

Sunday Message

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 19 October 2025 • Psalter Week 1



KEEP ON PRAYING

LUKE 18:1-8

The widow is persistent. She won't give up. She keeps asking the judge for justice, even though it is clear he's not interested in her case. After all, he is an unjust judge who has no fear of God and no respect for people. The pleadings of a mere widow cut no ice with him.

But she won't leave him alone. She won't desist. The woman wants justice and she's determined to get it. Maybe she's being cheated out of her inheritance, or is being abused in some way, but whatever the reason she is utterly convinced she has right on her side.

And then the judge gives in, not because he is interested in justice or moved with compassion, but because he's afraid of her. When he says that the widow will 'beat me down,' what the Greek text literally says is: 'She will hit me under the eye.' In other words, the judge who neither fears God nor respects people grants her request because he is scared the widow will give him a black eye.

The message of the parable is this: prayer isn't simply saying pious words. Like the persistent widow, we can't be content merely to pray for whatever it is we seek, we must actively seek it. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to never lose heart. Help me to trust in you at all times. Amen."

DO

Look at your prayer life. Why do you pray? How often do you pray?

LEARN

The Christian knows the importance of prayer.

The Christian knows that God is close.

PRAY

Today is Mission Sunday. Pray for the Church's missionary work throughout the world and for missionaries everywhere.



REFLECT

Many years ago, a Redemptorist colleague offered three tips on how to pray that I have never forgotten.

The first is this: pray the way you can – not the way you can't. There are lots of different ways to pray and different forms of prayer. Use the method that suits you best. Some pray the rosary. Some recite prayers they learned by rote as children. Others like meditation or lectio divina or eucharistic adoration or spiritual reading.

The point is, there is no right or wrong way to pray. All that is important is that you do pray. So, pray the way you can – not the way you can't.

Second tip: say what you mean. In other words, be honest with God. Honesty and frankness are essential in any relationship, and it's the same with our relationship with God. If you feel angry with God, let it out. If you're full of joy, let it show. If you feel

anxious or upset about something, express it. If you feel bored, express that, too.

The Book of Job is a wonderful example of honesty in prayer. Job feels so upset, bewildered, angry over the undeserved misfortune that has befallen him, and he lets God know it in no uncertain terms. He is not afraid to tell God exactly how he feels. In Gethsemane, Jesus, full of raw emotion, cries out to God in his pain and anguish. He doesn't hold back. The Book of Psalms contains prayers for almost every occasion. So, tip two: Say what you mean. Whatever it is you want to say to God, say it.

Third tip: mean what you say. There are two aspects to meaning what you say. First, to really think about what you're saying. There is a danger when we pray that we go through the motions. We rattle off a prayer without really focusing on the words. It's easy to get distracted. It happens to me all the time. I start to pray and before I know it, I'm planning tomorrow's work schedule or wondering about a meeting I

have that afternoon, or how well Liverpool will do in the Premier League next season. Distractions, failure to concentrate, are a constant challenge to prayer. When it happens just refocus and get back on track.

The second aspect to this third tip is this: practise what you pray; live what you profess. When we pray the Our Father and say the words 'as we forgive those who trespass against us' – the challenge is to forgive those who trespass against us. The challenge is to do what we say, to make good what we pray.

When we gather around the Eucharistic table in praise and thanks and pledge to serve our brothers and sisters as one family united in love, then that is what we must try to do. We go from church to world to try to live what we profess. So, tip three: when you pray, mean what you say.

These three tips are easy to remember. The challenging bit is to try to put them into practice. ■



HASLEMERE
HINDHEAD
CHIDDINGFOLD

Parish Bulletin

Today, 19 October is World Mission Sunday, which is a day we offer prayer and financial support for missionaries and Churches in need all over the world.

The Vatican II Document, *Ad Gentes* says, "The pilgrim Church is missionary by her nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, according to the decree of God the Father." This implies that we all are involved in the mission of Christ.

A day like this reminds me of my missionary experience at St Monica Church Pusiga, Catholic Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga, UER Ghana, from January 2021 to June 2025. It is in a Sahel region and the weather there can be extremely hot up to 44 degrees Celsius sometimes. Pusiga is predominantly populated by Muslims and African Traditionalists. Their major occupation is farming, and the literacy level is low as many do not see the need to go to school.

The parish Church was some miles away from other outstations, and because of bad roads, the most comfortable means to access some of the stations was by motorcycle even under the harsh weather. On many occasions, I was beaten by rain, on about four occasions, I fell from the motorcycle and once the house where I lived was burgled.

Working at Pusiga from Bawku due to a lack of accommodation was a big challenge. A few months after arriving at Bawku, a lingering tribal conflict between the Mampusi and the Kusasi tribes over who would produce the village paramount chief exploded. I witnessed first-hand this war that left many dead, some homeless and hungry. People were deserting the area for a safer place. But I was there doing the Lord's work.

The effect of this war in Bawku and the bandits' menace in Burkina Faso, which shares a Boundary with the Pusiga district, left us with a lot of war victims to care for with limited resources. My joy amidst all these challenges was that I was doing the Lord's work.

In Pusiga, being that the Church was almost abandoned because they only had access to a priest once or twice a year, there was a need to revive the faith of a few Catholics who remained through daily celebration of the Eucharist. In the need to catch them young, as the Chaplain of the children, I organized weekly Catechism for them, and on one occasion, they told me that in their school, their Islam brethren sing Arabic and asked if Catholics have our own language. That became an opportunity to teach them Latin songs. Now, they can sing almost every part of Mass in Latin.

Also, since it is an area where children are neglected and abused, I organized seminars and workshops for them, inviting experts to come and talk to them about their rights and the need to go to school.

Furthermore, I brought the young people together and had with them, the first ever Youth Week where we engaged them in a lot of activities like seminars, quiz, workshops, spiritual talks, Eucharistic Adoration, and sports. This activity gave them an opportunity to play a football match with their Muslim brethren, thereby fostering peaceful coexistence amongst them.

Howbeit, the Local Church was unable to meet the needs of missionaries in this area and those of so many people who needed help. It was through the support of the Congregation of the Mission (The Vincentians), Nigeria Province, General Curia, and other people of goodwill that this mission is sustained, and more is needed to be done.

In his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, Pope St John Paul II says, "The mission of Christ the Redeemer, which is entrusted to the Church, is still very far from completion...." It is clear from this encyclical that we have a common responsibility towards evangelizing the entire world.

I share my mission experience for you to consider sharing in our Lord's invitation to evangelization through your generous support which helps the Holy Father to take care of the needs of the young, struggling, and persecuted Churches all over the world.

There is a saying that, 'Some go on missions by going, and others by giving'

Mary Queen of Evangelisation, pray for us. - Fr Patrick

This Sunday is the Solemnity of St Philip Howard, Co-Patron Saint of our Diocese. The prayers and readings will be of the feast, not the Sunday. (1R Wis 3:1-9; Ps 30 "Into your hands..."; 2R 2Cor4:7-15; G Mt10:17-22).

This Sunday is World Mission Day Our prayers, our interest and our support make us messengers and builders of hope, a hope that does not disappoint. A special collection this day is taken by every Catholic community in the world to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the church is new, young or poor.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and Pope Leo urges us to pray the rosary daily for peace. There will be opportunities to pray the rosary with others after Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes **12.30pm** so please stay on and meet others to pray together. There are rosary cards at the back of church to take home. For reflections and more about this wonderful devotion: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/prayer/rosary/>

Following Bishop Richard's recent pastoral letter it has now been confirmed that **Guildford Deanery will become the new Parish of Guildford at the start of Advent**. Our church communities will continue to be the places in which the Gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments celebrated, and to be led by priests assigned to them, as at present. Working together will help us to be more effective in our prayer, formation and mission. Fr Jonathan, together with Fr Patrick will look after Godalming and Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold.

Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at 6pm on Saturday 29th November at St Joseph's Guildford at which the new parish will be entrusted to its team of priests and Fr Jonathan will be inducted as their moderator. As many as are able from across the deanery, especially our parish, are warmly encouraged to attend.

Parish Meeting Sunday 26th October 12pm in the Parish Hall. Please do come along and take part in planning for the future of our large Parish.

Before the meeting we'd love to hear your thoughts on how Bishop Richard's vision for the pastoral plan (see below) could come to life. After Masses **THIS WEEKEND** there'll be a chance to share your ideas — just jot them down on a Post-it note and pop it on the suggestion board in the Church Hall (or give in at St Anselm & St Teresa).

Feel free to add any ideas you have, or use the prompts below to get started.

Prompts—What three things do you think we should do or focus on to grow in this vision over the next 18 months?

Which actions do you feel called to support, and how? Could any be done with other churches in the deanery or new parish?

Themes

- The celebration of the liturgy
- Daily prayer
- Welcome and healing
- Young people, children, and families
- Knowledge of the Faith
- Sharing it with others (Outreach)
- Something else

Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan

Join me in forging our parishes as communities of saints —strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship:

* *Communities where the Lord is known and loved;*

* *Where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven;*

* *Where daily prayer is a natural part of life;*

* *Communities of healing, where all are welcomed and their dignity as children of God is always recognised;*

Neurodiversity and the Catholic Church Please offer your perspectives and help the church to become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of neurodivergent Catholics, by taking part in a short survey of Catholic neurodivergent adults or of caregivers of neurodivergent Catholics. More info: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/>

Pope Leo's first Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te* is a call to Christ's disciples 'to recognise him in the poor and the suffering'; it can be read here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/apostolic-exhortation-dilexi-te/>

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill Whilst this is being considered at length in the House of Lords, the Catholic Church reiterates a firm opposition to the bill in principle and in practice. Despite being described by proponents as the safest of its kind, the bill remains unworkable. It puts the safety of our healthcare institutions, professionals, and patients at risk. Please keep praying.

Faith Formation Series at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth on Saturday mornings led by Fr John Seddon OSB: *'The Mystery of God: Who God Is and Why He Matters'*. Next on 11th October. <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk> (search 'Chilworth')

The Church's prayer intention for October is for collaboration between different religious traditions; that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

Help Our Church Grounds Bloom!

As part of our

LiveSimply Parish Action Plan,

we're boosting biodiversity and wildlife in our gardens — and we'd love your help!

Our gardener **Tina** says:

"Now's the perfect time to divide plants and pot up seedlings!"

We'd especially welcome **foxgloves, Japanese anemones, hydrangeas, foliage plants, and ground cover like London Pride.**

(Please, no crocosmia or fuchsias — we're full up!)

Got plants to share?

Leave small donations

behind the Presbytery gate hedge
Or contact **Parish Office** for collection

Questions or ideas? Email **Audrey:**

livesimplyhchc@btinternet.com

Let's grow a greener, wilder parish together!

100 Club Winners September

£150 Robert Dibdin; £100 Dipak Barua; £50 Peter Rowley.

Thank you to all members of the 100 Club for their continued membership.

The 100 Club is one of the main ways in which the whole Parish can continue to raise money on a regular basis for charitable donations. The cost of one ticket is £5 per month but you can have more than one ticket plus there is a chance of winning a cash prize.,£150, £100 & £50.

If you are interested in joining the 100 Club forms are available at the back of the Church or contact The Parish Office.

Fr Jonathan will be on leave and annual retreat until 24th October.

Donation by QR Code

You can give to our parish (including any current appeals) by using the Digital Plate, our [Parish Website](#) also by using the QR Code which is displayed at all our churches.



Second Collection

This Weekend

World Mission Sunday

Please Pray For

The sick: Anne-Marie Thompson, Caroline Foster, Mary Thomas, Michael Gaul, Charlotte Lindsay, Henrietta Lenahan (Holt), Arul Salathian, Diana Molyneux, Louise Milford, Hazel O'Flynn, Abigail Stafford Johnson, Livvy Miller, Louise Reeve, Patricia Reidy, Jo Allen, Jane Adolph, Carmel & Roland Murray, Teresa Marshall, Alberto Costantini and Sebastian Codlin.

The Deceased: Mary Birkett, Mary Tanner, Sr Monica McAuley, Sue Podmore and Maria Thompson

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 18 Oct St Luke	6pm Mass (St Anselm)
Sunday 19 Oct ST PHILIP HOWARD, Martyr Patron of the Diocese	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Richard Assender RIP 12.30pm Rosary (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Monday 20 October	9.30am Mass (Holy Cross)
Tuesday 21 October	9.30am Adoration (Our Lady of Lourdes) 10.00am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Wednesday 22 October St John Paul II	9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's, Milford)
Thursday 23 Oct St John of Capistrano	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's, Godalming)
Friday 24 Oct St Anthony Mary Claret	9.30am Adoration (Our Lady of Lourdes) 10.00am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Anna Brady RIP
Saturday 25 Oct	1pm Wedding —Katarina Powell & Russell Hutchinson 6pm Mass (St Anselm)
Sunday 26 Oct THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) - Ernest Gabuya RIP 12.30pm Rosary (Our Lady of Lourdes) 2pm Mass (Holy Cross)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:8-13

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

In those days: Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 121(120):1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R. cf. 2

**R: Our help is in the name of the LORD
who made heaven and earth.**

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth. **R.**
2. He will keep your foot from stumbling.
Your guard will never slumber.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. **R.**
3. The LORD your guard, the LORD your shade
at your right hand.
By day the sun shall not smite you,
nor the moon in the night. **R.**
4. The LORD will guard you from evil;
he will guard your soul.
The LORD will guard your going and coming,
both now and for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able

to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Hebrews 4:12

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of God is living and active,
discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my adversary." For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming."

And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.*

Or

*The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.