

The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(20th September 2026)



Dear Parishioners

As we come together this Sunday, the readings invite us to reflect on what it means to live our lives with Christ at the centre. St Paul writes to the Philippians with remarkable honesty about his own situation. He knows that his life belongs to Christ, and he is prepared to place his future entirely in God's hands. Whether he continues to live or whether his earthly life comes to an end, his desire is that Christ should be honoured through him.

That is a challenging thought for us because it reminds us that our Christian faith is not simply something we add to our lives. It is not one interest among many, nor is it something reserved for Sunday morning. To be a Christian is to allow Christ to shape the whole of our lives: our decisions, our relationships, our priorities, our use of time and our concern for others.

This is particularly important as we begin a new season in the life of our parish. September often feels like a new beginning. Schools have returned, holidays are over, familiar routines are being re-established and the various activities of parish life begin again. It is a good moment, therefore, to ask ourselves: Where is Christ in the pattern of my life?

For some, the answer may be that faith is already firmly woven into everyday life. For others, perhaps Mass has become less regular, prayer has been neglected or involvement in parish life has gradually diminished. There may be those who have been away from the Church for some time and are wondering whether there is still a place for them. There is.

The Christian community is not a gathering of people who have everything sorted out. It is a pilgrim people, journeying together towards Christ. Each of us comes with our own history, our own joys and disappointments, our strengths and weaknesses. What unites us is not that our lives are identical, but that we have been called by the same Lord. Our parish therefore needs every one of us.

The life of a parish is not sustained by the priest alone. It depends upon the prayer, generosity, gifts and commitment of the whole community. Some people serve visibly: as readers, musicians, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, catechists, flower arrangers, cleaners, welcomers and those who help with parish administration and practical tasks. Others contribute in ways that are less visible but no less important: praying for the parish, visiting someone who is lonely, supporting a neighbour, encouraging a young person or simply being present when someone needs a listening ear. Every Christian has something to offer.

Sometimes we can be tempted to think that what we have to give is insignificant. We may not have much time. We may not feel particularly gifted. We may think that someone else would do a better job. But the Church has always been built through the ordinary faithfulness of ordinary people.

As St Paul reminds us, our lives are to be lived “in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” That does not mean that we must become extraordinary people. It means allowing the Gospel to influence the ordinary things we do every day.

Perhaps this autumn we could each make one small commitment to deepen our life of faith. It might be returning to regular Mass, setting aside a few minutes each day for prayer, reading the Sunday Gospel before Mass, joining a parish group, offering some practical help, or making the effort to get to know someone in the parish whom we do not normally speak to. Small acts of faithfulness can make a great difference.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is near to those who seek him. We should never imagine that our relationship with God has reached a point where nothing more can happen. There is always another step to take, another grace to receive, another opportunity to grow.

As we begin this new chapter in the life of our parish, let us ask God to renew our faith and our sense of belonging. May our churches be places where people encounter Christ, where those who are struggling find welcome, where those who are searching find encouragement, and where those who have been faithful for many years discover fresh joy in the Gospel.

And may each of us be able to say, with St Paul, that whatever circumstances life brings, Christ is at the heart of our lives.

With all my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tom

St Matthew's Church
32 Hallowell Road,
Northwood
HA6 1DW
Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.00am - 3.30pm

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
Tuesday, Thursday: 9.30am - 3.30pm

St Matthew's 200 Club

It's time to renew subscriptions for the 200 Club. Renewal/Application forms are available at the back of church. This will be for the September draw.

Good Books

In anticipation of the special exhibition opening soon at the British Library, our next meeting on **Wednesday 14 October** (7pm, Fr Bebb Room, St Matthew's) will be dedicated to the life and works of Agatha Christie. Read anything by or about her and come along to share your thoughts!

If you would like to join our group visit to the exhibition at 2 pm on Wednesday 4 November, a few discounted tickets (£18) are available. Please contact Siobhan in the office at St Matthew's by 18 September to arrange payment.

Nicholas Birch

Nicholas has made the following appeal. I am running the 2026 Berlin Marathon to raise money for The Passage who help those experiencing homelessness. I have been very fortunate in my life to have always had somewhere to call home, however many people around the country don't. Organisations such as The Passage provide support to those without access to even the most basic things that we take for granted. Any donation towards my marathon effort and the work that they do is greatly appreciated! Thank you and God bless you!

The Passage's vision is of a society where homelessness no longer exists, and everyone has a place to call home. The Passage is based in the heart of Westminster, providing practical support and a wide range of services to help transform the lives of people who are, or are at risk of homelessness. Every gift, no matter how big or small, enables us to help people who are experiencing homelessness to regain their confidence and hope for the future.

You can make a donation at **https://www.justgiving.com/page/nicholas-birch-4**

An evening with Lissa Evans

The talented children's author, novelist and BAFTA winning producer of Fr Ted will having a book evening at St Matthew's on Thursday 12th November. (Her book was the July Book of our parish book group) Tickets are £10. Mark the date in your diary.

An Day with Mary

The next Day with Mary in our diocese are is **Saturday 26 September** at ***St Joseph's Church, Wembley*** , 9.30am - 5.30pm. For more details see **https://adaywithmary.org/**

Baptism Preparation Evening

The next Baptism Preparation Evening will be **This Thursday at 7.45pm** in the Fr Bebb Room

President of the Bishops' Conference rejects injustice and violence in the Holy Land



Archbishop Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has issued a statement decrying the violence engulfing the Holy Land and stating that the two-state solution should "remain the goal of all people of good will."

He said:

"The Church in England and Wales has a particular concern about the Holy Land. With the encouragement of the Holy See and the support of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we have organised the Holy Land Co-ordination, an annual pilgrimage of Bishops from around the world to support Christians in the region through presence, prayer, pilgrimage and persuasion.

"However, violence continues to engulf the Holy Land, pushing people apart while undermining hopes for peaceful co-existence in a two-state solution. It has also led to a polarisation of views and even despair, which make the necessary bridge building for forgiveness and reconciliation so much more difficult.

"Initiatives that seek to speak out about injustice, violence and conflict are important to raise awareness. We condemn violence and conflict unequivocally, wherever it is perpetrated, as a stain on humanity. However, our calling as Christians goes beyond commentary and condemnation; it is to promote peace, finding hope in our common humanity.

"As Pope Francis said during his visit to the Holy Land in 2014: 'The time has come for everyone to find the courage to be generous and creative in the service of the common good, the courage to forge a peace which rests on the acknowledgment by all of the right of two States (two peoples and three faiths) to live in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.' This was recently echoed by Pope Leo XIV during the Angelus on 16 August 2026, when he stated, 'I urgently call on the international community to work toward advancing the two-state solution, for a just and lasting peace.' This should remain the goal of all people of good will.

"People of faith have a particular and shared responsibility to promote mutual respect, engage in dialogue, nurture friendship and construct peace wherever we are. As Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa said when he visited the Christian community in Gaza in June: 'War does not excuse us from living out the Gospel. It does not change our behaviour, our relationships with one another, or our relationships with others.' He went on to encourage the community to respond not with judgment or fear, but with compassion and generosity. 'If someone asks you to go one mile, go two miles. This is what is required of us, even in Gaza'."

"Here, we must follow this example; engaging in dialogue and building bridges between communities. We pray for the people of the Holy Land and we pray for peace."

NOVENA TO ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI to mark the800th Anniversary of his Transitus
25 September – 3 October 2026

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis. From Friday we will pray a Novena to mark this special anniversary

OPENING DAILY PRAYER

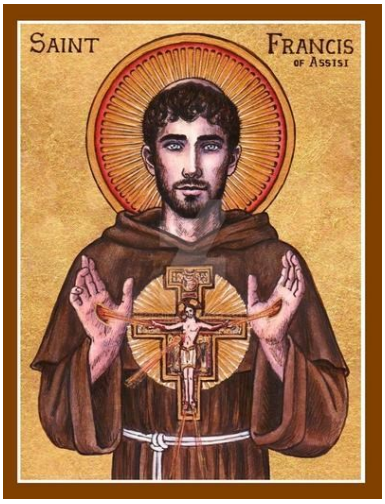
Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the gift of your servant Francis,
whom you called to follow Christ
in simplicity, poverty, humility and joy.

As we prepare to celebrate
the eight hundredth anniversary of his Transitus,
open our hearts to the spirit of the Gospel
which transformed his life.

Teach us to love Christ more deeply,
to serve those in need,
to seek peace,
to care for your creation,
and to trust in your mercy.

Through the prayers of St Francis,
renew our faith, strengthen our hope,
and make us faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CONCLUDING INVOCATION

St Francis of Assisi, pray for us.
St Clare of Assisi, pray for us.
All holy men and women of the Franciscan family, pray for us.
Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.
All the saints of God, pray for us.
Most High, glorious God, have mercy on us.

DAY ONE - 25 SEPTEMBER - A HEART CONVERTED

SCRIPTURE "Repent and believe in the gospel." *Mark 1:15*

REFLECTION In his Testament, Francis looked back upon the beginning of his conversion:

"When I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers. And the Lord himself led me among them."

Francis recognised that his conversion was not something he had achieved by his own strength. The Lord himself led him. The encounter with the leper changed his heart and his vision. What he had once avoided became a place of grace.

Conversion means allowing God to change the way we see: to see other people with compassion, to see our possessions as gifts, and to see our own lives as belonging to God.

Francis's journey began when he allowed the Lord to lead him beyond his comfort and expectations.

As we begin this novena, may we have the courage to ask where Christ is leading us, and the faith to follow.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
turn our hearts towards you.

Free us from whatever keeps us from following you
and give us courage to begin again.

May we seek your will above our own
and discover the joy of belonging completely to you.

Through the prayers of St Francis,
deepen our conversion
and make us faithful disciples of your Gospel.

Amen.

DAY TWO - 26 SEPTEMBER - BROTHER TO THE POOR

SCRIPTURE "Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

REFLECTION Francis discovered Christ among those whom society rejected. His encounter with the leper transformed his understanding of poverty and human dignity.

In the Earlier Rule, Francis instructed his brothers:

"Let the brothers gladly and willingly serve and minister to the poor."

For Francis, the poor were not simply people who needed his charity. They were brothers and sisters.

This challenges us to look again at those around us. The homeless person, the refugee, the lonely elderly person, the struggling family and the person who feels forgotten are not merely problems to be solved. They are people created and loved by God.

Francis teaches us that Christian charity begins when we stop looking away.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
give us the eyes of St Francis
to recognise you in the poor and forgotten.

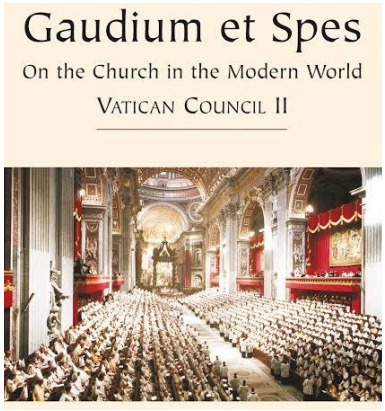
Save us from indifference
and make us generous in giving,
patient in listening
and faithful in serving.

May our parish be a place
where nobody feels unwanted or forgotten,
and where those in need encounter
the compassion and love of Christ.

Amen.



Pope Leo XIV



We continue Pope Leo's catechesis series on the Second Vatican Council and its documents at his weekly Wednesday General Audience. He began exploring the document Gaudiem et Spes in September (These are his talks from Wednesday 2nd and 9th September)

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.
IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes (GS 1–10)
1. The Church: Listening to and Serving the World .

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

With today's meeting, we will begin to reflect on the Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes, with which the Second Vatican Council intended to focus on a fundamental theme, namely the relationship between the Church and the contemporary world. Saint John XXIII, as early as his inaugural address of 11 October 1962, had sought to take issue with the "prophets of doom" who, "though burning with zeal for religion […] go about saying that our times, when compared with past centuries, are entirely worse; and go so far as to behave as if they had nothing to learn from history" (Address Gaudet Mater Ecclesia, 11 October 1962, 4.2). Hence the task entrusted to the Council Fathers: "In the present state of human events, in which humanity appears to be entering a new order of things, one must rather see the mysterious plans of Divine Providence, which are brought to fulfilment in due course through the work of men, and often beyond their expectations, and which, with wisdom, arrange everything, even adverse human affairs, for the good of the Church" (Gaudet Mater Ecclesia, 4.4).

Three years later, the promulgation of Gaudium et Spes recognized in this discernment an essential element of the nature of the Church, describing her pastoral character as constitutive; hence the definition of "pastoral Constitution". It is not a question of naïve optimism, but rather a renewed fidelity to the Mystery of Christ who, by becoming incarnate, chooses to share our life: He made Himself "like His brethren in every respect" (Heb 2:17; cf. 4:15) and took upon Himself the consequences of sin, dying "as a ransom for all" (1 Tim 2:6). This sharing in our humanity is the path that Christ calls the Church to follow; hence, the Conciliar Constitution Gaudium et Spes begins by declaring that the Church makes her own "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted" (GS 1).

It is a sharing that calls on us to leave behind all passivity and indifference in the face of current events, history and people's lives, especially in the face of the rapid and profound changes we are experiencing today. We cannot remain as unengaged spectators; rather, we must listen with our hearts, allow ourselves to be challenged, and become involved. With Christ and sustained by the power of His Spirit, believers are called to take on the burdens of their brothers and sisters, especially those who are crushed by injustice, discrimination, and violence. Indeed, only in sharing and commitment is it possible to arrive at adequate responses, always supported by the certainty that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rm 8:18).

In this regard, proximity towards humanity opens the way to a deeper understanding of events and of Revelation itself; and, in the same vein, Gaudium et Spes recalls that "the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel" (GS 4). This Conciliar Constitution therefore recalled the Church to an ongoing commitment to conversion, to bear witness that she is not motivated by "earthly ambition", but seeks "a solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not be served" (GS, 3).

This is not, in fact, merely a moral imperative. Pope Francis reminded us that for the Church, "the option for the poor is primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political or philosophical one… We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them" (Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, 198).

Christian solidarity commits us to engaging with reality and also to unmasking the contradictions that characterize personal and social life in the contemporary world: for example, scientific and technological progress, which constantly offers new possibilities, but only to some, and which human beings do not always succeed in "subjecting .. to [their] own welfare"; or a clearer understanding of the "laws of society", accompanied, however, by uncertainties "about the direction to give" them; or, again, a greater abundance of "wealth, resources and economic power", which, unfortunately, today as in the days of the Council, leaves "a huge proportion of the world's citizens … still tormented by hunger and poverty" (GS 4); or a shared awareness that the future of the planet is at stake, coupled with an inability to renounce selfish consumption and the illusion that war is an effective means of building peace.

In a time marked by profound changes, giving rise to worrying imbalances, the Church is called to serve the human person, listening to and welcoming the deepest questions of their heart and the longings that dwell within them, pointing to Christ as "the key, the focal point and the goal of … all human history" (GS 10). Therefore, in the Church, at every level and in every age, it is necessary to achieve the merciful kenosis of Christ, who "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant … and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:6–8).

Dear brothers and sisters, may joy and hope – gaudium et spes – be the distinctive features of a Church who proclaims and bears witness to the Gospel, drawing close to the women and men of our time.

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.
IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes (GS 12–22)
2. Human dignity: gift and responsibility.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The Conciliar Constitution Gaudium et Spes (GS), by dedicating the first chapter to the dignity of the human person, emphasizes that it is the foundation and condition for "those values which are most highly prized today", but these must not lose sight of their "divine source", in order to avoid possible distortions arising from the "taint in man's human heart" (GS, 11).

The journey that made it possible to highlight the fundamental characteristics and rights of human dignity certainly represents one of the most significant chapters in human history. However, the path ahead is not yet complete and must

address the contradictions, both old and new, which prevent its full realization.

The Church clearly offers her contribution, reminding us that human dignity arises from the very being of the person. I had the opportunity to reiterate this also in my recent Encyclical Magnifica Humanitas: "Every human person is planned and willed by God to enter into communion with Him, with others and with creation. Human dignity does not depend on a person's abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of His unfailing love" (no. 50). The infinite dignity of the human being, then, is rooted in his identity as a creature made "'to God's image' … capable of knowing and loving his Creator", a plan and gift of love that transcends other created realities, which are entrusted to his care to "subdue them and use them to God's glory" (GS, 12).

In faith we can understand the ultimate foundation for the dignity of the person, inasmuch as the Son, "by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear" (no. 22).

The person always implies relationship, communion and participation in relation to God and to others; hence, a filial relationship with God the Father and a fraternal relationship with Christ and with all humankind. It excludes self-centred isolation. To be a person means to perceive oneself as a gift to be shared, growing and maturing through acceptance, reciprocity and service.

This dignity is entrusted to the responsibility of each person: at the same time, it also demands solidarity and mutual care, overcoming the many falsifications and manipulations that still disfigure our perception of it and hinder its realization. Indeed, as a result of the choices made throughout history that have run counter to this dignity, even today "man is split within himself", and "all of human life, whether individual or collective, shows itself to be a dramatic struggle between good and evil between light and darkness". This fragile and limited condition, however, can be regarded with hope, because "the Lord Himself came to free and strengthen man, renewing him inwardly and casting out that 'prince of this world' (John 12:31) who held him in the bondage of sin" (GS, 13).

Furthermore, the Constitution Gaudium et Spes affirms that human dignity concerns the whole person and, therefore, dualistic views must be overcome: the human being "though made of body and soul, is one". Reducing the body to an "object" to be disposed of arbitrarily is always a denial of the dignity of the person: "man is not allowed to despise his bodily life" and "is obliged to regard his body as good and honourable since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day", while ensuring that it does not become enslaved by "the evil inclinations of his heart" (GS, 14), since we are all wounded by sin.

Finally, there Gaudium et Spes recalls the three most significant expressions of the dignity of the person: intelligence, which makes the human being an insatiable seeker of the truth (no. 15); conscience, through which he gives unity and meaning to his life (no. 16), and freedom, which makes him the responsible agent of his own decisions (no. 17). These dimensions are closely connected to one another: it is in conscience that truth is recognized as such, and freedom can experience it as its foundation and possibility. The Holy Spirit, who gives life in Christ, makes us free and constantly assures us of our dignity as children of God, delivering us from fear and guiding us towards the ultimate goal, that life in its fullness beyond death which Christ has promised us. It is only in Him that the mystery of the human person finds true light; from Him we receive light on the enigma of suffering and death; and with Him we journey towards the Resurrection.

Dear brothers and sisters, created in God's image, through Christ and for His sake, we have received a unique and indelible dignity. Let us commit ourselves to promoting and defending it always, with the light and strength of the Gospel.

Litany to Our Lady of Walsingham

We celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham on Thursday, please use this litany in your prayers.

Our Lady of Walsingham, **pray to the Lord for us**
Mary, conceived without sin,
Mary, the Virgin,
Mary, the Mother of God,
Mary, taken up into Heaven,

Mary at Bethlehem, **Pray for all mothers**
Mary at Nazareth, **pray for all families**
Mary at Cana, **pray for all married couples**
Mary who stood by the cross, **pray for all who suffer**
Mary in the Upper Room, **pray for all who wait**
Mary model of Womanhood, **pray for all women**
Woman of Faith, **keep us in mind**
Woman of Hope,
Woman of Charity,
Woman of suffering,
Woman of anxiety,
Woman of humility,
Woman of poverty,
Woman of purity,
Woman of obedience,
Woman who wondered, **remember us to God**
Woman who listened,
Woman who followed Him,
Woman who longed for Him,
Woman who loves Him,



Mother of God, **be our mother always**
Mother of the Church,
Mother of the World,
Mother we need,
Mother who went on believing, **we thank God for you**
Mother who never lost hope,
Mother who loved to the end.

Let us Pray.

All Holy and ever-living God, in giving us Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and Brother, you gave us Mary, His Mother, to be our Mother also; grant us, we pray you, that we may be worthy of so great a Brother and so dear a Mother. May we may come at last to you the Father of us all, through Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome & Palazzola (12th—19th April 2027)

Some more details of our proposed pilgrimage to Rome, staying at the Venerable English College's retreat and pilgrimage centre of Palazzola overlooking Lake Albano in the Alban Hills (or Castelli Romani) just south of Rome. **Those who have registered their interest are now able to collect a brochure and booking form for either of the parish offices.**

COST £1395 per person inclusive of:

- flight London Heathrow/Rome Fiumicino return
- airport taxes and security charges
- one piece of 23 kg hold luggage
- one piece of hand luggage
- reserved seating
- 6 nights at Palazzola
- continental breakfast
- 4 lunches and 6 dinners
- wine and water with main meals
- all transfers and excursions in Italy
- entry/audio charges and Mass offerings
- tips to coach drivers/guides

The following items are not included:

- travel insurance
- UK airport transfers
- two lunches
- any increases in/additional local taxes
- personal expenditure

PALAZZOLA





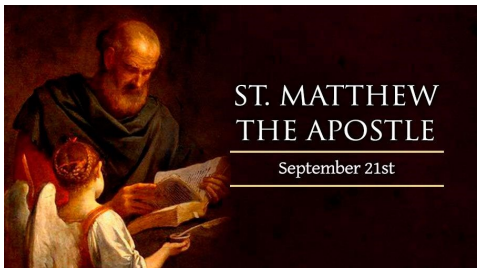


Catholic Chaplaincy to London's Universities

Are you a student at one of the universities or colleges in London, or in Hatfield? Our Catholic Chaplaincy is for you! It's based at Newman House, 111 Gower Street, WC1E 6AR. We have Sunday Masses for students and regular events during the week. And in many of the universities and colleges we also have campus-based Catholic societies and activities. Go to: **www.universitycatholic.net** or our Instagram page: **@newmanhouselondon** to find out more. If you are a full-time student (undergraduate or graduate student) heading to a university outside London, then why not take a look at **https://www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk/** to identify the Catholic chaplaincy in your place of study.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY
for London's Universities

Novena to St Mattthew



Opening Prayer *(each day)*

God of mercy you chose a tax collector, Saint Matthew, to share the dignity of the apostles. By his example and prayers help us to follow Christ and remain faithful in your service. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Day Eight *(19th September)*

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:10)

Dear Jesus, please show me how to persevere in this struggle for things which are holy and honourable, because I fall down and grow weak so often. Help me to be faithful to you in all things, so that your will may be done in and through my life. Help me to be bold in my steady struggle for faith and unwavering in my commitment to all Godly things.

Saint Matthew, please guide me to be courageous like you in standing on the side of God's truth, even in the face of being persecuted for righteousness, and please intercede with Jesus in asking him to grant my desperate request, *(STATE REQUEST)*. Amen.

Day Nine *(20th September)*

Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." (Matthew 5:11)

Dear Jesus, as the times in which we live become darker and darker, living by your ways and following you is branding me in such a way that invites persecution and insult, just as it did you. If I live by your ways and love you with my whole being, I live by the light and provide a target for those who do not live by the light. Sinning is what gives most people pleasure, but I can no longer live that way, because I am aware of how much you sacrificed for me in love by dying on the cross. For all that you have done for me, I no longer desire to live in the darkness. Each time I receive an insult for belonging to you, please help me to bear it with great patience.

Saint Matthew, in being given the awesome honour of being chosen to be an apostle, you were persecuted just as Jesus was persecuted. You felt, however, the persecution you experienced was also a great honour, because Jesus was not just a man, but he was indeed God. Help me to be strong enough to love Jesus's light and to run from the darkness of sin and then, when persecution comes, to be strong enough to handle that as well. And please intercede with Jesus in asking him to grant my desperate request, *(STATE REQUEST)*. Amen.

Organ Recital by Isabella Flynn

Sunday 20th September
3.00pm
St Matthew's Church
followed by Refreshments.



Programme

Meditation sur Salve Regina - Saint-Martin

Franck - Prelude, Fugue et Variation

Bach- Prelude and fugue in G Major BWV 541

Lamp Prayer Intentions

(St Matthew's)
Blessed Sacrament
Our Confirmation Candidates
Our Lady
Our RCIA Group



(St Joseph's)
Blessed Sacrament
Our First Holy Communion Children
Our Lady
Nicholas Birch thanksgiving and private intentions

Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading *Isaiah 55:6-9*

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord,
that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. ℟18a*

The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The Lord is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is close to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is close to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The Lord is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second reading *Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a*

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son..
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

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 Emmanuel, Joe Mullen, Leo McLoughlin, Patrick Coyle, Lourdes D'Silva Torres, Eliana Ost, James Conradi, Anne Paget, Mary Vaughan, Helen Jones, Sinead Ceasar, Gilda Kumarathasan, Siobhan Frost, Leslie Caesar, Mary Elizabeth Thomas, Georgette Gornall, Ann Archer, Kathleen Lynch, Kathleen Andrews, Harry Nandlal, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, 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, Peter Fitzpatrick, Mark O'Connor, Marie Marron, Carol-Ann Frost, Ron Picardo, Kerry Blackburn, James Wilson, 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, Vicky Falcao, Horace Clarke and all who have died as a result of violence, war and conflict or natural disaster and those who have no one to pray for them.

For those whose anniversary occurs around this time: Betty Rosso, Kathleen Keating, Patrick Daly, Ronald Proctor, Michael Keegan, Pearly Navaratnam, Patrick Sheehy, Michael Clancy, Declan Silke, Giuseppe Noviello, Sue Smith, James Butler, Kathleen Rigby, Bridie Leach, Edward Fennell, Stephen Franklin, Denis Carey.

Pope's Prayer Intention for September. For the care of water, we pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it. .

Worship this week

Sunday Readings: *Year A* ***Weekday Readings:*** *Week 24 (Year 2)* ***Daily Office:*** *Week 4*

	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions *(St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - *Philomena Dempsey RIP (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 20th	**9.00am: Mass** - *Liam Potts RIP (Anniv) (St Matthew's)*
25th Sunday in	**11.15am: Mass -** *People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)*
Ordinary Time	**6.00pm: Mass** - *Garnet De Four RIP (Anniv) (St Matthew's)*
Monday 21st	9**.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
St Matthew	**10.00am: Mass** - *Vince Thapermall RIP* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Matthew's)*
Tuesday 22nd	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
Feria	**10.00am Mass** - *Kathleen Andrews (Intentions)* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Wednesday 23rd	**NO PUBLIC MASS**
S Pius of Pietrelcina	
Thursday 24th	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of Walsingham	**7.00pm Mass** - *Jean & Darren Crowle (Intentions) (St Joseph's)* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Friday 25th	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
Feria	**10.00am: Mass** - *Vicky Falcao RIP (St Matthew's)* ***Followed By Rosary***
Saturday 26th	**09.45 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Rosary**
Feria	**10.30am:Mass -** *Joseph Fernandes RIP (Anniv) (St Matthew's)*
	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 - *William Gordon RIP (Anniv) (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 27th	**9.00am: Mass** - *Laurie Scudder RIP (Anniv) (St Matthew's)*
26th Sunday in	**11.15am: Mass -** *Nicholas Birch/Wellbeing/The Passage (St Joseph's)*
Ordinary Time	**6.00pm: Mass -** *People of the Parishes (St Matthew's)*

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

Parish Directory

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Deacon: Rev Hervé Boisson ***Email:*** herveboisson@rcdow.org.uk

	St Matthew's	***St Joseph's***
Parish Office	Cheryl Myring Siobhan Hogg ***Tel:*** 01923 840736 ***Email:*** northwood@rcdow.org.uk	Linda Grimes ***Tel:*** 020 8428 0088 ***Email:*** carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk
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Or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk