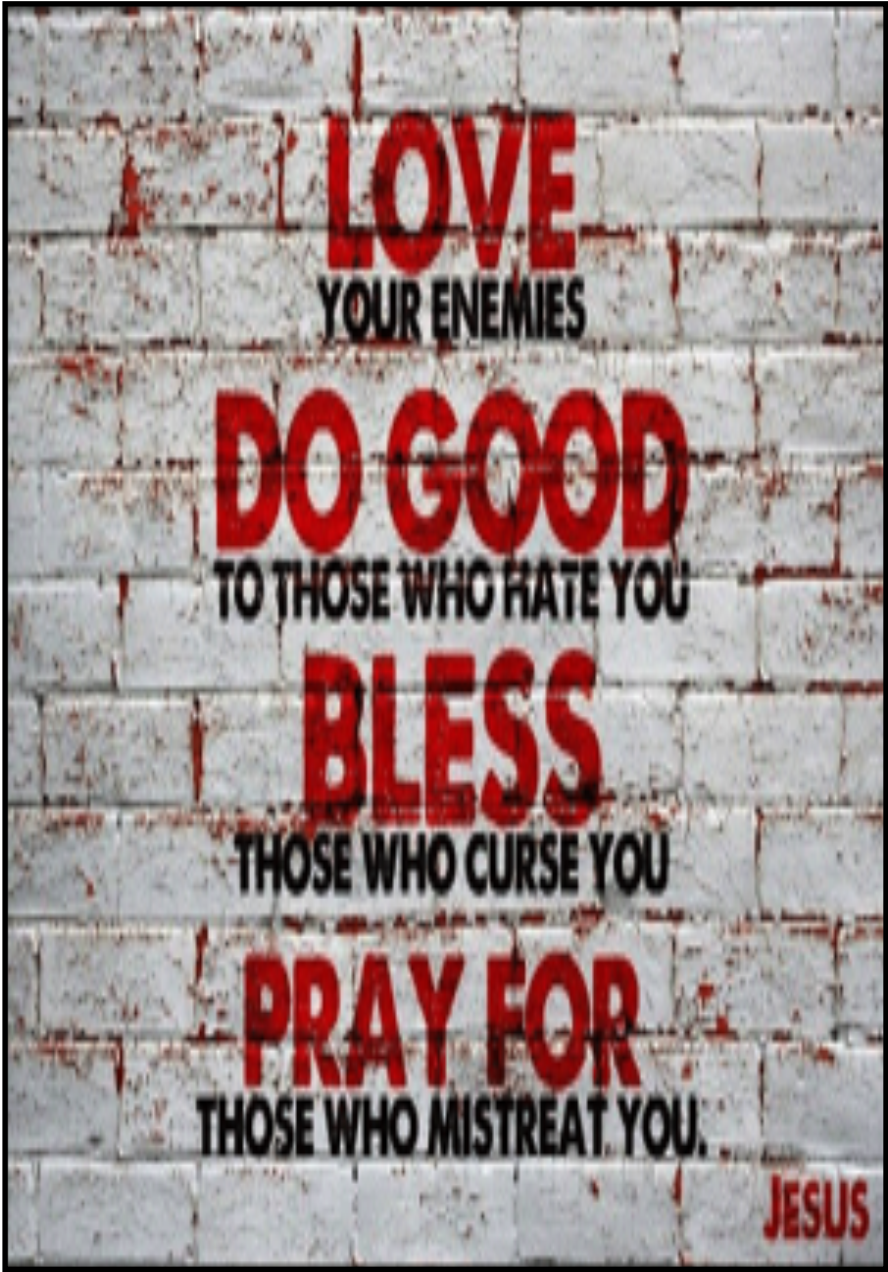


VII Sunday in Ordinary time



Take me home!

23.02.2025



Priest's Tidings

If we are capable of doing it by the grace of God, there is perhaps nothing that brings us closer to God and makes us most like him than the readiness to forgive and the aptitude to love even enemies. These are so contrary to our feelings of not wanting to be anyone's fool or doormat. And yet, the gospel insists: You who were God's enemies, you who have been forgiven, forgive, be reconciled, be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful.



Fr. Hugo

Entrance Hymn:

602 – Blest are the pure in heart,:

Collect:

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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:

Reading from the first book of Samuel.

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.' But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?' So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them. Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. David said, 'Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R./The Lord is compassionate and gracious

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.. **R./**

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **R./**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults.. **R./**

As far as the east is from the west, so far from us does he remove our transgressions. As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord's compassion is on those who fear him. **R./**

Second Reading:

Reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and Sisters: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven...

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn:

116 – Be thou my guardian and my guide,

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke .

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. 'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'



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

Prayers of Intercession.

We give thanks for all who have shown your ways by their love and generosity. We give thanks for all who give their lives in your service. We remember today all who seek to maintain worship in dangerous or difficult places. We pray for prison chaplains and prison visitors. We remember those who are persecuted or imprisoned for their faith. We pray for all who strive to love in areas of hatred and resentment.

God of goodness and love,
give us a loving and courageous heart.

We ask your blessing upon all who seek to bring peace and unity to our world. We pray for the work of the Red Cross and all relief agencies. We remember all who are suffering from natural disasters or war at this time. We pray especially for those who have lost loved ones or are separated from them.

God of goodness and love,
give us a loving and courageous heart.

We give thanks for the protection and love of our own homes. We ask your blessing upon all who are homeless or who have taken into care. We pray for all who are lonely and those who are finding it difficult to cope on their own.

God of goodness and love,
give us a loving and courageous heart.

We give thanks for our own well-being, that in you, Lord, we are forgiven and freed to live life to the full. We pray for all who are prisoners of their own greed or unforgiving hearts. We remember all who are consumed with rage or violence. We pray for all who are ill at home or in hospital, especially those who are not at peace with themselves.

God of goodness and love,
give us a loving and courageous heart.

We give thanks for the gift of life and life eternal. We remember in your presence the generosity of your saints and of our benefactors who are departed from us. May our loved ones who are gone from our sight rejoice with them in your glorious kingdom.

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

Offertory Hymn:

746 – O God, our help in ages past

Communion Hymn:

117 – Come let us to the Lord our God,

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

I am thine O Lord,

I am Thine, O Lord, I have
heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of
faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Chorus:-
Draw me nearer, nearer,
blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast
died;
Draw me nearer, nearer,
nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding
side.

Consecrate me now to Thy
service, Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a
steadfast hope,

And my will be lost in Thine.

Chorus:-

O the pure delight of a single
hour
That before Thy throne I
spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and
with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with
friend!

Chorus:-

There are depths of love that I
yet may know
Ere Thee face to face I see;
There are heights of joy that I
yet may reach
Ere I rest in peace with Thee.

Prayer and Meditation

Contemplatio

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.

How can I become more generous? What impedes me from being more generous with my time, treasure, and talent?

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. When

have I experienced God's mercy? What

opportunities do I have to share God's mercy?

Stop judging and you will not be judged. In what

situations am I most judgmental? How can I look on others as God sees them?

Meditatio:

- After the reading, take some time to reflect in
- silence on one or more of the following questions:
- What word or words in this passage caught
- your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?
- If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group,
- after the reflection time, invite the participants to
- share their responses.

Oratio:

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

What's happening in our Parish!

Sunday — Mass at 9:30 am

Further Celebration Dates for your Diary

- Mothering Sunday 30th March
- Easter Sunday 20th April
- First Communion Sunday 11th May
- Cathedral Confirmations Saturday 7th June

Summer Youth Pilgrimage

We are excited to announce that we are taking part in the national youth pilgrimage to Walsingham, where 500 young people from across the country will attend from the 4th-8th

August. The total cost is £100, but places are limited so to secure your place, please register before the 30th April and pay a £50 deposit (the remaining £50 is due by June 30th).

Youth Club: Our Youth Club currently runs every week on Thursdays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. After half term, this will change to Friday night. Please spread the word!

RAMS

We will be starting a new men's group called 'Rams' meeting on the second Saturday of each month from 3-5pm in Christ Church, starting on March 8th

Donate :

We receive no regular state funding to look after St Matthew's building. Anything you are able to give is greatly appreciated.



CONTACT US

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SUMMER CAMP

AGES 11-18



Experience Faith
together



Sports and Games



Crafts



Monday 4th to Friday 8th
of August 2025



The Milner Wing, Common Place,
Walsingham. NR22 6BP

REGISTER NOW



07858 580259

PRICE PER PERSON £100



**Transportation-Accommodation-Food
INCLUDED in the price**

