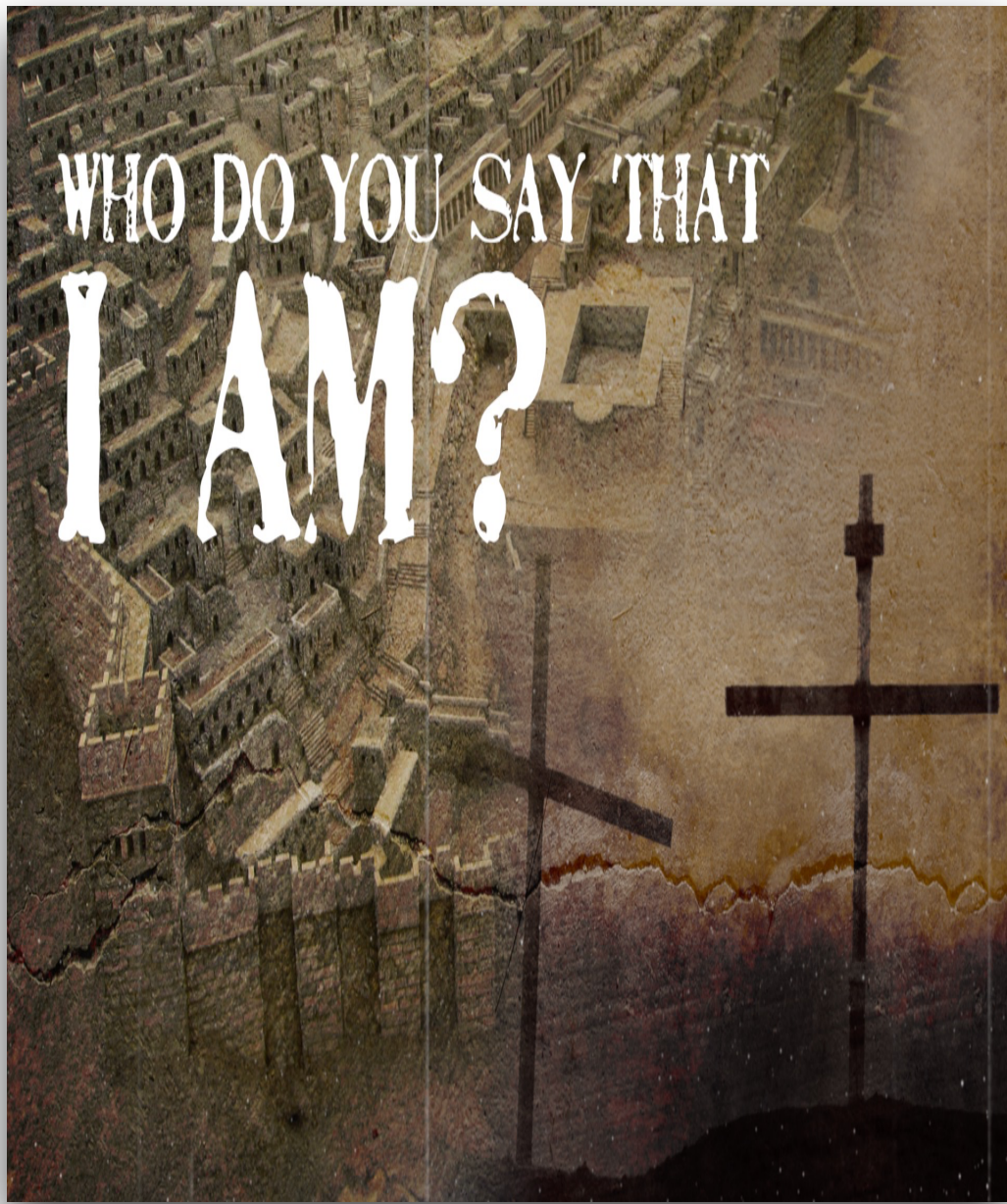


# XXIV Sunday in Ordinary time



TAKE ME HOME !

15th September 2024



## Priest's Tidings

What are we looking for in life? Good health, happiness in our families, in our job, in our faith, good relationships with ourselves, with people and with God. When Jesus tells us today that we have to follow him in taking up the crosses that come our way, do we accept that as disciples of Jesus today? Do we take that as a part of our faith or do we say, "Lord, everything - but not that!"? Jesus assures us: "Anyone who loses his or her life for my sake will find life, will save life." Come, let us meet the Lord who speaks to us.



*Fr Hugo*

## Holy Communion

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**Entrance Hymn:**

365 – Let us build a house where love can dwell.

**Collect:**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading:

A reading from the the book of Isaiah.

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare to condemn me?

This is the word of the Lord

***Thanks be to God***

## Responsorial Psalm:

**R./ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal; for he turned his ear to me in the day when I called him. **R/**

They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the anguish of the tomb; they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name. O Lord, my God, deliver me!. **R/**

How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me.**R/**

He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.. **R/**

## Second Reading:

Reading from the letter of the apostle James

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I

will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn:**

631 – fight the good fight with all thy might,

## **Gospel Reading**

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**



## Prayers of Intercession

We give thanks for your saints and for all who have stood against evil and temptation. We remember before you all who at this time are struggling with their faith, all who are tempted away by false promises and bright lights. We pray for those who have learnt the words but not met the Saviour. We remember any who go through rituals that seem empty of your presence. Bless all who are being prepared for confirmation and all who are seeking to grow in their relationship with you.

O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the beauty of this day and for the wonders of creation. We remember before you all who are suffering from war or division within communities. We pray for those who have lost their way in life and feel life has no meaning or purpose. We ask your blessing upon all who strive to improve our world and to create works of beauty.

O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the support of our families and friends. for all the encouragement and help they give us. We pray for homes where there is little encouragement or where adventure and the fullness of life smothered by false securities. We remember all who are homeless are and uncertain of their future.

O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for your love towards us. We ask you to bless all who are struggling with temptation and vice at this time. We pray especially for any who live in areas of degradation or evil. We pray for all who struggle with weakness or illness. especially those who cannot cope on their own.

O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks that through Christ we are offered eternal life. We remember the saints in glory and our loved ones departed. May they rejoice in your presence and the fullness of life in your kingdom.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Offertory Hymn:

646 – God is working his purpose out,

## Communion Hymn:

669 – I heard the voice of Jesus say,

## Post Communion Prayer:

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn:

763 – Praise to the Holiest in the height,

## Prayer and Meditation

Wild rumours are flying around about Jesus' real identity. He asks the disciples who people think he is. Most people liken Jesus to Old Testament prophets, particularly Elijah. Others think he might even be John the Baptist.

Jesus then asks the disciples who they think he is. Peter says he is the Messiah, even though he doesn't fully understand this. At this point Jesus only wants the disciples to know his true identity, so he commands them not to tell anyone else.

Jesus then gives them an insight into how his mission on earth will end. He tells them clearly that he will suffer and die but three days later will rise from the dead. This doesn't fit with Peter's idea of a Messiah so he tells Jesus off!

Jesus firmly rejects Peter's suggestion and makes it clear that Satan is using Peter. This is human thinking not God's. Peter clearly has a lot more to learn about Jesus. Jesus then explains to the crowd just what it means to be one of his disciples. He uses the image of carrying a cross. This would have

created a vivid and fearful picture in the minds of his listeners. Many would have seen a condemned man staggering beaten and bleeding through the streets to face this humiliating and painful death.

Jesus' words are an alert for the first disciples. If you want to follow me be prepared; it will involve suffering. Some disciples did experience physical crucifixion. Some today still give their lives for the sake of the gospel. For the rest of us, being prepared to lay down our lives to submit completely to God's will is a daily challenge for every disciple.

### Meditation:

- ■ Consider who you believe Jesus is. How complete is your understanding? Can we, like Peter, sometimes be guilty of thinking we know better than Jesus?
- ■ Consider why you follow Jesus. Does it help to remember these reasons when following him involves sacrifice or suffering in some way?
- ■ Jesus speaks of 'carrying your cross daily' and 'losing your life for Jesus and the gospel'. What does

this mean for you? Remember Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit to help us live the Christian life.

### **Oratio:**

Psalms 116 is a great shout of joy for deliverance. The psalmist says 'I kept on believing' even though he was crushed and afraid (verses 10-11). Think about your relationship with God; can you use these verses to praise him now?

### **Contemplatio:**

Isaiah 50:5-9 is often referred to as one of the Servant Songs and is generally understood as prophecy about the suffering of Christ. (See also Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12.) Jesus would have been well aware of these words and doesn't allow the suffering ahead to stop him obeying God.

James 2:14-18 makes it clear that real faith in Jesus will always show itself not only in words but also in our actions. Faith will spill over into self-sacrificing and practical love for others.

## What's happening in our Parish!

**Sunday — Mass at 9:30 am**

### **Support St Matthew's Church:**

#### **IMPORTANT: New Date for St Matthew's Day**

Our St Matthew's Day bilingual celebration will now be held on October 20th. We apologise for any inconvenience caused due to this change

#### **New Missional Activities**

Last week, we voted on the activities we would like to do for mission.

The most popular Christ-centred activities were the celebrations, welcoming people to church and Bible study. People also expressed interest in pastoral visiting.

The most popular outward-focused activities were BBQs & Picnics, movie nights and sports, with some interest also expressed for arranging an outing to one of the London cathedrals. Next Sunday, we will have sign up sheets to volunteer for each activity so we can plan more concretely for the year ahead. Thank you everyone for your missional work so far!

#### **Midweek English Eucharists**

Monday and Wednesday at 9.45am in the chapel: all welcome!

#### **Second Chance Treasures**

Our brand new coffee and charity shop is open Monday-Wednesday - Friday 10am-3pm

#### **Opportunities for Thanksgiving**

If you would like to share something you are thankful for during the service, please speak to the clergy

#### **WhatsApp Group**

We have a parish WhatsApp group where we keep in touch during the week and share news. If you would like to join, please speak to Tinu

#### **Bible Verses for this week**

**Monday** Luke 7:7

**Tuesday** Luke 7:13

**Wednesday** Luke 7:16

**Thursday** Luke 7: 47

**Friday** Luke 7:50

#### **Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury**

The Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting the Spanish Mass at 1pm

on Sunday 6th October. If you would like to come, you are very welcome

## Regular Giving

We welcome online donations, which you can make via scanning the

QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



## CONTACT US

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COFFEE SHOP

**SECOND CHANCE TREASURES**

# WE ARE OPEN

OPEN MON-WED-FRI AT 10 AM - 3 PM CLOSED EVERY PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

VISIT US AT ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH - MEADOW ROW, SE1 6RG