

The Parishes of Northwood and Carpenders Park & South Oxhey

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(4th October 2026)



Dear Parishioners

This year, the Church marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, who died on 3 October 1226 at the Portiuncula, near Assisi. Eight centuries later, Francis continues to challenge and inspire us because his life was rooted so deeply in the mystery of Christ.

Francis is often remembered for his love of creation, his care for the poor and his desire for peace. But beneath all of these things was something deeper: Francis wanted to follow Christ completely. His spirituality was shaped by three great mysteries of our faith: the Incarnation, the Cross and the Eucharist.

Francis had a profound love for the Incarnation. At Christmas he wanted people to recognise the extraordinary humility of God: that the eternal Son became flesh and entered into our human poverty. Francis saw the crib at Greccio as a way of encountering again the mystery of God becoming one of us. The God whom the heavens cannot contain chose to become a vulnerable child.

For Francis, this meant that nothing genuinely human could be ignored. If God had entered our world and taken our flesh, then the poor, the suffering and the marginalised had to be approached with reverence. The leper whom Francis had once found repulsive became, through his conversion, someone in whom he could encounter Christ.

The Incarnation tells us that God is not distant from our broken world. God comes into it. That leads us to the second great theme: the Cross.

Francis did not want simply to admire Jesus from a distance. He wanted to share in Christ's self-giving love. The Cross became central to his life, eventually marked physically in his own body through the stigmata.

The Cross reminds us that God's love is not sentimental. It is a love willing to enter suffering, rejection and brokenness. Francis discovered that when we allow Christ to meet us in our own brokenness, that brokenness can become a place of grace. And this brings us to the Blessed Sacrament.

Francis had an extraordinary reverence for the Eucharist. He marvelled that the same Christ who humbled himself to become a human being continues to humble himself by becoming present to us under the signs of bread and wine. The God who became flesh at Bethlehem, who was broken upon the Cross, gives himself to us as the Bread of Life.

There is therefore a profound connection between Christmas, Calvary and the altar. The Incarnation reveals God's humility; the Cross reveals God's self-giving love; the Eucharist makes that self-giving love present to us.

Perhaps this is what St Francis has to say particularly to us as a parish. We are called to become a people who recognise Christ: in the Blessed Sacrament, in the broken and vulnerable, and in one another.

As we celebrate this 800th anniversary, let us therefore do more than remember Francis. Let us take up his challenge.

Let us come to the Eucharist with renewed faith and reverence. Let us allow Christ's presence to transform the way we treat one another. Let us notice those who are lonely, struggling or excluded. Let us be willing to serve rather than simply to be served. Let us bring peace where there is disagreement and compassion where there is suffering.

And let us ask what we can each do to build up the life of our parish. Could I give some time? Could I become involved in a ministry? Could I reach out to someone who is isolated? Could I invite someone back to Mass? Could I support those in need? Could I make more time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament?

Francis understood that rebuilding the Church begins with allowing Christ to rebuild us. His great legacy was not simply an organisation or a movement, but a life surrendered to Jesus.

Eight hundred years after his death, his prayer remains a fitting prayer for us:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

May this anniversary renew our love for Christ who became blessed flesh, who gave himself in the brokenness of the Cross, and who remains with us in the Blessed Sacrament.

And may we, like St Francis, become people through whom others can encounter that same Christ..

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

First Sunday Holy Hour.

As this Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, we will have our usual Holy Hour (ending with Night Prayer) at 8.00pm in St Matthew's

Second Collection

There will be a second collection for CAFOD after Mass this weekend. Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Use the CAFOD envelope in church (especially if you would like to Gift Aid)

Fr Tom

Fr Tom was due to have a small medical procedure on his foot on Friday, fortunately when he went to Mount Vernon Hospital, it was decided that the procedure was now unnecessary. Unfortunately, on Thursday evening as he was walking over the bridge in Highfield Road, he tripped and fell. Whilst he was saying Mass at Douay Martyrs School on Friday morning, he was in great pain (in his ribs) and was struggling to speak and was breathless. The school sent him to A&E at Hillingdon hospital, where he was checked out. No serious damage had been done in the fall, but he has been given some pain relief and told to rest for the next few days. As Fr Tim Hutton and Fr Bernard Boylan will be covering the Masses this weekend and and on Monday and Tuesday, he will be off duty and expects to be back on his feet by Thursday 8th

Guild of Our Lady of Ransom ~ Newman Lecture 2026: Media beyond the Moment

Newman used every medium of his day, from student wit to Anglican tracts to Catholic pamphlets, to wrestle publicly with his faith. Br Alexander Bailey, CO traces that journey and asks what it means for how we read, write, and engage today.
This will take place in St Patrick's Catholic Church Crypt, Soho Square, London, W1D 4NR onFriday 9th October 2026
Arrival 7:00pm, talk 7:30pm, finishing 9:00pm Get your tickets: **https://bit.ly/4x3EVqS**

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. The next meeting is on **Monday 12th 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 group would like to thank those who donated to their recent collection for MIND which raised £179.00

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.

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.

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.

November Blessing of Graves

The annual blessing of graves will take place of **Saturday 14th November** in Northwood cemetery and **Sunday 15th November in** Pinner New Cemetery.

Keeping the Hallow in Halloween!

We will be celebrating the lives of our favourite Saints at our parish with an All Saints party on Saturday 31st October. Children of all ages are welcome (parents/guardians must stay throughout the party). Please come dressed as a Saint of your choice, with a few facts about his/her life to share. There will be games, crafts, food and sweets! The party will be held in **St Joseph's, Hall** starting at 3.45pm and finishing in good time for the 6pm mass. ***Father Tom would love to see the children processing into church in their costumes!*** If you would like to come along, please add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of church, with the names and ages of your children. For more information, (or to offer help) contact Lizzy on 07814312669

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

There are still one or two places on our 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

Pope to abuse victims: I am committed to ensuring this evil is not repeated



Last Sunday evening, Pope Leo XIV met in Lourdes with four men and three women who suffered abuse by members of the clergy. The seven victims endured abuse in parishes, boarding schools, congregations, or ecclesial movements. Their different stories and life journeys first intersected on 14 September, when they met to get to know one another and discuss the experiences, expectations, and requests they would share with the Pope. The two-hour meeting took place at the bishop's residence, a short walk from the Marian Shine of Our Lady of Lourdes. Among those present was Bishop Gérard Le Stang of Amiens, president of the Council for the Prevention of and Fight against Paedophilia within the French Bishops' Conference.

The Holy See Press Office released several details of the encounter.

"The Pope met each of them individually and in private, listening to their stories, to the pain and suffering they had endured—sometimes, sadly, with the complicity or silence of those who could have helped them—and to their proposals to ensure that this does not happen again. He spent a few moments in prayer with some of them," read a statement released on Sunday evening.

At the end, the Press Office reported, "the Pope gathered with everyone in a room of the bishop's residence and addressed a few words to them, thanking them for their painful testimony and reaffirming his commitment to ensuring that the evil they had experienced would not happen to others."

Pope Leo then expressed his closeness to the victims and, through them, "to those who have suffered and still suffer from the wounds of the abuse they endured."

Finally, "expressing his hope that they could work together so that the community of the faithful might increasingly become a place where men and women of every age can find comfort and healing, the Pope asked those present to pray for him and imparted his blessing upon them."

Who are the victims who met the Pope?

The identities of five of the seven victims attending the meeting are known: Jean-Marie Delbos, now 80, one of the key witnesses in the serious abuse case involving Notre-Dame de Bétharram boarding school; Jérôme Guillement, assaulted as a teenager by a priest in his parish and now a coordinator in the Qualité de la relation éducative mission; and Véronique Garnier of the Foi and Résilience collective, author of two books in which, after a very long period of silence and personal rebuilding, she recounts her experience of severe and repeated abuse by the parish priest of her community in Nancy.

Also present were Olivier Mardi, an activist and co-founder of Voix Libérées de Touraine, who, together with his brother Frédéric, suffered abuse by Father Bernard Tartu while participating in the Petits Chanteurs de Touraine choir; and Bertrand Virieux, a cardiologist and founder of the now defunct Lyon association La Parole Libérée. As a boy, he was abused by Father Bernard Preynat, the former priest who died in 2024 and was convicted of abusing young Scouts between 1971 and 1991.

The other two participants chose to remain anonymous, including one person abused by Abbé Pierre, a prominent figure in the French Church.

A private encounter

The seven people who conveyed to the Pope the gravity of the scourge of abuse in the Church were "selected" by the French Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Men and Women Religious of France, following contact with around 40 groups and individuals.

All had put forward ideas and proposals for the meeting, and its organizers sought to ensure the fairest possible representation.

The small number of participants—which drew protests from some groups—was a deliberate choice intended to allow a substantive exchange, as Pope Leo XIV himself had requested.

The group nevertheless gave the Pope letters from some of the groups or individuals contacted by the Bishops' Conference's Child Protection Service.

Utmost vigilance

Earlier on Sunday morning, Pope Leo referred to the "painful scourge of abuse of minors committed by members of the clergy or within the Church" in his address to the Bishops, whom he met before Mass in Lourdes.

The Pope called on the Bishops to exercise "the utmost vigilance", while recalling the "utmost determination" with which the Bishops' Conference had "adopted courageous measures to respond to them (the victims, ed.), listening, seeking truth, justice, forgiveness, reparation and a firm commitment to a culture of prevention and protection against such crimes."

This was a reference to the process of transparency, reforms and compensation initiated by the French Bishops and guided primarily by the findings of the 2021 CIASE Report.

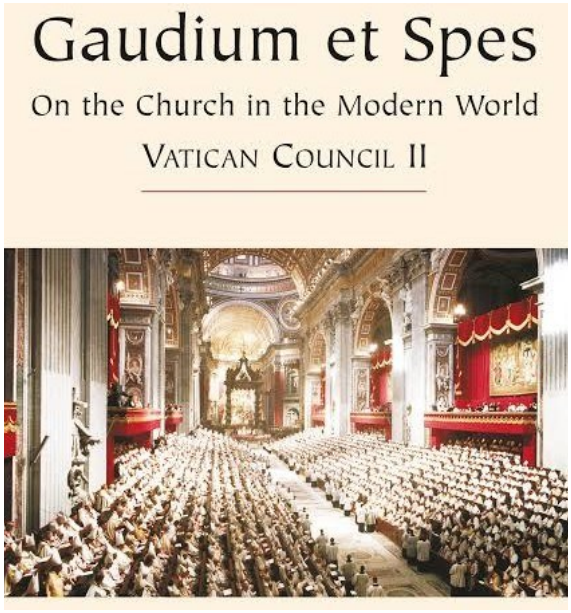
The report was the work of the independent commission established in 2018 by the Bishops' Conference itself, and reported that more than 210,000 minors had been victims of abuse by almost 3,000 priests and religious between 1950 and 2020.

The Bishops have raised the issue of abuse at all their recent plenary assemblies and have sought to ensure that victims who had previously denounced the Church's indifference were heard.

"I know that some moments have been very difficult for your Conference," the Pope said in Sunday morning's address, reiterating the need to "continue along the path already taken, maintaining the utmost vigilance."

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 is his talk from Wednesday 23rd September)



Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.
IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes (GS, 33-39).
4. The meaning of man's activity throughout the world

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

As we continue our journey through the Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, we come to the third chapter of the first part, which bears the intriguing title: "Man's Activity Throughout the World". The fundamental question is this: what is the value of human activity in the world, and therefore of technical, social and scientific progress? We may recall that, less than four years after the close of the Council, on the night of 20–21 July 1969, man set foot on the Moon for the first time.

Created in the image and likeness of God, the human being is the agent of progress. With freedom and intelligence, he increases his knowledge, thereby advancing society as a whole. We can easily see this by considering the improvements in living conditions over successive generations. Indeed, the Document states, "many benefits once looked for, especially from heavenly powers, man has now enterprisingly procured for himself" (no. 33).

For this reason, some thinkers have portrayed scientific and technical progress as something that weakens man's relationship with God, to the point of making it seem superfluous, or even as antagonistic to the Christian faith. And this interpretation has brought about a change in the way contemporary man views the world, compared with previous ages. Such a prejudice is particularly prevalent in that part of Western culture which has lost its reference to Christian Revelation. In post-Christian humanisms, the human being and God are mistakenly presented as rivals: in order to assert his knowledge, his freedom and his progress, man would have to emancipate himself from God. Ultimately, however, by denying the relationship with God, one also loses the possibility of affirming the transcendent value of the human person. This is the "tragedy of atheistic humanism", well described by a leading theologian of the Second Vatican Council, Henri de Lubac.

The Council wishes to provide a clear answer: Christians, states Gaudium et Spes, "can justly consider that by their labour they are unfolding the Creator's work, consulting the advantages of their brother men, and are contributing by their personal industry to the realization in history of the divine plan" (no. 34). Indeed, the Constitution continues, "far from thinking that works produced by man's own talent and energy are in opposition to God's power, and that the rational creature exists as a kind of rival to the Creator, Christians are convinced that the triumphs of the human race are a sign of God's grace and the flowering of His own mysterious design" (ibid.). In essence, God has placed in the hands of men and women a creation that is still in statu viae – that is, on a journey, in the process of growth – so that they may bring it to fulfilment through their wise activity.

Here there is an important reference to the mystery of the Incarnation. Humanity – and with it work, progress and the autonomy of created realities – is not absorbed or nullified by the encounter with God, but rather taken up in its entirety, continuing to be, in Christ, free and active: indeed, it is in Him that it finds full truth and freedom. Furthermore, in the Eucharistic celebration, the fruit of human labour, represented by bread and wine, is placed upon the altar every day to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

From this perspective, an important truth emerges: to encounter God, the human being must not abandon his earthly occupations, but can live his vocation fully, carrying out his daily work well and sanctifying it. Christians, like everyone else, are involved in building the city of man, striving towards the end of all things and the encounter with God, and reminding those with whom they share the adventure of progress, science and life of this ultimate purpose.

Earthly progress must certainly be clearly distinguished from the development of the Kingdom of Christ; however, the Council affirms that "to the extent that the former can contribute to the better ordering of human society, it is of vital concern to the Kingdom of God. … All the good fruits of our nature and enterprise, we will find them again, but freed of stain, burnished and transfigured" (no. 39).

Finally, let us recall that in order to become authentic human progress – that is, progress for the whole person and for all people – technical and scientific progress must be inspired and guided by charity. Only in this way can it always be placed in the service of human dignity and promote the living conditions of all, especially the most disadvantaged.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Second Vatican Council invites us to share the bread of knowledge and know-how, so that every person and every people may develop their potential, and together, with God's help, we may build a better future.

Lamp Prayer Intentions

(St Matthew's)
Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady



(St Joseph's)
Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady

Saint of The Week
John Henry Newman, Priest, Doctor of the Church



God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about. ***~Saint John Henry Newman .***

John Henry Newman, born in London, England, was the eldest of three sons and had three sisters. His father was a banker, and his mother's family were engravers and papermakers. His early education was given by his Anglican mother who was descended from French Calvinist Huguenots. As a child, he became well versed in the Bible, although his religious convictions were not definitive. At the age of seven, he was sent to Great Ealing School, a boarding school considered to be the best private school in England at that time. John was a serious student who loved to read, devouring everything from Arabian tales to philosophical and theological works. He especially loved stories that sparked his imagination.

When John Henry was fifteen, during his final year at Ealing, he went through a profound conversion. Of that conversion, he later wrote, "I fell under the influences of a definite creed, and received into my intellect impressions of dogma, which, through God's mercy, have never been effaced or obscured" (Apologia #3). His conversion came through reading Evangelical books in which he came to a personal conviction about eternal glory. That year he continued to read and was introduced to Saint Augustine and other Church Fathers, though most of his reading was in Evangelical theology. His reading even led him to conclude that the "Pope was the Antichrist predicted by Daniel, St. Paul, and St. John." Finally, he sensed that his life mission would require him to remain celibate, perhaps so he could be a missionary or for some other reason.

After his personal conversion, John Henry continued his studies at Trinity College, Oxford. Because he struggled, he graduated without distinctions. Desiring to continue with his intellectual pursuits, he began working as a private tutor and preparing for a fellowship at Oriel College, Oxford, which he received in 1822 at the age of twenty-one. In 1824, he was ordained an Anglican deacon and became a priest in 1825. After his Anglican ordination, he became curate of Saint Clement's Church, Oxford. As curate, he assisted the parish priest with various pastoral duties, which gave him time to reflect upon his theological concepts within the context of real life with real people. His time as a curate won him much respect, and in 1828, he was appointed Vicar of the University Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Oxford. He remained in this position until 1843.

In the early 1830s, some leaders within the Church of England were growing increasingly concerned about what appeared to be a laxity of faith among the Anglican community, as well as state interference in the Anglican Church. On July 14, 1833, an Anglican priest named John Keble preached a sermon at the University of Oxford that caught the interest of a number of Anglican leaders, including John Henry Newman. This sermon sparked what became known as the Oxford Movement. Over the next several years, John Henry and others began to write and publish "Tracts for the Times." These tracts were a series of pamphlets that defended Anglican apostolic succession and argued for a return to the liturgical traditions with a renewed interest in the Church Fathers. Little by little, however, his writings appeared to sound more like Catholic teaching than Anglican. Though this caused controversy, John Henry continued to develop his doctrinal convictions.

It was Newman's study and articulation of the teachings of the Church Fathers that had the biggest impact upon him. In 1842, he retired from his positions at Oxford and retreated to Littlemore, where he spent the next few years living a quasi-monastic life of prayer, study, and writing. After a thorough study of the Church Fathers and the development of the doctrines he deeply believed in, he was convinced that the Roman Catholic Church was the Church instituted by Christ. Despite the shock and disapproval of those close to him, on October 9, 1845, he was received into the Catholic Church in a small ceremony at Littlemore by Blessed Dominic Barberi. He then traveled to Rome for further studies, was ordained a Catholic priest in 1847, and returned to Birmingham, England, to form the Birmingham Oratory of St. Philip Neri in 1848.

In the years that followed, Father Newman helped found the Catholic University of Ireland and published the Apologia Pro Vita Sua, a theological defense of his personal conversion. He also published several other works, including The Idea of a University, in which he especially articulates the purpose of a university. He argued that a university was not just to teach useful knowledge but to cultivate the mind in its pursuit of knowledge, ultimately arriving at "a great and firm belief in the sovereignty of Truth." It is for this reason that Catholic chaplaincies at colleges are called Newman Centers.

Before his death, Father Newman received two important honours. In 1877, he was given an honorary fellowship at Trinity College as a way of reconciling him with Oxford and his former colleagues. An even greater honour came in 1879 when Pope Leo XIII made him a cardinal, despite the fact that he was not a bishop.

Saint John Henry Newman could have lived a comfortable life as an Anglican priest and scholar. However, he chose to follow the convictions of faith that God planted in his mind and heart.

As we honour Saint John Henry Newman, ponder his process of personal discovery and conversion. We all need ongoing conversion and transformation. Allow Saint John Henry Newman's courage to inspire you to always seek out the fullness of the truth and go wherever it leads you.

Saint John Henry Newman, you first went through a conversion when you were young,
but that conversion was only a stepping stone to your later conversion.
Please pray for me, and especially for college students, that we will never shy away from the Truth
but will always seek it out and courageously follow where God leads us.
Saint John Henry Newman, pray for me.
Jesus, I trust in You.

Bishops unite with grieving families to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week

Archbishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues and Archbishop of Liverpool, and Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life and Bishop of Clifton, have issued a joint statement to mark ***Baby Loss Awareness Week,*** *which takes place between* ***9-15 October 2026****.*

Statement

"From Friday 9 October to Thursday 15 October, the UK will mark the 24th *Baby Loss Awareness Week*. We unite especially with parents, siblings, grandparents and other relatives grieving a baby who died in or outside the womb.

"Every day in the United Kingdom, over a dozen children die in the womb, during birth, or shortly afterwards. Each is a unique human being with a soul and God-given identity. For parents and relatives, this represents the loss of a loved one, whose life is infinitely valuable, and who leaves an unfillable void.

"*Day for Life* 2026, took the theme *The Wonder of the Child in the Womb*, affirming the dignity and uniqueness of every human child from conception until natural death, while honouring families grieving baby loss. In his Apostolic blessing, the Holy Father encouraged us to place our hope in the promise of eternal life. He prayed that 'all parents grieving the loss of a child, especially an infant, may find comfort and peace in the knowledge of God's love for them and for their child, 'for to him all of them are alive' (Lk 20:38).'

"The witness of Servant of God Chiara Corbella Petrillo and her husband Enrico offers hope to many bereaved parents. After the deaths of two of their children shortly after birth, Chiara spoke of their lives and parenthood as immense gifts, regardless of the amount of time they had together. She and Enrico understood their task as parents to be accompanying their children to heaven.

"Hundreds of thousands of parents fulfil this mission each year by having to say goodbye to their children prematurely. Often, this happens in isolation. They therefore need our love, support and prayers as they continue to honour their child's life. We remind them that the doors of our churches and communities are always open to welcome them for prayer and comfort.

"We commend all bereaved parents, families and loved ones to the care of the Holy Family. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph watch over them, strengthen them in their grief, and grant them the peace that comes from hope in God's eternal love."

Archbishop John Sherrington
Lead Bishop for Life Issues
Archbishop of Liverpool

Bishop Bosco MacDonald
Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life
Bishop of Clifton

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. We conclude our 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.

DAY NINE - 3 OCT - HIS TRANSITUS AND ETERNAL LIFE

SCRIPTURE "In my Father's house are many rooms." John 14:2

REFLECTION Eight hundred years ago today, Francis lay dying at the Portiuncula. His earthly pilgrimage was coming to its end. He had surrendered the ambitions of his youth and discovered the treasure of Christ. He had embraced poverty, served the poor, loved the Cross, praised God for creation and become an instrument of peace.

In his Testament, Francis looked back upon his whole journey and recognised God's hand guiding him: "The Lord gave me, Brother Francis, thus to begin to do penance." His life had been a response to God's grace. Now he was ready to surrender everything.

On the evening of 3 October 1226, Francis passed from this life into eternal life. The Church calls this his Transitus - his passing, his crossing over. Today we give thanks for his witness. But Francis always points beyond himself to Christ. His message remains simple: Follow Christ. Live the Gospel. Love the poor. Seek peace. Praise God. Trust him completely.

As we complete this novena, may the spirit of Francis be renewed within us. And when our own earthly pilgrimage comes to its end, may we pass safely into the eternal joy of God.

PRAYER
Most High, glorious God,
we thank you for the gift of St Francis.
We thank you for his conversion,
his love of Christ,
his service of the poor,
his love of creation,
his work for peace
and his joyful trust in you.
On this 800th anniversary of his Transitus,
renew his spirit within your Church.
Make us people of prayer,
people of peace,
people of mercy
and people of joy.
May we follow Christ faithfully
throughout our earthly pilgrimage
and, when our journey is complete,
may we join St Francis and all the saints
in the eternal praise of your glory.
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.**

Readings at Sunday Mass

First reading *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *80(79):9, 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. ℟ Isaiah 5:7a*

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
It stretched out its branches to the sea;
to the River it stretched out its shoots.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
Bring us back, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Second reading *Philippians 4:6-9*

Brothers and Sisters: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
I chose you out of the world, says the Lord,
that you should go and bear fruit,
and that your fruit should abide.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 21:33-43*

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 said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance." And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.'

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, Nora O'Sullivan, Colin Power, John Casey 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: Richard Bransfield, Kathleen Cooper, Danny Power, Ersilio Sinisi, Francis Xavier Dias, Bruno Robert Amery, Kathleen Dark, Margaret Enright, Kathy Birch, Nora Creedon, Armelle Wynick, Nan O'Grady, Martin King, Brian McCarthy, Kathleen Pollard, Mary Shelley, Virginia Grimaldi, Joseph Aidan MacCarthy, Gladys Archer, Julia McCarthy.

Pope's Prayer Intention for October. For mental health ministry, we pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Worship this week

Sunday Readings: *Year A* ***Weekday Readings:*** *Week 27 (Year 2)* ***Daily Office:*** *Week 3*

	5.00pm -5.45pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions *(St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Anticipated Mass of Sunday - *People of the Parishes (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 4th	**9.00am: Mass** - *Rafael Pino (Birthday Intns) (St Matthew's)*
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	**11.15am: Mass** - *Mary Cunningham RIP (St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Mass - *Sarath De Sylva RIP (St Matthew's)*
	8.00pm: Holy Hour *Concluding with Night Prayer (St Matthew's)*
Monday 5th	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
S Faustina Kowalska	**10.00am: Mass** - *For Souls in Purgatory* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Matthew's)*
Tuesday 6th	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
Feria	**10.00am Mass** - *Gillian Hoare (Intentions)* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Wednesday 7th	**NO PUBLIC MASS**
Our Lady of the Rosary	
Thursday 8th	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Feria	**7.00pm Mass** - *Anne Donagher RIP (St Joseph's)* ***Followed By Rosary*** *(St Joseph's)*
Friday 9th	**9.00am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **09:40 Morning Prayer**
S John Henry Newman	**10.00am: Mass** - *Miguel Melendez RIP (St Matthew's)* ***Followed By Rosary***
	12 noon Funeral Mass of John Casey RIP *RIP*
Saturday 10th	**09.45 Morning Prayer 10.00am: Rosary**
S Paulinus of York	**10.30am:Mass** - *Karla & Jake Mc Aleer (Wedding Intns) (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 - *Trisha & Mary Moore RIP (Anniv) (St Joseph's)*
Sunday 11th	**9.00am: Mass** - *People of the Parishes (St Matthew's)*
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	**11.15am: Mass** - *Edwards Family Intns (St Joseph's)*
	6.00pm: Mass - *Suzette McHeyzer RIP (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

Parish Priest: Fr Tom Montgomery ***Email:*** tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk
Tel: 01923 840736 ***Emergency:*** 07576 455450
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
Catechetical Team	Elvadia Tolputt northwoodcat@rcdow.org.uk	Donna Osborne carpenderscatechist@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representatives	Colette Quirk & Elizabeth Scudder ***Email:*** northwoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk	Awaiting Appointment

Or safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk