

Sunday Readings

30th August 2026

Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 20:7-9

O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I
have become a laughing-stock all the day; everyone
mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout,
'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the LORD
has become for me a reproach and derision all day
long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any
more in his name', there is in my heart as it were
a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary
with holding it in, and I cannot.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 62:2-6,8-9. R/. v.2

R/. For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R/.**
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R/.**
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R/.**
For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Romans

12:1-2

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies
of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual
worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by
testing you may discern what is the will of God, what
is good and acceptable and perfect.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Ep1:17,18

Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has
called us.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus began to show his disciples that
he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from
the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed,
and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him
aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from
you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he
turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You
are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your
mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come
after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross
and follow me. For whoever would save his life will
lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find
it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole
world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give
in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to
come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and
then he will repay each person according to what he
has done.'

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, being the food of charity,
it may confirm our hearts
and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Saturday 5 September 2026

St Teresa of Calcutta (1910 - 1997)

This week's passage puts a dampener on Peter's expectation that Jesus' power meant that there was no need for any more suffering. In having Jesus around, the disciples could be forgiven for sometimes forgetting that they were human. Recent events with the coming of the Holy Spirit also focused on a new power that was accessible to the disciples after Jesus ascended to heaven. Of course the age old problem of suffering and evil will always be to some extent a mystery, but it is in our very nature as human beings that we will inevitably experience suffering of one sort or another in our lives. That is a fact that we do our utmost to avoid.

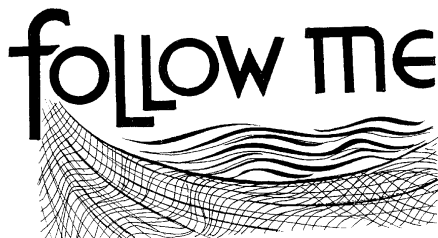
Modern science and commercial industry are forever trying to tell us that there is no need to suffer - it can be fixed or even prevented. But the vast majority of humankind does not experience life that way.

Diseases, illness, and natural disasters are often many more times powerful than our limited human resources can cope with. Hundreds of thousands of people die every day. Jesus was echoing the very human experience of suffering and death as also part of his life. That was something Peter naturally enough wanted to avoid. The real challenge is not finding ways of avoiding it but rather learning what life has to teach us about ourselves and what we are really here for.

Peter's mistake in trying to protect Jesus was to assume that suffering had no place in determining how God would glorify him. God would make him invincible! But Jesus took on our human nature and was like us in all things but sin. Humans are not invincible and we will all suffer and die at some stage of our lives just as Jesus was subjected to death — that is an unavoidable given.

What can we really learn from this reality? How does the suffering we endure in our lives shape the way we behave? How does the realization that we are not invincible affect what we see as really important?

By rebuking Satan in this week's gospel Jesus challenges not only his disciples but all people to examine what it truly means to be human. We are made in God's image but we are not the same as God. It can be wonderfully relieving to realize that we are merely human after all, no more or less than anyone else.



Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born on 26 August 1910 at Skopje in Macedonia. She left home at the age of 18 to join the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland, where she received the name Sister Mary Teresa, after St Thérèse of Lisieux. In 1931 she was assigned to the order's Calcutta house and taught at their school there, where she eventually became headmistress.

She received a new vocation to help the poor and destitute, and in 1948, obeying this call, she left the convent and took up a new life caring for them wherever they might be: lying sick in the street or even dying in dustbins. Some of her former pupils joined her, one by one, and the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was established in the Diocese of Calcutta in 1950, spreading across India and eventually onto every continent, even behind the Iron Curtain. Many related orders followed, involving men and women, clergy and laity, and both the active and the contemplative life. Mother Teresa died on 5 September 1997 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 19 October 2003.

Mother Teresa's widespread appeal comes from the directness of her inspiration, and her direct response to it. She went out and did things where they were needed. When we think of big problems we inevitably think that they can only be solved by a big campaign. Perhaps that is true, perhaps not; but while the campaign is getting going, why not go out and help *one* person in the name of Mother Teresa? If there are 1,000 hungry people in your city, why not make it 999? If each of us did that – well, in most countries where this is being read, there are more Catholics than there are people in need.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as you love us.

Renew in us your spirit, Lord, free us and make us one. Amen.