Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole
The Parish Office is open:
Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm
Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm
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Mass this Sunday: Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 27th September 2026

Today's Readings

Ezekiel 18:25-28 When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life.

Philippians 2:1-11 Jesus, being found in human form, humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Matthew 21:28-32 A repentant sinner who turns to God is more pleasing to him than a hypocrite who only pretends to be righteous.

Mass This Week			**Intention**
Saturday 26th	6:30pm		For Our Parishioners
Sunday 27th	9:00am		Dcn Robert Levett (RIP)
	10:30am		The Harvest
Tuesday 29th	6:00pm	Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	Belmont Abbey
Wednesday 30th	9:15am	St Jerome	Scripture Scholars
Thursday 1st	9:15am	St Therese of Lisieux	Vocations to the Religious Life
Friday 2nd	9:15am	Votive Mass St Francis of Assisi	Our Parish Retreat

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Peace

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may usually be celebrated during exposition (5: 30pm Saturday) or by appointment

Please note we intend to livestream the 9am Mass this Sunday.

Mass Offering
This QR code will take you to our parish online donation page.

Harvest Produce Sale: Please celebrate the gardening, cooking and other productive skills of our community (and contribute to Church funds) Stalls will be in the Parish Centre after every mass this weekend.

First Holy Communion 2027 The first parents meeting is on ***Thursday 8th October at 7:30pm*** in the Sacristy. This will be followed by the children's workshop on ***Saturday 10th October 11:30am to 1pm.*** Please ensure you are on time as this will start promptly at 11:30am. The first Link Mass is on ***Sunday 11th October at 10:30am***

Confirmation The opening session of our Confirmation programme will be the enrolment Mass at ***6:30pm on October 10th***. Bp Paul has chosen to come for the Confirmations on ***Saturday 22nd May 6:30pm.*** There will be a planning meeting for catechists 7pm Tuesday October 6th in the Presbytery.

Secondary School Transfer Several Catholic Schools request that practising Catholics (i.e. those participating at mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation) should present a Certificate of Catholic Practice. If you are eligible for this, please see Fr Philip after any weekend mass.

RCIA We are trying to arrange our next session for Adults exploring Catholicism. We are considering a session next Friday (2nd October) at 2pm but are willing to adapt timings if that is inconvenient.

Parish Quiz Night! ***Saturday 3rd October at 7:30pm*** Join us for our Parish Quiz Night in the school hall in collaboration with our school. This promises to be an enjoyable evening of fun, friendly competition and community spirit. **Tickets: £12 per person/ Free for Under 14's**

CAFOD *Family Fast Day* Appeal this Harvest Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. CAFOD envelopes are available for donations, or you can donate online at **cafod.org.uk/envelope** or call **0303 303 3030**.

Parish Retreat Day We will be traveling up the A1 to Buckden Towers for a day retreat with a Franciscan Theme. Please sign up on the poster in the Sacristy, both to say you are coming, but also to indicate if you can drive and how many passangers you could give a lift to.

Volunteers *We are actively seeking new volunteers in every area of Church life*. This includes: Musicians, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, RCIA Catechists, Readers and many more. Please see Fr Philip if there is something you can help with.

Safeguarding All those who volunteer to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults need to have had a DBS check for the specific role they have in the Church and renew it every three years. If you think you may need a check or a renewal please see Fr Philip and/or Anthony Ogwara (roystonsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Praying with the Scriptures Workshop led by Archbishop Richard Moth Saturday 24th October, 2:00–5:00pm, - Westminster Cathedral Hall, London The Agency for Evangelisation will be hosting a workshop on the prayerful reading of Scripture, with Archbishop Richard Moth, who will lead us deeper into the practice of *Lectio Divina*. Please find booking details on the poster.

Come & See Vocations Morning – Sat 17th Oct, 10.30-1.30 at Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove W52 DY. Could God be calling you? Come and learn more about the Priesthood and Permanent Diaconate. Hear from those already serving in their vocations and meet others who are also discerning their vocation. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and register your attendance: contact Canon Roger Taylor, Vocations Promoter vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Ian Edwards Assistant Director, Permanent Diaconate ianedwards@rcdow.org.uk

The Catholic Tradition of Harvest Feasts

Harvest Festivals in England were revived in the Church of England in the Nineteenth Century but they do have Catholic roots. These include:

St. Peter in Chains, or Lammas or Loaf-Mass Day, August 1 Lammas is Anglo-Saxon origin, celebrating the first fruits of the summer wheat or grain harvest in the English speaking countries of Europe. The Roman Ritual included a Blessing of the Harvest to use on this feast or the Transfiguration.

Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6—This feast corresponds with the Jewish feast of Booths or Tabernacles. Both in Eastern churches and in Rome rituals have the blessing of grapes, raisins and other fruits, wine and also blessing and incorporating the wheat grains in the celebration.

Feast of the Assumption, August 15—In many Germanic countries this is thanksgiving harvest for first fruits, herbs and flowers, with the Roman Ritual including a Blessing of Fruits and Herbs for this feast.

Feast of St. Bartholomew, August 24—Because St. Bartholomew is the patron of shepherds and husbandmen, in Britain this was another harvest feast for shepherds and farmers. Lamb and mutton are the traditional foods for this feast.

Feast of the Nativity of Mary, September 8—For certain regions this feast marked the end of the summer harvest. The Roman Ritual included a blessing of seeds and seedlings. In France the winegrowers brought grapes to be blessed and called this feast "Our Lady of the Grape Harvest." In the Austrian Alps this was "Drive-Down Day," bringing herds of cattle and sheep from their summer pastures. After the work, the thanksgiving festivities would begin.

Feast of St. Michael or Michaelmas, September 29—In England this was a "quarter day" and a huge harvest feast, often with a roasted goose as the centerpiece.

Feast of St. Martin or Martinmas, November 11—For most of the European continent Martinmas was the biggest harvest feast.