

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
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 Wisdom 9:13-18b

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

What human being can learn the counsel of God?
Or who can discern what the Lord wills?
For the reasoning of mortals is worthless,
and our designs are likely to fail,
for a perishable body weighs down the soul,
and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts.
We can hardly guess at what is on earth,
and what is at hand we find with labour;
but who has traced out what is in the heavens?
Who has learned your counsel,
unless you have given wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from on high?
And thus the paths of those on earth were set right,
and people were taught what pleases you,
and were saved by wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R. 1

**R: O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.**

1. You turn man back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night. **R.**
2. You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades. **R.**
3. Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants. **R.**
4. At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands. **R.**

SECOND READING Philemon 9b-10. 12-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Philemon.

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus – I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him

with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother – especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Psalm 119(118):135

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your decrees.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that, through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

Or

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

September 7th, 2025

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



I've written in a previous pew sheet about the 'hard sayings' of Jesus. And in the gospel reading for today we have perhaps the ultimately difficult saying. "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and

brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." But we should be careful in interpreting the word 'hate' in this passage. In the gospels 'love' and 'hate' are opposites, of course, but the words do not describe emotions or feelings. Rather they describe attitudes, decisions and practical actions. In this case 'hate' is about priorities, about where our ultimate loyalties lie. To 'love' something is to choose it over what we 'hate'. What Jesus is telling us is that becoming a disciple must be the most important thing in our lives. We must 'love' our discipleship and, relatively speaking, 'hate' not only our nearest and dearest, but even our own lives. This is what drove the martyrs to give up their lives rather than disown Jesus, or abandon their faith. It is very hard test that most of us will fail much of the time, but when we do we must not be discouraged. Instead, we must persevere, and perhaps ask for St Peter's intercession for us. He denied his Master three times, yet still became the rock on which the Church has been built.

Entrance Hymn

531 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Offertory Hymn

455 Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem

Recessional

363 Lord of beauty, thine the splendour

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THIS WEEK (Year C[1]; Psalm Week 3)

8th September: Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. No services in church; Offices said privately.

9th: Tuesday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association meetings resume.

10th: Wednesday of 23rd Week in Ordinary Time. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Prayer 1700

11th: Thursday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Prayer 1700

12th: Friday of Week 23 in Ordinary Time. Offices said privately.

13th: St John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. No services in church; Offices said privately.

NEXT SUNDAY: Sunday 14th September: Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The PCC will meet after mass.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

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

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Bobbi Cahill, Shiela Lashley Weekes, Edith Martin

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

7th: John Allain

8th: Edward Dean

9th: Gertrude Watts

10th: Lucy Plumb

12th: Edgar-Holder Beckles, Mary Chick

13th: Frank Llewelyn Barnes, Hugh Phelps

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 August 2025, our income was £1,468.78, and our outgoings were £1,242.99. It's great to be able to report that we spent less than we received during the month, and we also received a very generous one-off donation of £1,000 for our reserve fund. However, with winter approaching and increased bills for heating we can't be complacent, 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.

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PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA AND COFFEE, AND BISCUITS OR CAKE!