25th Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass Times and Intentions

Divine Office – Psalter Week 1

Saturday 19th September	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th September	11.00am	Michael and Mary King (Diamond Wessing Thanksgiving)
Tuesday 22nd September	**NO MASS**	The website www.masstimes.org has listings of times and places for Mass.
Wednesday 23rd September		
Thursday 24th September		
Saturday 26th September	5.30pm	Jim Oakes (Anniversary)
Sunday 27th September	11.00am	Al, Pat and Ian Appleton

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass		**p. 131**
Profession of Faith	Nicene	p. 11
Preface	Sundays II	p. 66
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 24

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.

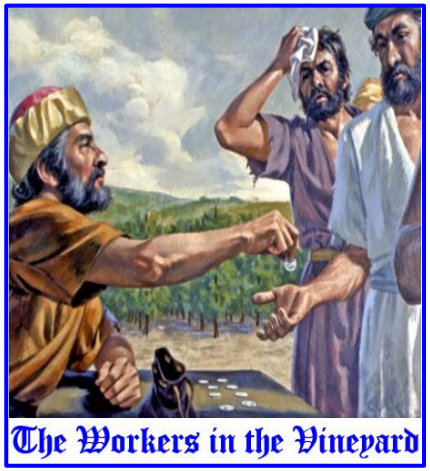
September is the month of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary's supreme sorrow was witnessing the crucifixion of her Divine Son as she stood at the foot of the Cross. We honour Mary, the Mother of our Saviour and our Mother.

The Roman Catholic Parish of
Our Lady Help of Christians
Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT
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25th Sunday of the Year (A)

20th September 2026



The Workers in the Vineyard

The First Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah. Here we have the prophet preaching to his congregation the virtues and generosity of God, citing: "God's ways are not like humankind's ways." We should be thankful for that and remember it when we feel that we are being treated unfairly, and then ask ourselves, "What is going on here? Why is God treating me this way?"

The Responsorial Psalm is a prayer in which the psalmist praises God for His goodness, compassion and generosity. However, with God there is always some qualification in His instructions or offerings. In this case it is "...to all who call upon Him in truth." We can't ignore Him for most of our life and then expect Him to answer our needs when we call.

The Second Reading is from Paul's Letter to the Philippians. "Philippians" is all about humility. In this passage, Paul is saying that he is so grateful to Jesus Christ for bringing him to this stage of his life that it makes no difference if he, Paul, is dead or alive. To Paul each has its merits, and so he gives his body, his very life to Christ in thanksgiving; and he asks that we do the same. That's a tall request, but it is truly worth the effort.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew. In this passage, Jesus is giving us a lesson on what the kingdom of heaven is like. When the Bible uses the word "like" it does not mean "the same as." So we must look for a similarity or likeness. In this story, the similarity is the landowner who is somewhat like God the Father. God can be as generous as He wishes to those He loves and even to those who He might not totally approve of. This might be the way He is working with someone to bring them around to His way of thinking. So we must not look with longing at someone who is rich or powerful or good looking. Who knows, behind the façade there could be all kinds of problems. If we have needs, either spiritual or temporal (and who doesn't?) we should call upon our generous Lord and God for mercy and help, but we should also see to it that our spiritual house is in order.

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 evening. It raised a very generous £140.00. The date for the next Evening will be announced next week.

Portico Fundraisers

On 27th September we have a £1 Tabletop Sale.
New clothes and footwear; household items; games, jigsaws, toys, and more… Bargains for everyone.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

This Sunday, the Third Sunday in September, formerly called Home Mission Sunday, is now Evangelii Gaudium Sunday. Named after Pope Francis' first (solo) Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel, the day offers the Catholic community in England and Wales the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith and our commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ. **There will be a Retiring Collection after Mass next weekend for the Home Missions. Thank you for your generosity.**

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

Adoremus 2026

Join us at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 10th of October for this year's Adoremus. The theme this year is "How we are Eucharist". Come and join us from 9.00am – 6.00pm to adore the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The event itself is free and available to all. There will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day, Holy Mass, opportunities for confession, a variety of workshops and a shared time of prayer during the day for all. Celebrated with Archbishop John Sherrington, this is an event not to be missed! You can sign up for various workshops here: archdioceseofliverpool.org/adoremus2026

ALIVE Worship Celebration

4.00 – 5.00pm on Sunday 27th September at Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedgefield Road, Gateacre, L25 2RW. All are welcome to come and experience worship and prayer led by One Hope Project, a Catholic collective binging impactful music, fresh creativity and building community. ALIVE celebrates God's active presence in our lives. There will be prayer, adoration, friendship and hospitality to follow.

Feast Days This Week

Monday **ST MATTHEW –** One of the Twelve Apostles. He was born at Capernaum, and was a tax collector when called by Jesus. He is identified with the "Levi" of the Gospels of St Mark and St Luke. He wrote his Gospel in the Hebrew language, and gave us a very full account of the life of Jesus. Tradition has it that after the Resurrection he preached the Gospel in the East.

Tuesday **St Thomas of Villanueva -** Born at Fuentellana, Castile, Spain, he was the son of a miller. He studied at the University of Alcala, earned a licentiate in theology, and became a professor there at the age of twenty-six. He declined the chair of philosophy at the university of Salamanca and instead entered the Order of St Augustine at Salamanca in 1516. Ordained in 1520, he served as prior of several houses in Salamanca, Burgos, and Valladolid, as provincial of Andalusia and Castile, and then court chaplain to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (r. 1519-1556). During his time as provincial of Castile, he dispatched the first Augustinian missionaries to the New World. They subsequently helped evangelize the area of modern Mexico. He was offered but declined the see of Granada, but accepted appointment as archbishop of Valencia in 1544. As the see had been vacant for nearly a century, Thomas devoted much effort to restoring the spiritual and material life of the archdiocese. He was also deeply committed to the needs of the poor.

Wednesday **St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) –** He was born Francesco Forgione at Pietrelcina, near Benevento, Italy, on 25th May 1887. He entered as a cleric in the Capuchin Order of Friars Minor in 1903 and was ordained priest in 1910. In 1916 he went to San Giovanni Rotondo and stayed there, except for a brief interruption, until his death on 23rd September 1968. On the morning of 20th September 1918, while praying before the crucifix, he received the stigmata which remained fresh and bleeding until a few days before his death. He was the subject of ecclesiastical sanctions and investigations during his life, but his reputation for sanctity attracted many pilgrim visitors He dedicated his life to his ministry, starting prayer groups and founding a modern hospital. He would spend many hours of the day with the rosary and hearing confessions, exhorting people to "pray and hope".

Thursday **Our Lady of Walsingham –** This feast celebrates the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, one of the great pilgrimage centres of medieval times. The lady of the manor of Walsingham, Richeldis de Faverches, was instructed by a vision of the Virgin Mary to build in her village an exact replica of the house in Nazareth in which the Annunciation had taken place. The vision occurred, according to tradition, in 1061, though a more likely date for the construction of the shrine is a hundred years later. The original house was destroyed during the Reformation, but during the 19th and 20th C pilgrimage to Walsingham was revived for both Anglicans and Catholics.

Friday **St Cadoc -** A Welsh bishop and martyr, a companion of St. Gildas. Cadoc is also called Docus, Cathmael, and Cadvael. He founded Llancarfan Monastery near Cardiff, Wales, before becoming a missionary on the coast of Brittany, in France. Returning to Britain, Cadoc was involved in the Saxon occupation of the British lands. H e was martyred by the Saxons near Weedon, England.

Saturday **Saints Cosmos and Damian** Two martyrs from the 4th Century. They were brothers, born in Arabia, who had become eminent for their skill in the science of medicine. Being Christians, they were filled with the spirit of charity and never took payment for their services.at Egaea, in Cilicia, where they lived, they enjoyed the highest esteem of the people. They suffered martyrdom during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. From early writings there is evidence that their tombs were at Cyrrhus in Syria where a basilica was built in their honour. Their veneration spread from there to Rome and then throughout the Church. They are the patron saints of pharmacists.