



The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(12th October 2025)



Dear Parishioners

When I was in seminary, I think I can safely say that life there was not preparing me for parish life. It was a life of studies, prayer and the opportunity to live in and explore Rome. Although it might not have always felt like it at the time it was a blessed time. I remember laughing with one of the spiritual directors that getting ready for Mass there was nothing like it would be in a parish. It was all laid out for us, and there was even a sacristan to open the door for us to go from the sacristy in the chapel for the beginning of Mass. Sacristans are worth their weight in gold, and I am grateful to those who prepare our churches for our worship and to those who clean the linens and vessels.

Another way that seminary life does not quite prepare you for parish life, is that you don't really get taught all about practical stuff (although we did have a short course called 'parish practicalities'. Being a priest is not just about saying Mass and hearing confessions. Yes I love the pastoral aspect of my ministry, but there are times when I have sleepless nights about things in the parish.

Over the last couple of weeks we have had our annual Health and Safety inspections. Fire equipment has been renewed, boilers have been checked and serviced, and we will receive the full report in the coming weeks. One of the things that has kept me awake is the worry about boilers. They are safe but two boilers (one in each church) are on their last legs. These are expenses which we can't really afford.

As well as health and safety, another headache is finance. I was recently asked why the church was always going on about money nowadays (when it didn't seem to do in the past). The simple answer is that we have to pay the bills! Before we even open our doors, both parishes have outgoing expenses. We have our diocesan assessment which contributes to the cost of central services within the diocese (this is worked out on the amount of money that we receive through assessable income - which is basically the money that comes in the general collection). We have insurance to pay for and we have a monthly payment for all the Health and Safety that we have to have.

This is before we even put the heating on. We all know how expensive gas and electricity are and the last few years have been frightening. I am finding myself thinking "how long can we go without turning the church heating on?" I know we all probably think that.

We are all facing financial difficulties, one way or another, but I would want to ask you to consider how you give to our parishes. Each parish has to be self supporting. We have to pay our way. It's easy for people to think that the Vatican or the Diocese gives out money, but that is not the case. So why should we give?

Everything we have is a gift from God — our time, our talents, and our treasure. By giving back to our parish, we express gratitude for God's blessings and help continue the mission of the Church here at home. Your contributions make possible the celebration of the sacraments, the teaching of our faith, outreach to those in need, and the upkeep of our parish home. Each gift, no matter the size, is a sign of faith and a sharing in Christ's work. As Scripture reminds us, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

One of the things I am often told by people outside of the church is "the church should do it for free". That would be great if we didn't have to pay the bills. In the coming months we will have a planned giving campaign, but we are in an urgent situation where both parishes are in danger of running at a deficit. Perhaps you might like to review how you give to the church. Can you afford more? If not, remember the widow's offering - compared to the rich it looked like nothing, but it was costly. Do we give God our spare change? Or do we give more than that?

I would also encourage those who only put cash on the plate to consider setting up a standing order, as this helps our parish know what is coming in. If you do give regularly and are a tax payer, I would ask you to Gift Aid your donations as that means the government give 25% of your offering at no extra cost to you (as long as you've payed more tax than they give to us).

Thank you for your faithful generosity and for helping our parish remain a vibrant community of worship, service, and love.

With all my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tom

St Matthew's Church
32 Hallowell Road,
Northwood
HA6 1DW



You can make a
donation to either
parish by using the
appropriate QR code.



St Joseph's Church
111 Oxhey Drive,
Watford
WD19 7SW

Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.00am - 3.30pm

Parish Office Hours
Tuesday, Thursday: 9.30am - 3.30pm

Certificates of Catholic Practice

For those families who missed the signing sessions last month Fr Tom will have an extra session signing School Forms **This Friday (17th October)** between 4.00pm and - 5.30pm at St Matthew's. **This is for families from both parishes.** *Please contact the parish office to make an appointment.*

October Candlelit Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden,

This will take place at 7pm on Sunday 12th October 2025. Join the Pilgrims, the Community of Allen Hall Seminary, and the Westminster Vocations Team, and Bishop James Curry at this JUBILEE OF HOPE VOCATIONS EVENT to ask Our Lady's intercession for the gift of Priests for the Church. The Shrine is situated at 1 Nicoll Road, London NW10 9AX. Bakerloo Line & Overground (Mildmay Line) to Willesden Junction. Buses 18,187,206,220,226,228,260,266 & 487 all pass close by.

Holy Hour in Honour of Our Lady

This Sunday (12th October) at 4pm, in Holy Rood Church, Watford there will be a special Holy Hour. All are welcome.

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday

Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

Coffee After Mass

The parents of those children who are attending the First Holy Communion class have decided to organise coffee each Sunday after the 9.00am Mass whilst their children. All are welcome to come for a coffee and a chat.

Good Books

Our next Good Books meeting takes place on Wednesday on November 12th (7 pm, Fr Bebb Room) we'll be talking about **The Curfew** by **T M Logan**. What lengths would you go to if your teenager failed to come home after an evening out? If you can't make the meeting, join the conversation in the associated WhatsApp group by emailing your mobile number to mrsjulieshelton@gmail.com!"

Catholic Women's League

We are a small, happy group of friendly ladies, who meet at St Joseph's Church, on the second Monday of the month at 2pm. We are part of the Westminster branch of the CWL. We have tea, biscuits, a raffle and chat about events we are organising and participate in initiatives organised by the main CWL body. We would welcome any new members to our group, especially those from St Matthew's Church (Welcome to those who joined us this month). The next meeting is on Monday 13th October. (Entrance is using the side door of the church). For more details contact any of the following: Ann Farrell 07922 836030, Breda Griffin 07738 363932, Pauline James 07511 668812.

The annual **Over 60s Christmas Party** organised by the CWL will take place in the hall at St Joseph's on Saturday 29th November. Forms and details will be available at the back of church.

Save the Date

St Matthew's Christmas Fayre: Saturday 29 November, 11 am - 2 pm . Please start putting aside unwanted unused gifts and bottles to stock the stalls. Crafters, please could you make something for a craft stall? If you have an idea for a particular stall, game or activity you'd like to organise, please let us know. Watch this space for more information in due course!

Future dates for the diary

You may want to mark these dates in your diary - more information to follow.

Thursday 6th November Baptism Preparation Course.

Saturday 8th November. 2.00pm Blessing of Graves at Northwood

Saturday 15th November 2.00pm Blessing of Graves at Pinner New Cemetery

Saturday November 15th, Quiz Night at St Matthew's

Friday 21st November - Sunday 23rd November Quarant'ore (40 hours devotions) at St Matthew's

Planning to get Married?

If you are planning to get married then please speak to Fr Tom. If you are getting married elsewhere, you still need to get permission from the bishop. It is best to have the paperwork done within six months of the wedding. Please don't leave it until a couple of weeks before the wedding!

Children's Choir

One of the delights of St Joseph's school is the great singing. Fr Tom would like to begin a children's choir at the 11.00am Sunday morning Mass to enhance our worship. If your child is interested in singing in the choir, please contact the St Joseph's parish office and we will be in touch. Thank you to those who have already offered their services.

Going to Confession

This is an important aspect of our spiritual life as Catholics. It can be very easy to not make use of this wonderful sacrament, but there is a danger that we fall into a spiritual stupor that wraps us in sin. To make good use of this sacrament, it is always important to prepare well. Make a list of the things you may need to remember (although you don't have to list every minor sin) God forgives all those who have a contrite heart. Forgiveness is more than we might expect. Also remember that what is said in the confessional is secret. The priest cannot share with anyone what he has learnt about someone (if he does he would be excommunicated). The usual times in our parishes for confession are on the back of this newsletter. Please try and give yourself enough time. If you turn up a minute before confessions are due to end, the priest may not be able to hear your confession as he has to get ready for what is happening next. He can't keep the whole of the congregation waiting. If you are late, then ask the priest to hear your confession at a time that he is next available.

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem on the first phase of Gaza peace agreement

The following press release from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem was issued on Thursday, 9 October, in response to the news that Israel and Hamas have agreed to the first phase of a peace plan with a view to ending the war in Gaza.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem welcomes with joy the announcement of an agreement that envisages a cessation of the attacks in the Gaza Strip and the immediate release of the hostages, as well as that of Palestinian prisoners. The Patriarchate ardently hopes that this accord will be fully and faithfully implemented, so that it may mark the beginning of the end of this terrible war. It also stresses the absolute urgency of immediate humanitarian relief and the unconditional entry of sufficient aid to Gaza's suffering population. Above all, the Patriarchate prays that this step may open a path of healing and reconciliation for both Palestinians and Israelis.

His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, declared:

"It is good news, and we are very happy. It is a first step, the first phase. Of course, there are many others, and surely there will be other obstacles. But now we have to rejoice about this important step that will bring a little more trust for the future and also bring new hope, especially to the people, both Israeli and Palestinians."

"Now we finally see something new and different. Of course, there will also be a new atmosphere for the continuation of negotiation, also for all the life inside Gaza that will remain terrible for a long time. But now we are happy and we hope that this is just the beginning of a new phase where we can, little by little, start thinking not about war, but about how to rebuild after the war."

The Patriarchate commends the work of all those who have been involved in the negotiations and expresses appreciation for their tireless efforts in making this step possible.

In this sensitive time, the Patriarchate calls upon everyone to join us in the Day of Prayer for Peace declared by Pope Leo XIV on Saturday, 11 October. May the Lord have mercy on the Holy Land, and may He grant it peace.

Statement to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week 2025

Archbishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, and Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, have released the following statement to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week that runs from 9-15 October.

Baby Loss Awareness Week is a national initiative of remembrance taking place from 9-15 October. It is an opportunity to pause and acknowledge the deep sorrow suffered by parents who have experienced the loss of a baby, especially through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, or stillbirth and infant loss. Each of these losses involves the death of a small child and the parents need our compassion and support through their bereavement. It is an opportunity for prayer.

Many women and parents carry this painful loss silently. It is difficult to talk about, and the Church has also found this difficult. We invite parents to mark baby loss in meaningful ways: through prayer, memorials or liturgical remembrance and mass. These acts help affirm the dignity and innocence of the child and support you in your journey of grief and healing. We encourage parishes to invite parents to pray in front of the Most Blessed Sacrament or light a candle for their children at any time.

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139). The psalmist sings of the divine origin of every human life starting from conception. During this Baby Loss Awareness Week, let us remember all babies who have died before birth or in infancy and the families who mourn them.

"Let us encourage parents to seek strength in the motherly gaze of the Blessed Virgin Mary who watched her beloved Son die on the cross and who now beholds Him in eternal glory. May they find comfort in the hope of eternal life and in the tender mercy of God, who knows each child by name and holds them in His embrace."

How the Catholic Church remembers children who died in the womb or in infancy and supports their parents

Baby loss touches more families than we might think. For example, around one in five pregnancies in England and Wales end in miscarriage. Yet many of these parents suffer in isolation. The opportunity for parents to hold their deceased baby, to name him or her and to mourn their loss can be a sacred moment. Sadly, this is not always possible, thus compounding the grief.

If you have experienced the loss of a baby, please be assured that the Church holds you in prayer and invites you to seek support in your parish community. The Church offers Funeral Masses to commend the souls of the departed to God's mercy and love. One form is for baptised children and the other form is for those who have not been baptised, including babies lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, or ectopic pregnancy. A common practice has also been to celebrate a Mass 'of the Angels' offered for the intention of the unborn.

Podcasts

The Centre for the Art of Living and Dying Well, based at St Mary's University, produced two podcasts to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week in 2023. Here are details of the two podcasts

"Grieving The Loss of a Child" <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1831822/episodes/13743434-grieving-the-loss-of-a-child-baby-loss-awareness-week-episode-36>

"Still birth and Abigail's Footsteps" at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1831822/episodes/13771615-still-birth-and-abigail-s-footsteps-baby-loss-awareness-week-episode-37>

Lamp Prayer Intentions

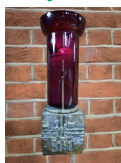
(St Matthew's)

Blessed Sacrament

Blandine D'Herouville RIP

Our Lady

Pray for Victorio & Carmella



St Joseph's

Blessed Sacrament

Helen Lindop & Chris Whitham -Wedding

Our Lady

John Scally RIP

Dilexi te – Pope Leo XIV's first papal document

Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, in caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality and more.

Dilexi te ("I have loved you", from Rev 3:9) unfolds in 121 numbered paragraphs spread throughout five chapters, and flows directly from the Gospel of the Son of God, Who in the very act of entering into our world through the Incarnation became poor for our sake. At the same time, it re-proposes the Church's social teaching, especially that of the past 150 years, as "a veritable treasury of significant teachings" concerning the poor.



Pope Leo signs his Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi te

Following in the footsteps of his predecessors

With this document, signed on 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo situates himself firmly on the path laid out by his predecessors, including Saint John XXIII, with his appeal, in *Mater et Magistra*, to wealthier countries not to remain indifferent to nations oppressed by hunger and extreme poverty. Saint Paul VI added his own voice with *Populorum progressio* and his appearance at the United Nations as an "advocate of the poor"; as did Saint John Paul II, who consolidated the doctrinal foundations of the Church's "preferential option for the poor". More recently, Benedict XVI, in *Caritas in veritate*, offered a more markedly political take on the crises of the Third Millennium; while Francis made care for the poor and solidarity with the poor one of the key themes of his pontificate.

Begun by Francis, completed by Pope Leo

Like Francis, who completed the work of Benedict XVI on the encyclical *Lumen Fidei*, Pope Leo XIV took up the text of his immediate predecessor for his first major Magisterial document. *Dilexi te* builds on the teaching of Francis' final encyclical – *Dilexit nos*, on the Sacred Heart of Jesus – highlighting the "close connection" between the love of God and love for the poor. "In the poor", writes Pope Leo, God "continues to speak to us". The Holy Father likewise recalls the theme of the Church's "preferential option... for the poor", an expression that arose in the context of Latin America. Pope Leo explains that this "'preference' never indicates exclusivity or discrimination towards other groups" but instead emphasizes "God's actions, which are moved by compassion toward the poverty and weakness of all humanity".

The 'faces' of poverty

Pope Leo's Exhortation offers numerous points for reflection and calls for action in its analysis of the many "faces of the poor and of poverty", including "the poverty of those who lack material means of subsistence" or "who are socially marginalized and lack the means to give voice to their dignity and abilities". Pope Leo also notes the existence of moral, spiritual, and cultural poverty; the poverty of "those who have no rights, no space, no freedom".

Inequality and new forms of poverty

Confronted with this reality, Pope Leo says that although "the commitment to the poor and to removing the social and structural causes of poverty has gained importance in recent decades... it remains insufficient".

He warns of the emergence of new, sometimes "more subtle and dangerous" forms of poverty, and decries economic "rules" that increase wealth for a few but also increase inequality.

'The dictatorship of an economy that kills'

"The claim that the modern world has reduced poverty is made by measuring poverty with criteria from the past that do not correspond to present-day realities", Pope Leo writes. From this point of view, he welcomes the fact that "the United Nations has made the eradication of poverty one of its Millenium Goals".

However, he says, there is a long way to go, especially in an era in which the "dictatorship of an economy that kills" continues to prevail; the wealth of the few continues to grow "exponentially" while the gap between rich and poor increases; and "ideologies that defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation" remain widespread".

The 'throwaway culture', market freedom, and pastoral care of the elites

All of this, Pope Leo says, indicates the continued existence of a "throwaway culture", sometimes "well disguised", that "tolerates with indifference that millions of people die of hunger or survive in conditions unfit for human beings".

The Holy Father condemns "pseudo-scientific data" used to support the claim "that a free-market economy will automatically solve the problem of poverty", as well as the idea that "we should opt for pastoral work with the so-called elite, since, rather than wasting time on the poor, it would be better to care for the rich" to gain their assistance in finding real-world solutions for poverty.

A change in mentality

Pope Leo thus calls for a "change in mentality" that can free us from "the illusion of happiness derived from a comfortable life that pushes many people towards a vision of life centred on the accumulation of wealth and social success at all costs, even at the expense of others and by taking advantage of unjust social ideals and political-economic systems that favour the strongest".

In every rejected migrant, it is Christ Himself who knocks

Pope Leo also devotes ample space to the theme of migration, illustrating his words with the image of Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian boy who in 2015 became a symbol of the European migrant crisis with the photo of his lifeless body on a beach. "Unfortunately, apart from some momentary outcry, similar events are becoming increasingly irrelevant and seen as marginal news items", the Pope observes.

At the same time, he recalls the Church's centuries-old work in favour of those forced to abandon their lands, seen in refugee reception centres, border missions, and the efforts of Caritas Internationalis and other institutions.

With regard to migration, the Pope adopts Francis' famous "four verbs": "welcome, protect, promote, and integrate". And he also borrows from his predecessor the description of the poor as "not only objects of our compassion, but teachers of the Gospel".

Women, victims of violence and exclusion

The Holy Father likewise considers the current situation, recalling the countless people who die every day "due to lack of food and water".

Similarly, we must not forget those women, the "doubly poor... who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights", he adds, quoting Francis (12).

'The poor are not there by chance'

Pope Leo XIV offers an in-depth reflection on the causes of poverty: "The poor are not there by chance or by blind and cruel fate. Nor, for most of them, is poverty a choice", he says. "Yet, there are those who still presume to make this claim, thus revealing their own blindness and cruelty".

While recognizing that "among the poor there are also those who do not want to work, perhaps because their ancestors, who worked all their lives, died poor", the Pope highlights that there are "so many others — men and women — who nonetheless work from dawn to dusk, perhaps collecting scraps or the like, even though they know that their hard work will only help them to scrape by, but never really improve their lives".

In one of the main points of *Dilexi Te*, Pope Leo insists that it cannot be said "that most of the poor are such because they do not 'deserve' otherwise, as maintained by that specious view of meritocracy that sees only the successful as 'deserving'".

Ideologies and political orientations

Sometimes, Pope Leo observes, Christians themselves allow themselves to succumb to attitudes shaped by "secular ideologies or political and economic approaches that lead to gross generalizations and mistaken conclusions".

Almsgiving often disparaged

A symptom of this mentality is the fact that the exercise of charity is sometimes dismissed or ridiculed "as if [it] were an obsession on the part of a few and not the burning heart of the Church's mission". The Holy Father dwells at length on almsgiving, which in our day is "rarely practiced", and "even at times disparaged".

Indifference on the part of Christians

Along the same lines, the Pope acknowledges that "at times, Christian movements or groups have arisen which show little or no interest in the common good of society and, in particular, the protection and advancement of its most vulnerable and disadvantaged members".

Again quoting Francis, Pope Leo warns that if "any Church community" does not cooperate "in helping the poor to live with dignity and reaching out to everyone", it will "risk breaking down, however much it may talk about social issues or criticize governments. It will easily drift into a spiritual worldliness camouflaged by religious practices, unproductive meetings and empty talk".

The witness of saints, blessed, and religious orders

In contrast to this attitude of indifference, there is a world of saints, blessed, and missionaries who, over the centuries, have embodied the image of "a poor Church for the poor", from Francis of Assisi and his gesture of embracing a leper, to Mother Teresa, a "universal icon of charity" dedicated to the most destitute in India, who accompanied the dying "with the tenderness of prayer". The Pope also recalls the witness of Saints including Lawrence, Justin, Ambrose, and John Chrysostom; as well as Saint Augustine, who stated: "Anyone who says they love God and has no compassion for the needy is lying", a reference to 1 John 4:20.

Pope Leo points to the work of the Camillians for the sick, and of the women's congregations in hospitals and nursing homes. He notes the welcome given to widows, abandoned children, pilgrims, and beggars in Benedictine monasteries; and recalls the Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, and Augustinians who initiated "an evangelical revolution" through a "simple and poor lifestyle"; as well as the Trinitarians and Mercedarians who, fighting for the liberation of prisoners, expressed the love of "a God who frees not only from spiritual slavery but also from concrete oppression".

The right to education

Looking to the example of Saint Joseph Calasanz, who founded the first free public school in Europe, the Pope emphasizes the importance of educating the poor, which "is not a favour but a duty".

The efforts of popular movements

In the exhortation, the Pope also mentions the fight against the "destructive effects of the empire of money" by popular movements, led by leaders often "viewed with suspicion and even persecuted". Popular movements, he writes, "invite us to overcome 'the idea of social policies being a policy *for* the poor, but never *with* the poor and never *of* the poor, much less part of a project which can bring people back together'".

The duty of making our voices heard

In the final pages of the document, Leo XIV reminds every member of the People of God of their duty to "make their voices heard, albeit in different ways, in order to point out and denounce such structural issues, even at the cost of appearing foolish or naïve".

The poor at the heart of the Church

"It is evident", Pope Leo says "that all of us must 'let ourselves be evangelized' by the poor".

"No Christian can regard the poor simply as a societal problem", he insists; rather "they are part of our 'family'. They are 'one of us'". And so, he says, "our relationship to the poor" cannot "be reduced to merely another ecclesial activity or function".

The full text of the document can be found at https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html

Novena to St John Paul II

The Assisted Suicide Bill is making it's way through the House of Lords. The novena, asking the intercession of St. John Paul II, who spoke courageously about the infinite worth of each human person and witnessed to the cross in his final illness, calls upon Catholics and all who share our view that assisted suicide is wrong, to pray with perseverance that this Bill will be defeated. In the run up to his feast on Wednesday 22nd October we will pray this novena from Monday, St. John Paul II, pray for us!

Day One

'All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.' (Pope Francis, *Message to Catholics participating in Day for Life in Britain and Ireland*, July 28, 2013)

Day Two

"A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace." (*Evangelium Vitae*, 101)

Day Three

'A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying.' (St. John Paul II, *Address to the New Ambassador of New Zealand to the Holy See*, 25th May, 2000)

Day Four

"Respecting the dignity of people who are dying must involve respecting their lives, for without life there is no dignity." (*Cherishing Life*, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 2004)

Day Five

"Laws which legitimize the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion or euthanasia are in complete opposition to the inviolable right to life proper to every individual; they thus deny the equality of everyone before the law." (*Evangelium Vitae*, 72)

Day Six

"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?" (St. Pope John Paul II)

Daily Prayer

Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II's apostolic life and mission. Through his heavenly intercession we ask that the 'Assisted Dying' Bill be defeated and that the infinite worth of each human person is upheld through proper investment in palliative care. Grant also that we may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Our Father... Hail, Mary... Glory be...

Day Seven

Physician-assisted suicide is part of a "throwaway culture" that offers a "false compassion" and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude- much less considers the death of a person as a good thing.' (Pope Francis, *Address to Directors of the Orders of Physicians of Spain and Latin America*, June 2016)

Day Eight

As life is given by God, so we should be ready to meet God in death when the time comes. For Christians this is a time in which fear and sadness are mixed with hope and love. It is an occasion to surrender ourselves into the hands of God. It is wrong for us to anticipate God's command and bring about our own deaths...' (*Cherishing Life*, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 2004)

Day Nine

"Never tire of firmly speaking out in defence of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!" (St. Pope John Paul II)



STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - further action needed!

As the assisted suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process. Right To Life UK has launched a new EasyAction tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you. Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeersletter to send a letter to Peers asking them to oppose assisted suicide.

Saint of the Week ~ Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor

*Patron Saint of Spain, lacemakers, and those in need of grace, in religious orders, and ridiculed for their piety
Invoked against bodily ills, headaches, and sickness*

Canonized by Pope Gregory XV on March 12, 1622 Declared a Doctor of the Church on September 27, 1970

She was born in Ávila in Spain and entered the Carmelite convent there at the age of 20, not because of any great attraction to the religious life but because it seemed the most sensible thing to do. At this time Carmelite convents were comfortable places. One was well looked after, had as much contact with the outside world as one wanted, and could keep one's own possessions. With time, and despite ill-health, she made great progress in contemplative prayer and had a number of mystical experiences, which she treated with great suspicion since she felt that she was not nearly holy enough to be accorded them by God.

Teresa's prayer life led her to seek a more perfect life, and in 1562, in the face of much opposition, she founded a convent of Discalced Carmelite nuns in Ávila. "Discalced" ("shoeless") signified their devotion to poverty. The rest of her life is a story of the establishment of more and more Discalced Carmelite convents in the face of intense opposition from the unreformed Carmelites but help coming from the highest levels at the same time. Thus in 1566 the General of the Carmelite Order approved Teresa's original foundation and permitted her to make new ones. In 1575 the chapter of the Order decided to dissolve them all, and for the next five years every effort was made to destroy Teresa's reforms and many of her followers (including St John of the Cross) were imprisoned and cruelly treated. At length, in 1580, and with the support of King Philip II, the Discalced Carmelites were made independent and St Teresa was able to found more new convents. She died, worn out by her efforts, on 15 October 1582.

St Teresa is an outstanding example of how the contemplative life can well up and overflow into action. In addition to all this, she wrote much on the subject of contemplative prayer and her writings are still standard works today. She was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

A favourite story about St Teresa illustrates the intimate relationship that the saints have with God. When she was on one of her innumerable journeys across Spain, her horse threw her as she was crossing a river. Soaked to the skin she looked up to heaven and said, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" We should bring everything to God in our prayers, even our reproaches. For a reproach, in the end, is simply our way of offering up to God our incomprehension of what he is giving us.

Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading

2 Kings 5:14-17

In those days: Naaman the Syrian went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha, the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, 'Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none.' And Naaman urged Elisha to take it, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule-loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. R1a

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

The Lord has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel.

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise.

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Second reading

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'

The Gospel of The Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join us in praying for those who are sick and those who have died:

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

For those who are sick: Mary Vaughan Helen Jones, Sinead Ceasar, Gilda Kumarathanan, Georgette Gornall, Ann Archer, Kathleen Lynch, Kathleen Andrews, Siobhan Frost, Leslie Caesar, Mary Elizabeth Thomas, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Dave Jessop, Brendan Davern, Shay Murray, Ruby King, John Wildsmith, Cecil Swampillai, Belinda Plummer, Marilyn Theodore, Veronica Savill, Levan Soloman, Patricia Procter, Philip Wilson, Mary Hyde, King Charles, Moira Montgomery, Patricia Lee, Eileen Wildsmith, Peter Fitzpatrick, Mark O'Connor, Marie Marron, Carol-Ann Frost, Ada Barker, Ron Picardo, Kerry Blackburn, James Wilson, Audrey Potts, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

For those who have died recently: Susan Pardoe, James Butler, and all who have died as a result of violence, war and conflict or natural disaster.

For those whose anniversary occurs around this time: Julia McCarthy, Mary O'Sullivan, Jennifer Nawarska, Fr George Dangerfield, Elsie Quealy, Wanda Musyka, Kate O'Mahoney, Mary Reidy, Muriel Seuffert, John Murphy, Mary McLoughlin, Anne Mackridge, Kathleen Casey, Mike O'Mahoney, Peggy Lovett, David Skelton, John Obi.

Pope's Prayer Intention for October For collaboration between different religious traditions. We pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

Worship this week

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to have a Mass intention (or lamp prayer intention) for a particular date.

(Saturday)	6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - Trisha & Mary Moore RIP (Anniv)
Sunday 12th	9.00am: Mass - People of the Parishes (St Matthew's)
Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am: Mass - Jimmy Sweeney RIP LD (St Joseph's) 6.00pm: Mass - Bill Carson RIP (Anniv) (St Matthew's)
Monday 13th	9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 09:40 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Mass - Leonora Torcoto RIP Followed By Rosary (St Matthew's)
Dedication of St Matthew's	
Tuesday 14th	9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 09:40 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Mass - Bernard Herrmann RIP - Followed By Rosary (St Joseph's)
Feria	
Wednesday 15th	NO PUBLIC MASS
S Teresa of Avila	
Thursday 16th	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7.00pm: Mass - Mark Kiely RIP/LD Followed By Rosary (St Joseph's)
S Margaret Mary Alacoque	
Friday 17th	9.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 09:40 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Mass - Margaret Da Cunha RIP Followed By Rosary (St Matthew's)
S Ignatius of Antioch	
Saturday 18th	09:45 Morning Prayer Followed By Rosary (St Matthew's) 10.30am: Mass - Joe Da Cunha RIP (Anniv) 11.00am - 11.50am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions ending with Benediction 5.00pm - 5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions (St Joseph's) 6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - John Crowle RIP
S Luke	
Sunday 19th	9.00am: Mass - Peggy Lovett RIP (6th Anniv) (St Matthew's) 11.00am: Mass - People of the Parishes (St Joseph's) 6.00pm: Mass - Sylvia Winter RIP (St Matthew's)
Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	

Parish Directory

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