Our Faith on Sunday

30th Sunday in OT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 104: 3-4
Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING Exodus 22:21-27*
* Vulgate Exodus 22:20-26

'If you mistreat any widow or fatherless child, my wrath will burn against you.'

PSALM
Psalm 18(17):2-3a. 3b-4. 47. 51ab. R.2

R. I love you, LORD, my strength.

I love you, LORD, my strength;
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. **R.**

My God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, 'O praised be the LORD!'
and see, I am saved from my foes. **R.**

The LORD lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The LORD gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
'You turned away from idols to serve God and to wait for his Son.'

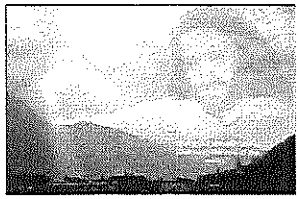
ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL
Alleluia, alleluia. John 14:23
If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-40
'You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Cf. Ps 19: 6
We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



When asked by the Pharisees what the greatest commandment is, Jesus replies that it is love of God and love of neighbour. In a similar discussion reported in the Gospel of Luke (Lk. 10: 25-35) the crucial question of who my neighbour is arises. Jesus answers the question by narrating the parable of the Good Samaritan. The message he wants to bring home is clear: love makes no distinctions. It goes beyond all categorisations of race, creed, ethnicity. The logic of the gospel is uncompromising: God is the Father of every human being and so to love God implies loving every one of his children. There is one human family and we are all brothers and sisters. In the words of St. Paul: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28). In today's global situation, speaking of the world as "one family" may seem like a utopia. However, Jesus did not come on earth with a plan for a utopia. He came so that you and I may encounter him and transform our lives by putting his words into practice in our daily lives. That transformation begins whenever, like the Good Samaritan, I reach out to someone who needs my help, even if it is as simple as an act of kindness to a stranger, or a visit to a work colleague who is in hospital. When Jesus finished narrating the parable of the Good Samaritan he told his listeners: "Go and do likewise". His words are addressed to everyone who aspires to be a Christian.

POPE LEO XIV



APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS

17. It is in this perspective that we can understand the numerous pages of the Old Testament in which God is presented as the friend and liberator of the poor, the one who hears the cry of the poor and intervenes to free them (cf. Ps 34:7). God, the refuge of the poor, denounces through the prophets — we recall in particular Amos and Isaiah — the injustices committed against the weakest, and exhorts Israel to renew its worship from within, because one cannot pray and offer sacrifice while oppressing the weakest and poorest. From the beginning of Scripture, God's love is vividly demonstrated by his protection of the weak and the poor, to the extent that he can be said to have a particular fondness for them. "God's heart has a special place for the poor... The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor."[13]

13. Francis, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (24 November 2013), 197: AAS 105 (2013), 1102.

Pope Leo XIV
Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te

God is merciful love, and his plan of love, which unfolds and is fulfilled in history, is above all his descent and coming among us to free us from slavery, fear, sin and the power of death. Addressing their human condition with a merciful gaze and a heart full of love, he turned to his creatures and thus took care of their poverty. Precisely in order to share the limitations and fragility of our human nature, he himself became poor and was born in the flesh like us. We came to know him in the smallness of a child laid in a manger and in the extreme humiliation of the cross, where he shared our radical poverty, which is death. It is easy to understand, then, why we can also speak theologically of a preferential option on the part of God for the poor... Wanting to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity, God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest.

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Parish of St Julie Newsletter

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Week Commencing Saturday, 24th October 2026

WEEK COMMENCING:	ST JULIE	ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY	ST MARY, LOWE HOUSE
Saturday, 24th October St Anthony Claret		5pm -Parishioners	
Sunday, 25th October 30th Sunday in OT Mission Sunday (Clocks back 1 hour)	9.30am – Geoff Nolan (LD)		11am Ann Kirkham (Anniv.)
Monday, 26th October SS Chad and Cedd	9.30am – Kate Kilbride (Sick) 10am Rosary Group		
Tuesday, 27th October St Otteran			
Wednesday, 28th October SS Simon & Jude (Apostles)			
Thursday, 29th October	9.30am – Ellis Butler (Sick)		
Friday, 30th October		11am - Parishioners	
Saturday, 31st October Blessed Dominic Collins		5pm Matthew Valentine (A)	
Sunday, 1st November Feast of All Saints	9.30am Deceased Members of St Helens Gilbert & Sullivan Society		11am Margaret Knight & Martin Appleton (A)

Please pray for all the sick of the parish and those who have recently died.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Confessions will be by arrangement or on request after Mass

Marian Candle – John Whelan (Anniversary)

The Pope's Intention for October: **For the 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.

Mass Intentions: Envelopes are provided at the back of church for your mass intention requests. You will be pleased to hear that the backlog has been cleared so you shouldn't have to wait too long for your Mass to be said. Thank you for your patience.

Memorial Service-Please join us for our All Souls Memorial Mass on Saturday 7th November 1pm at St Helens Crematorium. Special prayers will be made to commemorate those who have been buried or cremated in St Helens or Newton over the past year. All Welcome and refreshments will be served.

St Helens Singers - Do you have a love of singing? You may be experienced; you may not have sung for a while and would like to take it up again. The St Helens Singers rehearse every Monday evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm in St Julie's Church Hall, Eccleston. All voices welcome age 18+. We are a very friendly choir with lots of enthusiasm and a passion for singing - and this year we are celebrating our Centenary. We sing at numerous venues in St Helens and beyond, raising money for charity, or to give support to a particular event. For more information ring 01744 612485, email thesthelenssingers@gmail.com, or visit www.thesthelenssingers.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Deceased Priests Mass-The archbishop invites the parishioners of the archdiocese to join him at **Holy Mass for the Deceased Clergy of the Archdiocese of Liverpool at 12noon on Saturday 14 November** at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

SVP Group - The local SVP group will be holding a SVP Christmas Fundraiser on **Sunday the 22nd of November** in the hall at Lowe House after the 11am.Mass. It will include a raffle, tombola and a cake stall. All funds raised will go to aid people in need in our area. Please leave any prizes for the tombola with Keneth McCabe.

Children's Liturgy - Due to schools' half term breaks, there will be no 'Little Church' for the next two Sundays. The Children's Liturgy will re-commence on Sunday, 8th November. So, enjoy Halloween, Bonfire Night and a pleasant break from school.

Archdiocese of Liverpool is a registered charity No 1199714

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 25th October 2026

For church leaders throughout the world: that they may continue to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY …

For those in authority: that the leaders of the world's nations may work for peace, especially in areas of conflict.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY …

For those who have been outcast from society: that they may find welcoming and supportive communities and know the love of God.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY …

For all who strive to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world: that God's spirit will strengthen them in their work of witness.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY …

For our own parish family: that we will work together to deepen prayer, enable communion and strengthen mission, both within, and outside, our community.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY …

For all who suffer ill health or any kind of disability: that Christ will bring them peace and strength.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY …

We ask Our Blessed Lady to intercede for us as we say:

HAIL MARY …

In silence, we pray for our own, private intentions.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY …

(Fr Henry: God our Father, you are our strength and our protection. Open our hearts to your grace that we may always know, and do, your will.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.)