SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon
I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Collect
O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbour,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.
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: Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:2-3. 8-9. 17-18.
The LORD is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

Second reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Cf. Acts 16:14b
Alleluia, alleluia.
Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

Prayer over the Offerings
Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your people,
that what they profess with devotion and faith
may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 118: 4-5
You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Prayer after Communion
Graciously raise up, O Lord,
those you renew with this Sacrament,
that we may come to possess your redemption
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.
Through Christ our Lord.

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ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 20th September 2026

TWENTY-FIFTH 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 25
Divine Office ***Week 1***

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

Masses and Intentions THIS WEEK

Sun 20 Sept	**25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Reethamma Varghese RIP
8.30am	Andrew Rozario RIP
9.45am	Rowland Watts RIP
11.15am	Terzinha Carvalho RIP
5:30pm	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon 21 Sept	**S. Matthew**
9:30am	Daniel Daley Snr RIP
Tues 22 Sept	**Feria**
9.30am	Coomarewel Family Intentions
Weds 23 Sept	**S.Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)**
9.30am	Mathai Nechikkaty RIP
Thurs 24 Sept	**Our Lady of Walsingham**
9.30am	Norah O'Toole RIP
Fri 25 Sept	**Feria**
9:30am	George Biggerstaff RIP
Sat 26 Sept	**S.s Cosmas & Damian**
9:30am	Beyonce Vaz Birthday Intentions
Sun 27 Sept	**26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
6.15pm *Sat Vigil*	Linda & Felix Lyons RIP
8.30am	Michael Shanahan RIP
9.45am	Joe, Michael & Thomas Haugh RIP
11.15am	Brendan Byrne RIP
5:30pm	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TODAY'S MASS



Today's parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

First Reading: ***Isaiah 55:6-9***
God's ways are far beyond the ways of human beings.

Second Reading: ***Philippians 1:20c-24,27a***
Paul tells the Philippians to live for Christ.

Gospel Reading: ***Matthew 20:1-16***
In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

" Following after God is the desire of happiness; to reach God is happiness itself"
St. Augustine of Hippo

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr Jude Awata judeawata@rcdow.org.uk
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk
Secretary: Mrs. Mary Walsh sudbury@rcdow.org.uk
Director of Music: Mr. Scott Price scottprice@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Hanna Gorgis sudburysg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Tel 07751804978
Address: The Presbytery, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QE
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, Margaret O'Leary*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Asa Rowe, Harry Luckins*

RECENTLY DEPARTED:

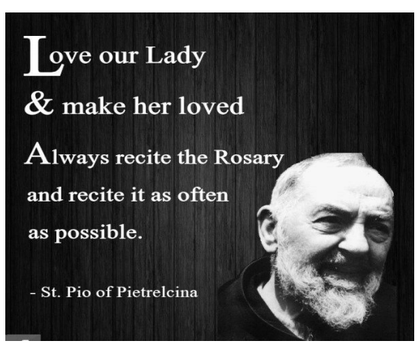
ALL RECENTLY CONFIRMED:

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: -*Daniel Daley Snr., Norah O'Toole, Andrew Rozario (30th)*

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Christian & Mary Andrews
50th Wedding Anniversary Intentions

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
In Memory of Allan Noronha

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS for September
For the care of water
Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource,
so that everyone may have equal access to it.



Is this Gospel about fairness or generosity? I have heard some people observe, just like those in the parable who worked all day, that the landowner in this parable is not being fair to most of the workers. After all, does Jesus say in Luke 10; *"the Labourer is worth his wage?"* It could seem unfair if we look at it through the lens of this world that at times sees fairness as being more important than generosity. Even though the landowner paid those who worked all day the just and agreed upon wage, they grumbled when he paid those who worked only an hour the same amount. The line in the landowner's response to their grumbling that strikes at the root of the problem is this, "do you begrudge my generosity?"

There are some things in the parable that indicate that the landowner was using this generosity to teach a lesson. He sent four groups of workers to his fields at different times. The landowner had a heart that didn't want to see someone willing to be out of work. At five when he saw some people not working he asked them; "Why do you stand here idle all day?" Their response was simple and to the point, "because no one has hired us." He seemed moved by their situation and sent them to work, if only for an hour. When it was time to pay the workers the landowner did something unusual. Rather than start with the first group and end with the last group, he started with the last group. This meant that all the others who had been working throughout the day saw this group who only worked an hour getting a full day's wage. It also meant that the others thought that they would get more, but they didn't. All received the same daily wage.

When this is applied to the ways of our world it could seem that the landowner was unfair or unjust. After all many people meticulously keep track of their work hours, fill out time sheets etc. The claim of being generous would be lost in the midst of our bureaucratic ways let alone in the ill feelings of those who worked all day, or most of the day. However, when applied to God's relationship to us, it takes on a whole different meaning.

The person who lives an almost saintly life and the person who lives a life of sinfulness with no regard for God, who repents late in life or on the death bed, both receive the same reward – Heaven. The landowner mirrors the generosity of God with how he dealt with the workers with a true generosity out of love. It is certainly a challenge for us to look at others, regardless of the amount of time or the length of living their faith, and have the same love and concern for them. This might mean putting aside any feelings of jealousy toward those who seem to be making it into heaven with a "fire escape' prayer, while we have worked and sacrificed all our lives to be faithful members of the church.

Conversions late in life to the Catholic Faith, and death bed conversions, happen in our day, and they are something to behold with joy. The message for us is to welcome with joy the repentant sinner, regardless of how long it takes them to repent.

It is a lesson for us not to worry about the length of time one has faithfully served, but rather to rejoice in all who have served, regardless of how long.

NEWS UPDATE



Our Macmillan Coffee Morning will take place this Friday 25th September after the morning Mass. Offers of cakes and things to sell etc. much appreciated

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.

THIS WEEKEND the Church celebrates *Home Mission Sunday*, giving thanks for the gift of faith and renewing our commitment to share the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus. This year's theme, *"Magnifica Humanitas"* the greatness of humanity, reminds us that every person is created and loved by God, with a unique dignity and vocation. As Christians, we are called to recognise this dignity and to care for one another, building our community marked by compassion and hope. Our mission is not only to proclaim the Gospel in words, but also to witness to Christ through lives of love and practical care. Every baptised person has a part to play in this mission, sharing the joy of faith and helping others to encounter the love of God. You can read more about this here: https://cbcew.org.uk/home-mission-sunday

APPLES & JARS: Thank you to those who dropped these off at the Presbytery. We have now made some things to sell at our Advent Fair.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026-27 - Thank you to all those Parents/Carers who joined us for the **'Handing on our Faith'** Session last week. This coming Tuesday there is a meeting just for FHC Catechists. **Children, Parents/Carers, Catechists & Helpers** are reminded to please attend the **FHC Enrolment Mass** taking place at the Parish on **Sunday 27th September at 9.45am**. Please note enrolment on this year's Programme is now **closed.**

CONFIRMATION 2026-27 - Young people in **Year 10 & above**, who are **registered & regularly attend Mass at this Parish**. are welcome to join our **Confirmation Preparation Programme.** Young people wishing to be confirmed must attend the **Confirmation Information Evening** with a Parent/Carer on **Monday 14th December at 7.30pm**. For further information, 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.**

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.**

SEEKING BAPTISM PREPARATION CATECHISTS - We are seeking **Catechists** to **help prepare Parents and Godparents for the baptism of their infants**. The commitment would be one evening every couple of months. If you might consider helping, please contact the Parish Office at sudbury@rcdow.org.uk or speak to any of the Parish Team for further information.

NEW PARISH SPECIAL NEEDS INITIATIVE - We are delighted that **Gail Williams** from **Caritas** will be coming to speak at all the Masses on **3rd/4th October** as we strive to create, in collaboration with Caritas, a new SEN initiative serving those with special needs at the Parish. Thank you for keeping this new initiative in prayer, that it may bear fruit for some of the more vulnerable at the Parish.

DBS ADMINISTRATION & SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - Thank you to Anika Huggins who has completed her training and is now generously helping the Parish with the administration of **DBS Applications, Rechecks & Safeguarding Training**. If you received an email reminder over the summer regarding a DBS recheck or Safeguarding Training and you haven't already completed it, **please complete it as soon as possible**. Thank you.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY HELPERS AT 9.45AM FAMILY MASS - We are seeking new volunteers to help the younger children (4-7yr) reflect on Sunday's Gospel during Mass in a fun, creative & simple way. If you might consider helping once every six weeks or so, joining an established group of experienced Catechists, please contact Una Moran una@bfmconsult.co.uk or Peter Kingsley peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk Thank you.

ST LUKE'S HOSPICE FUNDRAISER Live Music Night on Saturday 14th November, 7pm to 11pm, Fr O' Callaghan Centre, 22 Hay Lane, London NW9 0NG. Please see posters in the Parish Centre and Church Porch for ticket information.

SOUTH VALE PRE-SCHOOL admissions are now open. We have proudly supported local families for many years, offering a caring space for little ones to learn and grow. We accept Government funding from 18 months old. For more information, please contact us on Tel: 07745 860 794.

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 January. Please contact the Parish Office.

ST. GEORGE'S OVER 60'S CLUB Lots of people and great fun too! Why not join them? All over 60's welcome—just turn up on Tuesday in the Café Bar in the Parish Centre at 1pm. Come along and bring a friend. You don't need to be Catholic!

SCHOOL FORM SIGNING DATES:
Mgr. Jeremy and Fr Jude will be signing Certificate of Catholic Practice forms on the following dates:-
Secondary School, Sixth Form College & Grammar School applications:-Thursday 8th October 2026 at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre.

Primary School/ Nursery applications Thursday 12th November 2026 at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre.

Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) Forms and Parish Supplementary forms are now available from the back of church. Make sure you complete these before you come. Having a Certificate of Catholic Practice signed by one of the priests means exactly what it is. You need to be at Mass every Sunday. Please don't encourage the clergy to be dishonest....

CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY is on **Friday 2nd** October. We will hold our CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest on Sunday 11th October after all Masses. Envelopes for your use will be out the previous week. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. CAFOD envelopes will be available in the church at the end of September and a QR Code will be printed in the Newsletter closer to the time.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS: Those wishing to apply for a place in Year 7 for September 2027 are invited to visit colleges/schools in September and October 2026. Full details can be found on the individual school websites:- www.tshlc.harrow.sch.uk, www.gunnersbury.com, www.joa.herts.sch.uk and www.stclaudines.co.uk

ARCHBISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON, Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Bishops' Conference, has offered his gratitude and thanks to those who wrote to their MPs to stop the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* progressing through parliament. Archbishop Sherrington also expressed his gratitude to disability rights groups and legal and healthcare professionals for raising a collective voice to uphold "the dignity and sanctity of every life." The Bill failed after Second Reading by 270 (Yes) votes to 286 (No) a majority of 16. Thank you to all from the parish, who contacted their MP.