



JESUITS
IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

23rd August 2026

21ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston



One of the things which might surprise us about the Sunday liturgy is the way in which the second reading from the New Testament seems to be dealing with very different subject matter from the first reading and the gospel. The latter two normally have some connection with each other, often showing how the life and work of Jesus have already been foreshadowed in the Old Testament. As Jesus says, “I have come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets but to bring them to their fulfilment.”

The second reading, however, seems to be a bit more “free-floating”, unattached to anything else. While this can cause some difficulty for the preacher it is reminding us of the vast riches available to us in the scriptures, all of them there for our benefit, to help us grow in our knowledge and love of God.

These Sundays we are hearing from Saint Paul's longest letter, the one to the Romans. It is a letter dense with insights into the Christian life. See how today's passage begins, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!” It continues to develop this theme, emphasising how different God is from us, how inscrutable and unknowable. But is that the end of the story? Far from it. The point is that it is precisely this God who has come close to us and has made it possible for us to approach him with love and confidence, conscious of our frailty but knowing that God can cope with it. All of this made possible, of course, by the coming of God's Son, Jesus Christ, into our world. He has revealed to us that this majestic God wishes to share with each of us the abundance of his life. As Saint Paul ends, “To him be glory for ever. Amen.”

Hugh Duffy SJ

Saturday 29th August

Feast of the Martyrdom of St John the Baptist

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was born approximately six months before the Saviour of the World. John's mission was to precede Jesus "in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord." (Luke 1:17)

Prayer

Saint John the Baptist,

you were given a holy mission and sanctified in the womb of your mother in preparation for that mission. You never deviated from your calling and always pointed the way to Christ, the Saviour of all.

Please pray for me, that I will have the same courage you had and the resolve to fulfil my duties, no matter the cost.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for me.

Jesus, I trust in You.



The Beheading of St. John the Baptist by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio 1608.
Detail. Oil on canvas. St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, Malta

**THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST
FOR EVANGELIZATION IN CITIES.**

**LET US PRAY THAT IN LARGE CITIES, OFTEN
MARKED BY ANONYMITY AND LONELINESS, WE
FIND NEW WAYS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL,
DISCOVERING CREATIVE PATHS TO BUILD
COMMUNITY.**



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



**MARRIAGE
SUPPORT
Need help?**

**www.retrouvaille.org.uk
07887 296 983 or 07973 380 443**



**PRAY as you Go LISTEN TO GUIDED
PRAYER, EVERY DAY, FOR FREE**

<https://prayasyougo.org>

**Daily prayer session for portable
devices.**

**THE TRADITIONAL ROMAN RITE
STUDY WEEKEND, 11 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Join us in the beautiful setting of Stonyhurst to explore the key elements of the Roman Church's liturgical tradition. The weekend is intended to offer a deeper understanding of both the Traditional Rite specifically as well as of the New Rite of the Mass, which draws principally on the same heritage of the Church's worship over the centuries.

**[https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/
the-traditional-roman-rite-study-weekend/](https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-traditional-roman-rite-study-weekend/)**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Ernest Ezeani, Andrew Dawson,
Jen Murphy, Margaret Nelson,
Lee Unsworth, Maria Hall,
Ruth White, Anjana Linus,
Fr Chris Pedley SJ & Fr Hugh Duffy SJ
The Council meets monthly.**

LITTLE CHURCH

Resumes September.



UNVEILED

Now on summer break



DONATE TO JESUIT MISSIONS

**jesuitmissions.org.uk/donate/
11 Edge Hill London SW19 4LR**



DONATE TO JRS

**www.jrsuk.net/donate/
The Hurtado Jesuit Centre,
2 Chandler Street, London,
E1W 2QT**

Gift & Card Shop OPENING TIMES

**After 10.15am Sunday Mass
Monday & Friday 11.30am to 1pm
Cash/cards taken**

**Online Donations to St Wilfrid's can
be made via the PARISH WEBSITE
www.stwilfridspreston.org.uk
Click on the DONATE button &
follow the instructions. It's easy!**



QUIET RETREATS FOR ADULTS

During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults looking for a few days of peace, relaxation & prayer in the Lake District. Each day: a talk, Mass, evening prayer, time to explore the area, pray, or just relax.

Book at castleriggmanor.com/events or
contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

**THE CHURCH COURTYARD IS NOT
AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL PARKING
YOU ARE KINDLY ASKED NOT TO PARK
YOUR VEHICLE IN THE COURTYARD.**

**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS
UNATTENDED IN CHURCH**

PARISH PRIEST: FR. CHRIS PEDLEY SJ **01772 555244** cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk
 Parish Administrator: **01772 554396** stwilfridspa@gmail.com
 Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara McLaren **07986940883** barbara@hornworks.co.uk
 Superior of the Jesuit Community: Fr. Hugh Duffy SJ **01772 554387**
 Newsletter Items to stwilfridspa@gmail.com

CHURCH OPEN 8AM-6PM



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE stwilfridspreston.org.uk

Sunday 23 August 21st Sunday Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23 (Ps 138) Romans 11:33-36 Matthew 16:13-20

Mass 7am **Mass 10.15am** with Choir

Parish Centre 11.15-12.30 Tea/coffee Gift & Card Shop open

Mass 4.30pm

Mon 24 Aug
ST BARTHOLOMEW

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11.30am-12noon
Exposition

11.30-1pm Gift & Card
Shop Open Tea/coffee

Revelation 21:9b-14 (Ps 145) John 1:45-51

Tue 25 Aug
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

6-7.30pm Metanoia
Hot Meal Drop In

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3,14-17 (Ps 96) Matthew 23:23-26

Wed 26 Aug
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

5.15-5.45pm
Adoration

6.30pm Metanoia
Clothes Drop In
(Narthex)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18 (Ps 128) Matthew 23:27-32

Thu 27 Aug
ST MONICA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (Ps 145) Matthew 24:42-51

Fri 28 Aug
ST AUGUSTINE

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11.30-1pm Gift & Card
Shop Open Tea/coffee

1 Corinthians 1:17-25 (Ps 33) Matthew 25:1-13

Sat 29 August
PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Confessions 11-12.10
Confessions 5-5.30

Mass 12.15
VIGIL MASS 5.35pm

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (Ps 33) Matthew 25:14-30

WE PRAY FOR

Those who died recently: Raymond Lydiate RIP

Anniversaries: Jean Hothersall, Dorothy Crabtree, Fr Joe Duggan SJ, Bernie Crook

Those who are sick: Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn,
Agnes Partington, Janet Hadfield

St. Wilfrid's Presbytery, 1 Winckley Square, Preston, PR1 3JJ

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