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Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th July 2026

There is no Mass on Thursday this week as it is safeguarding training for priests

Next weekend there is a Special Second Collection for Apostleship of the Sea – Stella Maris

Page 99	Zechariah 9: 9-10	Romans 8: 9, 11-13	Gospel Matthew 11: 25-30
The readings this weekend shows Jesus as a humble and peaceful king. God cares for the weak and tired. Jesus invites people to trust him and find rest in His gentle way. The challenge is to slow down and trust God instead of trying to carry every burden alone. We should choose kindness, patience and peace in daily life and share one worry or burden with Jesus. The first reading from the less known prophet Zechariah gives a message of hope even in difficult times. He speaks of a king who will come in peace. Instead of coming with pride and force, this king is gentle and rides on a donkey bringing a message different from worldly power. He will not bring war or destruction but will rule with justice and kindness. This promise must have been hard to believe for people facing struggle and uncertainty. The people of Israel had seen war and hardship. Many must have wondered if peace would ever come. God gave them hope and reminds them that their struggles will not last. The second reading from St Paul’s letter to the Christian communities in Rome forms the conclusion of the arguments of the first half of the letter dealing with law, faith, sin and justification. It is life in the Spirit, as opposed to observance of the Law of Moses that hope of eternal life lies. The Spirit “dwells in you” which in later centuries will be called “grace”, and produces humility while the flesh, or human nature, produces pride, all forms of vice and love of the material instead of the spiritual. Matthew’s Gospel includes “Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” which is like a hug from Jesus. He brings a message of peace and hope and calls us to trust His love and guidance. He praises God who made Himself known to the “little ones” and not to the wise and learned like the Pharisees. Jesus states His unity with the Father.			
Mass times		Feast Days	
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 4th St Thomas The apostle that doubted the resurrection of Jesus. Thomas went evangelising in Syria and Malabar in India and started Christian communities in Syria and what is now Kerala. St Thomas Christians created the St Thomas Cross after Thomas was martyred. They kept contact with Rome through the Persian Church set up by disciples of St Thomas. St Thomas Christians became very strong and became known as the Syro-Malabar Church with its own rites and canon law. When the Portuguese Jesuits arrived the colonial power wanted the Syro Malabarians to accept Roman obedience and be subject to the Portuguese Archbishop of Goa. They refused and swore on the St Thomas Cross (shown opposite) to stay faithful to the Syro-Malabar rite. Eventually Rome accepted the Syro-Malabar rite alongside the Latin rite.		
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 28 th June	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 6th St Maria Goretti Born in 1890 in Italy. Father a poor peasant farmer who had difficulty making it pay. Then worked with another poor family whose father was an alcoholic, mother was in a mental asylum and their young son Alessandro. Both moved to near Rome to work for wealthy Count. Maria was a holy Italian virgin who had no interest in men. When 20 Alessandro made advances to 11 year old Maria and tried to rape her. Maria fought him off so he stabbed her 14 times. Hospital chaplain enrolled her in the <i>Children of Mary</i> and huge the blessed medal around her neck. After surgery she died the next day on 6 th July 1902 She forgave him before she died and in a vision.		
10 am Mass	Tuesday 7th . St Willibald Born in Wessex in about 700. Mother St Wuna was sister of St Boniface. Father was St Richard the Pilgrim. Educated at the Benedictine monastery at Bishops Waltham in Hampshire in Anglo-Saxon and Celtic customs. Pilgrimage to Holy Land via Sicily. Greece, Asia Minor and Cyprus visiting shrines. Returned via Constantinople to Rome. Stayed in monastery of Monte Cassino for 10 years and helped restore Benedictine Rule. Then sent by Pope Gregory III as missionary to Germany to help his uncle St Boniface. Bishop of Eichstatt in Germany. Founded Heidenheim double monastery and made his brother in charge of monks. Then got his sister from Wimborne monastery in Dorset to be in charge of the nuns. Wrote story of the pilgrimage. Buried in Eichstatt Cathedral with his sister St Walburga		
6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 8th St Withburga Born in the 7 th century in Norfolk, youngest daughter of King Anna of the East Angles who St Bede praised for his devotion to Christianity. Like her sisters, she devoted herself to divine service and led an austere life in solitude for several years at Holkham near the Norfolk coast. When her father died in battle with the pagan King Penda of Mercia, she moved to Dereham, now a market town in Norfolk. Collected a group of devout women and laid the foundation of a church and nunnery where she was the abbess. She died on 17 th March 743 and buried at Dereham. After 50 years her body was found incorrupt and was moved into the church. A spring of clear water appeared now called Withburga’s well. In 974 Abbot Brithnoth of Ely moved her body to Ely near her two sisters. In 1106 her body, her two sisters and St Etheldreda were moved into the new church near the high altar. Her body was not only sound but also fresh and the limbs flexible.		

NO MASS	Thursday 9th St Augustine Zhao Rong and others Chinese diocesan priest martyred in 1815, one of the 120 people martyred in China from 1648 to 1930. The 33 who died from 1648 to 1862 included 2 missionary bishops, 9 missionary priests, 4 Chinese priests, 12 Chinese lay catechists, 2 Chinese seminarians and 4 lay Chinese, 2 men and 2 women. During the Boxer Rebellion 87 were martyred from 1900 to 1930, 4 missionary bishops, 10 missionary priests, 7 missionary nuns, 1 lay Chinese lay brother, 5 Chinese seminarians and 60 Chinese lay men and women. Missionaries were Franciscans, Jesuits, the Paris Foreign Missionary Society, Dominicans, Salesians, Vincentians and Franciscans of Mary nuns.					
NO MASS	Friday 10th St Antony and St Theodosius Pechersky Two great figures in the establishment of the monastic system in the Russian Orthodox Church. Antony was born in 983 in Ukraine under the name Antipa. He began by living a solitary life in imitation of the Desert Fathers of Egypt. Went to Mount Athos in Greece in search of training for the life as a hermit for many years. Changed his name to Antony in homage of St Antony of Egypt. Then joined a monastery for a time. Returned to Ukraine to live in a cave by the River Dnieper at Kiev. Many people sought his advice including royalty. Was asked to lead a community in a monastery as abbot but soon returned to his cave where he died aged 90. Theodosius as a young man was greatly influenced by St Antony and became abbot in the monastery Antony had led in Ukraine. A great organiser he expanded the community and the monastery buildings. Emphasised works of mercy and the need to identify with all the suffering people of Christ. Converted many in the Kiev area. He encouraged lay people of Kiev, without distinction of sex, age or rank to come to him with their problems. Despite all his responsibilities of caring for a large community as the abbot of the monastery, he did his share of menial work.					
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 11th St Benedict of Nursia Born in 480 in Italy to a noble family. His twin sister became a saint. Sent to Rome for his education but was shocked by the decay and immorality in the city. Gave up his inheritance and sought solitude as a hermit. Eventually found a cave on the side of a ravine for himself helped by Romanus, a monk at the monastery above the cave. Over 3 years became well known. When abbot died, monks wanted him as abbot. Initially refused but eventually agreed. Monks did not like his strict and austere rules so he returned to his cave. Started to develop ideas about styles of monastic life and attracted many followers. Wrote the "Rule of St Benedict" for his monasteries. Based on 8 hours of pray, 8 hours of sleep and 8 hours of manual work with sacred reading, works of charity and the Divine Office. He founded the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino between Rome and Naples and many others. He died aged 67 in 547 and was buried with his twin sister Scholastica in Monte Cassino.					
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 12th July		Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		Navin Nazareth RIP	
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION						
Your prayers are needed for the following people						
Hazel Sale	Mary Light	Pat Sweeney	Phil Boulton	David Keates	Chris Fitzgerald	

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..

Special Second Collection next weekend for the Catholic charity Apostleship of the Sea

The Southern region of the Apostleship of the Sea is in Southampton next door to St Joseph's Catholic Church in Bugle Street and is called Stella Maris. Stella Maris is the largest ship visiting network in the world and improves the lives of seafarers through their network of local chaplains. The two lay chaplains in Southampton are Luke Phillips and Gregory Hogan and they are seeking volunteers to help run the Seafarers Lounge during daytime hours from Monday to Friday. Training is provided. If interested contact Luke Phillips at luke.phillips@stellamarismail.org

Funeral and Requiem Mass for Fr Kevin Bidgood

Fr Kevin's body will be received into St Edmunds on Thursday 2nd July at 5 pm. The Requiem Mass will be held at 12.30 pm on Friday 3rd July at St Edmunds Catholic Church on the Avenue followed by the funeral

Memorial Mass for Fr Shaun Budden and Fr Kevin Bidgood at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

We are warmly invited to take part in the prayers and remembrance at the Memorial Mass that will be at 10 am on Saturday 4th July followed by refreshments in the church hall. Fr Shaun and Fr Kevin were both integral to our faith community in the diocese and our own parish. We give them thanks for their lives and service

Prayers are needed for Chris Fitzgerald after a serious fall

Chris has been in hospital after the fall and has had an operation. She will be in hospital for some time recovering but no further surgery is planned.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 15th July – 1pm to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or 2 hours, whatever suits you

Parish Collection for last weekend 27th and 28th June 2026

Parish Collection for last weekend 27 th and 28 th June 2026							Peter's Pence		
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Funeral payment Candle money	Gift Aid for last week	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£72	£18	£206.05	£242.54	£51.98	£590.57	£350 £97.26		£144	£1,181.83