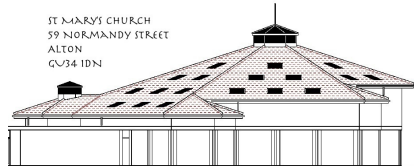


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



ST MARY'S CHURCH
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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 4th October, 2026

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(A1) (Psalter Week 3)

Saturday	Feria	
	5.30pm	Special Intention
Sunday	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	Johny Antony, RIP
St. Mary's	11.00am	Nellie & Frank Chester, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	9.30am	NO MASS
Tuesday	Feria	NO MASS
Wednesday	Feria	Our Lady of the Rosary
	9.30am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Thursday	Feria	
	9.30am	NO MASS
Friday	St. John Henry Newman	
	9.30am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Saturday	Feria	
	5.30pm	Victor Kenward, RIP
Sunday	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	The People of the Parish
St. Mary's	11.00am	Elisa Orlayen Palma, RIP
Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request		

27th Sunday of the Year - 4th October, 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

First Reading *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Responsorial Psalm

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel

Second Reading *Philippians 4:6-9*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia !

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia !

Gospel *Matthew 21:33-43*

He will lease the vineyard to other tenants.

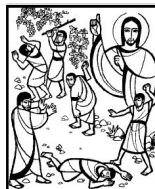
Communion Antiphon:

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

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.



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we focus on the vineyard: frequently we see the vineyard as an image or parable of the Kingdom of God. A vineyard takes a great deal of work, throughout the year; it must be tended, watered, pruned, cared for if there is to be any fruit - there are no quick results with vines. So the financial and labour investments made would create high expectations for a good crop. How heartbreaking when the fruit is as sour as vinegar! So it was with God and his people: he invested immense care and love on them, tending then and giving them what they needed - but the fruit was rotten and sour. What can God do? Hand the vineyard over to some tenants who will bring in a harvest. That is us, the new people of Israel: but what sort of harvest will we produce?

This is the landlord's heir: come, let us kill him

A POPE'S REFLECTION—POPE BENEDICT

This Sunday's Gospel ends with a particularly severe warning from Jesus, addressed to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it". These are words that call to mind the great responsibility of those in every epoch who are called to work in the Lord's vineyard, especially in roles of authority, and they press for a renewal of full fidelity to Christ. He is "the very stone which the builders rejected", because they judged him to be hostile to the law and a danger to public order; but he himself, rejected and crucified, is risen, to become the "corner stone" on which the foundations of every human life and of the whole world may rest in total safety.

The truth of this is the subject of the Parable of the Unfaithful Tenants to whom a man entrusted his vineyard so that they might cultivate and harvest the produce. The owner of the vineyard symbolizes God himself, while the vineyard symbolizes his people, as well as the life he gives, so that with his grace and our hard work, we may do good. St Augustine comments: "God does also cultivate us... as a field, that he may make us better".

God has a project for his friends, but unfortunately the human response is often oriented to infidelity which is expressed in rejection. Pride and selfishness prevent us from recognizing and welcoming even God's most precious gift: his Only-Begotten Son. When, in fact, "he sent his son to them", the Evangelist Matthew wrote, "[the tenants] took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him". God puts himself in our hands, agrees to make himself an unfathomable mystery of weakness and manifests his omnipotence in his faithfulness to a plan of love which, in the end, also provides for the proper punishment of the wicked. Firmly anchored in faith to the cornerstone which is Christ, let us abide in him, like the branch that can bear no fruit unless it remains attached to the vine. The Church, the People of the New Covenant, is built only in him, for him and with him. On this the Servant of God Paul VI wrote: "The first benefit which We trust the Church will reap from a deepened self-awareness, is a renewed discovery of its vital bond of union with Christ. This is something which is perfectly well known, but it is supremely important and absolutely essential. It can never be sufficiently understood, meditated upon and preached".

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)

WORDS OF COMFORT FOR THE BEREAVED

"Grief never ends....but it changes.

It's a passage, not a place to stay.

Grief is not a sign of weakness,

nor a lack of faith,

It is the price of love."

Prayer of Blessed John Henry Newman

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD GOD OF HOSTS

Saints of the Week

Saint John Henry Newman—9th October

Saint John Henry Newman was born on 21 February 1801 in London, England. As an Anglican clergyman for over twenty years he won renown as a preacher and theologian. A Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, he became one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement and a prominent figure in the Church of England. On



9 October 1845 he was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi of the Passionist Congregation. After a period of study in Rome he was ordained priest on 30 May 1847. Returning to England he established the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Birmingham. He was an influential writer on many subjects, most notably the development of Christian doctrine, the true understanding of conscience, faith and reason, the role of the laity, and university education. In 1879 he was created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII and given the title of San Giorgio in Velabro. He died in the Birmingham Oratory on 11 August 1890. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th September 2010 and canonised by Pope Francis on 13 October 2019.

Saint John XXIII—11th October

Although few people had as great an impact on the 20th century as Pope John XXIII, he avoided the limelight as much as possible. Indeed, one writer has noted that his "ordinariness" seems one of his most remarkable qualities. The firstborn son of a farming family near Bergamo in northern Italy, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was always proud of his down-to-earth roots. In Bergamo's diocesan seminary, he joined the Secular Franciscan Order. After his ordination in 1904, Fr. Roncalli returned to Rome for canon law studies. He soon worked as his bishop's secretary, Church history teacher in the seminary, and as publisher of the diocesan paper. His service as a stretcher-bearer for the Italian army during World War I gave him a firsthand knowledge of war. In 1921, Fr. Roncalli was made national director in Italy of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He also found time to teach patristics at a seminary in the Eternal City. In 1925, he became a papal diplomat, serving first in Bulgaria, then in Turkey, and finally in France. During World War II, he became well acquainted with Orthodox Church leaders. With the help of Germany's ambassador to Turkey, Archbishop Roncalli helped save an estimated 24,000 Jewish people. Named a cardinal and appointed patriarch of Venice in 1953, he became finally a residential bishop. A month short of entering his 78th year, Cardinal Roncalli was elected pope, taking the name John after his father and the two patrons of Rome's cathedral, St. John Lateran. Pope John took his work very seriously but not himself. His wit soon became proverbial, and he began meeting with political and religious leaders from around the world. In 1962, he was deeply involved in efforts to resolve the Cuban missile crisis. His most famous encyclicals were Mother and Teacher (1961) and Peace on Earth (1963). Pope John enlarged the membership in the College of Cardinals and made it more international. At his address at the opening of the Second Vatican Council, he criticized the "prophets of doom" who "in these modern times see nothing but prevarication and ruin." Pope John set a tone for the Council when he said, "The Church has always opposed... errors. Nowadays, however, the Spouse of Christ prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity."

On his deathbed, Pope John said: "It is not that the gospel has changed; it is that we have begun to understand it better. Those who have lived as long as I have... were enabled to compare different cultures and traditions, and know that the moment has come to discern the signs of the times, to seize the opportunity and to look far ahead." "Good Pope John" died on June 3, 1963. St. John Paul II beatified him in 2000, and Pope Francis canonized him in 2014.

Reflection: Throughout his life, Angelo Roncalli cooperated with God's grace, believing that the job at hand was worthy of his best efforts. His sense of God's providence made him the ideal person to promote a new dialogue with Protestant and Orthodox Christians, as well as with Jews and Muslims. In the sometimes noisy crypt of St. Peter's Basilica, many people become silent on seeing the simple tomb of Pope John XXIII, grateful for the gift of his life and holiness. After his beatification, his tomb was moved into the basilica itself.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART
FOR THEY SHALL SEE OUR GOD
THE SECRET OF THE LORD'S IS THEIRS
THEIR SOUL IS CHRIST'S ABODE

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The collection this week-end is for CAFOD 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 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.

"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 Mission of My Life

God has created me to do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am,
I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness,
my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity,
my perplexity may serve Him.

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.
He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about.
He may take away my friends.

He may throw me among strangers.
He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink,
hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.

Blessed John Henry Newman

The Welcomer's Rota

If you would like to join the rota to welcome people to the evening and morning Masses at St Mary's, please sign the list at the back of the Church

E	G	A	T	N	I	V	I	N	O
D	N	S	E	H	C	T	E	R	W
E	O	S	T	O	N	E	E	E	D
H	S	E	A	S	O	N	U	S	A
S	E	R	R	E	W	O	T	P	O
A	R	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R
R	S	E	D	U	G	F	R	C	B
H	O	N	D	F	R	U	I	T	A
T	A	I	E	L	B	A	R	A	P
L	A	W	R	I	E	H	I	E	R



PARABLE
LANDOWNER
WINEPRESS
TOWER
VINTAGE
PRODUCE
RESPECT
HEIR
WRETCHES
SEASON
STONE
FRUIT

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,

