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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 2nd August 2026 This is my 500th newsletter

Page 114	1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13	Romans 9: 1-5	Gospel Matthew 14: 22-33
The readings this weekend reminds us to trust in God listen to His voice and keep faith in difficult times. God often speaks in a small whisper or thought, rather than grand gestures and encourage us to rely on God when we feel afraid or uncertain. In the first reading the great prophet Elijah is in deep trouble. The King of Israel at the time was the weak Ahab who let his wife Jezebel led the Israelites away from God to worship the pagan god Baal. Elijah had confronted the priests of Baal, shamed them publicly and had them killed. Jezebel sought to kill Elijah who fled to a cave in Mount Horeb. After a great wind, an earthquake and fire God spoke to him in a low whisper, showing God's power is often revealed in peaceful ways. In the second reading St Paul moves from teaching about salvation to speaking directly to his fellow Jews who in his heart of hearts he wants to accept Jesus. He shares his sorrow for those who reject Christ. He speaks of their blessings, adoption, covenants, the law, worship and promises. He shows his great love for them, wishing he could sacrifice himself for them. In Matthew's Gospel the disciples have left Jesus to pray and have set sail in a boat. During the night there is a storm and Jesus walks on water towards them. Peter accepts the invitation to walk on water towards Jesus but he takes fright and begins to sink. Jesus reaches out and saves him showing that if we trust in Him he will help us when we are in trouble.			

Mass times

Feast Days

6pm: Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
Trevor Delves RIP

Saturday 8th St Dominic Born north of Madrid in Spain in 1170, 12 years before Francis of Assisi, another great founder. Studied Arts and theology at nearby Palencia University. Became superior of chapter of the secular Canons Regular. Diplomatic mission to Denmark with Bishop Diego of Osma. Sent by Pope Innocent III to France to evangelise and help Cistercians oppose heresy. Cistercians were travelling by horse and stopping at best inns. The two realised this approach or using the power as papal delegates would have little effect. Adopted a different approach, shedding all papal power the two travelled around by foot without money and begging for food. A group of Cistercian monks were sent to help using new approach which resulted in great success. Many Cathars converted. Bishop Diego opened new Convent to rival education of women provided by Cathars. In 1206 he returned to Spain leaving Dominic to create the first Dominican house in Prouille. Pope decided to use force to eliminate heresy in 1209. Dominic, with Simon de Monfort, helped in a "crusade" against the Cathars and prayed for victory. *Order of Preachers* founded by Dominic in 1215 but not recognised by pope. Set up *Rule of Life* based on St Augustine. In 1217 new Pope Honorius III recognised *Dominicans* and was impressed by new Order. Dominic stated "Arm yourself with prayer, not a sword", travel simply with no money, no food to convert souls. Given Church of St Sixtus in Rome. Order expanded. Dominic met Francis of Assisi and they agreed simplicity and poverty was essential. Dominic thought education was important as well, unlike Francis. Dominic emphasised the power of praying the Rosary for Dominicans. Dominic died at noon on 6th August 1221, two days before his 51st birthday. His body was placed in a humble sarcophagus but in 1267 Dominic's remains were moved to the shrine Arca di San Domenico, in the Basilica of San Domenico in Bologna.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 9th August Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Michael and Nora Hunter

6.30 pm Mass

Monday 10th St Lawrence of Rome Born in Spain in 225. Met Spanish philosopher and teacher who would later be elected Pope Sixtus II and travelled with him. In Rome Sixtus was elected Bishop of Rome in 257. Lawrence was made archdeacon and the most famous of 7 deacons. He was in charge of the treasury and the raising and distribution of alms to the poor. Roman Emperor Valerian changed his attitude and started to persecute Christians to confiscate property to gain funds to support his defence of Rome. Lawrence was asked to bring the Church valuables to the Roman authorities. He then distributed the material wealth and brought to the Roman official the poor, the crippled and the blind saying these were the true riches of the Church. For his defiance he was martyred the last of the 7 deacons to die, 4 days after Pope Sixtus II. A story he was roasted on a griddle seems unlikely and possibly caused by an error in translation. St Lawrence became a popular saint and one of the most venerated in Rome with four churches named after him.

10 am Mass

Tuesday 11th St Clare of Assisi Born in 1194 in Assisi, Italy, to a wealthy family with a large palace and castle. As a child Clare was devoted to prayer taught by her devout mother. At 18 heard Francis of Assisi preach. Inspired to be a Franciscan but Francis could not accommodate women. He sent her to the Benedictine nuns on Mount Subasio near her home which overlooked Assisi. Clare was joined by her sister and widowed mother. She gathered other women to form a Franciscan Order for women. Francis gave them a "Rule" as an enclosed *Order of Poor Ladies of San Damiano* unlike the Franciscan friars who travelled around preaching. Later known as the *Poor Clares* their life was one of manual labour and pray and very austere. Called *another Francis* she kept in contact with him and took care of him in his final illness in 1226. Used the Blessed Sacrament to protect her Convent against a Saracen attack. Governed Convent of San Damiano for 40 years.

6.30 pm Mass	Wednesday 12th . St Porcarius and martyred monks Born at the end of the 7 th century. He became the abbot of the Benedictine monastery at the great abbey of Lerins on an island off the south coast of France. He was known for his deep spirituality and commitment to the monastic life. Porcarius dedicated his life to prayer, study and the guidance of his fellow monks. In a vision he was warned by an angel that the monastery would be attacked by Saracens, probably Moors from the Muslim population of Spain or North Africa.. Porcarius managed evacuate about 36 students and younger brothers to the mainland by boat. Abbot Porcarius and the remaining 500 monks stayed to defend the monastery as their sacred duty and were martyred for their faith and bravery in 732.
10 am Mass	Thursday 13th St Simplician of Milan Born about 320 in Rome. In Milan was a Christian Platonist theologian teacher of St Ambrose, and later Bishop of Milan. Involved in conversion of St Augustine of Hippo with his writings. Became friends and met in Milan. He had many conversations including famous philosophy professor Marius Victorinus but his conversion and admittance of becoming a Christian cost him his job. Simplician replaced St Ambrose as Bishop of Milan. This great theologian was called <i>father</i> by both St Ambrose and St Augustine of Hippo. Died 15 th August 400.
NO MASS	Friday 14th St Maxmilian Maria Kolbe Born Raymond Kolbe in 1894 in Russian occupied Poland. German father was a weaver and his devout Polish mother was a midwife. Age 12 had a vision of the Virgin Mary. Next year Raymond and his eldest brother joined the Franciscan minor seminary. 3 years later he left to join the Polish army in defence of his Motherland which was under the patronage of Mary. Soon realised the military was not his future. Rejoined the Franciscans. Sent to Rome in 1912 and took the name Maxmilian. Final vows in 1914 aged 20. With friends formed <i>Army of the Immaculate One</i> devoted to Mary to convert sinners and oppose enemies of Church. Opposed Masons. Gained doctorate of philosophy at Pontifical University. In 1918 ordained a priest. Obtained doctorate of theology. He returned to Poland and promoted devotion to Virgin Mary. Opposed Communism. Professor of philosophy and theology at Kraków seminary. 1922 published <i>Knights of the Immaculata</i> monthly. Spent time in hospital with tuberculosis. Set up publishing centre in Grodno. Founded Franciscan monastery near Warsaw – the <i>City of Immaculata</i> with 800 working for mass media apostolate. Second <i>City of Immaculata</i> at Nagasaki in Japan and third in Malabar India. In 1936 returned to Poland. At outbreak of Second World War had added a radio broadcasting station to his publishing centre. At German invasion of Poland he sent most of Franciscans back to their families to join Polish Red Cross but not join the military. He and remaining 48 were arrested by the Germans and then released to look after 3,000 Polish refugees and 1,000 Jews. Franciscans welcomed them and accommodated them as best they could in their monasteries. Fr Maximilian then resumed publishing religious works many of which were anti-Nazis. Arrested with 4 companions who all refused German citizenship and sent on 28 th May to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Ministered to fellow prisoners and led them in pray to Immaculate Virgin Mary. Smuggled into prison hospital by Catholic guard to give last rites to the dying. After a prisoner escaped, ten prisoners chosen to die. Fr Kolbe died on 14 th August 1941 volunteering to die in place of a man with a family.
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 15th Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Scripture does not give an account of Mary's assumption into heaven. However tradition held that Mary died in the presence of some of the apostles in either Ephesus in the "House of the Virgin Mary" or in Jerusalem at the "Tomb of the Virgin Mary". Thomas the Apostle was not present at her death and his late arrival precipitates a reopening of Mary's tomb which was found to be empty. Subsequently legend has it that Mary dropped her sash down to the apostles from heaven as a testament to her assumption. Over the centuries the Eastern Church was convinced of the assumption of Mary but the Western Church was more hesitant. However by the 13 th century there was universal agreement. On 1 st November 1950 Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a dogma of faith.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 16th August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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

Great news from Liz Challand concerning her daughter Chlöe

We are delighted to announce that Miss Chlöe Challand will marry Mr Charley Heasell on Friday 4th September at St Edmunds Church on the Avenue, Southampton. All parishioners of St Vincent de Paul are invited to attend the ceremony. People are asked to be in position by 12.30 ready for the service to begin at 1pm. We ask for your prayers for the couple as they start their married life.

Next SVP Social is On Wednesday 19th August – 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 1st and 2nd August 2026

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Baptism	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£112	£28	£208,20	£242.54	£51.98	£642.72	£50			£592.72