

 21st Sunday of the Year (A) Mass Times and Intentions Divine Office – Psalter Week 1 		
Saturday 22 nd August	5.30pm	Eric Prescott
Sunday 23 rd August	11.00am	Paul and Ann Lowrey
Tuesday 25 th August	9.30am	Andrew and Mary Appleton
Wednesday 26 th August		NO MASS
Thursday 27 th August	9.30am	Pat Hart (Birthday Remembrance)
Saturday 29 th August	5.30pm	Monica and Lawrence Cliffe
Sunday 30 th August	11.00am	Margaret Whittle

Sunday Liturgy

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Profession of Faith	Nicene	p. 11
Preface	Sundays VI	p. 67
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 24

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for August



For evangelisation 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.

August is the month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Her heart is venerated because it is the seat of her love, especially for her Divine Son, and for us after Jesus, as he died on the cross, declared her to be our Mother.

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21st Sunday of the Year (A) 23rd August 2026



Peter's Profession of Faith

In the First Reading, from the Prophet Isaiah, we hear only a small portion of the instructions the Prophet Isaiah gives to Eliakim, the messenger of King Hezekiah of Jerusalem. These instructions were essentially the same as Jesus asks Peter. Isaiah is saying to Eliakim, "In whom are you putting your trust? You profess to believe in the God of Israel, so now act upon that belief; otherwise you will hang like dishes." (For the full text of this story go to 2 Kings 18 and 19). If we say we are Catholic, if we say we believe in the God in Jesus Christ, then we must show it through our speech and actions.

The Responsorial Psalm is a prayer of thanksgiving that King Hezekiah might have offered after God turned back the Assyrian

general at the gates of Jerusalem. The essence of this prayer is the phrase, "When I called, you answered me." God is waiting for us to call. Do we have enough trust?

In the Second Reading, from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, we hear Paul extol the Wisdom of God in His divine Plan of Salvation. Paul is quoting several Old Testament statements of belief which acknowledge God's wisdom in giving the gift of faith first to the Jews and then to Christians. Together, we should complement one another for the "greater honour and glory of God."

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew. We have all heard this story many times, and yet, do we really get the message? In these few lines, we hear Jesus question all the Apostles, but it is Peter who gives the ultimate answer. Could we do the same? Jesus then goes on to give Peter the "keys to the kingdom of heaven." This is a symbolic phrase. It is not "keys" literally, but rather authority. Thus the Church is established, and Peter is the rock on which the Church will be built.

Let us pray for Pope Leo, who is tasked with exercising the authority of St Peter in our Church today.



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 wonderfully generous £210.00. In addition sales of honey (from Virginia's own busy bees!) raised another very generous £110.00, giving a total of £320.00.

Our next Social Evening will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 15th September in the Parish Hall.

Bereavement Group

There will be no meeting for the Bereavement Group in August

SHARe Knowsley

SHARe Knowsley is seeking donations of clean, good-quality men's clothing to support people seeking asylum who are rebuilding their lives with dignity. We particularly need everyday clothing, coats, shoes and trainers in all sizes. We also welcome toiletries and women's clothes. If you can help please contact Tim or Denise (07500 039 406).

Beginner's Yoga

Join us for Beginner's Yoga starting at 10.30am every Friday morning in the Parish Hall. It's a wonderful way to exercise and relax, and all monies raised will go towards the upkeep of our lovely garden and Parish Hall.

Evening Prayer with the Apostolic Nuncio

All are invited to assemble as our archdiocesan family at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Sunday 13 September at 3pm for the culmination of the Apostolic Nuncio's visit to the archdiocese. This date coincides with the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Metropolitan Chapter of Liverpool. The celebration will take the form of Evening Prayer sung in the Cathedral. There will be a drinks reception after in the Crypt.

St Edmund Arrowsmith

The annual pilgrimage to the Holy Hand of St Edmund Arrowsmith takes place on Sunday 30th August at the Church of St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith, Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 9NP. Mass will be celebrated by at **3.00pm**, followed by Veneration of the Holy Hand. The Principal Celebrant will be Fr John Hogan of the Diocese of Meath, Ireland. He is the author of the most recent CTS booklet on the life of St Edmund Arrowsmith. All are welcome!

Pilgrimage Mass in honour of Blessed Dominic Barberi

Mass in honour of Blessed Dominic Barberi will be celebrated at St Anne and Blessed Dominic, Monastery Road, Sutton, at 12.00pm on Monday 31st August. The Principal Celebrant will be Bishop Tom Neylon.

Feast Days This Week

Monday

St Bartholomew – One of the Twelve Apostles, he is identified with Nathaniel in the first chapter of St John's Gospel. He was born at Cana in Galilee and was led to Jesus by the apostle Philip. After the Lord's Ascension he is said to have preached the Gospel in Asia Minor, India and Greater Armenia, and eventually he offered his life in martyrdom for the faith.

Tuesday

St Edmund Arrowsmith – One of the martyrs of the Reformation. Edmund was the confirmation name of Brian, who was born at Haydock in Lancashire to a devout Catholic family that was frequently harassed for their faith. He trained for the priesthood at Douai in France before returning to minister on the home mission. He ministered in Lancashire for a decade before he was arrested. King James I's amnesty for Catholic priests enabled him to join the Jesuits in 1624 but he was denounced again. He was martyred for his priesthood in Lancaster on 28th August 1628, and his hand is venerated in the Church of St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith at Ashton-in-Makerfield.

Wednesday

Blessed Dominic Barberi of the Mother of God Beatified by Pope Paul VI during the Second Vatican Council on 27th October 1963. He was an Italian who came to England as a Passionist in 1841 and gave missions and retreats and founded four Passionist houses. He received Cardinal John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church with two others from the Oxford Movement. In his short years in England he preached innumerable missions and received hundreds of converts into full communion. He died, aged 57, on 27th August 1849, and his remains are enshrined at St Anne's Monastery, Sutton, St Helens.

Thursday

St Monica – A Berber from a Christian family an Thagaste in Numidia, now Alderia. She is famous for being the mother of St Augustine, for whose conversion she prayed continually, but she is a saint in her own right. She was a great peace-maker, very patient with her difficult husband, mother-in-law and son. Her husband was baptised but died the following year. She strengthened her faith by her prayer and was outstanding in virtue. She was highly esteemed by St Ambrose. Before her death she attained the height of mystical prayer with St Augustine. She died at Ostia while travelling home to Africa and is now buried in the Basilica of Sant' Agostino in Rome. She is the model for all Christian wives and mothers.

Friday

St Augustine – A great saint, as a theologian, preacher, pastor and spiritual director. He was born at Thagaste in Africa in the year 354. As a young man he lived an unsettled life both in the philosophy he professed and in his moral behaviour, but later, in the year 387, he was converted to Christianity and received baptism in Milan from the bishop St Ambrose. He came back to his own country and led the life of an aesthetic. Elected Bishop of Hippo, for thirty four years he was an exemplary bishop to his flock, teaching his people by his sermons and writings, striving to combat the errors of the time and to make the faith understood. He was on fire with the love of God and his neighbour. It is incredible that he managed to combine so much activity with so deep an intellectual life. His writings have influenced Christian thought more than any other writer since St Paul. He died in the year 430.

Saturday

The Passion of St John the Baptist – On 24th June we celebrated his birthday. Today we commemorate his martyrdom, his last and greatest witness to Christ. John is the one who gave Jesus the title "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." John had the courage to decry the unlawful marriage of Herod to his brother's wife Herodias. Through her intrigues he was jailed, and thanks to a foolish promise of the lecherous king he was beheaded as a martyr for the truth, his death prefiguring the Lord's own passion and death. This date probably marks the anniversary of the dedication of the basilica on the traditional spot of his burial.