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 17/10	5.00pm STM	Pope Leo, Health & Wellbeing	10.30am	
Sun 18/10	10.00am	Private Intention	8.30am	Noel J Benny, Ints
			11.30am	Titus Ngum, RIP
			6.00pm	
Mon 19/10	7.00pm	Mr Lari, RIP		
Tues 20/10			9.30am	In Thanksgiving
Wed 21/10	10.30am			
Thu 22/10			9.30am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri 23/10	10.30am	P & A Gillick, RIP Anni	7.00pm	
Sat 24/10	5.00pm STM	Fr John Kearney, RIP	10.30am	
Next Sun Readings: 1. Exodus 22:21-27 Ps 18(17):2-3a.3b-4.47,51ab 2. Saint Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Gospel Matthew 22:34-40				

IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

INFANT BAPTISM: Contact parish office. Preparation with the catechist is an obligation.
MARRIAGE: Contact parish clergy, 6 months notice is required to allow time for preparation and paper works.
CONFESSIONS: SP: Saturday after 10.30am Mass (and by appointment for both parishes).
DEVOTIONS: Sacred Heart Novena: MC: Friday during adoration before Mass
ROSARY: MC = Wed after Mass.
NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR: SP Tues after Mass.
HATFIELD SVP: Pauline, 07738 074614 and Claudia, 07949 832850.
CATHOLIC HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY LISTER: John O'Neil, 01438285518.
TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MASSES: After 10am at MC and after 11.30am at SP.
CHILDREN'S LITURGY: MC = First & last Sunday of the month during 10am Mass.
SP = During 11.30am Mass. Except 1st Sunday when there is CHILDREN'S MASS.
RCIA: Want to become a Catholic, or find out more? Are you an adult Catholic wanting confirmation? Please contact the parish clergy or Philip Crabtree, 07379 497097.
MASS & HALL BOOKINGS: Masses may be booked by telephone, online or filling out a Mass intention request. Hall bookings may be booked by telephone, online or through the parish office.
FUNERALS: Please speak to the parish clergy before making funeral arrangements.

Holy Father's intention for the month of October 2026. For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illness.

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 17th & 18th October 2026

READINGS: 1. Prophet Isaiah 45:1,4-6 2. Saint Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-5b Gospel Matthew 22:15-21 **Response to Psalm Ps 96(95):1,3.4-5.7-8.9-10a.c. Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.** Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the world of life. Alleluia

Reflection: Before being called by Christ to be one of his twelve Apostles, St Matthew was a tax collector operating in a customs house. His profession required that he be able to read, write and especially keep records, these skills he would put to good use in writing his gospel account of Jesus' mission. His literary style, as an evangelist, may be more artificial than that of St Luke, but there is no doubt that the gospel excerpt you have just heard is truly dramatic. The question put to Jesus, as to whether it was permissible for Jews to pay tribute to Caesar, gives a clear insight into the minds and strategy of the Pharisees. They were trying to walk Jesus into a political trap that would set him at odds with the Roman authorities, who were the rulers of Israel at that time, or, failing that, would discredit him before his own people. To avoid giving rise to suspicion of their intent, they decided not to get involved personally themselves. They sent some of their disciples along to Christ instead. It is quite likely that the leaders of the Pharisees stayed in the background because they wanted the followers of Herod, the Roman appointed tetrarch of Galilee, to take part also in the plot against Jesus, even though these Herodians, who openly advocated cooperation with the Romans, were normally their most bitter enemies.

The mock tributes to Jesus by this delegation, mention of his honesty, his fearlessness, his disregard for the status of those he encountered, all this flattery coming from people who normally were hostile to him merely highlights the hypocrisy of their praise. Then the trap was sprung: "tell us what is your own opinion? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Were Christ to answer, "Pay the tax," then he would stand accused of collaboration with the Roman oppressors, and would incur the scorn of ordinary Jews each of whom had to pay a poll tax, from the age of twelve for women and fourteen for men. Were he to advocate non-payment, he could be arrested for sedition by the Roman authorities. Jesus' response, however, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," left them confounded, and they slunk away. But Jesus' reply left the matter in suspense, because it did not touch upon the right of the Romans to rule Israel, nor did it enumerate precisely the things of Caesar or those of God.

The opposing claims of God and state were left to be decided by the informed conscience of everyone, as they still are to this day. But there remains the warning of Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, that "no one can serve two masters; one cannot be the slave of both God and wealth" (Mt 6:24) .

"Do not be afraid; open wide the doors for Christ." Pope St John Paul II



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 07988 346166



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:	August 2026	August 2025
Offertories Envelopes	462.65	709.20
Offertories SOs and Online	1543.67	1439.67
Offertories Loose Plate	828.44	868.70
General Donations & Fund Raising	331.00	334.00
Total Income	3165.76	3351.57

August 2026 total is -5.9% less than August 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: OCTOBER DEVOTION TO OUR LADY IN MARYCHURCH: Procession: 1st November at 11am, closing procession to end month of the Holy Rosary and to celebrate All Saints Day. Marian Exhibit: '*The Power of the Rosary*' runs from now to 1st November in the Lady Chapel. Everyone welcome.

MC & SP: WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2ND COLLECTION for this weekend. The Pope invites all Catholics to support MISSIO – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. Thank you for your support.

MC & SP: MARY'S MEALS is hosting a free screening of its new feature film, Lettie. All welcome at St Albans Cathedral, 22nd October at 7pm. Please visit Eventbrite for free tickets.

MC & SP: FOOD BANKS at the back of Marychurch and St Peter's. Please donate food that is in date and non-perishable. If you would like any item from the Food Bank, you are very welcome to take what you need. This is for everyone: families and students. We do not wish for people to be without the food they need in our own Church community.

MC & SP: ST PHILIP HOWARD CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL: Reception visits on 5th November, 10th December and 7th January – 9.30am – 10.30am. Please contact the school on 01707 263969 to book your place. For children, whose birth date is between 01/09/2022 & 31/08/2023.

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: hatfieldsothsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk hatieldsouthsg2@rcdow.org.uk
Chinonso Ijdczie - 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:	August 2026	August 2025
Offertories Envelopes	778.20	844.23
Offertories SOs & Online	1426.00	1595.00
Offertories Loose Plate	1492.52	2203.10
Offertories Contactless	935.00	408.00
General Donations	55.00	141.00
Total Income	4686.72	5191.33

August 2026 total is -10.8% less than August 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: REPOSITORY SHOP: Christmas has arrived in our Repository shop, with a lovely selection of new Christmas stock. Please pop in after Mass to browse seasonal cards, gifts and other festive items – perfect for sharing the joy of Christmas with family and friends. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SP & MC: CATHOLIC SOCIETY (CATHSOC) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE for new and returning students to join our society. We meet every Sunday at 6pm Mass. We will host our Freshers Fair on the 1st November and host other events and socials on the last Sunday of the month. Our aim is build community, grow in faith together, and support Catholic students on campus. Please scan the CathSoc QR codes at the main entrances to St Peter's to join the society, or contact us via Instagram @uhcathsoc or speak to us after the 6pm Mass.

SP & MC: PARKING AT ST PETER'S: Please take care when parking at St Peter's and consider parking in High Dells, which is the road directly opposite the Church. There are no restrictions on a Sunday and usually there is space to park. This helps prevent being blocked in or blocking other people in when using St Peter's car park. Please do give this option a try.

SP & MC: BLESSING OF GRAVES at Oak Hill Cemetery, 1st November, 1.30pm – 4pm.

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.