26th Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass Times and Intentions

Divine Office – Psalter Week 2

Saturday 26th September	5.30pm	Jim Oakes (Anniversary)
Sunday 27th September	11.00am	Al, Pat and Ian Appleton
Tuesday 29th September	9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 30th September		NO MASS
Thursday 1st October	9.30am	Annie and Claire Glover
Saturday 3rd October	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4th October	11.00am	Teresa Cash

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass		**p. 134**
Profession of Faith	Nicene	p. 11
Preface	Sundays III	p. 66
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 3	p. 27

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention 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.

September is the month of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary's supreme sorrow was witnessing the crucifixion of her Divine Son as she stood at the foot of the Cross. We honour Mary, the Mother of our Saviour and our Mother.

The Roman Catholic Parish of

Our Lady Help of Christians

Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT

Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF

Deacon: Rev Tom Simms

Email: smaaa@rcaol.org.uk Tel. 0151 546 9687



26th Sunday of the Year (A)

27th September 2026



The First Reading is from the Prophet Ezekiel. In this passage, the Prophet is restating what he has been told by God to tell the Israelites of the 6th century BC. At that time, the Jewish monarchy was disintegrating because it refused to be faithful and obedient to God. They worshipped false gods and followed all kinds of practices that were contrary to the Commandments. Yet, God was willing to forgive them if they turned away from their evil ways.

The Responsorial Psalm is a prayer in which the psalmist and all of us ask God to guide us in His ways so that we might not fall into the trap of sin. It is not easy to do this because it might cause us to give in to God's ways; but if we do, verse 9 tells us that, "He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble His ways." We can't go wrong by following Him.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. In this passage, Paul is asking each of his followers (and us) to be humble enough to "look out for the health and welfare of others before ourselves." He then goes on to give us Jesus as the supreme example of humility. The poem that follows tells us how Jesus set aside being God to come to earth as man to teach us the "ways of God" and of the glory that will follow if we do. This poem is also the basis of the Church's dogma of Jesus' dual nature, being both true God and true Man.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew. In this passage, Jesus is giving us a lesson on "change of heart." Here we have two sons being asked by their father to do something for him that was within their capability and responsibility. The first son refuses but then changes his mind and obeys. The other agrees to fulfil the command, but doesn't. Fidelity and obedience to the Father is at stake here, and Jesus is accusing the Chief Priests and Elders of being worse than prostitutes and tax collectors who will be forgiven because they have given up their sinful ways. The Chief Priest and Elders, however, will not be forgiven because they were stubborn and lacking in humility in refusing to accept the teachings of Jesus even though they knew better.

Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

Social Evening

Many thanks to all those who supported our last event. It raised a very generous £140.00. Our next get together will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27th October..

Portico Fundraisers

On 27th September we have a £1 Tabletop Sale. New clothes and footwear; household items; games, jigsaws, toys, and more… Bargains for everyone.

Knitters and Stitchers

You will soon see the poppy project we have been creating during the year. There is an opportunity to sponsor a poppy with the name of your loved one. Envelopes are available at the back of Church for your information and donation. Please return them to the shop. Funds raised will go to the maintenance of our Church with a donation to the Royal British Legion.
Thank you again, Knitters & Stitchers

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Friday 2nd October is our day of solidarity and support for those most in need in our world. We are encouraged do without some food or some luxury (we fast) and donate the money we save to the work of CAFOD with those in need. Fast Day envelopes are available in the porch and can be returned over the next couple of weeks. Your generosity offers is very much appreciated.

Adoremus 2026

Join us at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 10th of October for this year's Adoremus. The theme this year is "How we are Eucharist". Come and join us from 9.00am – 6.00pm to adore the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The event itself is free and available to all. There will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day, Holy Mass, opportunities for confession, a variety of workshops and a shared time of prayer during the day for all. Celebrated with Archbishop John Sherrington, this is an event not to be missed! You can sign up for various workshops here: archdioceseofliverpool.org/adoremus2026

Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage

Applications for the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2027 are now open for young people from across the Archdiocese from ages 15-22. The early bird discount from last year has been continued so those who apply before 19th October will receive a £50 discount.
The reduced price is £680.00 and applications are through http://www.liverpoollourdesyouth.co.uk/

Mary's Meals Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Join us on Saturday 28th November for a festive wreath making event and help raise money for Mary's Meals. Two sessions are available: 10am – 12pm or 2pm – 4pm.
There is more information on the poster in the porch.

Feast Days This Week

Monday — **St Wenceslaus –** A Bohemia Prince (Prince Vaclav the Good) who was born about the year 907. He was brought up in the Christian religion by his grandmother and took over power in the kingdom about the year 925 after his mother, the regent, alienated the people by her violent actions. A man of great piety, he worked hard for the religious and cultural improvement of his people. He encountered many difficulties both in ruling his kingdom and in promoting the Christian faith. He was betrayed by his brother Boleslaus for political reasons and was murdered in the year 935. He was immediately proclaimed a martyr and in venerated as the principle patron of Bohemia. He is buried in St Vitus' Cathedral which he had established as a chapel in Pargue Cathedral.

Tuesday — **SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL –** Three of the seven angels who stand before God. Michael is leader of the heavenly armies and is mentioned in the epistle of St Jude as "rebuking the devil". Gabriel is the one sent to Zechariah and to Our Lady, and thus is described as the "Angel of the Annunciation". Raphael is identified as the angel of the sheep-pool in Jerusalem. His name means "the Healer of God". The archangels are the essence of fidelity to contemplating God and carrying out his will.

Wednesday — **St Jerome –** A man of immense learning, passionate devotion and asceticism. He wished the Church to have as accurate a text of the Bible as possible, and he wished religious life to be based on a prayerful study of the Scriptures. He was born in Dalmatia on the Adriatic coast about the year 340, and was baptised after studying in Rome. Then he began to lead a life of asceticism, went to the East and there was ordained priest. Returning to Rome he was secretary to Pope St Damasus and began the task of translating the Bible into Latin, a task that took thirty years, as well as promoting the monastic life. He then settled in Bethlehem where he ruled a newly founded monastery, and where he wrote many works, especially commentaries on the Scriptures. He died at Bethlehem in the year 420.

Thursday — **St Teresa of the Child Jesus –** She was born in France in the year 1873. While still young she entered the Carmelite monastery at Lisieux, where she achieved a deep, intimate union with God. She was always ready to serve others, and taught the novices by her example. She excelled at the virtues of humility, evangelical simplicity and a firm confidence in God. From her enclosed convent she prayed for the conversion of souls, and so became the patroness of foreign missions. She died on 30th September 1897.

Friday — **The Guardian Angels –** In tasking his angels to care for us. God shows the immense love he has for us, who are created in his own image and likeness. The memorial highlights God's loving protection for every individual by the Divine Providence of unseen spiritual messengers who help in the avoidance of sin and temptation, guiding the soul towards God. Angels appear throughout the Sacred Scriptures as intermediaries between God and us, a lifelong connection between the human and spiritual realms, serving as personal guardians and as an inspiration to make the right choice.

Saturday — **St Adalgott -** Bishop and comforter of the poor. Adalgott was a monk in the Benedictine Monastery of Clairvaux, where St. Bernard trained his successors. He was appointed the abbot of the Benedictines in Dissentis, where he became known for his care of the sick and poor. When Adalgott was named bishop of Chur, he conducted an apostolate for the suffering of the region, founding a hospital in 1150.