



Time & Intentions for Sundays And Weekdays Masses



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 26 th July	9 am	Seventeenth Sunday in O.T.(A)	Fr Sergio (requested by Sister Gemma) Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 26 th July	11.15 am	Seventeenth Sunday in O.T.(A)	S.I. Susan Saw (good Health)	Our Lady V
Mon 27 th July	-----	Weekday in O.T.	-----	The church is closed
Tue 28 th July	9 am	Weekday in O.T.		Our Lady V
Wed 29 th July	9 am	Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus		Our Lady V
Thu 30 th July	9 am	Weekday in O.T.		Our Lady V
Fri 31 st July	9 am	St Ignatius of Loyola		Our Lady V
Sat 1 st August	12 noon	St Alphonsus Liguori Our Lady on Saturday		Our Lady V
Sun 2 nd August	9 am	Eighteenth Sunday in O.T.(A)	Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 2 nd August	11.15 am	Eighteenth Sunday in O.T.(A)	Edward (Eddie) Blackburn (BR)	Our Lady V

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions: Sat 11am to 12

Holy Rosary & Divine Mercy Devotion: Tuesdays 9.30 am OLOV.

Baptisms, Weddings: by appointments.

Wednesday Club: will resume on 9th September with bingo at OLOV Hall at 2 pm. All welcome!

We pray for all who are sick and elderly: Marie Tyrer, Ray Sherwood, Betty Maurey, Henry Henderson, Anne and Mike Quinn, Ronnie Baybut, Geoff Morrissey, Michael Hyland, Paul Blackford, Harry Caine, Sophie Caine, Christine Watts, Deacon John and Ann Crooks, Joan Callaghan, Hannalor Mainey, Betty Costello, Pauline Hayes, Irene Halsall, John & Jen Foley, Fr Sergio.

We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time: Annie Fay, Lily Helliwell, Mary Robinson.

We pray for those who have died:

The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell Our Lady of Victories, Hightown

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Parish Priest: Fr Sergio Haro

Archdiocese of Liverpool, Reg. Charity Number 1199714

OLOV, Hightown: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 01544993

Holy Family: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 71545094



Seventeenth Sunday in O.T.(A): 26th July 2026



In today's Gospel Reading are two little stories.

The first tells us that the kingdom of heaven is like **treasure hidden in a field** which someone has found, he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. The second is rather similar; the kingdom of heaven is like **a merchant looking for fine pearls**; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. Both stories are about someone finding something of immense value, so valuable that they each sell off everything they have and buy it. In each case this thing of immense value is the kingdom of heaven. There is, though, a slight difference between the two stories. The man who finds treasure in a field does so by accident. Perhaps he's been looking for something else. Perhaps he's been ploughing the field or digging a well. And to his great surprise he has discovered a treasure. ... **Discovering the Kingdom of God by accident:** someone has invited you to come to Church, to take an active part in the Community, or, to join the groups, to become an Eucharistic Minister ... and you've said, "I am so busy, I don't know if I'll have the time to commit ... If this is of great value for you, you'll find the time, in other words, in Jesus' words, "You will sell everything you have and buy it".

There are many people who have discovered the kingdom of God, apparently by accident. Perhaps you are such a person. You have come to church to accompany someone else, and something in the service has touched you deeply. Whatever it was, you realised that you'd found something special, something that matters, something that from now on would be the most important thing in your life.

In the second story, a merchant is looking for fine pearls. He doesn't find them by accident; he seeks them out. He visits markets where fine pearls are sold, he examines them carefully. If it has a flaw, he puts it aside. Some day he buys no pearls at all; but then he finds the perfect pearl, the one of great value. He represents the person who is actively seeking God; or at least, is actively seeking meaning and purpose in life. I've met a lot of such people. Young people are often seeking meaning in their lives; but sometimes older people are still engaged on that search. Perhaps you yourself are such a person. You are looking for what it is that makes life worth living.

Jesus told stories that gave his followers an insight into life. The point of the story is that no sacrifice is too great, no price too high to pay for the timeless treasure and precious pearl of the kingdom of heaven. This is a practical invitation to put aside all the distractions that can take the place of God in our hearts. It may be power, possessions, prestige or the comforts of an easy life. **While they are important, if we overvalue them we devalue God.** Nothing in the world should take priority over God in our lives. There is a pearl for everyone, and the price to be paid to acquire it is the ability to detach ourselves and walk away from what we cherish most without any regrets.

What count when we die is not the possessions we have acquired in life but the type of people we have become in the process of living.

The pearl of great price is to be found in Jesus, his Message and his kingdom. That is exactly what will bring meaning, purpose, direction, happiness and peace into our own lives. In the early days of the church many people become Christians at a great personal cost and died for their faith, which they regarded as a very precious gift –martyrdom-. They had their priorities properly sorted out. The same cannot be said of our age.

If in our country in this age we don't have to die for Christ to keep our faith alive, it doesn't mean that we don't have to be ready to make any sacrifice to put God first in our lives.

In today's Gospel, Christ is pleading with us not to let our faith lie buried on the seabed. He is inviting us to open our eyes and become aware of the treasure each of us has received. We are called to come back to God, to put God first in our lives, to be ready to make any sacrifice – selling everything we have to buy the field or the pearl-, to be joyful after that, to join the Community of believers in Hightown or Ince Blundell, and last but not least, to share our gifts of faith with others while spreading the Good News. What a challenge! Are you ready for it?

Fr Sergio, Parish Priest

Archbishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Bishops' Conference, has issued a statement highlighting the many dangers of the Private Members' Bill that seeks to legalise assisted suicide:

"The Second Reading of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is expected to take place in the House of Commons on 11 September. Assisted suicide is a matter of life and death, and it is wholly unsatisfactory that this divisive and flawed bill is being put to parliament again as a Private Members' Bill without the key issues being addressed. The reduced majority at Third Reading in the Commons and the debate in the Lords showed how flawed the Bill is.

"This matter is urgent. I urge people to contact their Member of Parliament and ask them to vote against this deeply flawed bill at Second Reading. You can do so by using the simple contact form on the Right to Life UK website, the Bishops' Conference website, or by writing to your MP.

Liturgy of the Word for the Seventeenth Sunday in O.T.(A):

First reading: 1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12

In those days: The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.'

The word of the Lord

Second reading: Romans 8:28-30

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia. I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Source: Universalis App – New Lectionary

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 119(118)

R:/ O LORD, how I love your law!

You, O LORD, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



**IS GOD'S KINGDOM
INCREASING IN YOU?**