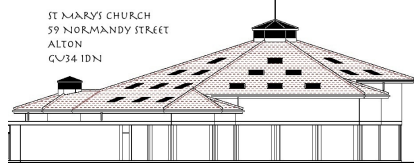


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 19th July 2026

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY

OF ORDINARY TIME

(A2) (Psalter Week 4)

Saturday	5.30pm	Bernie & Richie Ahearne, RIP
Sunday	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	The People of the Parish
St. Mary's	11.00am	Andrew Hart, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	9.30am	Enyd Williams, RIP
Tuesday	Feria	
	NO MASS	
Wednesday	St Mary Magdalene	
	9.30am	Brendan Fell, RIP
Thursday	St Bridget of Sweden	
	9.30am	Eileen McDermott, RIP
Friday	Feria	
	9.30am	John McGinty, RIP
	5.00pm	Polish Mass—Fr Irek
Saturday	St James, Apostle	
	5.30pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sunday	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	Sister Barbara & Sister Joan, RIP
St. Mary's	11.00am	Amy & Leonard Gilbert, RIP
	5.00pm	Polish Mass—Fr Irek

Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help,. The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your
name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading Wisdom 12:13, 16—19

Responsorial Psalm

O Lord, you are good and forgiving

Second Reading Romans 8:26-27

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia ! I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little
children. Alleluia !

Gospel Matthew 13:24—43

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memo-
rial of his wonders; he gives food to those
who fear him.

CATHOLIC QUOTE

"Mary, who is the Virgin Most Pure, is also the Refuge of
Sinners. She knows what sin is, not by the experience of its
fall, not by tasting its bitter regrets, but by seeing what it did to
her Divine Son." - Venerable Fulton Sheen



16th Sunday of The Year

19th July, 2026

There is no room in a good field for weeds and
rubbish: so in the Kingdom of Heaven, there is no
room for 'all things that provoke offences, and all
who do evil'. They must be got rid of, for the sake
of the good wheat, for the sake of the good
subjects of the kingdom. But this weeding out will
not take place until harvest time - in case one
piece of good wheat is destroyed with the weeds.

This shows the mercy of God: everyone has chance after
chance to prove that they are wheat, not darnel; there are no
quick judgements in the kingdom of heaven, and things are
never as black and white as we think. Only at the end of time
will evil stand out clearly, so that it can be disposed of, and
only the Son of Man can judge.

'Let both grow together until the harvest.'

A POPE'S REFLECTION - Pope Benedict XVI

The Gospel parables are brief accounts that Jesus uses to
proclaim the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. Using
imagery from situations of daily life, the Lord "wants to show us
the real ground of all things.... He shows us... the God who acts,
who intervenes in our lives, and wants to take us by the hand".
With this kind of discourse the divine Teacher invites us to rec-
ognize first of all the primacy of God the Father: Wherever he is
absent, nothing can be good. He is a crucial priority for all
things. Kingdom of Heaven means, in fact, lordship of God and
this means that his will must be adopted as the guiding criterion
of our existence. The subject of this Sunday's Gospel is,
precisely, the Kingdom of Heaven. "Heaven" should not be
understood only in the sense that it towers above us, because
this infinite space also takes the form of human interiority. Jesus
compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field of wheat to enable
us to understand that something small and hidden has been
sown within us which, nevertheless, has an irrepressible vital
force. In spite of all obstacles, the seed will develop and the fruit
will ripen. This fruit will only be good if the terrain of life is
cultivated in accordance with the divine will. For this reason in
the Parable of the Weeds [tares] among the good Wheat. Jesus
warns us that, after the owner had scattered the seed, "while
men were sleeping, his enemy" intervened and sowed weeds
among the wheat. This means that we must be ready to preserve
the grace received from the day of our Baptism, continuing to
nourish faith in the Lord that prevents evil from taking root.
St Augustine commenting on the parable noted "many are at
first tares but then become good grain", and he added: "if
these, when they are wicked, are not endured with patience they
would not attain their praiseworthy transformation". Dear
friends, the Book of Wisdom — from which today's 1st Reading
is taken — emphasizes this dimension of the divine Being and
states: "Neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for
all men.... For your strength is the source of righteousness, and
your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all" The Psalm
confirm it: "You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in
steadfast love to all who call on you". Hence if we are children
of such a great and good Father, let us seek to be like him! This
was the aim Jesus set himself with his preaching; indeed, he
said to those who were listening to him: "You... must be perfect,
as your heavenly Father is perfect". Let us turn with trust to
Mary, whom we invoked yesterday with the title of Our Lady of
Mount Carmel so that she may help us to follow Jesus
faithfully, and so live as true children of God.

WELCOME

We welcome Fr Irek Zawadzki back to the Parish this week-
end. Irek was a Parishioner of St Mary's for many years.
He latterly worked at Treloar's school. He returned to Poland
and there was accepted to train for the Priesthood. It had been
his wish for many years. Thank God it has been brought to
fulfilment. He will be the main celebrant at the 11am Mass.

**On Friday 24th and Sunday 26th July
he will celebrate Mass in Polish at 5pm,
followed by refreshments in the hall. All are welcome.**

Saints of the Week

July 22nd, St Mary Magdalene

Except for the mother of Jesus, few women are more honoured in the Bible than Mary Magdalene. Yet she could well be the patron of those who are slandered, since there has been a persistent legend in the Church that she is the unnamed sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus in Luke 7:36-50. Most Scripture scholars today point out that there is no scriptural basis for confusing the two women. Mary Magdalene, that is, "form the town of Magdala," was the one from whom Christ cast out "seven demons" (Luke 8:2)—an indication at the worst, of extreme demonic possession or possibly, severe illness. Writing in the New Catholic Commentary, Fr Wilf Harrington, says that "seven demons" "does not mean that Mary had lived an immoral life—a conclusion reached only by means of a mistaken identification with the anonymous woman of Luke 7:36." In the Jerome Biblical Commentary, Father Edward Mally, S.J., agrees that she "is not...the same as the sinner of Luke 7:37, despite the later Western romantic tradition about her." Mary Magdalene was one of the many women "who were assisting them [Jesus and the Twelve] out of their own means." She was one of those who stood by the cross of Jesus with his mother. And, of all the "official" witnesses who might have been chosen for the first awareness of the Resurrection, she was the one to whom that privilege was given.

She is known as the "Apostle to the Apostles."

Reflection: Mary Magdalene has been a victim of mistaken identity for almost 20 centuries. Yet she would no doubt insist that it makes no difference. We are all sinners in need of the saving power of God, whether our sins have been lurid or not.

More importantly is the fact, that we are all "unofficial" witnesses of the Resurrection.

July 23rd, St Bridget of Sweden

From the age of seven onwards, Bridget had visions of Christ crucified. Her visions formed the basis for her activity—always with the emphasis on charity rather than gaining spiritual favours. She lived her married life in the court of the Swedish king Magnus II. Mother of eight children—the second eldest was St Catherine of Sweden—Bridget lived the strict life of a penitent after her husband's death. Bridget of Sweden constantly strove to exert her good influence over Magnus; while never fully reforming, he did give her land and buildings to found a monastery for men and women. This group eventually expanded into an Order known as the Bridgetines. In 1350, a year of jubilee, Bridget braved a plague-stricken Europe to make a pilgrimage to Rome. Although she never returned to Sweden, her years in Rome were far from happy, being hounded by debts and by opposition to her work against Church abuses. A final pilgrimage to the Holy Land, marred by shipwreck and the death of her son, Charles, eventually led to her death in 1373. In 1999, Bridget of Sweden, Saint Catherine of Siena, and Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, were named co-patronesses of Europe.

Reflection: Bridget's visions, rather than isolating her from the affairs of the world, involved her in many contemporary issues, whether they be royal policy or the years that the legitimate Bishop of Rome lived in Avignon, France. She saw no contradiction between mystical experience and secular activity, and her life is a testimony to the possibility of a holy life in the marketplace.

Jesus, You are both Lord and friend. May all that I say and do today give glory to Your name. Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd. Help me to be more attentive to Your voice when so much around me beckons for my attention.

Jesus, You are faithful. I pray that I will not let You down. Jesus, You came as our Saviour. May Your love renew my spirit. Amen.



The 7 Prayers of St Bridget

Our Lord made 5 Promises to anyone who recites these 7 prayers daily for 12 years. At the completion, they would have honoured each of the 5,480 blows and wounds to Jesus' Body. If a day is missed for a valid reason, they can be made up at the earliest opportunity, and, if the person dies before the entire 12 years of prayers have been completed, Our Lord will accept them as if they had been prayed in their entirety, because the intention of the person was to complete them as directed

THE BEGINNING

O Jesus, now I wish to pray the Lord's Prayer seven times in unity with the love with which You sanctified this prayer in Your Heart. Take it from my lips into Your Divine Heart. Improve and complete it so much that it brings as much honour and joy to the Trinity as You granted it on earth with this prayer. May these pour upon Your Holy Humanity in Glorification to Your Painful Wounds and the Precious Blood that You spilled from them.

Sheets are available with all the prayers for the week

TO MARY, MOTHER OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Blessed are you, O Mary, silent witness of Easter!
You, O Mother of the Crucified One now risen,
who at the hour of pain and death
kept the flame of hope burning,
teach us also to be,
amongst the incongruities of passing time,
convinced and joyful witnesses
of the eternal message of life and love
brought to the world
by the Risen Redeemer

Pope St John Paul II, 2004

ADVANCED WARNING - CAR PARK

The Diocese is taking control of all Church properties used for car parks, to standardise contracts and income. Number Plate recognition will be installed and so anyone entering the car park will be liable for the set fees unless they are provided with an exemption to allow free parking. A tablet will be situated in the Church porch. Simply input your registration number before entering the Church or the Church Hall to be exempt from any parking charges on the Sunday or weekdays. If you park at any other time, **you pay the fee before leaving.** The fee due is calculated from the time of entry to the time of departure. Daily, weekly and monthly permits that currently are booked on the Parish website will need to be booked on the dedicated Parish Horizon portal in the same way. **There will be no need to display a parking ticket or permit.**

Saints of God, come to our aid !

D	E	S	T	N	A	V	R	E	S		PARABLE
S	E	L	D	N	U	B	E	E	D		SEED
E	D	E	E	S	E	E	S	D	W		FIELD
E	L	B	A	R	A	P	E	E	O		ENEMY
L	E	U	L	Y	R	T	D	P	R		DARNEL
E	I	R	L	O	M	A	E	E	C		WHEAT
N	F	N	U	E	D	E	E	W	B		SPROUTED
R	E	T	P	E	L	H	N	A	E		SERVANTS
A	E	E	D	S	E	W	R	E	E		WEED
D	S	W	A	S	E	N	E	E	D		BUNDLES
										BURNT	
										BARN	

Please remember in your prayers

Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham,
John D., Mary McGinty, Regina Elliot,
Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath,
Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock,
Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire,
Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies,
Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour

