WEEKLY MASSES	MARYCHURCH (MC) ST THOMAS MORE (STM), WELHAM GREEN, AL9 7PF Mass times and intentions		ST PETER'S (SP) Mass times and intentions	
Sat 29/08	5.00pm STM	Minna, Personal Intentions	10.30am	Marco, RIP
Sun 30/08	10.00am	Oana Husaru, Deceased Family Members	8.30am	Private Intention, B/day Wishes
			11.30am	Joshua Ndi, Thanksgiving
			6.00pm	Daiyse Pereira, RIP
Mon 31/08	7.00pm	Reg Cooke, RIP Mikaela's Ints		
Tues 01/09			9.30am	
Wed 02/09	10.30am	Fr John Milne, RIP		
Thu 03/09			9.30am	
Fri 04/09	10.30am		7.00pm	Samuel Chuba Ookele, RIP Mikaela's Ints
Sat 05/09	5.00pm STM	Private Intention	10.30am	Antonia Loh, Ints
Next Sun Readings: 1. Prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9 Ps 95(94):1-2.6-7b.7c-9. 2. Saint Paul to the Romans 13:8-10 Gospel Matthew 18:15-20				

Dear Parishioners,

As the twilight of my ministry in Hatfield and commencement of my new appointment as the Vocations Director of my Order, I thank God for the grace to serve you for three years and 10 months.

In addition, I commend you for your ardent faith and generous spirit that were evident. Hence, serving you as your priest has been a great privilege because I felt loved and appreciated.

I sincerely thank you for the send-forth celebrations; the cards, words of encouragement and appreciation fills me with great joy and made me feel blessed. Also, your financial gifts were gratefully received.

I pray that God continues to nourish your faith, make you grow deeper in love and reward you abundantly for all you have done for me. Be assured of my prayers.

Father Innocent

Holy Father's intention for the month of August 2026. For evangelization in the city. Let us pray that in cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

Parishes of Marychurch with STM & St Peter's, Hatfield

Served by The Missionaries of St Paul, MSP

Parish Priest: Father Paul Dadson, MSP

hatfieldsouth@rcdow.org.uk or hatfield@rcdow.org.uk

Telephone: 01707 262121/262439

Mailing address: The Presbytery, Bishops' Rise, Hatfield South, AL10 9HN

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 29th/30th August 2026

READINGS: 1. Prophet Jeremiah 20:7-9 2. Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2 Gospel Matthew 16:21-27 **Response to Psalm Ps 63(62):2.3-4.5-6.8-9. For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.** Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia.

Reflection: If invited to pick and choose within the Gospels and form our religion only with what appeals to us, what a cosy, comfortable church we would have! We might keep the stories about Christ's birth and infancy, his temptation in the desert and his healing miracles. We would include our favourite parables, like the Prodigal son, the Pharisee and the Publican, and of course, the Good Samaritan. But would we leave out the Gospel for today, that hard teaching about renouncing self, taking up the cross, losing our lives for the sake of Jesus? And even if we have not removed those words from our Gospels, do we disregard them in practise, in our lives?

In a way, isn't following Christ like accepting a friend whom we must accept in full or not at all; welcoming the demands as well as the benefits of friendship? Just as we need to take people as they are, without trying to change them to suit ourselves, so with the Gospel: we accept the whole of Christ's recorded words, because we trust him and know that his ways are truth.

So, what does the Lord want from us? What does he mean by "renounce yourself," "lose your life for my sake," "carry your cross," or (in the epistle) "present your bodies as a holy sacrifice?" Surely these words don't refer to the devaluing of this present life, its joys and its achievements? And yet, are these not something more than a pious way of saying: Put up with what cannot be changed? These are questions to revolve in the mind, without expecting any quick or simple solution. If we will allow, God's Word challenges us out of any complacency with a comfortable, conforming religion. It unmasks our many evasions, our double standards, our desire for "cheap grace" — wanting salvation at cut price, unwilling to involve ourselves in sacrifice.

We might overly focus on the "renunciation" in today's Gospel so as to miss its positive aspect. All growth, all lasting achievement demands effort and sacrifice. Yet the sacrifice can be a satisfying part of experience, when orientated towards a high and valued goal. (Examples: athletic training; mountain-climbing; studying a language; practising any skill). So, the self discipline involved in Christian life, and accepting the circumstances in which God places us, contribute to our personal destiny. And we look forward in hope to the great reward of loyal service — when the Son of man, coming in glory, will reward all according to their behaviour.

'Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.' Matthew 16:24



Marychurch, Salisbury Square, AL9 5JD & St. Thomas More, Welham Green
Office: Wednesday 9am – 2pm/Telephone: 01707 262439
Emails: hatfield@rcdow.org.uk WEB: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hatfield
Gift Aid: 01707 262439 hatfieldsouthbk@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding: hatfieldsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk, Grace Tapfumanei 07748 499606



SICK OR HOUSEBOUND: Please pray for Clara Sakala, Sr Jo, Joyce Davies, Maudy Tapfumaneyi, Christine Donnelly, Paul Donnelly, Ella Russell, Remi Clarke, George, David de Laubenque, Kyler and Pat M.

NOTICES AND EVENTS

Monthly Offertory – Marychurch with St Thomas More:	July 2026	July 2025
Offertories Envelopes	477.00	614.30
Offertories SOs and Online	1718.67	1568.67
Offertories Loose Plate	584.23	791.35
General Donations & Fund Raising	407.00	270.00
Total Income	3186.90	3244.32

July 2026 total is -1.8% less than July 2025. Thanks for your continuing support.

MC: COFFEE MORNINGS: Sundays after 10am Mass and every Wednesday from 10.30am, Coffee, natter, create, care and plant club etc. Get to know people and what's happening in our parish.

MC & SP: SVP SUMMER RAFFLE TICKETS on sale after all Masses in August. Tickets are £1 each with a top winning prize of £5000. All funds raised will be used to support the work of the SVP here in our community.

MC & SP: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Walsingham pilgrimage on Saturday 19th September. Spiritans appeal across the Vigil and Sunday Masses on 19th/20th September. Blessing of Graves, Oakhill Cemetery on Sunday 1st November at 2.00pm.

MC & SP: WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE ON SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER: Please join us on this special day, the 10th Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. Archbishop Richard Moth will be joining pilgrims. This year's theme at the Shrine is *Mary, Cause of Our Joy*. We have a coach departing St Peter's at 6.30am prompt, £30 per person, payable by cash or transfer (WRCDT Hatfield South, 40-05-20, 81094602, Ref WAL26 and your name). Please complete a registration form, available at the back of the churches and bring a packed lunch.

MC/STM: To donate to Marychurch with STM, scan the QR code using your mobile and click 'rcdow.org.uk' to enter. You can choose between one-off or set up a standing order donation. If you wish to donate via transfer, the details are: **Acct Name: WRCDT Hatfield, Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account Number: 41266217.** If you are a UK tax-payer, please GIFT-AID all donations. Thank you.



St Peters R C Church, Hatfield South, AL10 9HN/Parish Secretary
Office: Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 2pm/Telephone: 01707 262121
Emails: hatfieldsouth@rcdow.org.uk WEB: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hatfieldsouth
Gift Aid: 01707 262121 hatfieldsouthbk@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding: hatfieldsouthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk, Chinonso Ijdzie - 07432 674955 & Dr Eric Chiejina – 07717 578052

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND: Please pray for Jack Cook, Edwin Levy, Anna Lodge, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Richard Atkin, Mary Damoah, Dulia Prado, Pat Hayward, Frances Kennedy and Mary Paiva.

Monthly Offertory – St Peter's Church:	July 2026	July 2025
Offertories Envelopes	717.38	584.13
Offertories SOs & Online	1496.00	1592.00
Offertories Loose Plate	990.68	1523.21
Offertories Contactless	861.00	529.00
General Donations	125.00	120.00
Total Income	4190.06	4348.34

July 2026 total is -3.78% less than July 2025. Thanks for your continuing support.

SP: CHURCH CLEANING: Every Saturday after 10.30am Mass, join us and help clean. Thank you
SP: FLOWERS: Mary

SP & MC: OUR YOUTH CLUBS are reopening in September. For children aged 7-11 years, our Ignite Youth Club runs every Friday from 5-6pm in St Peter's Hall. For older children aged 12-16 years, our Flame Youth Club runs on the last Friday of every month, 6.30-7.30pm.
Anyone interested in the Confirmation class, needs to attend the Flame Youth Club on Friday 25th September which will follow with a 30 minute Confirmation session. Please contact Caroline on 07557 819858 for further information.
Applications for the First Holy Communion programme can be collected from Ignite Youth Club and must be returned by Friday 2nd October. For more information, please see Corine or Linda at St Peter's or Gillian at Marychurch.

SP & MC: ASSIST US TO LIVE, NOT TO DIE: The revived assisted suicide Bill brought back to Parliament by Lauren Edwards MP, which faces its Second Reading on FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER, is the same dangerous Bill that did not pass previously. One of the most effective ways to oppose this dangerous Bill is through physical letters/postcards from constituents asking them to vote "NO" to the Bill. Please take the postcard, fill in your details (to prove you are a constituent), affix a stamp and post it TODAY. Thank you.

SP: To donate to St Peter's R C Church, scan the QR code with your mobile and click 'rcdow.org.uk' to enter. You can choose one off or set-up a standing order. If you wish to donate via transfer the details are: **Acct Name: WRCDT Hatfield South, Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account Number: 81094602.** If you are a UK taxpayer, please GIFT-AID all donations. Thank you.