www.sttheresa.org.uk

The Little Way

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

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 4 October 2026

Fr Antonio Writes:

Calling Us Back to Communion



I enjoy thinking about what it would have been like as a first-century Jew to hear Jesus' teachings. When Jesus calls out the current tenants of the vineyard as being unfaithful, disobedient servants, however, it may have left the crowd feeling a bit anxious. And really, Jesus could say this to each of us at times because, like the wild grapes in the vineyard, when left to our own devices we also have a tendency to fall into sin and produce unsavoury fruit.

But we also know that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he wants our lives in his vineyard to be characterised by that peace. Christ is not condemning, but he is the Son sent to call the tenants back into communion with the Father. He does the same with us too. In acts of great mercy, Christ continues to call us again and again – even after we reject him and turn away from him. Through the Church, the sacraments, the intercession of the saints, and the holy men and women who proclaim the Gospel today, God continues to seek us out so we might know the peace of fruitful service in his vineyard.

Christ longs to give us peace that surpasses all of our fears and anxieties, and he does so by inviting us to be good stewards of his created world and the community of believers. He invites us to work in the vineyard – to offer our gifts and talents to bring forth the fruits of love and joy that overflow from the work of the Holy Spirit within us. We do so with the assurance that salvation is not dependent on us. Our Father has sown the seeds and has prepared the vineyard; we are simply called to reap and preserve what he has brought into being. And so we trust in the overwhelming mercy of God and humbly accept the love and communion that we do not deserve.

Just as the landowner sent messengers to the tenants of the vineyard, God sends people to us to proclaim the Gospel. Who are those people in your life who are calling you to a deeper relationship with God? How can you open your heart to hear the message of love and peace that they are proclaiming?



Austin Receives Guild Silver Medal for Ten Years of Altar Serving

Austin Abraham received his Guild of St Stephen silver medal at the 10:00 am Mass on 27 September 2026. The medal acknowledged 10 years of continuous and dedicated altar serving.

At the medal presentation, Austin renewed his solemn promise to the Guild "to serve regularly, with reverence and understanding, for the glory of God, the service of His Church and my own eternal salvation".

Fr Antonio blessed the medal before it was presented to Austin by Tony Baker, the parish's longest serving altar server who himself was awarded the gold medal for 50 years of service last year.

The parish also said a temporary goodbye to Austin who begins his studies at Oxford University in October. In his homily, Fr Antonio told him: "As you enter a competitive academic environment, remember that true greatness in the eyes of God is found in service... Our entire parish community thanks you... for your perseverance, your reverence, and for being an inspiration to the younger servers who look up to you. As you receive this silver medal, know that you go to university with our prayers and our deepest pride."

The celebration continued after Mass when coffee and cakes were served.

Death Anniversaries

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

Theresa Cahalan,
Geraldine Mary Margaret Wheeler,
and Edward William Innes

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



LAMP INTENTIONS



Sanctuary Lamp
Sponsored by Lynette Mansukhani for her well being

Our Lady's Chapel Lamp
Sponsored by Hannah Prunty for Colleen Tidd (Bday/Int)

St Anthony's Lamp
Sponsored by Pauline Lynam for Blake Lynam (Bday/Int)

St Theresa's Lamp
Sponsored by Lorna Brading for deceased members of the Brading family

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 4 Oct 5:00 pm (Vigil) 10:00 am	**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)** Denise Attard (RIP/Anniv) Pauline Oti (In Thanksgiving)
Monday, 5 Oct 9:30 am	**Saint Faustina Kowalska** Eucharistic Service
Tuesday, 6 Oct 9:30 am	**Saint Bruno** John O'Driscoll (Int)
Wednesday, 7 Oct 9:30 am	**Our Lady of the Rosary** David Nortcott (Int)
Thursday, 8 Oct 9:30 am	**Thursday of week 27 in OT** Geraldine Wheeler (RIP/Anniv)
Friday, 9 Oct 9:30 am	**Saint John Henry Newman** Manuel De Souza (Bday/Int)
Saturday, 10 Oct 9:30 am	**Ss Dennis and Companions, St John Leonardi, and St Paulinus of York** Ann Carr (RIP)



FATIMA HOME VISITATION

Sylvester and Martha Gomes are hosting the parish statue of Our Lady of Fatima until 18 October. To host Our Lady for at least a week, contact Barbara on 07511 136055.

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

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
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 5:1-7
'The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.'

Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79):9, 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. ℟ Isaiah 5:7a

℟ The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
It stretched out its branches to the sea;
to the River it stretched out its shoots. ℟

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. ℟

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. ℟

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
Bring us back, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved. ℟

Second reading

Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9
'Practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.'

Brothers and Sisters: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 15:16

Alleluia, alleluia.
I chose you out of the world, says the Lord,
that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.
Alleluia.

Gospel

According to Matthew 21:33-43
'He will let out the vineyard to other tenants.'

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance." And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.'

Communion Antiphon

Lam 3: 25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, almighty God,
that we may be refreshed and nourished
by the Sacrament which we have received,
so as to be transformed into what we consume.
Through Christ our Lord.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

RCIA First Meeting

The first meeting for the RCIA programme will take place in the Parish Room on Tuesday, 13 October at 6:00 pm. It is not too late to join our RCIA programme if you are considering joining the Catholic Church or if you are a baptised Catholic but never made your First Holy Communion or received the sacrament of Confirmation. For a confidential chat, speak to Fr Antonio or visit our RCIA page: www.sttheresa.org.uk/rcia.

Missionary Servants of the Poor

Fathers Giusseppe and Walter of the Missionary Servants of the Poor (MSP) will be celebrating both the Vigil and Sunday morning Mass this weekend. Also known as Opus Christi Salvatories Mundi, the MSP operates as an international ecclesial movement. It brings together a complete "ecclesial family" comprising consecrated priests, sisters, and married missionary couples. Their primary apostolic work focuses on the human, medical, and spiritual education of abandoned children and families living in extreme poverty.

Adoremus 2026

Adoremus, the National Eucharistic Congress, will take place in London on Saturday 10 October. You are encouraged to join the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament from Southwark Cathedral, along the South Bank of the Thames, to Westminster Cathedral. The procession will begin at 3:00 pm and will finish at 5:00 pm with Solemn Benediction at Westminster Cathedral presided over by Bishop Jim Curry. This will be followed by Mass at 6:00 pm celebrated by Bishop Gerard Bradley, Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark. After the Mass at 8:00 pm, the first of three Holy Hours will begin led by different youth ministry teams. From 11:00 pm an all-night Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament begins, which will finish with Mass at 6:00 am. Anyone wishing to attend the Holy Hours and all night-vigil needs to register their attendance at: www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/adoremus.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

The well-attended Macmillan Coffee Morning took place in the Parish Room on Friday, 25 September 2026. Many parishioners—and indeed people from other parishes—came to raise money for the cancer charity by indulging in tea, coffee and cakes, great company and a raffle draw. We raised at least £500 on the day but we expect more donations to come over the next few days — we will publish the final figure soon. We thank everyone who made the event a success, especially Maureen McHugh who has been organising the event for over two decades.

Cleaners' Rota

Following the recent appeal for volunteers, we now have a church cleaner's rota that will take us up to March 2027. We thank Maria, Nigel and Ann for organising the appeal, and we are also grateful to those who put their names down. We do still need more volunteers for church cleaning and other tasks—so please do come forward!

Come and See Vocations Morning

This will take place on Saturday, 17 October, 10:30 and to 1:30 pm at Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove W5 2DY. Do you think God might be calling you to the priesthood or the diaconate? Hear from those already serving in their vocations and meet others who are also discerning their vocation. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and register your attendance: contact Canon Roger Taylor (Vocations Promoter) by emailing vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk.

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? The more catechists we have the more regular the children's liturgy can be. Full support will be provided. For more information, speak to Sharon when you see her at Mass or email sharonhorohoe@aol.com.

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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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

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