www.sttheresa.org.uk

The Little Way

The Newsletter of St Theresa of the Child Jesus Church, Headstone Lane

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 20 September 2026

Fr Antonio Writes:

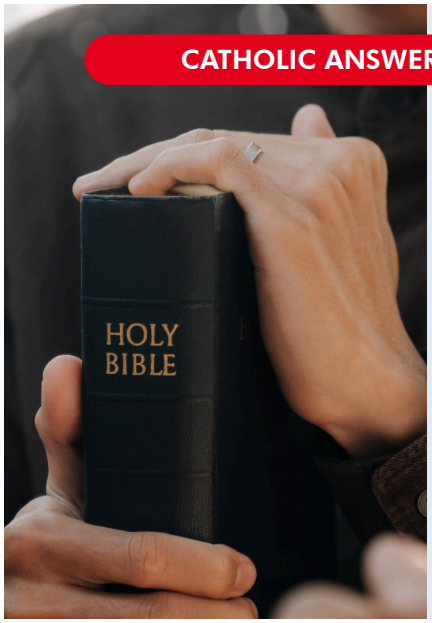
We are all Labourers in the Vineyard



Writing to the Philippians while in prison, St Paul feels complete peace about his fate. To stay on this earth means fruitful labour for him; to die means entering eternal life with God. Having lived apart from God in the past, he finds immense joy at being able to labour for the Lord, despite the suffering it entails. Upon first glance, the parable St Matthew recounts in his Gospel offers a glimpse of God's generous mercy. But reading the parable alongside Paul's letter reveals another layer of meaning: Those who have more time to labour in the vineyard of the Lord are given a great gift – the chance to bear immense fruit. Our long hours labouring in the Lord's vineyard are not something we're meant to merely suffer through on our way to our eternal reward. Rather, they are an opportunity to be drawn into communion with the Lord. As with St Paul, the joy that comes from realising that we share in the very life and work of God is available to us now, not only in the life to come.

Each of the vocations to which God calls us requires sacrifice and includes challenges. Living in humble obedience to the will of God is not easy, but it is full of peace. To focus only on the eternal reward offered after death disregards the love, peace, and joy of the kingdom that we are gifted now. We are invited to be labourers in the vineyard, co-creators with the Master of the universe. As we creatively and compassionately allow God's love to flow through us, we infuse new life and love into the world around us. When we truly believe that a life lived in Christ is the most abundant life, we stop asking what is fair and we begin to eagerly invite others to join us in the vineyard. Doing the will of God in this life is a reward unto itself.

This week, return to the first reading from the prophet Isaiah. As you reflect on his call to "seek the Lord while he may be found", consider the gift of God's love and presence in your life right now. And as we labour in the vineyard, keeping our eyes on the ultimate reward of eternity with our Creator, may we also recognise the immense gift of knowing, loving, and serving God in this life.



CATHOLIC ANSWERS

Why are Protestant Bibles Different from Catholic Bibles?

Catholic Bibles contain—and have always contained—all of the books of the Bible that have been traditionally accepted by Christians dating back to the time of Jesus. These accepted books total 46 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

Protestant Bibles, however, have seven fewer books in their Old Testament but both traditions share the exact same New Testament consisting of 27 books. The seven books excluded in the Protestant Bible are Baruch, Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and the Wisdom of Solomon, plus portions of Esther and Daniel. These books were rejected by Protestant Reformers in the 1500s because elements in these books did not support certain Protestant theology and doctrines. Prior to the sixteenth century, however, all Christians used Bibles containing all 46 books of the Old Testament.

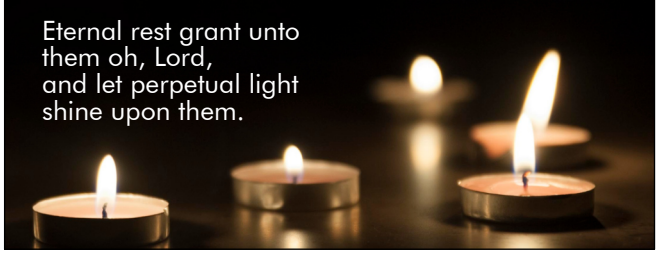
During the first century, there was much debate among the early Christians as to what made up the canon of Scripture. The Church, having been given authority by Jesus Christ and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, compiled the Bible in the form that it exists today.

Death Anniversaries

We remember those whose anniversaries occur at around this time, including those in our parish:

Patricia Winifred O'Malley, James Taylor, Anthony Pereira, Mary White, Marjorie Mabel Venus and Pat Ryan.

Eternal rest grant unto them oh, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



LAMP INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Lamp
Sponsored by Isabel Casades for the intentions of Vincent Casades

Our Lady's Chapel Lamp
Sponsored by Hannah Prunty for the intentions of the Prunty family

St Anthony's Lamp
Burning for the repose of the soul of Dennis Galang

St Theresa's Lamp
Burning for the repose of the soul of Leonardo Estrella

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 20 Sep 5:00 pm (Vigil) 10:00 am	**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)** Annie Casey (RIP/Anniv) Liberata Rebello (RIP)
Monday, 21 Sep 9:30 am	**Saint Matthew** Eucharistic Service
Tuesday, 22 Sep 9:30 am	**Tuesday of week 25 in OT** The Martin family (Int)
Wednesday, 23 Sep 9:30 am	**Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)** Patrick Moran (Int)
Thursday, 24 Sep 9:30 am	**Our Lady of Walsingham** Tony Flannery (Int)
Friday, 25 Sep 9:30 am	**Friday of week 25 in OT** Hannah Prunty (Int)
Saturday, 26 Sep 9:30 am	**Saints Cosmas and Damian** Pat McHugh (RIP/Anniv)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offertory Collections	Jul 2026	Aug 2026
Standing orders and online donations	£4300	£3800
Loose cash	£1406	£1613
Contactless donations	£541	£245
General donations and fundraising	£148	£10
Total Income	**£6390**	**£5668**

Parish Bank Details for Donations and Standing Orders

Account Name: WRCDT Headstone Lane
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Account Number: 51308297
Reference: Surname and First Initial

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.

PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbour,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.
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 55:6-9
'My thoughts are not your thoughts.'

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. ℟18a

℟ The LORD is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

℟ The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

℟ The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

℟ The LORD is close to all who call him.

Second reading

Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
'For to me to live is Christ.'

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Acts 16:14b

Alleluia, alleluia.
Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia.

Gospel

According to Matthew 20:1-16
'Do you begrudge my generosity?'

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your people,
that what they profess with devotion and faith
may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 118: 4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord,
those you renew with this Sacrament,
that we may come to possess your redemption
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.
Through Christ our Lord.

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PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Certificates of Catholic Practice
To request a Certificate of Catholic Practice, please fill in the online form at www.sttheresa.org.uk/cocp. Please allow at least five days for the certificate to be produced — do not expect Fr Antonio to issue it on the spot. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you attend Mass at St Theresa's regularly for Fr Antonio to issue the certificate.

FHC and Confirmation Programmes
The deadline for registration for both FHC and Confirmation is this Sunday. If you registered, you will receive an email with joining instructions from Fr Antonio shortly after the deadline. If you do not, please let him know.

Guidelines for Lectors
Fr Antonio is working on a set of guidelines for lectors (readers at Mass). It will be available as both a PDF and a printed booklet. For more details on the ministry of lector, go to www.sttheresa.org.uk/ministries/readers. We need more lectors so please would you consider proclaiming the Word of God at Mass? If so, please peak to Fr Antonio for details. Full training will be given. There will also be guidelines for Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion and altar servers.

Called to Serve Day — Saturday, 4 October
This day, to be held at the SPEC Youth Ministry Retreat Centre in Pinner, is led by the Agency for Evangelisation, Caritas Westminster and Westminster Youth Ministry. It is for all currently or wishing to be involved in catechesis, youth work or social action. There is a £10 suggested donation. For further details, email catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.



Macmillan Coffee Morning
To raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, we will hold our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Parish Room on Friday, 25 September immediately after the 9:30 am Mass until 11:30 am. Please support this effort; it is an opportunity to help a great charity and mix with fellow parishioners and supporters.

Fatima Home Visitation
Sabina Falco is hosting the parish statue of Our Lady of Fatima until 4 October 2026. If you would like to host Our Lady for at least a week, contact Barbara on 07511 136055 or fill in one of the forms at the back of the church.

Home Mission Sunday ...
This Sunday is Home Mission Sunday when we are asked to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a second collection. On Home Mission Sunday, the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Please give generously to the second collection.

... and also Catechetical Sunday
In 1935, the Vatican published *On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education*, a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honour those who serve the Christian community as catechists. To this end, every third Sunday of September is celebrated as Catechetical Sunday when we remember the valuable but often unseen work that our catechists perform for the FHC, Confirmation, RCIA and children's liturgy programmes. Some of them will be commissioned at the Sunday Mass.

Children's Liturgy
We would like to restart the children's liturgy during the Sunday morning Mass but to do so, we need more volunteers. Could you assist Sharon Horohoe, our lead catechist, in running the sessions? Or maybe you could even take on a more leadership role? Full support will be provided. For more information, speak to Sharon or email sharonhorohoe@aol.com.

Catholic Education Service
We thank everyone who supported the second collection for Catholic Education Service last Sunday as part of Education Sunday. We raised £183.93 in total which will go towards advocating for, and enhancing Catholic Education throughout England and Wales.

MASS TIMES AND OTHER SERVICES

Sunday Mass: 5:00 pm (Saturday Vigil) and 10:00 am (with tea and coffee afterwards)
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: Wednesday, after the 9:30 am Mass; Saturday, 3:30 to 4:30 pm; First Friday, 8:20 to 9:20 am
Rosary: Wednesday, after the 9:30 am Mass
Divine Mercy: Thursdays, after the 9:30 am Mass
Private Prayer: Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

CONTACT US

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Parish Administrator (Position Vacant)
Email: headstonelane@rcdow.org.uk
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ST THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS
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CAN WE HELP?

Parish Safeguarding Representative	**Sylvester Gomes** headstonelanesg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk 020 8428 3260, Option 5
Data Protection Champion	**Ann Mary Bhatia** annetmthy@googlemail.com
Health and Safety Officer	**Manuel de Souza** desouza007@yahoo.com
Mass and Lamp Intentions	**Pauline Lynam** 020 8428 3260, Option 2
Our Lady of Fatima Home Visitations	**Barbara Toolan** bktoolan@gmail.com 07511 136055

S.T.A.R. (St Theresa Alerts and Reminders) SMS Service
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