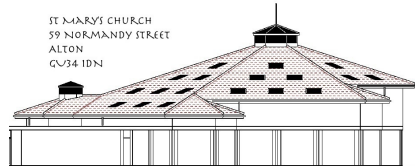


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 30th August, 2026

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(A1) (Psalter Week 2)

Saturday	Our Lady on Saturday	
	5.30pm	Special Intention
Sunday	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	Anne Quirke, RIP
St. Mary's	11.00am	Nora & Paul Byrne, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	9.30am	The People of the Parish
Tuesday	Feria	
	NO MASS	
Wednesday	Feria	
	9.30am	Mary McGrath, RIP
Thursday	Feria	
	9.30am	
Friday	St Gregory the Great	
	9.30am	Michael Byrne, RIP
Saturday	Feria	
	5.30pm	Sean & Jeannie Norris, RIP
Sunday	Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	The People of the Parish
St. Mary's	11.00am	Benefactors of St Mary's
Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request		

22nd Sunday of the Year—30th August 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia ! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia !

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

Communion Antiphon:

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Pope's Intentions - August - For city evangelization

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



22nd Sunday on Ordinary Time

30th August, 2026

A quick glance at last week's Gospel reveals the interesting development of the story: last week, we heard Peter proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah, and being given authority as a result. This week, Peter gets it wrong: he is rebuked by the Lord because he does not understand who the Messiah is. The Messiah is the one who will give everything for his people - even his own

life. To be a follower of Jesus demands an understanding and acceptance of this fact, and a willingness to take up the cross as Jesus did. Our introduction to this is the prophet Jeremiah - also persecuted for doing and saying what was right. Have a look at the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, where this twinning of Jeremiah and prophecy of persecution also appears.

'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself.'

A Pope's Reflection - Pope Benedict XVI

Today too, the Apostle Peter, like last Sunday, appears in the foreground of the Gospel. However, whereas last Sunday we admired him for his forthright faith in Jesus, whom he proclaimed the Messiah and Son of God, this time, in the episode that immediately follows, he shows a faith that is still immature and too closely bound to the mentality of "this world". Indeed, when Jesus begins to speak openly of the fate that awaits him in Jerusalem, in other words that he will have to suffer many things and be killed in order subsequently to be raised, Peter protests saying: "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you". It is obvious that the Teacher and the disciple follow two opposite ways of thinking. Peter, in accordance with a human logic, is convinced that God would never permit his Son to end his mission by dying on the Cross. Jesus, on the contrary, knows that in his immense love for mankind the Father sent him to give his life for them and that if this should involve the Passion and the Cross, it is right that it should happen in this manner. Moreover he knows that the last word will be the Resurrection. Although Peter's protest was spoken in good faith and for sincere love of the Master, to Jesus it sounds like a temptation, an invitation to save himself, whereas it is only by losing his life that he will receive new and eternal life for us all. If, to save us, the Son of God had to suffer and die on the Cross, it was certainly not by a cruel design of the heavenly Father. The reason is the gravity of the illness from which he came to heal us: it was such a serious, mortal disease that it required all his Blood. Indeed, it was with his death and Resurrection that Jesus defeated sin and death and re-established God's lordship. Yet the battle is not over. Evil exists and resists in every generation, as we know, in our day too. What are the horrors of war, violence to the innocent, the wretchedness and injustice unleashed against the weak other than the opposition of evil to the Kingdom of God?

And how is it possible to respond to so much wickedness except with the unarmed and disarming power of love that conquers hatred and of life that has no fear of death? It is the same mysterious power that Jesus used, at the cost of being misunderstood and abandoned by many of his own. Dear brothers and sisters, in order to bring the work of salvation fully to completion, the Redeemer continues to associate to himself and his mission men and women who are prepared to take up their cross and follow him. Consequently, just as for Christ carrying the cross was not an option but a mission to be embraced for love, so it is for Christians too. In our world today, where the forces that divide and destroy seem to dominate, Christ does not cease to offer to all his clear invitation: anyone who wants to be my disciple must renounce his own selfishness and carry the cross with me. Let us invoke the help of the Blessed Virgin who followed Jesus first and to the very end on the way of the Cross. May she help us to walk in the Lord's footsteps with determination, to experience from this moment, even in trial, the glory of the Resurrection.

God is my salvation.

Saints of the Week

September 3rd St Gregory the Great

Saint Gregory the Great was the prefect of Rome before he was 30. After five years in office he resigned, founded six monasteries on his Sicilian estate, and became a Benedictine monk in his own home at Rome. Ordained a priest, Gregory became one of the pope's seven deacons, and also served six years in the East as papal representative in Constantinople. He was recalled to become abbot, but at the age of 50 was elected pope by the clergy and people of Rome. Gregory was direct and firm. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and the victims of plague and famine. He was very concerned about the conversion of England, sending 40 monks from his own monastery. He is known for his reform of the liturgy, and for strengthening respect for doctrine. Whether he was largely responsible for the revision of "Gregorian" chant is disputed. Saint Gregory the Great lived in a time of perpetual strife with invading Lombards and difficult relations with the East. When Rome itself was under attack, he interviewed the Lombard king. His book, "Pastoral Care", on the duties and qualities of a bishop, was read for centuries after his death. He described bishops mainly as physicians whose main duties were preaching and the enforcement of discipline. In his own down-to-earth preaching, Gregory was skilled at applying the daily Gospel to the needs of his listeners. Called "the Great," Gregory has been given a place with Augustine, Ambrose, and Jerome, as one of the four key doctors of the Western Church. An famous Anglican historian has written: *"It is impossible to conceive what would have been the confusion, the lawlessness, the chaotic state of the Middle Ages without the medieval papacy; and of the medieval papacy, the real father is Gregory the Great."*



Reflection: Gregory was content to be a monk, but he willingly served the Church in other ways when asked. He sacrificed his own preferences in many ways, especially when he was called to be Bishop of Rome. Once he was called to public service, Gregory gave his considerable energies completely to this work. Gregory's description of bishops as physicians fits in well with Pope Francis' description of the Church as a "field hospital."

September 4th, St Rose of Viterbo

Even as a child, Rose had a great desire to pray and to aid the poor. While still very young, she began a life of penance in her parents' house. She was as generous to the poor as she was strict with herself. At the age of 10, she became a Secular Franciscan and soon began preaching in the streets about sin and the sufferings of Jesus. Viterbo, her native city, was then in revolt against the pope. When Rose took the pope's side against the emperor, she and her family were exiled from the city. When the pope's side won in Viterbo, Rose was allowed to return. Her attempt at age 15 to found a religious community failed, and she returned to a life of prayer and penance in her father's home, where she died in 1251.

Rose was canonized in 1457.

Reflection: The number of Franciscan saints seems to have quite a few men and women who accomplished nothing very extraordinary. Saint Rose is one of them. She did not influence popes and kings, did not multiply bread for the hungry, and never established the religious order of her dreams. But she made a place in her life for God's grace, and like Saint Francis before her, saw death as the gateway to new and eternal life.



First Holy Communion Programme

2026—2027

Children aged 7 years (school year 3) or older on August 31st, 2026 are invited to join the St. Mary's First Communion Programme. The entry form is available for completion and submission on the St. Mary's Website

www.stmarysalton.co.uk/forms

The full list of dates & times will be available soon.

The next foodbank collection is September 5th/6th. Items needed August 2026 Long life milk, Instant Coffee, Hot chocolate, Breakfast cereals, Long life orange juice, Deodorant (male or female), Laundry washing powder. All donations are gratefully received.

Petitionary Prayer by Bp. Robert Barron

St. Augustine offers a perspective on petitionary prayer. God wants us to ask persistently—not in order that he might be changed but that we might be changed. Through the initial refusal to give us what we want, God compels our hearts to expand in order to receive adequately what he wants to give.

In the very process of hungering and thirsting for certain goods, we make ourselves worthy vessels. It is not as though, in petitioning God, we are approaching a stubborn pasha or big city boss who we hope might be persuaded by our persistence. Rather, it is God who works a sort of spiritual alchemy in us by forcing us to wait. In his treatment of the Lord's Prayer, Thomas Aquinas tells us, very much in the spirit of Augustine, that the initial petition of the Our Father, "hallowed be thy name," is not asking for something to change in God, for God's name is always holy; rather, it is asking that God might work a change in us so that we hallow God above all things.

Minute Meditations

I believe that we're all called to union with God, that we're all called to speak the word of God in ungodly places and to ungodly situations. We're all called to be prophets and mystics. The important thing is that you know who you are at all times. Never let any words seduce you or confuse you. Put the center of your heart in the hands of God and you will be fine.

- from St. Anthony Messenger's "Joan Chittister, OSB, on Hildegard of Bingen" by Alicia von Stammwitz

Prayer for the Sick

Watch O Lord, with those
who cannot sleep or weep tonight.
Tend your sick ones. Rest your weary ones.
Bless your dying ones.
Soothe your suffering ones.
Pity your afflicted ones.
Shield your joyous ones. Amen.

(By St Augustine of Canterbury)

S	E	T	G	E	L	D	E	R	S	DESTINED	JERUSALEM	ELDERS
E	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	R	A	SCRIBES	SATAN	OBSTACLE
B	I	B	O	W	D	N	I	W	T	RENOUCE	CROSS	LIFE
I	L	S	R	A	O	A	G	N	A	WORLD	GLORY	ANGELS
R	E	T	Y	U	N	R	A	L	S			
C	L	A	N	G	H	T	L	S	U			
S	W	C	E	T	A	S	O	D	F			
M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	F			
B	S	E	I	R	C	S	D	L	E			
E	D	E	S	T	I	N	E	D	R			

Please remember in your prayers

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



Pope's Intentions - 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.