28th Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass Times and Intentions

Divine Office – Psalter Week 4

Saturday 10th October	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 11th October	11.00am	Sandra Nixon (Speedy Recovery)
Tuesday 13th October		NO MASS
Wednesday 14th October		NO MASS
Thursday 15th October		NO MASS

29th Sunday of the Year (A)

Saturday 17th October	5.30pm	Ann Franklin
Sunday 18th October	11.00am	Glyn Edwards
Tuesday 20th October	9.30am	Ken Fidler
Wednesday 21st October	7.00pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 22nd October	9.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 24th Ocober	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 25th October	11.00am	Maria Chorley

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass		**p. 140**
Profession of Faith	Nicene	p. 11
Preface	Prayer IV	p. 31
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 4	p. 32

This Newsletter covers the next two weeks.

The Roman Catholic Parish of

Our Lady Help of Christians

Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT

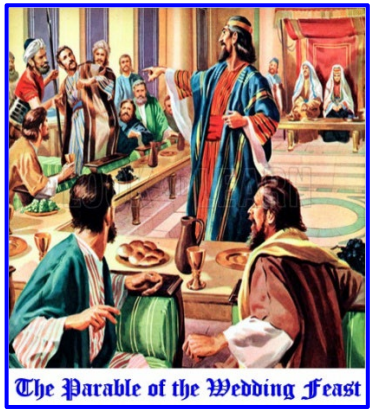
Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF

Deacon: Rev Tom Simms

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

28th Sunday of the Year (A)

11th October 2026



In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah , the Prophet is preaching to the Israelites of the 8th century B.C. a message of hope during a very difficult period. He tells them that if they hold fast to the teachings of Yahweh, the God of Israel, they will be safe and all their needs will be provided

The Responsorial Psalm is the beautiful prayer that we all know as "The Lord is my Shepherd." It is an allegory of what heaven will be like when God leads us through this "valley of tears." However, if we do not let God lead us through this life, we put ourselves outside of the "pasture of heaven" where no one else will come to lead us - a very frightening thought, indeed.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. "Philippians" is all about humility. In this passage, Paul is saying that he has experienced both the good things of this world as well as the not-so-good. However, he has come to rely upon God for everything and in doing so he has been set free from the worries of this world and just lets God lead him through life knowing that the end will be the eternal heavenly banquet. This might sound simplistic, but the point that Paul is making is; when you walk “hand-in-hand” with Jesus, the cares of this world are much easier to carry.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew. In this story, God is giving the banquet and invitations go out to all people. He has especially invited the Jewish people, who were the first invited guests, but they didn't accept Him in the person of Jesus Christ. And so, God invites people of every nation to come. It was the custom of the culture of Jesus' time for the host to provide a "wedding garment" that is proper clothing for the guests if they did not have such. This wedding garment is symbolic of spiritual purity. In spite of this, someone tries to enter without the proper garment, again symbolic of a soul not purged of sin. He refused to do or wear what was offered by the host and, by doing so, he put himself outside the banquet hall of heaven. This last point is a veiled description of how mankind condemns himself from heaven, by not following the lead of the Divine Shepherd, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Humility and Obedience are the keys to heaven.

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 evening will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27th October..

Parish Development Strategy

Next weekend all the parishes in the Knowsley Deanery will launch the Parish Development Strategy (PDS). This is being rolled out across all the deaneries of the Archdiocese.
Knowsley Deanery is the 7th Deanery to be involved.
The PDS will help us shape the future church in our part of the country. We will explore the vision that drives us and then make proposals as to how we can make this happen. The voices of all of us matter in this. We are guided by the Pastoral Plan and the realities of the present time., remembering always that it is God's Church and we are tasked with handing on a vibrant, healthy and sustainable church to those who will come after us.
A leaflet explaining what will happen will be available after Mass today.

50 Plus Group

The next meeting of the 50 Plus Group will be Wednesday 14th October at 2pm in the Church Hall when we will discuss Christmas

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

Envelopes for CAFOD Harvest Fast Day can be returned in the basket in the porch over the next couple of weeks. Many thanks for your generosity.

St Helens Choral Society

St Helens Choral Society present 'Songs of Autumn' A mix of traditional folk songs and Broadway favourites on Saturday 17th October, 7.00pm at St Luke's Church, Knowsley Road. Admission £15 including a programme (under 16s £1) pay on the door.

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 Wilfrid –** He was born in Northumbria in 634, educated in the Celtic tradition in the monastery on Lindisfarne, and as a young man travelled to Rome. On his return he was made Abbot of Ripon and ordained priest. He was made Bishop of Lindisfarne, but remained so long in Paris that he was replaced. On his return he was imprisoned by the King of Northumbria, but escaped and fled to Sussex, where he carried out missions to the Saxons there. He returned to Northumbria 686, but was prevented from staying long. He became Bishop of Hexham, where he introduced many Church traditions and reorganised the monastery under the rule of St Benedict. He died in the year 710.

Tuesday — **St Edward the Confessor –** St Edward, known as "the Confessor", came to the throne of England in the year 1042 after the death of his father, King Ethelred III An early biographer wrote, "then was seen how great is the influence of a king who is truly a father of his people." He was remarkable for his generosity to the poor, and was never happier than when giving alms. He died on 5th January 1066, just one week after the opening of the Abbey Church of Westminster, which he had refounded and endowed. There his bodily remains were solemnly enshrined behind the High Altar on 13th October 1268.

Tuesday — **St Callistus I –** Tradition has it that he was a slave who, when he obtained his freedom, was made a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus and later succeeded him. He fought strenuously against the heresies of Modalism and Adoptionism. He was martyred in the year 222 and buried on the Via Aurelia.

Wednesday — **St Teresa of Avila –** She was born at Avila in Spain in 1515. She entered the Carmelite Order, searching for God in the silence and discipline of the cloister. She made great progress in the way of perfection and became a great mystic. She undertook the reform of the Order and in this had to endure many trials, but she overcame them through her indomitable spirit. Her common sense, prudence and trust in God were allied with an extraordinary capacity for work and organisation. She wrote works which are renowned for the depth of their doctrine and which showed her own spiritual experiences. One of her sayings was "Remember the Lord walks among the pots and pans and he will help you with inward tasks and outward ones too". She died at Alba in the year 1582, and is one of only two women Doctors of the Church.

Thursday — **St Hedwig** – She was born in Bavaria in the year 1174. She married the Duke of Silesia by whom she had seven children. Her life was renowned for her devotion and her kindness for the sick and poor for whom she built hostels. On the death of her husband she retired to a monastery at Trebnitz where she died in the year 1243.

St Margaret Mary Alacoque – She was born in France in the year 1647, and was sent to the Poor Clare's school on the death of her father, a notary, when she was eight years old. She was bedridden for five years with rheumatic fever until she was 15, and early developed a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She joined the Visitation Sisters and was granted mystical revelations, especially of the Sacred Heart. She spared no effort in encouraging devotion to the Sacred Heart in the Church. She died on 17th October 1690.

Friday — **St Ignatius of Antioch –** One of the Fathers of the Early Church. He became the second Bishop of Antioch after St Peter. He was sentenced to death by being thrown to wild beasts and for this purpose he was sent to Rome, where he suffered martyrdom in the year 107 under the Emperor Trajan. On the journey to Rome he wrote seven letters to the various churches which witness to Christianity in sub-apostolic times. In his letters he dealt wisely and deeply with the theology of Christ, the constitution of the Church and Christian life. They show his devotion to Christ and his concern for the unity of the Church in and through its President, the local Bishop. He has been venerated at Antioch on this date since the 4th Century.