



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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**Diocese of Northampton**

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<b>28<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b> <b>Psalter Week 2</b>	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20. 28-29</b> <i>Behave humbly and then you will find favour with the Lord.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Hebrews 12:18-19. 22-24</b> <i>You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 14:1 7-14</b> <i>Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.</i>	
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Alexander Roberts RIP)</b>
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>The Passion of St John the Baptist - memoria</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line &amp; Margaret Ward, Martyrs – op memoria</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Service of Word and Holy Communion</b>
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b> <b>St Aidan, Bishop &amp; Saints of Lindisfarne</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> <i>Feria</i> <b>Day of Prayer for Care of Creation</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Service of Word and Holy Communion</b>
<b>Friday – 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Saturday – 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b> <b>Pope St Gregory the Great, Doctor – Apostle of England - feast</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>No Parish Morning Mass today</b>
<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>		
<b>Saturday – 3<sup>rd</sup> September +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday – 4<sup>th</sup> September +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Fr Brian Leatherland Int.)</b>

**PLEASE NOTE: As part of the Summer Schedule, a Service of Word & Holy Communion will be celebrated this week on Tuesday and Thursday at 10.00am**

**Al's Pals:-** Al's Pals is a newly formed group offering support to all cancer patients and their families and friends. The first meeting is on 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in the Olney Centre. For further information leaflets are available at the back of the church.



Pope Francis has established 1<sup>st</sup> September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical 'Laudato Si', which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth. He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

### HOW TO RESPOND TO THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

There are many ways to respond to Pope Francis' call to care for the gift of God's creation – why not take some time out of your day on 1<sup>st</sup> September (Wednesday) to walk in your local park or take a few moments to thank God for the joy & beauty of 'Mother Nature' or simply marvel at the flowers growing in your garden?

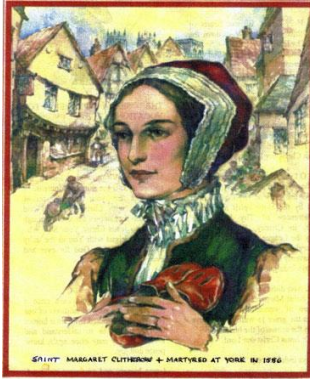
You can also join in praying the '**Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary for the Care of Creation**'. These are available along with many other resources on the CAFOD website:

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Celebrate-World-Day-of-Prayer>

## A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.

*From Pope Francis, Laudato Si*



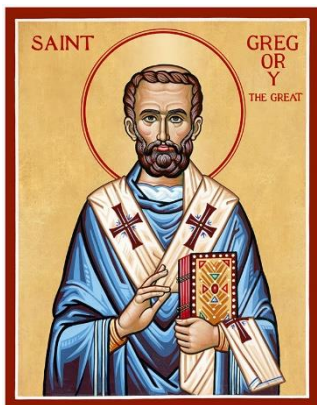
**Saint Margaret Clitherow** was born in York in 1556, lived there all her life, and died there on 25 March 1586. At 15, she married a butcher, John Clitherow, and three years later became a Catholic. Imprisoned for her non-attendance at church, she taught herself to read and later ran a small school for her own and her neighbours' children. Her husband remained Protestant, but allowed her to hide priests in their house. In 1586, the secret hiding places were discovered, and Margaret was put on trial. She refused to plead, for which the punishment was being crushed to death.



**Saint Anne Line** was born at Dunmow (Essex) around 1565, and was hanged at Tyburn on 27 February 1601. In her teens, she became a Catholic and was disinherited, and in 1585 married Roger Line, also a disinherited convert, who was subsequently imprisoned then exiled for his faith, leaving her destitute. She taught and embroidered, and also kept house for priests. After a large number of people had been seen gathering at her house for Mass, she was arrested, tried and condemned to death.

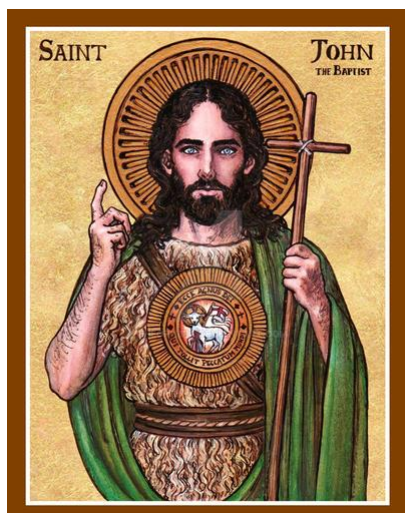


**Saint Margaret Ward** was born at Congleton (Cheshire), but entered into the service of a family in London. She was arrested after assisting a priest escape from prison, but refused under severe torture to reveal his hiding place or to renounce her faith. She was tried at the Old Bailey, and executed on this day in 1588. All three are remembered for their resourcefulness, for their loyalty, for their outstanding courage, and for the service they rendered the Church during dangerous times in aiding the ministry of priests.



**Pope St Gregory the Great** was born at Rome about the year 540. He entered the public service and was appointed a Prefect of the City. Then he entered a monastery, was ordained deacon and performed the office of a papal legate to Constantinople. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 590 he became pope and showed himself a true pastor in his administration, his care of the poor and in spreading and consolidating the faith. In addition, he wrote many works on faith and morals. He died in 604

## Reflection on the Passion of St John the Baptist



On Monday of this week, we celebrate the memoria of what was once known as 'The Beheading of St John the Baptist, but is now called the 'Passion of St John the Baptist'.

Passion can be understood in two ways; passion in terms of suffering, trial and death, and passion in terms of the motivating force and energy of someone for a particular purpose. The gospels make it clear that John fully understood his purpose in preparing the way for the coming Messiah, for Jesus.

As cousins, they may have known each other quite well in their childhood days and early years. John fulfilled his mission so well that his group of followers continued well after his death, although some, as we know, turned to Jesus. To die, the way he did at the hands of Herod, seems scant reward for all that he did for Jesus. Yet he would not have wanted it any other way. He offers us a somewhat brutal lesson as followers of Jesus whose mission, passion like John's, is to prepare the way for Jesus to enter the lives of those we encounter.

Our reward may not be glorious, happy, or joyful in any way but, our reward, like John's, is to fulfil whatever God asks of us, however difficult, however challenging and however impossible it may seem. Let us pray with the psalmist:

**In you, O Lord, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
Be a rock where I can take refuge,  
a mighty stronghold to save me;  
for you are my rock, my stronghold.  
Free me from the hand of the wicked.  
My lips will tell of your justice and day by day of your help.**

Be true to your mission, then, and know that you shall not be overcome because the Lord will be with you to deliver you.

***"Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven"***

*Matthew 5:10*

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St John the Baptist, St Margaret Clitherow, St Anne Line, St Margaret Ward, St Aidan, the Saints of Lindisfarne and Pope St Gregory the Great pray for us all.

*With our love and prayers – Fr David & Deacon Peter*