

Sunday Readings

18th October 2026

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to
yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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 Isaiah 45:1,4-6

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

‘For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.’

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95:1,3-5,7-10 R/. v.7

R/. Give the Lord glory and power.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R/.**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.

It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R/.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R/.**

Worship the Lord in his temple.

O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: ‘God is king.’

He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Thessalonians

1:1-5

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the
Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
constantly mentioning you in our prayers,
remembering before our God and Father your work
of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope
in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and
sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because
our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in
power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:15d, 16a

Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-21

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: The Pharisees went and plotted how to
entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their
disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying,
‘Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way
of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s
opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell
us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to
Caesar, or not?’ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,
‘Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the
coin for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius.
And Jesus said to them, ‘Whose likeness and
inscription is this?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ Then he said
to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that
are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

The Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly
things, we may be helped by what you give in this
present age and prepared for the gifts that are
eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Saturday 24 October 2026

Saint Antony Mary Claret (1807 - 1870)

Jesus invites us to become more aware of the workings of God in all of our life and the events of our life. We should never narrow our vision simply to that which is seen as holy and of God by our Church, by our society or by our friends. God transcends all. God is present in all. And in this openness, we are still invited to believe that Christ is present in His Church and in the teachings of His Church.

In the first reading today, the Prophet Isaiah speaks of the role of Cyrus as part of God's plan. Most of the people in the time of Cyrus and Isaiah would not have been thinking that way. For the Chosen People, they were God's plan and the other peoples were only in the way. For other cultures, there was a completely different understanding of God or of gods. Yet Isaiah is able to see the hand of God in Cyrus and proclaim that Cyrus is an instrument of God.

The challenge for us today is to see everything that happens as part of God's design. God is God! All things happen according to His design and plan. Even when we rebel directly against Him, He is able creatively to include our rebellion in His plan and leave us with the possibility of a new good. Even the best of theologians of all traditions have not been able to explain completely how our human free will and God's will intersect and act on each other.

Faith in God and in Jesus Christ will allow us to see the action of the Holy Spirit in all that happens to us, whether it be, from our point of view, good or bad.

The second reading today, from the First Letter to the Thessalonians tells us that our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction. This is a way of saying that it is not just in talking about God that we experience Him. Rather we want to become aware of God's power. We can do that by listening to His word and seeing that word in action in history and in others in our present age. Becoming convinced of God's presence and His action in the world is at the heart of our faith, no matter how weak it may be.

The Gospel of Matthew today speaks to us about the relationship of Jesus to secular laws. Clearly those questioning Jesus wanted Him to be against paying the temple tax because it was offensive to the Jewish people. Jesus makes a clear distinction about what pertains to religious belief and what is simply belonging to secular culture. This is always the challenge in every age. It is our challenge also.



He was born at Sallent in Catalonia. After becoming a priest he spent several years preaching to the people throughout Catalonia and also in the Canary Islands. Returning to Spain, he established a missionary order, and founded a great religious library and publishing house in Barcelona which published millions of cheap copies of ancient and modern Catholic works. In 1851 the Pope appointed him Bishop of Santiago de

Cuba. The diocese was in a terrible state and everything needed reform and renewal. He reorganised the seminary, enforced clerical discipline, and regularised thousands of marriages. He built a hospital and many schools. This was not done without opposition and he was the subject of fifteen assassination attempts.

Recalled to Spain in 1857 by Queen Isabella II to act as her confessor, he did further great work for the Church. His health began to fail, and he died at the Cistercian abbey at Fontfroide.

Prayer of the Week

Apostolic Prayer of St Antony Mary Claret

O my God and Father!

Grant that I may know You and make You known
That I may love You and bring others to love you
That I serve You and persuade others to serve you
That I praise you and work that all your creatures
praise

Grant my father that all sinners be converted
That all the just persevere in grace.
And all of us reach eternal glory.

Amen.