# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

**Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 67: 6-7, 36**
God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**Collect**
O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

**First reading: 1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12**

In those days: The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.'

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 119:57, 72. 76-77, 127-130.**

***O LORD, how I love your law!***

You, O LORD, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

***O LORD, how I love your law!***

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

***O LORD, how I love your law!***

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

***O LORD, how I love your law!***

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

***O LORD, how I love your law!***

**Second reading: Romans 8:28-30**

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**Gospel Acclamation: Cf. Matthew 11:25**
***Allelula, allelula.***
***I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,***
***you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.***
***Allelula.***

**Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52**

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

**Prayer over the Offerings**
Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings
which we bring from the abundance of your gifts,
that through the powerful working of your grace
these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life
and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon: Ps 102: 2**
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

**Prayer after Communion**
We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament,
the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son;
grant, we pray, that this gift,
which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling,
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

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## ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

## Sunday 26th July 2026

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Welcome to all at Mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This Newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

**Sunday Cycle**
***Readings Year A***
**Weekday Mass Readings**
***Ordinary TimeWeek 17***
**Divine Office** ***Week 1***

**For children, download a weekly sheet:**
**http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/**

## Masses and Intentions THIS WEEK

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sun 26 July** | **17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** |
| 6.15pm *Sat Vigil* | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| 8.30am | Mary & Michael Hughes RIP |
| 9.45am | Watts & Ledo Families RIP |
| 11.15am | Ann Tuohey RIP |
| 5:30pm | Mariea & Thomas Pereira RIP |
| **Mon 27 July** | **Feria** |
| 9:30am | Jose Felicio Desa RIP |
| **Tues 28 July** | **Feria** |
| 9.30am | Mariana Desa RIP |
| **Weds 29 July** | **Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus** |
| 9.30am | Deceased members of the Desa Family |
| **Thurs 30 July** | **Feria** |
| 9.30am | Millie Smith RIP |
| **Fri 31 July** | **S. Ignatius** |
| 9:30am | Vincent & Avril Isaacs RIP |
| **Sat 1 August** | **S. Alphonsus Liguori** |
| 9:30am | Eddie & Cheryl Rozario 39th Wedding Anniversary |
| **Sun 2 August** | **18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** |
| 6.15pm *Sat Vigil* | PEOPLE OF THE PARISH |
| 8.30am | Elizabeth Hannon RIP |
| 9.45am | Baptist Fernandes Intentions |
| 11.15am | Mike Barrett RIP |
| 5:30pm | Lucille Thomas Intentions |

## TODAY'S MASS



In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. In the third parable the kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

**First Reading:** ***1 Kings 3:5,7-12***
Solomon pleases God when he asks for a wise and understanding heart to better govern the people.

**Second Gospel Reading:** ***Romans 8:28-30***
God chose us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

**Gospel Reading:** ***Matthew 13:44-52***
Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven.

## SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

***"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal"***

St Thomas More

**MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S**

**Parish Priest:** Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Jude Avwata judeavwata@rcdow.org.uk
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**Telephone:** 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office/ SVP Information 3. Mgr Jeremy; 4. Fr Jude; 5. Catechetical Coordinator.
**Charity No:** 233699
**Email:** sudbury@rcdow.org.uk Website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/sudbury

# GOSPEL REFLECTION

## DAILY MASS TIMES

**SUNDAY MASS:** 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm.
**WEEKDAY MASS:** Monday – Saturday 9.30am.
**HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION:** 9.30am, 8.00pm.
**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Friday 9.00-9.30am, Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.
**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 5.15pm -6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*
**DIVINE MERCY:** Tuesday 10.30am.
**ROSARY:** Daily after Mass.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**SICK & HOUSEBOUND:** *Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, Dee Auriol, Christopher Browne, John, Aaran Thayaparan, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Patrick, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert, Martha Conway, Edward Granger, Ciara I, Mary O'Connell, Paul Pereira, Nora Hunt, Mario, Maureen Chick, Ramzan, Larry Sicat, Andras Nagy, Tony Eivers*

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** *Viola Carvalho, Phoebe Creed*

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** *Claude Isaacs*

**ALL RECENTLY CONFIRMED:**

**ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: -**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP**
*In Memory of Barbara Dunn*

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**
*In Memory of Ed & Teresa Stephenson*

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS for August**
**For evangelization in the city**
Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.




**Listening is a skill often unpractised today; we only need to note current political discourse, TV commentators on current events, and even observe carefully our own family communications to realise that we tend to talk a lot and listen relatively little.**

**In the midst of a world where there is so much chatter and so little respectful attention we hear Solomon asking God in today's first reading for the gift of *"a listening heart"*, preferring this disposition of openness to others more than power or wealth. For his part the Psalmist extolls the virtue of listening, the wisdom books of the Old Testament insist upon it ceaselessly, and our Lord himself often begins his teaching by urging his disciples to *"hear a parable..."* as we heard at Mass two weeks ago.**

**In that same passage Jesus explained why active, conscious listening was critical for those to whom he preached, and remains so for us; he says that if we do not make this effort: *"they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand... they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them"* (Matt 13:13, 15).**

**The wisdom that arises from careful listening enables us to discern what is truly important in life and in our faith; this is what Jesus was trying to explain in the parable of the buried treasure and that of the pearl of great price. We do not sell everything we have and use the proceeds to buy an object if that object is not of truly compelling worth.**

**Solomon recognized what was of real value in living his vocation as a follower of the Lord and as the King of Israel: the wisdom that only comes with *"a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith"* (1 Tim 1:5). In turn this wisdom only comes to those who are humble enough to listen to it quietly and peaceably.**

**May we attune our hearts to be listening and understanding so that the Lord's precious gifts might not be lost on us, and so we may share them generously, *"like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old"* (Matt 13:52).**



# NEWS UPDATE

**WELCOME** to all at Mass today and a big welcome to anyone who is new or a visitor.

**ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?** It always helps us to get to know you and also your family if you register with us. We can then send you information about the parish and opportunities. Registration forms can be found at the back of Church underneath the photo of Pope Leo.

**THE PARISH OFFICE HOURS** will now be Monday—Friday 10.00am-2.00pm. Outside these hours, **urgent** matters can be directed to the Presbytery. **Please note the Parish Office will be closed for the summer from Monday 20th July to Thursday 3rd September 2026.**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SUMMER.** We wish everyone going away on holiday a time of relaxation and refreshment and a safe travel. For those who are here the Mass Schedule will stay the same as usual. There will be **no music at any of the Masses this Sunday and all of August** so we wish all our singers an equal time of rest from their ministry. During August there will also be a simple Newsletter.

**AS WE MOVE TOWARDS THE HOLIDAY SEASON:** If you are a Reader, Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Counter, Musician, Cleaner or help out in any way in the parish and are going away, please arrange cover for your duties. This will help us enormously with the smooth running of the Masses and for all that we do together. Thank you in advance.

**GOOD NEWS** Work is going on to improve the parish buildings for which the whole parish is responsible. Recently the small kitchen attached to the main hall has been refurbished—and what a good job they did! Just at the moment the builders are refurbishing our disabled toilet (sorry, it's a bit out of action at the moment). Soon we should have our new contactless machines making it easier for you to use your card in the Repository and the Parish Office. Also we have had the tree surgeons here for most of the week tidying up our trees and branches—a health and safety necessity.

**NEW DRIVERS & ESCORTS FOR PARISH MINIBUS** - A huge thank you to **Stefan** who has been **co-ordinating the Parish Minibus Service** for the last couple of years but is moving away from the Parish. In order for the Parish to keep this service going in the future it will be necessary to find new **Drivers** and **Escorts.** Those generously offering to help will be required to complete a **DBS for Vulnerable Adults** with the Parish and a little **Online Training** supporting them in this new ministry accompanying people to Mass. If you might consider helping in the future, please contact the **Parish Team** at **sudbury@rcdow.org.uk.**

**ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING** - Children who have made their First Holy Communion and would like to serve, along with those wishing to refresh or refine their skills, are welcome to join us for this year's introduction to Altar Serving taking place at the Parish on **Saturday 12th September at 2pm**.

**CONFIRMATION 2026-27** - Those in **Year 10** and above who are **registered & regularly attend Mass at this Parish** are welcome to join our Confirmation Preparation Programme **beginning in December 2026**. Further details will be provided in the Autumn.

**SERVING AS A PARISH CATECHIST** - Opportunities are available to **help with Catechesis at the Parish,** serving alongside a team of experienced Catechists. For further information about **Baptism Preparation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation or RCIA Catechesis**, please contact our **Catechetical Coordinator**, Peter, at **peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk.**

**A DAY FOR PARISH CATECHISTS** - The **Diocese of Westminster** is offering a **Day for Parish Catechists** taking place at the **SPEC Retreat Centre (Pinner)** on **Saturday 3rd October from 10am-4pm.** For **further information** & to **buy tickets (£10)** please contact **catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.**

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS** - To protect children & vulnerable adults at the Parish, the Diocese of Westminster requires all volunteers to complete **Safeguarding Training every 2 years**. The training can be accessed online at https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/. On registration, you will be directed to the correct pre-allocated course based on the role. Thank you for completing **"Level 3 Safeguarding training for Clergy, Staff and DBS Volunteers in the Diocese of Westminster"** as and when required.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT 2026-27** - Children beginning **Year 3 in September**, who are **registered and regularly attend Mass at this Parish**, are welcome to join our FHC Preparation Programme. **Enrolment Packs** are available to collect from the back of church. **Parents/Carers** should bring their completed **Enrolment Form**, **photocopy of Baptism Certificate** & **£30 Contribution** to the **FHC Enrolment Evening** on **Tuesday 8th September at 7pm**. Please note that the **FHC Enrolment Evening** is for **Parents/Carers only.** Thank you for making **childcare arrangements well in advance** so you are able to successfully enrol your child. If you require further information relating to First Holy Communion preparation, please contact our Catechetical Coordinator at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** - **Baptism Preparation** sessions at the Parish provide **essential** formation for Parents/Carers as they prepare for this important Sacrament. If you are expecting a baby, or would like your baby baptised, please **pick up a Baptism Pack** from the **Parish Office**. To attend our next **Baptism Preparation** you will need to **complete** the **Baptism Application Form** (in the Pack) & **return it to the Parish Office by Monday 21st September 2026.**

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CHRISTIAN OR JUST DISCOVERING MORE?** If you are interested in becoming a Christian we would be delighted to accompany you on this journey. Please **speak to one of the clergy** or **email Peter, our Catechetical Coordinator**, at **peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk**, so we can provide further information. If you were baptised but have not yet received the gifts of the Holy Spirit in confirmation we would also be happy to support you on this journey.

**THE OVER 60's CLUB** has finished now for the summer. Club will resume on Tuesday 8th September at 1pm in the Café/Bar. All welcome.

**A DATE TO REMEMBER—WHEREVER YOU MAY BE....**
Sunday 16th August is the Solemnity of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As with all Sundays, this is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics. Wherever you may be, please celebrate by attending Mass. Masses here at St George's will be at the usual times.

**SPONSORING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP & THE LAMP AT OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM** is a lovely thing to do for a departed loved one or a particular intention. There are some possibilities in the month of August. Please contact the Parish Office.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND AT ST. GEORGE'S ...26th–27th September**. We warmly invite married couples to take part in a **Marriage Encounter Weekend** here at **St. George's** on **Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September 2026.** This special weekend is a chance to reflect, reconnect and grow closer as a couple—no matter how long you've been married. It offers a unique opportunity to deepen your love and strengthen your married commitment. For more details and to book go to **http://www.wwme.org.uk**

**CHURCH CANDLES** must always be placed on a candle stand (and NOT beside a particular statue on the wood) as this poses a fire risk. Please ONLY use candles that are supplied in the church.

**A MASS FOR YOUR INTENTIONS** Requesting a Mass intention is a powerful way to place what matters most to us into God's loving care. It is also a wonderfully practical way of supporting the mission and ministry of the Church, enabling Priests to continue their pastoral work and the Gospel to be proclaimed. The Mass offering recommended by the Diocese is £10, or whatever you can afford. Every intention is welcomed with prayer and gratitude, just contact the Parish Office for available dates.

**LUMINISCENCE AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL:** From 1st July to (potentially) late January 2027, Westminster Cathedral will be the setting of a fully immersive world of sound and light, for four nights a week. Luminiscence is a ground-breaking take on the concept of *son et lumière*, a 360-degree video projection experience, using 24 laser projectors, which will bring the Cathedral to life in breath-taking ways with colour and imagery, culminating in a vision of what the Cathedral may one day look like fully covered in mosaics. The experience is accompanied by carefully selected music accompanied by a recorded poetic narration by Hugh Bonneville, specially scripted for the Cathedral. The performances will take place from Wednesday until Saturday each week, with one performance a night at 9.00pm from July until mid-September. Thereafter, there will be two performances a night at 7.30pm and 9.00pm. For more information visit: westminstercathedral.org.uk.

**STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE BEING LEGALISED** Assisted suicide campaigners have sadly brought back the Leadbeater Bill. This can be stopped if MPs vote down the Bill on 11th September. *Right To Life UK* has launched an *Easy Action* tool to help you email your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons. Your voice matters. Please take 30 seconds to email your MP today to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide: **https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote**