



Time & Intentions for Sundays And Weekdays Masses



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 30 th Aug.	9 am	22nd Sunday in O.T.	S.I.: Fr. Sergio's ongoing recovery Damian Begley (1 st A)	Holy Family
Sun 30 th Aug.	11.15 am	22nd Sunday in O.T.	Mary Cartwright (Happy B'day)	Our Lady V
Mon 31 st Aug.		St Aidan		The church is closed
Tue 1 st Sept.	9 am	Weekday in O.T.	Special Intention	Our Lady V
Wed 2 nd Sept.	9 am	Weekday in O.T.		Our Lady V
Thu 3 rd Sept.	9 am	St Gregory the Great	Assigned from another Church	Our Lady V
Fri 4 th Sept.	9 am	St Cuthbert	Assigned from another Church	Our Lady V
Sat 5 th Sept.	12 noon	St Teresa of Calcutta	Dee Kelly (A)	Our Lady V
Sun 6 th Sept.	9 am	23rd Sunday in O.T.	Pauline Potts (LD)	Holy Family
Sun 6 th Sept.	11.15 am	23rd Sunday in O.T.	Dee Kelly (A)	Our Lady V

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions: Tue 9.30am to 10am; 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.

We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time Margaret Carney, Sheila Hayes, Vincent Mainey, Peter Kavanagh, Dee Kelly.

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



Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 30th August 2026



Jeremiah

One of the biggest lies in modern life is that happiness can be attained and “bought” with your money. All the advertisements on TV tell us that: a bigger house, a new car, and the latest designer fashion can satisfy the restlessness in our heart. We long for a trouble-free life that gives the comfort we need, and everything runs smoothly, “nice and easy”, comfort without effort, roses without thorns, and happiness without tears. Pain and discomfort of any kind is something to be avoided at all costs. This is a fake world, empty promises of a society that wants to make money at the price of exploiting and abusing your true and deepest desire for fullness of life.

You cannot take the cross out of Christianity, any more than you can take the pain out of living. In the real world no one can be guaranteed an easy life without any suffering.

Suffering is an unavoidable part of human life, and at some point in your life you will have to deal with sadness, disappointment, failure and pain. And you need to be ready to cope with that when it comes!

If anyone suffers from depression, anyone is grieving, anyone has a heart torn apart by bitterness, resentment, disappointment, despair or self-pity, then I would strongly recommend that person to read the prophet Jeremiah. Today's first reading at Mass is part of the so-called Confessions of Jeremiah. Jeremiah felt all those things and expressed them more clearly than any other writer in the Bible: ***“A curse on the day when I was born! Why ever did I come out of the womb to live in toil and sorrow and to end my days in shame?”*** The most impressive message of this prophet was his own life. It is possible for us to trace his spiritual progress and to see in him the purifying and strengthening effect of suffering. It was the unfortunate destiny of Jeremiah to be chosen to bring bad news to his country. God told him to proclaim the worst possible news: the Babylonians were going to destroy their cities and carry them off into captivity to Babylon. There was no chance of resisting them; the only hope was to surrender on the best possible terms. It was useless to resist; in fact, it was adding to their sins, for they were resisting to the will of God. Their only hope was to surrender. And Jeremiah was the most hated man in Jerusalem.

The army commanders complained to the king that Jeremiah was destroying the morale of the people, as indeed he was. They had him put into prison, and throw him into a pit, up to his neck in mud and slime.

How do you think Jeremiah felt about his mission? Everybody loves to give good news, and everybody loves the bringer of good news! How would you feel if the mission God gives you for your whole life is to give bad news? What did Jeremiah say to God in his times of prayer? Was he grateful to God for choosing him to be his messenger? Indeed, he was not! He felt as you and I would have felt. ***"Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim, 'violence and ruin!' The Word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long."*** Jeremiah didn't enjoy being a prophet. He tried to give it up. But he goes on. ***"There seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it"***

Not only are Jeremiah's Confessions fascinating because they permit us to gaze into the heart of a prophet, but they are also above all encouraging because they let us see how very human the prophet is. He felt overwhelmed by the sheer burden and the impossible demands of his task. If he came to his wit's end, why hadn't he packed it all in? Only a profound conviction of his vocation -God calling him- can hold one to the task!

Jesus

Christ also had to experience all those terrible things: rejection, desolation, pain, torture, even death, and death on the cross. It was not all nice and easy for Jesus either! He had to experience them on behalf of all of us who suffer pain and are desolate. So that nobody would suffer alone anymore. One day He will be able to tell us, ***yes, I know what you've been through. I know what it is to say from the bottom of my heart, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"***

Peter didn't want Jesus to experience those things. But Jesus rebuked Peter; as he would rebuke anyone nowadays who wants to live an easy life -nice & easy- filled with comfort, selfishness, with no care for the sufferings of others. It was necessary that Jesus would suffer. Otherwise, He would have nothing to say to those who suffer so dreadfully, except, 'Yes, it must be terrible, but I really can't imagine it. I've never experienced anything like that.' Or the empty words, "Everything will be fine". God would have remained a God who loved his people, but not enough to become one of them to share their suffering, their desolation, their death. There could be no resurrection without first the crucifixion.

You and Me

And so it is in our lives: we shall never share the glory of Christ unless we are willing to share the pain and the bitter taste of the passion. And this can turn into Good News for all those who are suffering now, all who are grieving and mourning, all those of our parishioners who are suffering in different ways.

Today Jesus says to you, "Take up your cross and follow me", so that you can find your life and I will save and reward you";
Happy suffering that brought me so great a Redeemer!

Father Sergio



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR 22nd SUNDAY O. T. + CYCLE A

First reading Jeremiah 20:7-9:

O LORD, you have deceived me,
and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughing-stock all the day;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, 'Violence and destruction!'
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, 'I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name',
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 63(62)

R:/ For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. ***R:/***

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. ***R:/***

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. ***R:/***

For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me! ***R:/***

Second reading: Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

At that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Source: Universalis App – New Lectionary

TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER: WORLD DAY FOR CREATION

Pope Leo XIV's Message has been released for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4) is the theme of Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, published in the Bulletin of the Holy See. The Holy Father's Message highlights the connection between armed conflict and environmental degradation. Such degradation constitutes both a serious violation of our duty to care for creation, as well as a long-term threat to the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

I believe in God,

the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.