

## The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the gospel today, Jesus produces perhaps the hardest of all those sayings of his that have traditionally been called the 'hard sayings'. These are parts of Jesus's teachings that seem, at first sight at least, to be in direct contradiction to what we think of as the essence of his character and mission. Peace seems to be central to Jesus and the purpose for which the Father sent him into the world. After all, at his birth in Bethlehem, the angels announced to the shepherds that Jesus's coming brought "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And yet here we have Jesus himself saying, "Do you think I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." And he goes on to describe the kind of family relationships that surely no-one would ever want to endure. But the divisions that Jesus refers to here are specific and particular. He is not sowing a general



antagonism between people but rather he is honestly pointing out that the message he brings will divide those who listen to him from those who choose not to. Those who want to bring peace

and understanding between people will always be opposed by those who would rather stoke up hatred and violence. Sadly, we see this kind of division being played out in the world right now – in Gaza and in Ukraine to name but two international examples, and nearer home where demonstrations and hostility are being directed towards asylum seekers.

### Entrance Hymn

319 Father, we praise thee, now the night is over

### Offertory Hymn

369 And now, O Father, mindful of the love

### Recessional

544 O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height

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THIS WEEK (Year C[1]; Psalm Week 4)

18<sup>th</sup>: Monday of Week 20 in Ordinary Time. No services in church; Offices said privately.

19<sup>th</sup>: Tuesday of Week 20 in Ordinary Time. No services in church; Offices said privately.

20<sup>th</sup>: St Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church.

No services in church; Offices said privately.

21<sup>st</sup>: St Pius X, Pope. Morning Prayer 0945; No services in church; Offices said privately.

22<sup>nd</sup>: Our Lady, Mother and Queen. Offices said privately.

23<sup>rd</sup>: Saturday of Week 20 in Ordinary Time. No services in church; Offices said privately.

NEXT SUNDAY: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mass at 1000 as usual.

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathyan Fenton; Desiree Loderick; Mr & Mrs DeGale, Anselm Charles, Jean Charnock, Maggie, George Norwood, Oluwayemisi, Sean Brennan, and Patrick Coleman. (If you have a name for the list, please give the details to Susan, Fr Josiah, or Fr Stephen.)

### THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Hertence Trim

### ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

17<sup>th</sup>: Clifford Newick, Edward Geake

18<sup>th</sup>: Doreen Holland

20<sup>th</sup>: Dulcie Robertson, Winifred Evelyn Smith, Idris Viola Clarke, Joyce Edith Henrietta Brennan

21<sup>st</sup>: Marion Polley

**YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH:** Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work after mass...

**FINANCIAL POSITION:** During July 2025, our income was £1,028.78, and our outgoings were £1,303.47. Expenditure routinely continues to outstrip our income, and this clearly can't continue for ever. So, do please consider if you can increase your contributions to the church, preferably via the Parish Giving Scheme if you don't already use that service.

**SPONSORING CANDLES, ETC.:** Sanctuary lights cost £3.50; votive candles £1.00; 100 communion wafers £1.50. We'd be very grateful for your support.

### STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Stephen: [fr.stephen@stanselm.co.uk](mailto:fr.stephen@stanselm.co.uk); 020 4603 7795

Fr Josiah: [fr.josiah@stanselm.co.uk](mailto:fr.josiah@stanselm.co.uk); 07597 701878

Susan: [susan@stanselm.co.uk](mailto:susan@stanselm.co.uk) PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA AND COFFEE, AND BISCUITS OR CAKE!

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.*

### COLLECT

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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 Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

In those days: The officials said to the king, 'Let this man, Jeremiah, be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.' King Zedekiah said, 'Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.' So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

Ebed-melech went from the king's house and said to the king, 'My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.' Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, 'Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40(39):2. 3. 4. 18. R. 14b

*R: LORD, make haste to help me!*

1. I waited, I waited for the LORD,  
and he stooped down to me.  
He heard my cry. *R.*
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,  
from the miry clay.  
He set my feet upon a rock,  
made my footsteps firm. *R.*
3. He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God.  
Many shall see and fear  
and shall trust in the LORD. *R.*
4. Wretched and poor though I am,  
the Lord is mindful of me.  
You are my rescuer, my help;  
O my God, do not delay. *R.*

### SECOND READING Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 10:27

*R: Alleluia, alleluia.*

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,  
and I know them, and they follow me.

*R: Alleluia.*

### GOSPEL Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided: three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive our oblation, O Lord,  
by which is brought about a glorious exchange,  
that, by offering what you have given,  
we may merit to receive your very self.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*With the Lord there is mercy;  
in him is plentiful redemption.*

Or

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord.  
Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments,  
we humbly implore your mercy, Lord,  
that, conformed to his image on earth,  
we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Amen.*