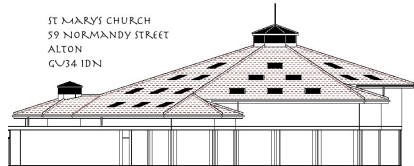


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



ST MARY'S CHURCH
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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS w/c Sunday 27th September, 2026 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A1) (Psalter Week 2)

Saturday	Feria	
	5.30pm	Maurice Hickey, RIP
Sunday	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St. Mary's	11.00am	Stanislawa Papierowska, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	NO MASS	
Tuesday	Ss. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael. Archangels	
	NO MASS	
Wednesday	St. Jerome	
	9.00am	Rosary
	9.30am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Thursday	St Theresa of the Child Jesus	
	NO MASS	
Friday	Feria	Holy Guardian Angels
	9.30am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Saturday	Feria	
	5.30pm	Priest's intention
Sunday	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St. Mary's	11.00am	Joseph Courtney Lane, RIP (F)
Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request		

26th Sunday of the Year—27th September, 2025

Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

Responsorial Psalm

Remember your compassion, Lord.

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia ! My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me. **Alleluia !**

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

Communion Antiphon:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

POPE'S INTENTIONS OCTOBER 2026 **For mental health ministry.**

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time **27th September**

"Once a sinner, always a sinner." That seems to be the attitude of the self-righteous in the first reading and the Gospel; they object that God is unjust, because he gives sinners another chance. But God tells them quite clearly that such attitudes are the real injustice - to allow prejudice and hardness of heart to come between repentance and forgiveness. The words of Christ in the Gospel must have struck a chill into the hard hearts of the so-called righteous chief priests -

even today they can make us stop and think: "Prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you." All our outward show matters little, if it does not correspond with what is deep in our hearts; all our words are meaningless, if they do not correspond with the way we live our lives.

He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

A POPE'S REFLECTION—POPE BENEDICT

Today the liturgy presents to us the Gospel parable of the two sons sent by their father to work in his vineyard. One of them immediately agrees to go but then does not; the other instead refuses but later he repents and complies with his father's wishes. With this parable Jesus reaffirms his predilection for sinners who convert and teaches us that humility is necessary in order to accept the gift of salvation. St Paul too, in the passage from his Letter to the Philippians on which we are meditating today, urges us to be humble: "Do nothing from selfishness or self conceit", he writes, "but... let each of you... in humility count others better than yourselves". These are the same sentiments as those of Christ who, emptying himself of divine glory out of love for us, became a man and humbled himself even to dying on a Cross. The Greek verb used means literally that he "emptied himself" and sheds clear light on the deep humility and infinite love of Jesus, the humble Servant par excellence. In reflecting on these biblical texts, I immediately thought of Pope John Paul I, the 30th anniversary of whose death we are remembering today. John Paul I chose as his episcopal motto the same motto as St Charles Borromeo, namely: **Humilitas**. This single word sums up the essential of Christian life and indicates the indispensable virtue of those in the Church who are called to the service of authority. At one of the four General Audiences held during his extremely short Pontificate, he said, among other things, with that familiar tone that distinguished him: "I will just recommend one virtue so dear to the Lord. He said, 'Learn from me who am meek and humble of heart'.... Even if you have done great things, say: 'We are useless servants'". And he observed: "On the contrary the tendency in all of us, is rather the opposite: to show off".

Humility can truly be considered his spiritual testament. Because of this virtue, it only took 33 days for Pope Luciani to win people's hearts. In his Addresses he always referred to events in practical life, from his family memories or from popular wisdom. His simplicity was a vehicle for a solid, rich teaching which, thanks to the gift of an exceptional memory and a vast knowledge, he embellished with numerous citations from many ecclesiastical and secular writers. Thus, he was an incomparable catechist, following in the footsteps of St Pius X, who came from the same region and was his Predecessor first on the throne of St Mark and then on that of St Peter. "We must feel small before God", he said during the same Audience. And he added, "I am not ashamed to feel like a child before his mother; one believes in one's mother; I believe in the Lord, in what he has revealed to me". These words reveal the full depth of his faith. As we thank God for having given him to the Church and to the world, let us treasure his example, to cultivate his same humility which enabled him to talk to everyone, especially the small and the "distant". For this, let us invoke Mary Most Holy, who is the humble Handmaid of the Lord.

Saints of the Week

September 29th, Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Angels—messengers from God—appear frequently in Scripture, but only Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are named. Michael appears in Daniel's vision as "the great prince" who defends Israel against its enemies; in the Book of Revelation, he leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil. Devotion to



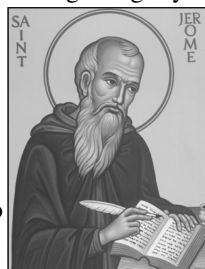
Michael is the oldest angelic devotion, rising in the East in the fourth century. The Church in the West began to observe a feast honouring Michael and the angels in the fifth century. Gabriel also makes an appearance in Daniel's visions, announcing Michael's role in God's plan. His best-known appearance is an encounter with a young Jewish girl named Mary, who consents to bear the Messiah. Raphael's activity is confined to the Old Testament story of Tobit. There he appears to guide Tobit's son Tobias through a series of fantastic adventures which lead to a threefold happy ending: Tobiah's marriage to Sarah, the healing of Tobit's blindness, and the restoration of the family fortune. The feasts of Gabriel and Raphael were added to the Roman calendar in 1921.

The 1970 revision of the calendar joined their together.

Reflection: Each of the archangels performs a different mission in Scripture: Michael protects; Gabriel who announces; Raphael guides. Earlier belief that inexplicable events were due to the actions of spiritual beings has given way to a scientific world-view and a different sense of cause and effect. Yet believers still experience God's protection, communication, and guidance in ways which defy description. We cannot dismiss angels lightly.

September 30th, Saint Jerome

Most of the saints are remembered for some outstanding virtue or devotion which they practiced, but Jerome is frequently remembered for his bad temper! It is true that he had a very bad temper and could use a vitriolic pen, but his love for God and his son Jesus Christ was extraordinarily intense; anyone who taught error was an enemy of God and truth, and Saint Jerome went after him or her with his mighty and sometimes sarcastic pen. He was above all a great Scripture scholar, translating most of the Old Testament from the



Hebrew. Jerome also wrote commentaries which are a great source of scriptural inspiration for us today. He was an avid student, a thorough scholar, a prodigious letter-writer and a consultant to monk, Bishop, and Pope. Saint Augustine said of him, "What Jerome is ignorant of, no mortal has ever known." Saint Jerome is particularly important for having made a translation of the Bible which came to be called the Vulgate. It is not the most critical edition of the Bible, but its acceptance by the Church was fortunate. As a modern scholar says, "No man before Jerome or among his contemporaries and very few men for many centuries afterwards were so well qualified to do the work." The Council of Trent called for a new and corrected edition of the Vulgate, and declared it the authentic text to be used in the Church. In order to be able to do such work, Saint Jerome prepared himself well. He was a master of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Chaldaic. He began his studies at his birthplace, Stridon in Dalmatia. After his preliminary education, he went to Rome, the centre of learning at that time, and thence to Trier, Germany, where the scholar was very much in evidence. He spent several years in each place, always trying to find the very best teachers. He once served as private secretary to Pope Damasus. After these preparatory studies, he travelled extensively in Palestine, marking each spot of Christ's life with an outpouring of devotion. Mystic that he was, he spent five years in the desert of Chalcis so that he might give himself up to prayer, penance, and study. Finally, he settled in Bethlehem, where he lived in the cave believed to have been the birthplace of Christ. Jerome died in Bethlehem, and the remains of his body now lie buried in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. **Reflection:** Saint Jerome was a strong and outspoken man. He had the virtues and the unpleasant fruits of being a fearless critic and all the usual moral problems of a man. He was, as someone has said, no admirer of moderation whether in

virtue or against evil. He was swift to anger, but also swift to feel remorse, even more severe on his own shortcomings than on those of others. A pope is said to have remarked, on seeing a picture of Jerome striking his breast with a stone, "You do well to carry that stone, for without it the Church would never have canonized you"

First Communion Programme 2026—2027

Children aged 7 years (school year 3) or older on 31st August, 2026 are invited to join the 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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Please note that following the change of Charitable Status we are no longer able to claim Gift Aid on collections that are for third parties—i.e. Any collection that does not stay within the Diocese. Some of these Charities (i.e. Cafod) provide their own Gift Aid Envelopes and if possible, these will be available for use at the time of the collection. **The next special collection is for CAFOD and will take place on 3rd & 4th October, following the Autumn Fast day on Friday, 2nd October. You can donate by using the envelopes available, online at cafod.org.uk or scanning the QR Code available at the back of the Church**

"Missio/APF Red Box Holders" - please note.

Thanks, once again, to Norman Street who acted as the APF co-ordinator in the Parish for 29 years! We are grateful to David Morgan for agreeing to take on this responsibility. Once his role has been confirmed by the APF, more information as to how to support this worthy cause will be made available. There are still some parishioners who have continued to collect their spare change. If you have some, please bring it into the Office, where it will be counted. There is a list at the back of the Church for those who would like to receive a "Red Box" in the near future.

Church Kneelers

Plans are underway to replace the padding on all the kneelers in the Church. People have asked to be able to contribute towards the overall cost. There are 83 kneelers to be recovered. The price per kneeler works out at £89 each. If you wish to make a donation, please use a brown envelope and write 'Kneelers' on it. Don't forget to add your gift aid number. Many thanks.

The next **Foodbank** collection/delivery is the weekend **October 3rd/4th**. Items needed in September: Long life milk, Instant Coffee, Hot chocolate, Breakfast cereals, Long life orange or apple juice, Tampons, Sanitary towels. Thanks for your generous response in providing over 35 kilos of donations over the past few months.

R	H	T	N	E	V	E	L	E	L	LANDOWNER	DAYBREAK	VINEYARD
I	E	U	M	R	G	E	V	T	E	WORKERS	MARKET	FAIR
A	D	N	B	A	N	E	E	S	G	WAGE	SIXTH	IDLE
F	R	J	W	O	R	K	E	R	S	GRUMBLER	UNJUST	FIRST
E	A	U	A	O	R	R	U	I	I			
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H	I	R	E	D	T	S	A	L	E			
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Please remember in your prayers

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

