

 15th Sunday of the Year (A) Mass Times and Intentions Divine Office – Psalter Week 3 		
Saturday 11 th July	5.30pm	David John Morris (Anniversary)
Sunday 12 th July	11.00am	Beverley Hitchmore
Tuesday 14 th July		NO MASS
Wednesday 15 th July	7.00pm	Margaret Mawdesley
Thursday 16 th	9.30am	Keith Fox (Anniversary)
Saturday 18 th July	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 19 th July	11.00am	Bob and Kath Taylor

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass

Profession of Faith	Nicene	p. 11
Preface	Sundays III	p. 66
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 24

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for July



For respect for human life. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, from conception to natural death, recognising it as a gift from God.

July is the month of the Precious Blood. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through his Blood.

	The Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF Deacon: Rev Tom Simms Email: smaaa@rcaol.org.uk Tel. 0151 546 9687	
--	---	--

15th Sunday of the Year (A) 12th July 2026



The Parable of the Sower

The readings for today use the analogy of farming and sowing seed to talk about how the teachings of God and Jesus, His Son, sometimes produce abundantly; but at other times do not.

In the First Reading, from the Prophet Isaiah, we hear the prophet preaching about the word of God coming like spring rain to soften the soil so that the seeds can grow. However, the people of Isaiah's time did not listen to the word of God. They turned away from Him and ignored His word. This led directly to the Babylonian Exile — God's way of punishing His "Chosen People" for their lack of fidelity.

The Responsorial Psalm picks up the same theme of preparing the soil for planting and reaping a bountiful harvest because the soil was fertile. Everything came together as God expected: each aspect of His creation fulfilled its purpose. Each of us has a part to play in God's continuing act of creation and salvation.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. In this passage, Paul is saying that we human creatures of God are much like those seedlings. We are planted here on earth, not in a random scattering, but in a divinely ordered plan in hope that all creation will share in the glory destined for those who fulfil their role. Paul's last sentence is most important and applies to us today just as much, if not more, than during Paul's time.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew. In this long passage, Jesus summarizes all of the readings above with a parable. A parable is a story that has a single message hidden within the details. The objective of a parable is to get people to think and reason out the message. In this passage, to save time, Jesus explains the parable and the message. The message is quite clear. The word of God is like seed sown with the expectation of reaping a good harvest that is guiding humankind to live according to the teachings of God and the Church. Our heart and mind, soul and body, in other words, our entire being is like the soil. Are we really listening, absorbing and following through with what God is telling us?



Offertory Collection/Donations

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

Portico Fundraisers

Coffee morning on the 12th July after Mass. We will also have a £1 sale of new and newly new recipe books including gluten free meals; meals for one; pasta dishes, and many more.

Priests in Retirement Collection

Next weekend: there is a collection for Priests in Retirement. **They've Been There for Us; Let's be There for Them:** Retired priests devoted their lives and their all to serving God and God's people. Whilst they 'retire' at the age of 75, they are still priests for life. Many continue in ministry – celebrating Mass, supporting parish life. The priests' retirement fund - the George Andrew Fund - ensures that our retired priests enjoy a dignified retirement. It supports independent living, providing them with a suitable home. Above all, it makes sure that their social and healthcare needs are met. Our priests rely on this support after devoting their lives to the Church's mission. Over the next ten years, approximately 1/3 of our priests will reach retirement age, and the cost of care will rise significantly because of this. With your help, we can continue to offer our gratitude and support to our retired priests. Please remember our sick and retired priests in your prayers.

CAFOD Venezuelan Appeal

CAFOD is one of the charities that make up the UK Disasters Emergency Committee. They have appealed for urgent funds to help the victim of the Venezuela earthquakes. Donations can be made by cash in the basket at the back of Church or by using the card reader. Thanks you.

Annual Lourdes Mass

The Lourdes Mass before the departure of the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place at 3.00pm on Sunday 19th July at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Archbishop John Sherrington will preside and all are welcome.

A Mother's Warmth Icon Exhibition

The Metropolitan Cathedral will be hosting Mother's Warmth, an exhibition by Bulgarian artist and iconographer Ian Kostov. Through contemporary artwork inspired by the image of the Virgin Mary as Mother, the exhibition considers how compassion and care for one another can bring hope and healing in a divided world marked by division, anxiety and conflict. Admission free, and the exhibition is open from 30th June – 30th August.

Feast Days This Week

Monday

St Henry – He was born in Bavaria in the year 973. He succeeded his father, Henry the Quarrelsome, as Duke of Bavaria and later was elected Holy Roman Emperor. He was outstanding for his reforms of the Church and for his encouragement of missionary activity; he established many diocese and founded many monasteries. He made numerous pious foundations, gave generously to the poor and built the Cathedral of Bamberg. A main political aim was to unite the German Empire and this he largely achieved. He died in the year 1024.

Tuesday

St Camillus of Lellis – He was born in Italy in the year 1550 and joined the Venetian army to fight against the Turks. At the age of 25 he lost everything through gambling, experienced a religious conversion and tried to be a Franciscan, but poor health prevented him from being professed. He eventually became a priest, and founded a religious congregation in 1585 of male nurses who served the plague stricken and prisoners. The congregation established hospitals throughout Italy and beyond. He died in 1614.

Wednesday

St Bonaventure – Friar, Bishop, Cardinal and General of the Fransiscan Order, he achieved a great deal in theology and government, but his first characteristics were gentle courtesy, compassion and accessibility. He was born in the year 1218 in Tuscany, and studied theology and philosophy in Paris, where he gained his Masters degree, and then he taught the students of the Order. He became Minister General of the Fransiscan Order and ruled with great wisdom and prudence. He was nominated Archbishop of York in 1265 but he declined. In 1273, when the papal messenger arrived to say he had been made a Cardinal, he was washing the dishes and asked him to wait until the job was finished. He wrote many influential works in theology and philosophy, and died at Lyon in the year 1274.

Thursday

Our Lady of Mount Carmel – The sacred scriptures speak of the beauty of Mount Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the faith of the people in the living God. During the Crusades, Christian hermits established themselves in caves on the mountain. In the 12th Century a group of hermits settled there and afterwards set up the Carmelite Order to lead a contemplative life under the patronage of the holy Mother of God. Mount Carmel is not far from Nazareth.

Friday

Blessed Carmelite Nuns of Compiegne – When the French Revolution started in 1789, a group of twenty one discalced Carmelite nuns lived in a Visitation monastery in Compiegne founded in 1641. The monastery was ordered to close and the nuns disbanded. In 1794 sixteen of the nuns were accused of living in religious community. They were arrested and imprisoned in a convent, where they openly resumed the religious life. They were taken to Paris on 12th July 1794, sentenced to death five days later, and sang the Salve Regina as they went to the guillotine.

Saturday

St Arsenius the Great – He was born in Rome in the year 354, and was a tutor to the children of the Emperors Theodosius I, Arcadius and Honorius. At that time he was a Roman deacon. He served at Theodosius' court in Constantinople for about ten years, and then became a monk in Alexandria. After studying with St John the Dwarf he became a hermit in the desert of Egypt. In the year 434 he left Skete and went to the rock of Troe, near Memphis, Egypt, and to the island of Canopus near Alexandria. He is one of the most highly regarded of the Desert Fathers, whose teachings were greatly influential on the development of asceticism and the contemplative life.