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

29 March 2026 11.30am

## WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

The Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood, known as Westminster Cathedral, is the largest and the most important Roman Catholic church in England and Wales.

It is the seat of the Archbishop of Westminster; a house of prayer where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are celebrated daily, and a Catholic presence at the heart of our country.

The building, the masterwork of John Francis Bentley, was inspired by the early Christian Byzantine style and opened for public worship in 1903. It is an architectural gem with its interior notable for rich marble decorations and the beautiful, but still incomplete, mosaics.

It was the wish of Cardinal Vaughan, whose energy and vision did so much to bring the dream of a Roman Catholic cathedral in London to reality, that the dignity of the building should be matched by nobility of liturgy and the best of music. The choral tradition of Westminster Cathedral remains central to its worship and mission, and the Cathedral Choir sings daily for much of the year.

We hope that you will participate fully in this Mass, and that – along with so many others – you will experience the presence of God in this holy place.

Donations towards the work of the Cathedral  
can be left in the collection boxes provided  
or at the contactless donation points.

You can also continue to support the Cathedral  
through the donation  
button on our website  
[www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk)  
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The Cathedral's sound system is fitted with a  
hearing loop.  
To use the hearing loop, switch your hearing aid  
on to the hearing loop setting.

**You are kindly asked to note that the use of mobile phones, private cameras,  
video or sound recording equipment is not permitted in the Cathedral.  
PLEASE CHECK NOW THAT YOUR MOBILE PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF.**

# LITURGY OF PALMS

*As the procession enters Cathedral Hall the Choir sings:*

## ANTIPHON

Hosánna filio David: benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Rex Israë! Hosánna in excélsis. ✠ Confitémini Dómino quóniam bonus, quóniam in sæculum misericórdia eius.

*Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. ✠ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever.*

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Archbishop:* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, ✠  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All:* **Amen.**

Peace be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Dear brothers and sisters,  
since the beginning of Lent until now  
we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works.  
Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church  
the beginning of the celebration  
of our Lord's Paschal Mystery,  
that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection.  
For it was to accomplish this mystery  
that he entered his own city of Jerusalem.  
Therefore, with all faith and devotion,  
let us commemorate  
the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation,  
following in his footsteps,  
so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross,  
we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

*All raise their palm branches for blessing.*

## BLESSING OF PALM BRANCHES

*Archbishop:* Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,  
sanctify ✠ these branches with your blessing,  
that we, who follow Christ the King in exultation,  
may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*The palm branches are sprinkled with holy water.*

## GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

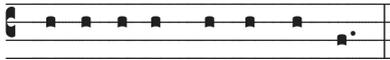
*At the conclusion of the Gospel:*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PROCESSION



*Archbishop:* Pro-ce-dá-mus in pa-ce.  
*Let us go forth in peace.*



*All respond:* **In nó-mi-ne Chri-sti. A-men.**  
*In the name of Christ. Amen.*

*The Choir, Servers, Concelebrants and the Archbishop, followed by the people, process from the Cathedral Hall to the Cathedral.*

***Please remain in your place until invited to move and join the procession by the stewards.***

All sing:

## HYMN

*All glory, laud, and honour  
To thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Thou art the King of Israel,<br>Thou David's royal Son,<br>Who in the Lord's name comest,<br>The King and blessèd One. | 3 | The people of the Hebrews<br>With palms before thee went;<br>Our praise and prayer and anthems<br>Before thee we present.       |
| 2 | The company of Angels<br>Are praising thee on high,<br>And mortal men and all things<br>Created make reply.            | 4 | To thee before thy Passion<br>They sang their hymns of praise;<br>To thee now high exalted,<br>Our melody we raise.             |
|   | 5  |   | Thou didst accept their praises,<br>Accept the prayers we bring,<br>Who in all good delightest,<br>Thou good and gracious King. |

*St Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821)  
Tr John Mason Neale (1818–66)*

*St Theodulph  
Melchior Teschner (1584–1635)*

## HYMN

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Ride on, ride on in majesty!<br>Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry;<br>Thy humble beast pursues his road<br>With palms and scattered garments strowed. | 3 | Ride on, ride on in majesty!<br>The wingèd squadrons of the sky<br>Look down with sad and wondering eyes<br>To see the approaching sacrifice. |
| 2 | Ride on, ride on in majesty!<br>In lowly pomp ride on to die:<br>O Christ, thy triumphs now begin<br>O'er captive death and conquered sin.           | 4 | Ride on, ride on in majesty!<br>Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;<br>The Father, on his sapphire throne,<br>Expects his own anointed Son. |
|   | 5  |   | Ride on, ride on in majesty!<br>In lowly pomp ride on to die;<br>Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,<br>Then take, O God, thy power and reign.  |

*Henry Milman (1791–1868)*

*Winchester New  
Musicalisches Hand-Buch Hamburg 1690  
adapted William Henry Havergal (1793–1870)*

The Choir sings:

## ANTIPHON

Púeri Hebræórum, portántes ramos olivárum, obviavérunt Dómino, clamántes et dicéntes: Hosánna in excélsis. ¶ Dómini est terra et plenitúdo eius, orbis terrárum et qui hábitant in eo. Quia ipse super mária fundávit eum, et super flúmina firmávit eum. Quis ascéndet in montem Dómini, aut quis stabit in loco sancto eius?

*The children of Jerusalem welcomed Christ the King. They carried olive branches and loudly praised the Lord; 'Hosanna in the highest.' ¶ The earth is the Lord's and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord, and who shall stand in his holy place?*

Verses from Psalm 23 (24)

Plainsong

As the procession enters the Cathedral the Choir sings:

## RESPONSORY

Ingrediénte Dómino in sanctam civitátem, Hebræórum púeri resurrectionem vitæ pronuntiántes, cum ramis palmárum: 'Hosánna', clamábant, 'in excélsis.' Cumque audísset pópulus, quod Iesus veníret Ierosólymam, exiérunt óbviám ei, cum ramis palmárum: 'Hosánna', clamábant, 'in excélsis.'

*As the Lord entered the Holy City, the children of the Hebrews proclaimed the resurrection of life, and, waving olive branches, they loudly praised the Lord: 'Hosanna in the highest!' When the people heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem, they went to meet him, and, waving olive branches, they loudly praised the Lord: 'Hosanna in the highest!'*

George Malcolm (1917–97)  
Master of Music 1947–59

*Please follow the procession up the central aisle of the Cathedral. When you take your seat, please lower your kneeler in preparation for the singing of the Passion of our Lord.*

*All remain standing as the Archbishop venerates and incenses the altar.*

## COLLECT

Archbishop: Almighty ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow  
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,  
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering  
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

All sit.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 21

All sing the antiphon, repeating after the Choir:



**De-us, De-us me-us: qua-re me de-re- li- quí-sti?**

*My God, my God:*

*why have you forsaken me?*

Longe a salúte mea verba delictórum meórum. ✠

*My words of sin have drawn me far from salvation.*

Deus meus clamábo per diem, nec exáudies:

in nocte, et non ad insipiéntiam mihi. ✠

*O my God, I call by day and you give no reply;*

*I call by night and not without reason.*

Tu autem in sancto hábitas, laus Israel. ✠

*Yet, you dwell in the sanctuary; you are the praise of Israel.*

### SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

The Choir sings:

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Christus factus est pro nobis obédiens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.

✠ Propter quod et Deus exaltávit illum, et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.

*Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. ✠ Therefore God has exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.*

*Felice Anerio (1560–1614)*

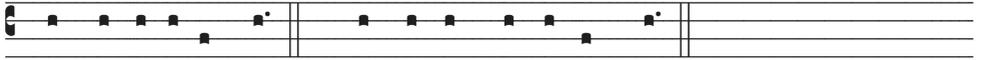
All stand.

GOSPEL  
Matthew 27:11-54

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

after Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

All kneel at the death of Our Lord.



☩ The Gospel of the Lord. ☩ Praise to you, Lord Je-sus Christ.

All sit.

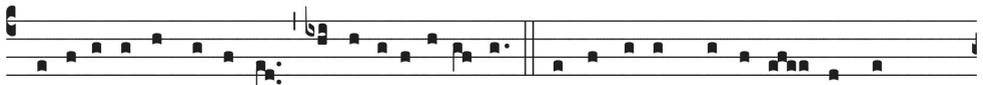
HOMILY  
Archbishop Richard Moth

All stand and sing:

PROFESSION OF FAITH



Cre-do in un-um De-um, Patrem omni-po-téntem, factórem cæ-li et terræ,



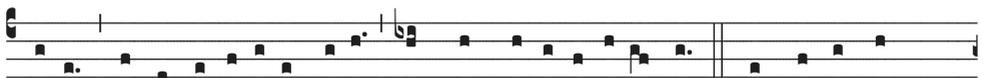
vi-si-bí-li-um ómni-um, et in-vi-si-bí-li-um. Et in unum Dómi-num le-sum



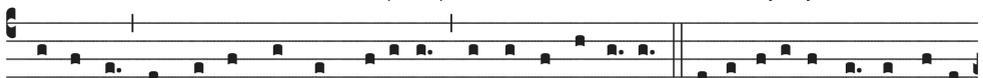
Christum, Fí-li-um De-i u-ni-gé-ni-tum. Et ex Patre natum ante ómni-a sæcu-la.



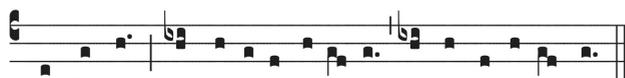
De-um de De-o, lumen de lúmi-ne, De-um verum de De-o ve-ro. Gé-ni-tum, non



factum, consubstanti-á-lem Patri: per quem ómni-a facta sunt. Qui propter nos



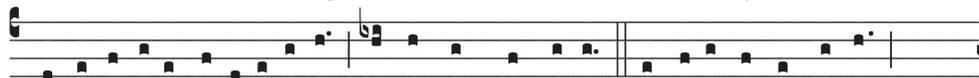
hó-mi-nes, et propter nostram salútem descéndit de cælis. Et incarnátus est de Spi-ri-



tu Sancto ex Ma-ri-a Vir-gi-ne: Et homo factus est.

*The Choir sings:*

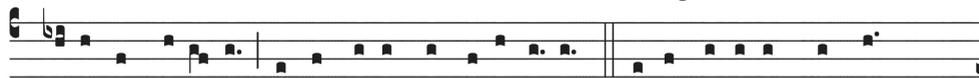
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis:  
sub Póntio Piláto passus,  
et sepúltus est.



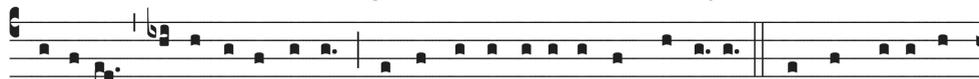
Et re-surréxit térti-a di-e, se-cúndum Scriptú-ras. Et ascéndit in cælum:



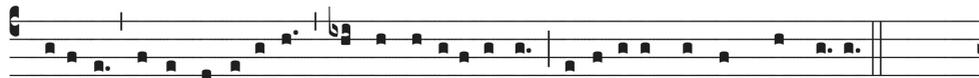
sedet ad dèxte-ram Patris. Et í-terum ventúrus est cum gló-ri-a, iu-di-cá-re



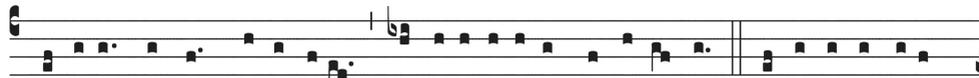
vivos et mórtu-os: cu-ius regni non e-rit fi-nis. Et in Spí-ri-tum Sanctum,



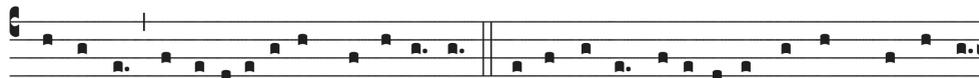
Dóminum, et vi-vi-fi-cántem: qui ex Patre Fi-li-ó-que procédit. Qui cum Patre et



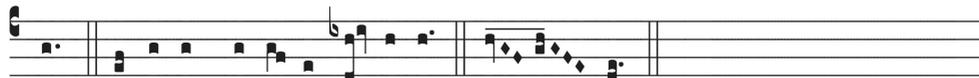
Fí-li-o simul a-dorá-tur, et conglori-fi-cá-tur: qui locú-tus est per Prophé-tas.



Et unam sanctam cathó-licam et apostó-li-cam Ecclé-si-am. Confí-te-or unum



baptísma in remissi-ó-nem pecca-tó-rum. Et exspécto resurrecti-ó-nem mortu-ó-



rum. Et vi-tam ventú-ri sée-cu-li. A- men.

*Credo I*

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*All sit.*

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Choir sings:*

## OFFERTORY MOTET

Ne irascáris Dómine satis, et ne ultra meminéris iniquitátis nostræ. Ecce réspice pópulus tuus omnes nos.

*O Lord, confine your anger, and do not remember our wrongdoings for ever. Look on your people, look on us all.*

*William Byrd (1539/40-1623)*

*All stand when the thurifer reaches the Sanctuary steps, facing the congregation.*

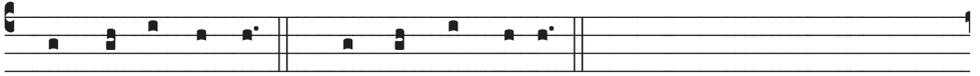
*Archbishop:* Pray, brothers and sisters,  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

*Archbishop:* Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,  
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,  
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,  
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,  
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

PREFACE  
The Passion of the Lord



∩: The Lord be with you. ∩: **And with your spi-rit.**



∩: Lift up your hearts. ∩: **We lift them up to the Lord.**



∩: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ∩: **It is right and just.**

*Archbishop:* It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For, though innocent, he suffered willingly for sinners  
and accepted unjust condemnation to save the guilty.  
His Death has washed away our sins,  
and his Resurrection has purchased our justification.

And so, with all the Angels,  
we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

*All remain standing to sing:*

SANCTUS



San- ctus, \* San- ctus, San- ctus Dómi-nus De- us Sá- ba-oth. Ple-ni sunt cæ- li



et ter- ra gló-ri- a tu- a. Ho- sán-na in ex-cél-sis. Be-ne-díctus qui ve-nit



in nó-mi-ne Dómi-ni. Ho- sán-na in ex-cél-sis.

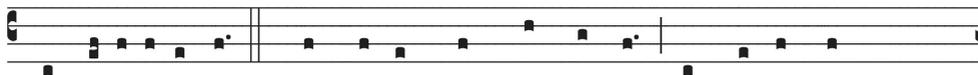
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*All kneel.*

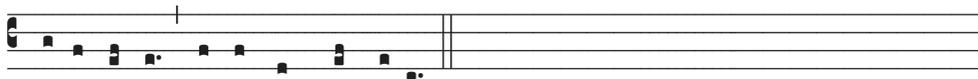
*Plainsong Mass XVII*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



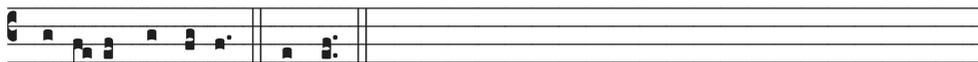
The mystery of faith. **℟:** We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your



Res-urrection un-til you come again.

### DOXOLOGY

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father; in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,



for ev-er and ev-er. **℟:** A-men.

*All stand.*

### COMMUNION RITE

Præcéptis salutáribus mónti, et dívina institutióne formáti, audémus dícere:

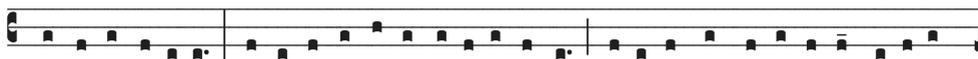
*At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:*



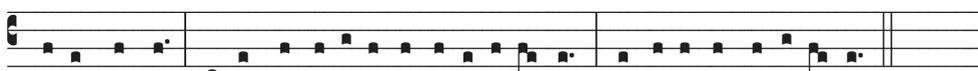
Pa-ter noster, qui es in cælis: sancti-fi-cé-tur nomen tuum; advéni-at regnum



tu-um; fi-at volúntas tu-a, sicut in cæ-lo et in terra. Panem nostrum coti-di-ánum



da nobis hód-i-e; et dimít-te nobis débi-ta nostra, sicut et nos dimít-timus debi-tó-



ribus nostris; et ne nos indúcas in tenta-ti-ó-nem; sed lí-be-ra nos a ma-lo.

*Archbishop:* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with your spirit.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*The Choir sings:*

### AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: miserére nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: miserére nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.*

*Mass for four voices  
William Byrd*

*All kneel.*

Archbishop: Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.  
**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

*Those who are not Roman Catholic, or do not wish to receive Holy Communion, are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Crossing your arms across your chest will indicate to the minister that you wish to receive a blessing.*

### COMMUNION MOTET

*Cívitas sancti tui facta est desérta. Sion desérta facta est. Ierúsalem desoláta est.*

*Your holy city has been deserted. Sion has been deserted. Jerusalem has been left desolate.*

*William Byrd*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Pater, si non potest hic calix transíre, nisi bibam illum: fiat volúntas tua.*

*Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink it, thy will be done.*

*All sing:*

### POSTCOMMUNION HYMN

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 O sacred head, sore wounded,<br>Defiled and put to scorn;<br>O kingly head, surrounded<br>With mocking crown of thorn:<br>What sorrow mars thy grandeur?<br>Can death thy bloom deflower?<br>O countenance whose splendour<br>The hosts of heaven adore. | 3 In thy most bitter passion<br>My heart to share doth cry,<br>With thee for my salvation<br>Upon the Cross to die.<br>Ah, keep my heart thus movèd<br>To stand thy Cross beneath,<br>To mourn thee, well-belovèd,<br>Yet thank thee for thy death. |
| 2 Thy beauty, long-desirèd,<br>Hath vanished from our sight;<br>Thy power is all expirèd,<br>And quenched the light of light.<br>Ah me! For whom thou diest,<br>Hide not so far thy grace:<br>Show me, O Love most highest,<br>The brightness of thy face. | 4 My days are few, O fail not,<br>With thine immortal power,<br>To hold me, that I quail not<br>In death's most fearful hour:<br>That I may fight befriended,<br>And see in my last strife<br>To me thine arms extended<br>Upon the Cross of life.  |

*Paul Gerhardt (1607–76)  
tr. Robert Bridges (1844–1930)*

*Passion Chorale  
Harmonised by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

*All stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Archbishop:* Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that, just as through the death of your Son  
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,  
so by his Resurrection  
you may lead us to where you call.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Archbishop:* The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**  
Bow down for the blessing.  
Look, we pray, O Lord, on this your family,  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ  
did not hesitate to be delivered into the hands of the wicked  
and submit to the agony of the Cross.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**  
And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.  
**Amen.**  
Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The procession leaves the Sanctuary in silence.*

*Please exit the Cathedral via the main West Door, or the side door to Ambrosden Avenue.*

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