



# Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Lawrence

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Parish Website: [www.ourladysolney.co.uk](http://www.ourladysolney.co.uk)  
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**20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year**

**Psalter Week 1**

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 55:6-9
<b>Psalms:</b>	<i>The Lord is close to all who call him.</i>
<b>Second Reading:</b>	St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24. 27
<b>Gospel Alleluia:</b>	<i>Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!</i>
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 20:1-16

<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b> ( <i>The People of the Parish</i> )
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b> ( <i>Delfin &amp; Crispina Sermonia RIP</i> )
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b> <b>ST MATTHEW, Apostle &amp; Evangelist - Feast</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass</b> ( <i>Josephine &amp; James Palmer, Marion Morton RIP</i> )
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass</b> ( <i>Sr Anne Ryan RIP</i> )
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b> <i>St Pio of Pietrelcina, Priest op Memoria</i>		<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b> <b>Our Lady of Walsingham - memoria</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass</b> ( <i>Sean O'Brien RIP – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</i> )
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass</b> ( <i>Alan Bagg RIP</i> )
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b> <i>SS Cosmos &amp; Damian – Martyrs</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass</b> ( <i>Simon McGeady RIP</i> )
	<b>10.30-12.00</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Confession</b>

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b> ( <i>The People of the Parish</i> )
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b> ( <i>Frank McLoughlan RIP</i> )



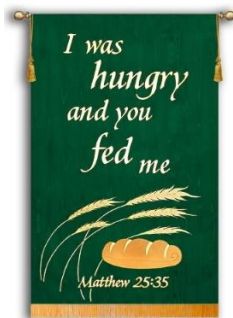
**PUBLIC MASSES AND LITURGIES** – The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday continues to be dispensed, by the Bishops of England and Wales, at this time, therefore we will continue to ‘Live Stream’ all Masses except on Wednesdays. Those of you that do attend the church for Mass are asked to carefully follow the guidance of the Stewards. The booking-in system for Mass, particularly at weekends, is still in place. If you haven’t already done so, please contact Denise with your preferences. If you have any concerns, please contact Fr David or Deacon Peter

**Government Guidelines require the wearing of a Face Mask in all places of worship.**



### Harvest Mass

Next Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, at 10.30am, we will be celebrating our annual Harvest Mass. Weather permitting, we are hoping to hold this in the garden at Our Lady’s. Please let Denise know if you would like to attend this Mass. All contributions will go to the Food Bank



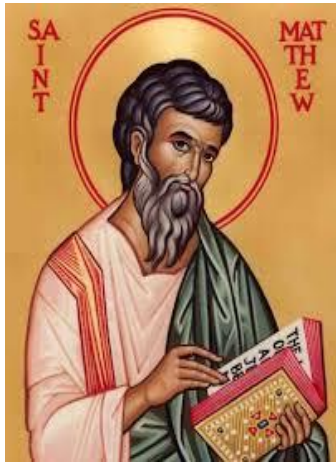
We continue to be very grateful to all of you who have been supporting the Food Bank – Catholics, Anglicans and others. The donation box remains outside the presbytery door and is checked frequently. The Food Bank continues to need donations of:

Long Life Milk – Long Life Juice – Tinned Rice Pudding – Tinned Custard – Tinned Meat – Tinned Vegetables – Tinned Tomatoes – Pasta Sauce - Spreads

**MASS OFFERINGS (STIPENDS)** – If you have any Mass intentions to be offered, please contact Fr David, Deacon Peter or Denise. Please do include the full name of the person for whom you want the Mass to be offered, whether they are alive or deceased. There are available dates during October.



**SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION** – If anyone would like to go to Confession, please come after morning Mass on Saturdays while Exposition is taking place. Or contact Fr David by email or call round to the presbytery. Confessions will not be held in the confessional but in a safe place and with appropriate distancing, in compliance with the guidelines.



## St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist 21<sup>st</sup> September

On Monday of this week, we celebrate the feast of St Matthew who was born in Capernaum and was the son of Alpheus. According to scripture, Matthew was working as a tax collector, a despised profession during the time of Christ, when Jesus came to him and asked, "Follow me". With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ. From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity.

## Our Lady of Walsingham 24<sup>th</sup> September

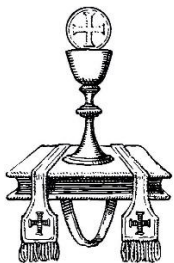
This is the only feast of Our Lady proper to England and was originally known as Our Lady of Ransom. The feast reminds us that we are the Dowry of Mary. Originating in Spain for ransoming Christians enslaved by the Moors, devotion to Our Lady of Ransom came to express the desire of Catholics to restore her dowry to Mary. Pope Leo XIII personally encouraged the devotion by making this feast proper to all dioceses of England and by becoming the first President of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, founded to foster the reconversion of our country



## Academy of the Annunciation

This new teaching institute has been set up to help Catholics deepen their knowledge of their Faith and to assist the Church in the New Evangelisation. Our world needs the message of our Faith but it also needs believers who know about the Faith and who can give answers when faced with questions. If you would like to know more, then click on this link:

[www.aoa-edu.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Invitation-to-AoA.pdf](http://www.aoa-edu.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Invitation-to-AoA.pdf)



## Reverend Deacon Daniel Rooke

Please keep Deacon Daniel Rooke in your prayers during this coming week. Daniel is preparing for his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. Let us pray also for his family, friends and those who have in any way prepared him for this great day.

Will there be another lockdown? Are we in the beginnings of a second wave of the virus? Will we be restricted further again? What is happening? Will we fall ill or live or die?

These are real questions many of us might have asked ourselves – or avoided because of the anxiety they can generate. But we are in this confusing, developing situation and we are powerless – or at least we are powerless over the big picture. No-one likes to be or to feel powerless. However, we have to recognise that there are times when we are. The coronavirus has shattered the illusion that as human beings we can control everything – even with all our ingenuity and technology, there is so much that is beyond our power to change or manipulate. Of course, there are small things we can do in this situation – maintaining good hygiene, taking care with social distancing and so forth – and these can help. But there is more going on that is beyond us. All we can do is to do our bit.

In the second reading today, St Paul is writing from prison. He is unsure about what is going to happen next. Will he have to die or will he continue to live? Part of him wants to die – he really wants to “be gone and be with Christ.” But he has a deep sense of his personal calling. He knows that the Lord might want him to stay alive and to continue to be of service to the Church. In the midst of all this, one thought gives him consolation: “Life to me, of course, is Christ,” he says. This is a key part of our Faith: we are not living our lives on our own; Christ is alive with us and within us – and we are with Him and within Him.

In his Letter to the Galatians, Paul makes a similar point: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and sacrificed Himself for me” (Gal 2:19-20). In this statement Paul is saying a number of things which can help us as we enter new times of uncertainty:

**It is no longer I who live** – our faith in God liberates us from thinking that my life is just about me. I am not the centre of my life. When I think and behave as if I am, I create more havoc in my life and in those of others because I am trying to be God – and I am so *not* God! Jesus is Lord – and He not only frees us from self-centredness but reveals to us that we are wanted and loved by Him. He so loves us that He wants to free us from the emptiness of self-centredness and instead enter the centre of His life – His relationship with God the Father. Only in embracing this will we find our true self, our true life – “hidden with Christ in God,” as Paul says in his Letter to the Colossians (3:3).

**It is Christ who lives in me** – our Baptism means that we are joined to Christ by the gift of the Holy Spirit. “I am the Vine, you are the branches,” says Jesus to us at the Last Supper. It can sometimes be hard to imagine how close Christ is to us. St Augustine says that God is closer to us than we are to ourselves – that’s quite a thought! What this means is that we may sometimes feel lonely but we are never alone – Christ is living in us. We need to keep reminding ourselves of this and make acts of faith in Jesus who is really with us. We can say simple prayers like, “Jesus, I believe you are with me. I give you my heart and my soul and my entire life. Help me when I am feeling afraid or lonely to know that you are looking after me.” Or we can use a verse from the Psalms, which Jesus prayed on the Cross, “Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.”

**The life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God** – again, our lives don’t just belong to ourselves, or to anyone else or to anything else. We do not have to be slaves to anything – not even to fear or to sin or to the world with its changing fashions and its manipulative media. There are plenty of forces in the world and in society that want to control us and manipulate us. As Christians, our faith in Jesus, the Son of God, tells us that there is a Truth which stands above all these competing forces and which enlightens us, showing us how we can truly be ourselves and truly be free. We can stand back and observe these forces and not just be caught up by the stream of their output. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life – everything else is to be seen in this Light. This means making acts of faith in Jesus every day, praying to Him and through Him to our heavenly Father every day, asking for guidance and enlightenment from the Holy Spirit every day.

**Christ loved me and sacrificed Himself for me** – yes, He loved us/me so much that He died for us/me. He did this so that we could reach the goal for which we were made – the glory of God and the salvation of our souls. This is the direction of our lives. Whatever we do, we have to choose to do it in the light of that goal. If anything leads us closer to the glory of God and our salvation, it is something for us to choose; if it leads away from that, it is something to avoid. None of us is perfect and we make mistakes, we fall and we sin. But Jesus who died and rose again – the Son of God – He is always waiting to raise us up again so that we can continue walking with Him, and with Him in us and we in Him.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence and St Rita pray for us all.

With our love and prayers, Fr David and Deacon Peter