

 23rd Sunday of the Year (A) Mass Times and Intentions Divine Office – Psalter Week 3 		
Saturday 5 th September	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 6 th September	11.00am	Marie and Keith Wilson (Diamond Wedding Anniversary)
Tuesday 8 th September	9.30am	Rosie Conway
Wednesday 9 th September	7.00pm	Maria Chorley
Thursday 10 th September	10.45am	Requiem Mass – Theresa Quinn
Saturday 12 th September	5.30pm	Teresa Cash
Sunday 13 th September	11.00am	People of the Parish

Sunday Liturgy

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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.

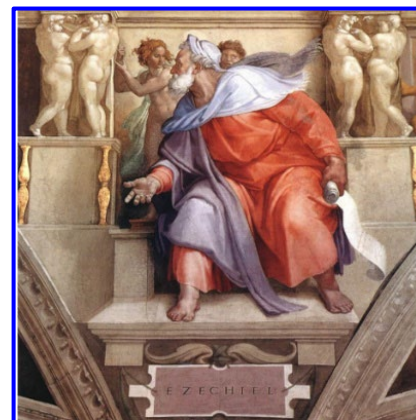
September is the month of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary's supreme sorrow was witnessing the crucifixion of her Divine Son as she stood at the foot of the Cross. We honour Mary, the Mother of our Saviour and our Mother.



The Roman Catholic Parish of
Our Lady Help of Christians
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23rd Sunday of the Year (A) 6th September 2026



The Prophet Ezekiel

In the First Reading, from the Prophet Ezekiel, we hear God speaking to the prophet (and to us) about the prophet's responsibility and just how far this goes. In essence, the prophet is told that if he is given an order to instruct or warn a person or people of an infraction of the law and he doesn't do it, then those who break the law are not responsible; the prophet is. On the other hand, if after warning or instructing the people they continue to break the law, they are held responsible and the prophet is given credit for doing his duty. We have a saying that goes along with this: "To be forewarned is fair play."

The Responsorial Psalm is a prayer more in the form of a proverb that says we must praise our God for His goodness and benevolence; but if we don't, there can be serious consequences. Therefore, be

forewarned; don't take God for granted.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. In the two readings above, we have the negative side of the "coin." Here, in Paul's letter, we have the positive side, his teaching on "love of neighbour." At the end, he sums up the essence of this teaching: "Love is the fulfilment of the Law." (Love of God and love of neighbour.)

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew. In this passage, we have Jesus giving instructions to the Church through the apostles. It is very much like the instruction that God gave Ezekiel in the First Reading. Although the language might be strange, it means that God is willing to forgive anyone and everyone who repents, but under certain conditions or format; and that format is the Sacrament of Reconciliation—for serious matters. We must remember that God is a loving God who is willing to forgive, but He has rules and formats that are for our good. The passage tells us that God, through Jesus Christ, gave the Church the authority to forgive sins of those who repent. The outward sign of our sincerity is our "going" to confession. The outward sign of God's forgiveness is the absolution given to us by the priest.



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

Education Sunday

Next Sunday is Education Sunday, which is a national day of prayer and celebration for all those involved in the world of Catholic education, including teachers, lecturers, governors, pupils and students.

Assisted Dying Bill

"Assist us the live, not to die." Please vote against the Bill at the Second Reading on 11th September. Cards are available in the porch which you can fill in and send to our MP, Marie Rimmer, at the House of Commons.

Knitters and Stitchers

As we finalise the poppy project, we would like to thank all who supported us by donating wool and making poppies. We now ask that all remaining poppies are handed into the shop by end of September.

Thank you again, Knitters & Stitchers

SHARe Knowsley

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent clothing appeal and donated to SHARe Knowsley. Your generosity will help people seeking asylum access essential clothing and rebuild their lives with dignity, and we are truly grateful for your support. From SHARe clients, volunteers and staff.

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. The celebration will take the form of Evening Prayer sung in the Cathedral. There will be a drinks reception after in the Crypt.

Feast Days This Week

Monday

St Blessed John Duckett - He was born at Underwinder, in the parish of Sedbergh, in Yorkshire, in 1613, the son of James and Francis Duckett. At the age of seventeen, he entered the English College, Douai; he was ordained a priest by the Archbishop of Cambrai in 1639. He arrived at Newcastle upon Tyne around Christmas 1643. Duckett worked largely in the North and laboured for about a year in Durham. It was in the time of the Civil War and he was arrested by Roundhead soldiers only a few months later, on 2 July 1644, at Redgate Head, Wolsingham, County Durham, while on his way to baptize two children. He admitted he was a priest and so was taken to London with the Jesuit Ralph Corby, arrested about the same time near Newcastle-on-Tyne. He was brought to trial on 4 September and given the inevitable sentence of hanging, drawing and quartering. He was executed at Tyburn in London on 7 September 1644.

Tuesday

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - The Catholic Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of 8th September, nine months after the 8th December celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne. The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

Wednesday

St Peter Claver - Born in 1581 he was the son of a Catalonian farmer. He was ordained a priest for the Jesuit Order, and he devoted more than forty years to the care of African slaves in the Caribbean. He met every slave ship on its arrival in the slave port of Cartagena and ministered to the slaves in their chains on board the ships, offering whatever poor refreshment he could, treating the sick and baptising the dying. Through his efforts three hundred thousand souls entered the Church. Though his first concern was for the salvation of the slaves, he realised that their bodily misery needed attention first. "We must speak to them with our hands," he said, "before we can speak to them with our lips." He did not lose sight of his converts when they left the ship but followed them to the plantations to which they were sent, encouraged them to live as Christians and prevailed upon their masters to treat them humanely. He recognised that all people were equal and all were created in the image and likeness of God. He died in 1654 and was canonised by Pope Leo XII on June 15th 1888.

Thursday

St Ambrose Barlow - He was a Benedictine priest who was born at Barlow Hall, near Manchester, the fourth son of the nobleman Sir Alexander Barlow and his wife Mary. He was educated for the priesthood at Douai in France and Valladolid in Spain before returning to England to preach on the Home Mission. He was arrested several times during his ministry, and was arrested for the last time on Easter Sunday 1641, and tried for being a Catholic priest on 7th September. He was martyred for his priesthood in Lancaster on this date in 1641.

Friday

St Paphnutius - The holy confessor Paphnutius was an Egyptian who, after having spent several years in the desert under the direction of the great St. Antony, was made bishop in the Upper Thebaid. He was one of those confessors who under the Emperor Maximinus lost the right eye, were hamstrung in one leg, and were afterwards sent to work in the mines. Peace being restored to the Church, Paphnutius returned to his flock, bearing all the rest of his life the glorious marks of his sufferings for the name of his Crucified Master. He was one of the most zealous in defending the Catholic faith against the Arian heresy and for his holiness. As one who had confessed the Faith before persecutors and under torments, he was an outstanding figure of the first General Council of the Church, held at Nicaea in the year 325.

Saturday

The Holy Name of Mary - God the Father is glorified by the exalted role in salvation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thus, her name is a name of honour, a holy name, a maternal, a name responsive to the needs of the Church as we pray for her intercession.