

 **2nd Sunday of the Year (A)**
Mass Times and Intentions
Divine Office – Psalter Week 2 

Saturday 17 th January	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 18 th January	11.00am	Ann Ray
Tuesday 20 th January	9.30am	
Wednesday 21 st January	7.00pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 22 nd January	9.30am	Fr Dave Melly
Saturday 24 th January	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 25 th January	11.00am	

Sunday Liturgy

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Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 25

The Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for January



For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus, and the Feast of the Holy Name is celebrated on 3rd January. “All beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld should bend the knee at the name of Jesus, and every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:10)



The Roman Catholic Parish of
Our Lady Help of Christians
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2nd Sunday of the Year (A)
18th January 2026



The Lamb of God

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah we hear how the Lord called upon the Prophet to be His servant in preaching to the people of Israel and Judah toward the end of the 6th century BC. This was a time of sadness and despair after the Babylonian Exile ended and the people returned to the area around Jerusalem and found little of what they had left behind. In this message, God promises to "make you (the people of Israel) a light to the nations." This "light" was, and is, the Christ Child whose birth we have just celebrated at Christmas.

The Responsorial Psalm is based on a teaching from the First Book of Samuel. The response comes from the Letter to the Hebrews both referring to obedience to the

will of God as being superior to all forms of exterior worship. We must keep in mind that our worship of our God must be in accord with His will, not ours.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians where he tells us that even he, Paul, and all the saints were called to be servants of God through Jesus Christ in bringing all humankind back to the Father — the ultimate goal of the Father's plan.

In the Gospel Reading we hear John the Baptist explaining why he is preaching. He is being obedient to the One who sent him to preach and baptise as a way of "making straight" or clearing a path that leads to Jesus Christ. By doing so, John becomes the first witness to the divinity of Christ.

We, in western culture, are repelled by any thought of subservience; and yet without realizing it, we have become addicted to sports, shopping, food, and sometimes to people with strange messages and objectives. This is a form of subservience. At this time, the beginning of a new year, let us examine the direction our lives have taken and see what adjustments need to be made. Keep in mind that God's love for us calls us into a relationship where obedience and service are freeing and uplifting rather than restrictive or limiting.



Offertory Collection/Donations

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

Gathering for Parish Helpers

There is a letter at the back of Church for all those who help out in our Parish in any way. This includes Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Flower Arrangers, Musicians, Cleaners, Counters, Catechist, Shop helpers and many others. Do please take a letter if you help out in our parish in any way, and respond by Sunday 18th January.

Deanery Mass with Archbishop Sherrington

Archbishop John Sherrington is going to celebrate Mass for all the parishes in the Knowsley Deanery to enable him to meet as many people as possible. This Mass will take place at 7.00pm on Friday 30th January at the church of St Agnes, St Mary's Road, Huyton, L36 5ST. Refreshments will be served afterwards and you are warmly encouraged to come and meet our new Archbishop.

The Portico Knitters and Stitchers Group

We intend to start a knitting & stitching group for Parishioners, here at Our Lady's. So, how about sharing your skills to complete various Church projects? If you are interested please come to an initial meeting to discuss projects, which could include new Altar cloths and other Church linen.

Meeting in Church Hall on **Thursday 29th January at 2pm**. Looking forward to seeing you.
Angela Steward & Lynn Jones

Peace Sunday

Peace Sunday will be held on Sunday 18th January. The Bishops' Conference encourage us all the use the day to reflect on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace on the 1st January. Pope Leo has said that the theme for his message which will be 'Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace'.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This week of prayer takes place each year from 18 to 25 January. This ecumenical celebration provides an opportunity to focus our prayers on Christian unity and to know that we are joining with international siblings in Christ. This year the week takes Ephesians 4 v 1 13 as its central text which includes the words "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." (Eph 4:4).

Confirmations in 2026

Anyone in Year 8 or above can now register to be Confirmed in 2026. Register: www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

Feast Days This Week

Sunday

St Fabian – In the year 236 he was chosen to be Bishop of Rome, and in the year 250, at the beginning of the persecution of the Emperor Decius, he was crowned with martyrdom, as St Cyprian testifies. He is attributed with the institution of the four minor orders of porter, lector, cantor and acolyte, and commissioned seven bishops as missionaries to Gaul. He also defended the orthodoxy of the faith against heresies prevalent at the time. He was buried in the cemetery of Callistus.

Tuesday

St Agnes – One of the most famous and universally celebrated of the early Roman martyrs. She suffered martyrdom at Rome probably at the beginning of the 4th Century, a young girl aged only about 13 who preferred death rather than the loss of her virginity. She also refused to offer incense to false gods. Pope Damasus embellished her tomb with sacred verses, and many of the Fathers, following the example of St Ambrose, spoke of her with great praise. Her name is mentioned in the Roman Canon.

Wednesday

St Vincent – Living in the 3rd and 4th Centuries, Vincent was a deacon of the Church of Saragossa and the first martyr of Spain. Together with his Bishop, Valarius, he was apprehended during a persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. Valerius was banished but Vincent was subject to fierce tortures before ultimately dying of his wounds. It is said that his flesh was pierced with iron hooks, he was bound upon a red hot gridiron and roasted, and laid on a floor strewn with broken pottery. Throughout it all his constancy remained unmoved (leading to the conversion of his jailor) and he survived until his friends were able to lay him on a soft bed, as his torturers hoped lenient treatment would lead to his apostasy. Here he died, and veneration for him quickly spread throughout the Church. He is the patron saint of wine makers.

Thursday

St Ildephonsus - is highly regarded in Spain and closely associated with devotion to the Blessed Virgin which he fostered by his famous work concerning her perpetual virginity. Born around 607, Ildephonsus came from a noble family and was probably a pupil of St. Isidore of Seville. While still quite young, he entered the Benedictine monastery of Agalia near Toledo and went on to become its Abbot. In that capacity he attended the Councils of Toledo in 653 and 655. In 657 the clergy and people elected this holy man to succeed his uncle, St. Eugenius, as Archbishop of Toledo. He performed his episcopal duties with diligence and sanctity until his death in 667.

Friday

St Francis de Sales – He was born near Annecy in Savoy in the year 1567, and was educated privately and then at the University of Paris, becoming a Doctor of Law. After his ordination as priest in the year 1593, he worked strenuously for the renewal of the faith in his country. After his election as Bishop of Geneva he showed himself to be a true shepherd towards his clergy and the faithful, being an example in all things and helping all by his writings and his work. He brought his great gift of communication and his powers of spiritual direction to his diocese, relating the faith to the everyday lives of his people. He is known for many famous writings, especially "The Introduction to the Devout Life". He died at Lyon at the age of 55 on 22nd December 1662, and was buried at Annecy on 24th January 1323.

Saturday

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, APOSTLE - This feast recalls the dramatic conversion of St Paul on the road to Damascus. From being someone who mercilessly persecuted the infant Church, including the stoning of St Stephen the first martyr, Paul became one of the deepest thinkers and the greatest missionary in the history of the Church. His many letters in the New Testament bear witness to the depth of his faith, and he has influenced Christian thought more than any other individual.