

|  <b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (A)</b><br><b>Mass Times and Intentions</b><br><b>Divine Office – Psalter Week 4</b>  |                       |                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 5.30pm                | Teresa Cash                       |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 11.00am               | People of the Parish              |
| <b><u>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 9.30am                | John, Eleanor and Christine Ross  |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b><u>10.30am</u></b> |                                   |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 9.30am                | Ken Fidler (Birthday Remembrance) |
| Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 5.30pm                | Teresa Cash                       |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 11.00am               | People of the Parish              |

## Sunday Liturgy

### Proper of the Mass

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| Profession of Faith | Nicene    | p. 128 |
| Preface             | Sundays I | p. 11  |
| Eucharistic Prayer  | Prayer 3  | p. 66  |
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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.

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|  | <p><b>The Roman Catholic Parish of<br/>Our Lady Help of Christians</b><br/>         Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT<br/> <b>Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF</b><br/> <b>Deacon: Rev Tom Simms</b><br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:smaaa@rcaol.org.uk">smaaa@rcaol.org.uk</a> Tel. 0151 546 9687</p> |  |
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## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (A) 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026



The First Reading is from the Book of Ecclesiasticus. In this passage, from the great sage of wisdom whom we call Sirach, we have a few examples of evil and a whole list of antidotes or words of wisdom to rectify those evils and avoid others. Together these are valuable instructions that embody both examples of evil and of mercy and he asks us to see where we fit into this picture and then sums it up with a version of the second most important commandment: "Love thy neighbour as thyself."

The Responsorial Psalm is a prayer that anyone who has experienced mercy might offer after a serious problem. For example: Anyone who has made a sincere confession after a long time away from the Sacrament will feel many of the blessings mentioned herein and a great weight will be lifted from his heart because God looks at the heart of a person more than his actions.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. In this short but powerful passage, Paul lays it out clearly that we are not here on this earth all by ourselves. Rather, we are here to fulfil our part in God's great Plan of Salvation and we must do it in conjunction with others. Therefore, we must learn to help each other in fulfilling all the parts. As Paul says in another part of Romans, we are all part of the Body of Christ and if one member of the Body refuses to fulfil his part of the job, it affects the entire Body. Mercy plays a great part in all of our actions.

The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of Matthew. This teaching, directly from Jesus, is a great example of mercy in action and in refusing to be merciful. It is a sad account of a person pleading mercy for himself and yet refusing to give it to someone else. We are all here to help each other and our final reward will be measured by how well we helped others. This is another example of the same situation being presented by Jesus in this Gospel passage, and so we must learn to: "Do unto others as you would want them to do to you." This is what mercy is all about.



## 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. Our next evening will be at 7.00pm this Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, in the Parish Hall.

### Education Sunday

This 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. In our country there are some 2,100 schools and colleges as well as four Catholic universities.

### Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

Next Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 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

### 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.

### Mass of Anointing at the Shrine of St Peregrine

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 12noon at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, L25 2RW there will be a Mass of anointing and prayers to St. Peregrine. St Peregrine is the patron saint of those with cancer and serious illnesses. All are welcome to pray for healing and comfort for themselves or loved ones who are ill or received difficult news. There will be coffee and cake to follow to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support. All welcome!

## Feast Days This Week

### Monday

**THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** – This feast originated in Jerusalem where from the 5<sup>th</sup> Century the wood of the Cross was shown to the people the day after the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection.

### Tuesday

**Our Lady of Sorrows** – This feast was first celebrated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century by the Servite Order. This commemoration follows yesterday's Exaltation of the Holy Cross just as the Immaculate Heart of Mary follows the Sacred Heart of Jesus, showing the intimate bond between Our Lady and her Son. Her seven sorrows begin with the prophecy of Simeon that her heart would be pierced with a sword, followed by her experience of: the flight into Egypt, the loss of Jesus in the Temple, the carrying of the cross, the crucifixion, the deposition from the cross, and the laying of the body of Jesus in the sepulchre. Such profound sorrows are a model of how to endure sufferings with grace and hope.

### Wednesday

**Saints Cornelius and Cyprian** – Cornelius was ordained Bishop of Rome in 251. He laboured to combat the Novatian schism, insisting on the power of the Church to forgive those who had lapsed under persecution, and with the help of Cyprian he was able to enforce his authority. Following the persecution of Decius he was sent into exile by the Emperor Gallus, and died in 253. His body was brought to Rome and interred in the Catacombs of Callixtus.

Cyprian was born in Carthage about the year 210. He was converted to the faith as an adult and was ordained priest, then ordained Bishop of Carthage in the year 249. He guided the Church effectively during troubled times both by his deeds and his writings, teaching the mercy of God mediated through the ministry of the Church. During the persecution of Valerian he was first exiled then, in the year 258, martyred for the faith, beheaded for refusing to conform to pagan rights.

### Thursday

**St Robert Bellarmine** – He was born in the year 1542 in Tuscany. He entered the Society of Jesus in Rome in the year 1560 and was ordained priest. After Ordination he taught in Louvain, where he was famous for his sermons. He engaged in arguments in defence of the Catholic faith and he taught in the Collegio Romano. After being created a Cardinal and later Bishop of Capua, he was of considerable help to the Roman Congregations in solving the many difficult questions which arose. He died at Rome in the year 1621.

### Friday

**St Joseph of Cupertino** – He was born in 1603 at Cupertino, in the diocese of Nardo in the Kingdom of Naples. After spending his childhood and adolescence in simplicity and innocence, he finally joined the Franciscan Friars Minor Conventual. After his ordination to the holy priesthood, he gave himself up entirely to a life of devotion to the Lord and his church. His deep devotional life led him to the kind of holiness which is forged through humility, voluntary mortification, and obedience. He was consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and promoted devotion to her among all classes of people as wonderful path to a deeper Christian life and love for Jesus Christ.

### Saturday

**St Januarius** – He was Bishop of Benevento during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian (4<sup>th</sup> Century). He was imprisoned with his deacon and lector when they went to visit other imprisoned Christians. They were thrown to the wild beasts, but when the beasts did not attack them they were beheaded.

**St Theodore of Canterbury** – A native of Tarsus, he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by Pope Vitalian in the year 668. His greatest achievement was to adapt the Roman idea of a centralized Church to English conditions. He organized the English Church, filled vacant diocese and centralized the Church under the Archbishopric of Canterbury in close alliance with secular rulers. To promote further unity he convened two synods, at Hereford in 673 and Hatfield in 680.