



THE LITTLE WAY

St Theresa of the Child Jesus Church, Headstone Lane

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

15 September 2024

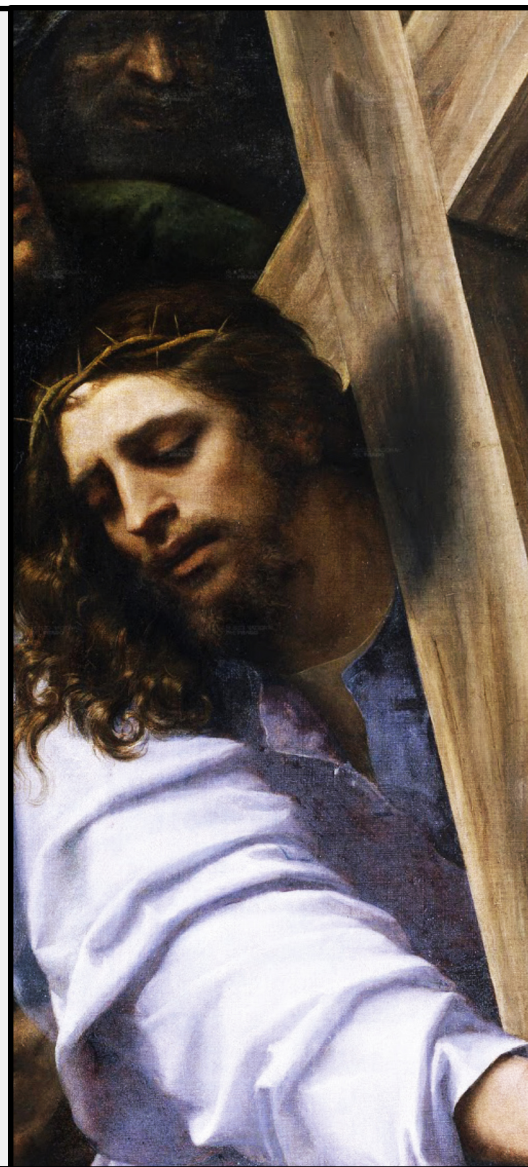
FR ANTONIO WRITES:

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE CROSS

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.” Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel don’t leave much room for “secondary interpretation.” Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. At first glance this may sound intimidating, but let’s think about it in the light of today’s readings. By denying ourselves, we are able to turn more fully toward God and toward others. Isn’t that what James is asking of us in his letter? He says this of faith: “if it does not have works, [it] is dead.” He even uses an example that might sound like something we would hear in a homily today: he asks, if you see someone who doesn’t have proper food or clothing and you simply wish them well without offering assistance, what good are you doing?

Certainly, when we help and serve others, we are working concretely to build the kingdom of God on earth. We are, quite literally, being Christ’s hands and feet in the world and following in our Lord’s footsteps. By thinking and acting with this mindset, we are turning toward God; we are seeking to lighten the loads of others – helping them to carry their crosses. In today’s Gospel passage, although Peter’s words, “You are the Christ” were faith-filled and seemed to imply understanding, he was not able to embrace the fullness of Christ’s mission. He rebukes Jesus for “setting himself up” to suffer greatly and be killed. In response, Jesus rebukes Peter and says he is not thinking as God does. As human beings, we know we are not able to think as God does. But we are made in God’s image, and the more we love one another, the more we reflect him in what we do.

Peter’s mistake was thinking he knew better than God how to do what needed to be done. Is there anything in your life that makes you think you might be like Peter? Choose a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, and spend some time listening to God in prayer as to how he might desire you to perform it.



DON'T BE LATE! DEADLINE FOR FHC AND CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS THIS WEDNESDAY!

If your child is in Year 3 or above, he or she can join our FHC programme. It will involve fortnightly sessions for the children as well as separate sessions for the parents. Attendance to every Sunday Mass will also be mandatory and will be closely monitored. We anticipate that the FHC Masses will be in May 2025 but this is subject to change. To sign up, go to: www.sttheresa.org.uk/fhcform.

Young people who are in Year 9 or above may register for the Confirmation Programme. It will involve regular sessions, designed to be reflective and interactive as well as catechetical. The commitment to perform a

ministry (such as reading at Mass, church cleaning, etc.) and attendance to Sunday Mass every week are also compulsory. The registration form will have to be completed by both the candidate and the guardian. You can register here: www.sttheresa.org.uk/confirm. We anticipate that the Confirmation Masses will be held in June 2025, but this will depend on the availability of Bishop John Sherrington.

If you are not able to register online, please call Iroma during office hours for an alternative way to sign up. Her contact details are on the back page. **Remember: the deadline for registration for both programmes is 18 September.**



RETURNING TO MY SPIRITUAL ROOTS

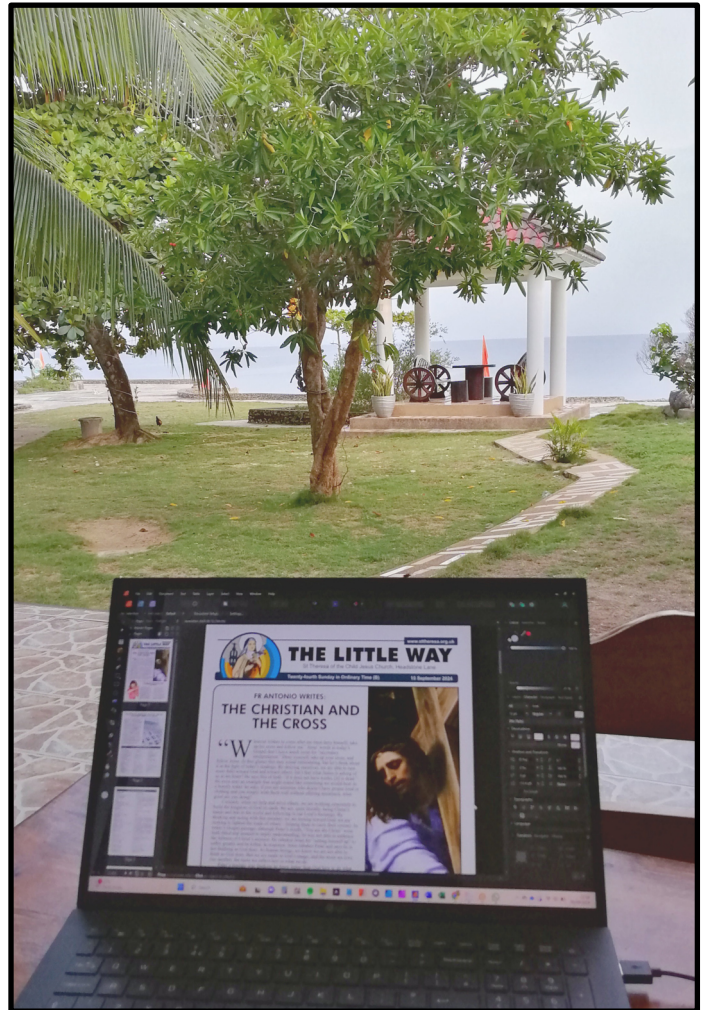
I am working on this week's newsletter in Poro Island, one of the 7,641 islands in the Philippines. I could tell you how beautiful it is, how tranquil and how friendly the locals are but these aren't the reasons I came here. I made Poro Island one of the first destinations in my month-long visit to the Philippines because it was where my mother came from. I had not been here since 1993 and I felt that it was time for me to reconnect with my mother's side of the family. I have always believed that you cannot really know who you are without knowing where you came from.

Poro Island is part of the Visayas which is a pivotal region in the country's Christian history. It was in the Visayas that the Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, and his Spanish crew first landed in March 1521. It was in the Visayas that the first Catholic Mass was celebrated in the Philippines. From there, Catholicism grew in the archipelago. To this day, it is the dominant religion in the country, with more than 80 per cent of the population identifying as Roman Catholics.

And so in a way, I have returned not just to my genealogical roots but also to my spiritual roots. I am where the seed of Christianity was first sown in my country of birth and this fills me with such profound gratitude. I have led many pilgrimages to various Catholic shrines including Lourdes, the Holy Land, Fatima and Italy. Each of those places has drawn me to a deeper understanding of our faith. Poro Island, though not a shrine, has given me this and more. It makes me thankful to the Spanish expedition which landed in the Philippines more than 500 years ago. If not for that historic event, I would not be who I am today: a member of the Church that Jesus Christ founded 2,000 years ago.

My Catholic faith is the greatest gift that my parents have ever given me. To know Jesus our Saviour is the greatest gift that any Catholic parent can give to their child. The priest says at a child's baptism: *This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Let us therefore profess our faith, the greatest gift of all, both in words and actions every day of our life.

Fr Antonio, Philippines



REGULAR PRAYERS AT SUNDAY MASS

The Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I
have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed
Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to
people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we
adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks
for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father,

have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father
almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he
came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

MASS READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Sir 36: 18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

Collect

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Prophet Isaiah 50:5-9

I offered my back to those who struck me

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings
against me?

Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who will dare to condemn me?

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 114(116):1-6,8-9

R I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him. (**R**)

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord, my God, deliver me! (**R**)

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. (**R**)

He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living. (**R**)

Second reading

Letter of St James 2:14-18

If good works do not go with it, faith is quite dead

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

Gospel Acclamation

Jn14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
No one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 8:27-35

The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord,
and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings,
that what each has offered to the honour of your name
may serve the salvation of all.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 35: 8

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray,
take possession of our minds and bodies,
so that its effects, and not our own desires,
may always prevail in us.
Through Christ our Lord.

NEWS, EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music Update and Choir Appeal

Following Margaret Norrington's resignation, we thank Andrea Basile for offering to play the organ at the 10:00 Mass, every first and third Sunday of the month. Andrea is joined by the Toolan family and Pauline Lynam to form the new choir. They will alternate with Dominic Rodrigues and David Wheeler who will continue to provide music in the second and fourth Sundays of the month. New choir members are always welcome. You don't need to be a professional singer, just the desire to worship the Lord with music.

Growing as missionary disciples

This Sunday is *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday*. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on the great mandate we have been given by the Risen Lord to evangelise the whole world. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations," the Lord commissions, as we hear in Matthew 28:19. Inspired by our ongoing Synodal process, Scripture, and Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, this year's theme is 'Growing as missionary disciples'. Today, let us pray for our parish that we become intentionally missionary in our life and witness.

Get More Involved

We are always looking for more volunteers to fill the roles of altar servers, catechists, eucharistic ministers, readers, church cleaners, etc. Volunteering need not take up too much of your time, but you'll surely get a lot

out of it! See our website for more details: www.sttheresa.org.uk/ministries.

Eucharistic Ministers Training

A training session is being planned for October. If you are a Eucharistic Minister—either in church or for the housebound—please ensure that we have your details so that we can send you an invitation. The session is also open to those considering to be a eucharistic minister but do contact the parish office so that you can be added to the list.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held in the Parish Room on Friday 27 September after the 9.30 am Mass from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. Each year, Coffee Morning brings people together to share delicious refreshments and to raise money to support people living with cancer. Donations of raffle prizes and cakes will be very welcome. Please save the date and support this great charity. For more information, contact Maureen McHugh on 020 8428 7191.

Thinking of Becoming a Catholic or Never Been Confirmed?

Have you, or someone you know, been thinking about becoming a Catholic? Or are you a baptised Catholic but never received First Holy Communion or the sacrament of Confirmation and would now like to complete your initiation? If the answer to either of these questions is "yes", please contact Fr Antonio to find out what is involved and the next steps.

Alternatively, see our website for details: www.sttheresa.org.uk/rcia.

Fr Antonio is Away in September

Fr Antonio is on annual leave until 30 September. While he is away, Fr Lazarus will remain in residence at the presbytery and he will celebrate the Masses and respond to the other pastoral needs of the parish. Iroma, our parish administrator, will be dealing with queries as usual during office hours.

Getting Your Child Baptised

Please note that parents will need to attend a short baptism preparation course before their child can be baptised. The course normally takes place on a Saturday morning and lasts for two and a half hours. For more details, contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp is being sponsored this week for the intentions of Anton Sandrasagra. If you would like to sponsor our sanctuary lamp for a special intention or in memory of someone, contact the parish office or fill in the sponsorship form found at the back of the church. The recommended offering is £10.

Death Anniversaries

We remember those in our parish whose anniversaries occur at around this time: Bernard Peter Greville, Aileen Mary Robinson, Peter Devine, Betty Donovan and Natalie Thomas.. May they rest in peace.

MASS TIMES AND OTHER SERVICES

Sunday Mass: 5:00 pm (Saturday Vigil), 10:00 am and 6:00 pm

Weekday Mass: Tuesday to Saturday, 9:30 am

Holy Days of Obligation: 9:30 am and 7:00 pm
Confessions: Saturday, 3:30 to 4:30 pm and by appointment

Eucharistic Service: Monday, 9:30 am

Adoration: Tuesday, after the 9:30 am Mass; Saturday, 3:30 to 4:30 pm; First Friday, 8:20 to 9:20 am

Rosary: Tuesday, after the 9:30 am Mass

Divine Mercy: Thursdays, after the 9:30 am Mass

First Saturday Devotions: 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Private Prayer: Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr Antonio Pineda
antoniopineda@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Iroma Attanayake
headstonelane@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Alice Cowan
headstonelanesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Address: The Presbytery, 22 Boniface Walk, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 6PU

Telephone: 020 8428 3260

Office Hours: Tue to Fri, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Facebook: [fb.com/headstonelane](https://www.facebook.com/headstonelane)

Register as a parishioner:
www.sttheresa.org.uk/register

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 15 Sep
5:00 pm (Vigil)
10:00 am
6:00 pm

Twenty-fourth Sunday in OT (B)
Michael, Eddie and Johnny Quinlan (RIP)
Anton Sandrasagra (Birthday)
Michael Early (RIP/Anniv)

Monday, 16 Sep
9:30 am

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
Eucharistic Service

Tuesday, 17 Sep
9:30 am

Saint Robert Bellarmine and Saint Hildegard of Bingen
John Noonan (Int)

Wednesday, 18 Sep
9:30 am

Wednesday of week 24 in OT
Peter Ngyou (RIP/Birthday)

Thursday, 19 Sep
9:30 am

Saint Januarius and Saint Theodore
Jack Dineen (RIP/Anniv)

Friday, 20 Sep
9:30 am

Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong and their Companions
Liberata Rebello (RIP)

Saturday, 21 Sep
9:30 am

Saint Matthew
Prescilla Borromeo (RIP/Anniv)

Booking Mass Intentions

To request a Mass intention, contact the parish office, pick up a Mass intentions envelope in church or fill in the online form at www.sttheresa.org.uk/mirf. Recommended Mass offering is £10.