

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
4th October 2026
(Parish Mass Book page 137)



We continue the excerpts from Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te (I have loved you) on Christian love for the poor.

At the opening of the second session of the Council, Saint Paul VI took up this concern voiced by his predecessor, namely that the Church looks with particular attention "to the poor, the needy, the afflicted, the hungry, the suffering, the imprisoned, that is, she looks to all humanity that suffers and weeps: she is part of them by evangelical right." In his General Audience of 11 November 1964, he pointed out that "the poor are representatives of Christ," and compared the image of the Lord in the poor to that seen in the Pope. He affirmed this truth with these words: "The representation of Christ in the poor is universal; every poor person reflects Christ; that of the Pope is personal... The poor man and Peter can be one in the same person, clothed in a double representation; that of poverty and that of authority." In this way, the intrinsic link between the Church and the poor was expressed symbolically and with unprecedented clarity.

The Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, building on the teachings of the Church Fathers, forcefully reaffirms the universal destination of earthly goods and the social function of property that derives from it. The Constitution states that "God destined the earth and all it contains for all people and nations so that all created things would be shared fairly by all humankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity... In their use of things people should regard the external goods they lawfully possess as not just their own but common to others as well, in the sense that they can benefit others as well as themselves. Therefore, everyone has the right to possess a sufficient amount of the earth's goods for themselves and their family... Persons in extreme necessity are entitled to take what they need from the riches of others... By its nature, private property has a social dimension that is based on the law of the common destination of earthly goods. Whenever the social aspect is forgotten, ownership can often become the object of greed and a source of serious disorder." This conviction was reiterated by Saint Paul VI in his Encyclical *Populorum Progressio*. There we read that no one can feel authorized to "appropriate surplus goods solely for his [or her] own private use when others lack the bare necessities of life." In his address to the United Nations, Pope Paul VI spoke as the advocate of poor peoples and urged the international community to build a world of solidarity.

With Saint John Paul II, the Church's preferential relationship with the poor was consolidated, particularly from a doctrinal standpoint. His teaching saw in the option for the poor a "special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness." In his Encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, he went on to say: "Today, furthermore, given the worldwide dimension which the social question has assumed, this love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future. It is impossible not to take account of the existence of these realities. To ignore them would mean becoming like the 'rich man' who pretended not to know the beggar Lazarus lying at his gate (cf. Lk 16:19-31)." Saint John Paul II's teaching on work is likewise important for our consideration of the active role that the poor ought to play in the renewal of the Church and society, thus leaving behind a certain "paternalism" that limited itself to satisfying only the immediate needs of the poor. In his Encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, he forthrightly stated that "human work is a key, probably the essential key, to the whole social question."

HOLY ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Pope Leo has asked all Catholics to pray the rosary for peace, given the disturbing international situation. As in past years, on the feast of the Holy Rosary, Wednesday, 7th October, there will be a public recitation of the rosary throughout the day for peace. You are warmly invited to join the praying of the rosary, all, or in part. We will pray the joyful mysteries at 8am, the luminous mysteries at 10am, the sorrowful mysteries at 5pm and the glorious mysteries at 8pm.

SAVE THE DATE - 21ST NOVEMBER 2026 DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The parish is delighted that Sister Gemma Simmonds has agreed to lead a Day of Recollection (retreat day) in preparation for Advent and Christmas. Please save the date and come and spend time in prayer and reflection before the busyness of the Christmas season. This will be held in Westleigh, more details to follow.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Tues 1st to Thurs 3rd June 2027

We are now opening the booking for the parish pilgrimage to Walsingham leaving at 7am from St Vincents on Tuesday 1st June, returning Thursday 3rd June 2027. The trip includes a visit to Wells-next-the-sea. Accommodation will be at the Anglican retreat centre and includes breakfast and an evening meal. The full pilgrimage programme includes morning and evening prayer, Mass, Rosary, walking the Holy Mile and Holy Hour. The cost is £275 per person for a twin or double room (there are limited single rooms available and ensuite rooms are not guaranteed). If you would like to book on this pilgrimage please email the parish office and we will provide you with the details to pay the non-refundable deposit by 31st October 2026.

SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN OUR COMMUNITY - REVIVE WALLBOX

Revive is a voluntary service giving practical help and immigration advice to Refugees founded by the Spiritan Fathers. Our funding has been cut and we have had to reduce staffing which is already small. It is even a struggle to find bus fares for volunteers and for my English class members. Thankfully Fr Jonathan has arranged for donations from the wallbox in the church porch to be given for the next 3 months to Revive. Life is really hard for the refugees (trying to live on £47 p/w) and the waiting and being unable to work can be endless. You can also donate using the QR code. Thanks Eileen (Loreto Sisters).



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL THIS HARVEST—3rd/4th October

After long droughts, children in Zimbabwe have been finding learning hard. Many have been out before school, walking miles for water. They are too tired to learn properly, focus on their dreams of success. For Harvest Fast this year, CAFOD ask us to support schemes like solar-powered deep well pumps. Crops can grow, water can flow, young minds are nourished, fatigue curbed. Please use the CAFOD envelope in church or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope. Thank you very much in advance for supporting our appeal.

WINDOWS GROUP - BEREAVMENT TALK - 9th OCTOBER

To mark our first anniversary, the Windows group have invited Tess Ridgeway (M.A., M.B.A.C.P.), a psychotherapist and member of our congregation, to give a talk on bereavement. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome to come and join us on Friday 9th October from 3.00-4.30 pm downstairs in Westleigh. There will be time to chat with a cup of tea and homemade biscuits.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **Children's Liturgy** - At the 10am Mass. Next liturgy is Sunday 27th September.
- ◆ **Tea and Coffee after 10am Mass** - every Sunday, with video games (FIFA, tennis, etc), table tennis and other games, all for parents and children.
- ◆ **Playgroup** - Every Friday in term time from 9.30am - 11.30am in Westleigh
- ◆ **Bridge** - Every Monday at 2.00pm in Westleigh
- ◆ **SVP** - Meets fortnightly on Mondays at 6.30pm in Westleigh.
- ◆ **Emmaus Prayer Group** - 7-8pm Mondays in Westleigh. Everybody welcome, please just come along.
- ◆ **Brownies** - Tuesdays in term time at 5.45-7.15pm in Westleigh
- ◆ **Secular Carmelites** - 1st Wednesday of every month at Westleigh from 6pm to 8pm
- ◆ **The Craft & Coffee club** - 10am in Westleigh: 10th and 25th September (every fortnight)
- ◆ **Mothers' Prayers** - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ◆ **Study Group for Men** - 7.15-8.30pm, Thursdays (fortnightly) in Westleigh: Please email Fr Joseph for dates.
- ◆ **St. Vincent's Parish Choir** - Rehearsal every Thursday at 8:30pm in church
- ◆ **Friday Club** - First Friday of every month, 2pm in Westleigh. Entertainment & refreshments organised by SVP.
- ◆ **Windows Group (for widows)** - 3pm-4.30pm on Fridays: 9th October
- ◆ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturdays 10th & 17th October. Come along for 5.30pm Mass followed by Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Talk, food, time to socialise etc.
- ◆ **Youth Mass** - Sunday 18th October 6.30pm Mass (monthly). Young musicians welcome, please arrive at 6pm.

Pope's Intention for October

Foe mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

During Ordinary Time (Autumn) we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; the Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation: Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY - 11 OCTOBER

We will remember prisoners and their families at Mass this weekend. There will be a speaker to share with us what life is like for prisoners and their families in our communities, and about the work of Pact, the national Catholic prison charity.

Check out the PACT website for details of how to support their work: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/donate/>

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS ~ ADOREMUS ~ 10th OCTOBER 2026

The 2026 National Eucharistic Congress is an invitation to renew our Eucharistic faith and love. There are two strands to the National Eucharistic Congress. In London, a representative gathering of bishops, priests and people will take part in public events including a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. A Diocesan coach has been arranged to take pilgrims to London. The 3 pickup points are: Wythenshawe, Ellesmere Port and Shrewsbury. There are 50 spaces available and pilgrims wishing to travel on this coach should contact Natalie Orefice with their preferred location. For pricing, booking and further enquiries email: natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNING WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER FROM 9:15AM

If you would like to have a look around St Vincent's Catholic Primary School or nursery please come along to our next open morning event for prospective school and nursery parents on Wednesday 14th October. Please visit the admissions page at www.stvincents.trafford.sch.uk to book a place or scan the QR code.



ST BEDE'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER OPEN DAYS

St Bede's is Manchester's only independent Catholic school, providing a co-educational education for children aged 3-18 within a community rooted in faith and the values of being Inspired, Committed and Grateful. **Open Events** Sat 3rd Oct 9.00am-12.00pm and Thurs 8th Oct 4.30pm-7.30pm. Families are warmly invited to visit St Bede's, meet pupils and teachers, explore the school and discover more about its Catholic community. Register www.sbcm.co.uk

ROMULUS SINGERS CONCERT: Sat 17 October 2026 at 7.30pm in Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barns.

Our autumn concert 'Hold Back The River' features a varied programme of short pieces. Tickets - Adults £12.50, Children (under 16) and students £7 - are available on the door or online at www.romulus-singers.co.uk/holdbacktheriver and include light refreshments after the concert. All welcome!

THE DESERT AND THE POLIS: LONELINESS AS SPIRITUAL CRISIS AND POLITICAL FAILURE

The Catholic Union is holding a webinar on 15 October for young Catholics focusing on loneliness as spiritual crisis and political failure. The panel will include Professor Anna Rowlands, holder of the St Hilda Chair in Catholic Social Thought and Practice, a political theologian who works at the interface of political and social theory and Christian theology and Father John Church OP, the Promotor of Dominican Young Adults. The Catholic Union wants to offer participants the opportunity to have a conversation that takes loneliness seriously as both a spiritual condition and a structural one. The webinar will take place at 6.00pm on Thursday 15 October on Zoom. Those wishing to register should email info@catholicunion.org.uk to reserve their place.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Thomas Ward and Ada Wilkinson who were recently baptised here. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for those who have died recently especially Marcia Roberts, Michael Broderick, Rachel Mekonnen, Peter Heywood (12.15pm 07/10/26), Dennis McAuley, Brenda Shaughnessy (12.15pm 30/09/26), Andrew Monk (12.15pm 12/10/26), John Moore (12.15pm 02/10/26), and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Please pray for the sick who include Dave Berry, Denise Brooks, Johnny Carroll, Emma Coulson, Anna Croft, Sandra Davis, David Michael Devine, Lynda Edwards, Freddie Fenton, Viv Fenton, Marie Forde, Paul Gallagher, Diana Hartley, Mary Heanue, Catherine Heraghty, Mike Jenkenson, Thomas E Killeen, Laura MacGinn, Claire McAllister, Martin McConnell, Kevin McDermott, Rupert McDermott, Carol McLaughlin, Brian Morris, Maureen O'Hara, Anne O'Neill, Serge Pascau, Annabel Tats, Margaret Russell, Anne Ryan, David Ryan, Gemma Ryan, Joe Ryan, Kay Ryan, Liz Ryan, Michael Ryan, Mick Ryan, Steve Ryan, Ann Thomas, Mick Thomas, Derek Watson, Liz Whitworth and all in our hospitals and homes.

MONEY MATTERS Offertory Collection 27th September £1704.26

Many thanks to the parishioners for your generosity in the cash collection, standing orders and through the card machine.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025



DONATE

Mass Schedule

Sunday 4th October <i>Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8:30 Mass 10:00 Mass 11:30 Mass 18:30 Mass	Nancy Mannion (Ann) Jimmy Igoe (Ann) Barry Welsh (Ann) For the People of The Parish
Monday 5th October <i>St. Maria Faustina (Helena) Kowalska</i>	11:30 12:15 Mass 18:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Christina Myers <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Tuesday 6th October <i>Optional Memorial: St. Bruno</i>	10:00 BV Mass 11:30 12:15 Mass	Mary Clark (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Patrick Needham (Birthday Ann)
Wednesday 7th October <i>Our Lady of The Rosary</i>	8:00 10:00 11:30 12:15 Mass 17:00 20:00	Holy Rosary Joyful Mysteries Holy Rosary Luminous Mysteries NO Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction Requiem Mass for Peter Heywood Holy Rosary Sorrowful Mysteries Holy Rosary Glorious Mysteries
Thursday 8th October <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV Mass 11:30 12:15 Mass 18:00	Michael Guthrie (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Sheila Scotson (Ann) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Friday 9th October <i>St John Henry Newman</i>	11:30 12:15 Mass 18:30 19:00 Mass	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Fr. Peter Philips & Abraham Shaba (Ann) <i>Confessions after Mass</i> <i>Rosary</i> Lorna Mynes (RIP)
Saturday 10th October <i>Optional Memorials: St. Paulinus of York</i>	11:00 10:45-11:45 12:15 Mass 16:15-17:00 17:00 17:30 Mass	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Brian & Elizabeth Carroll (RIP) <i>Confessions</i> <i>Rosary</i> Tom's Intentions
Sunday 11th October <i>Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8:30 Mass 10:00 Mass 11:30 Mass 18:30 Mass	Thomas Alex & Sebastian Benedict Mary Fitzgerald (RIP) For The People of The Parish Vincent O'Rourke (RIP)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 10am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

BOWDON VALE MASSES 10am Tuesday and Thursday **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - as above & by request

OCTOBER RETIRING COLLECTIONS: 4th - CAFOD Family Fast Day and 18th World Mission Sunday (APF)

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays Year A, Weekdays Cycle 2; Psalter Week 3

PARISH CLERGY - **Parish Priest:** Canon Jonathan Brandon **Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Fawcett Wood

CONTACTS

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WESTLEIGH PARISH CENTRE- Westleigh Bookings: svpwestleigh@outlook.com

Website: stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @svpaltrincham

Parish Safeguarding Representative Helen Norwood: 07800 656966

The parish of St Vincent's, Altrincham sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice. *The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025*