

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday 19 June

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

Matthew 9:36-10:1

The gospel reminds us that we may get distracted by many things in life which can take us away from what truly matters. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus, who will always be there to lead us along the right path.

We continue to pray for those who are now in the last week of their exams as we say together:-

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Saint Alban

Tuesday 20 June

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our scripture for this week: Jesus said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

Matthew 9:37-38

Today is the Feast of St Alban, after whom our Partnership of schools here in Luton is named. Alban was England's first Christian martyr. He was executed in Roman times and the city of St Albans is named after him. He is also the patron saint of refugees.

One day an old man knocked on Alban's door, and he invited him in. The man was a priest who was trying to get away from those who wanted to kill him. Although they had never met before, and even though Alban was not a Christian at that time, he gave food and shelter to the priest. Later Alban was executed because he helped the priest to avoid arrest and he refused to denounce his Christian faith.

God, you created the world,
and as young people,
it will soon be in our hands.
Help us now to make a difference
so that we will create life
instead of destroying it.
Also, help us to use wise judgement
in forming opinions
about what is right and wrong.
Be with us and guide us to do your will. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Refugee Week

Wednesday 21 June

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our scripture for this week: Jesus said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

Matthew 9:37-38

This week is Refugee Week and the theme this year is 'compassion'. Albert Einstein said, 'Our task must be to free ourselves – by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.'

We call to mind the many people of our world who have had to leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. We remember especially the millions of refugees created by the war in Ukraine and also the thousands of migrants who risk their lives at sea, simply to find a place of safety.

Lord,
help us to be people of welcome rather than fear,
that we may recognise that each human being is created by you,
and of great worth in your sight.
Open our eyes to what unites us,
and break down those things that divide us.
We give thanks for the many cultures that enrich this country,
and ask your help to live in peace with one another.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Saints John Fisher and Thomas More

Thursday 22 June

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our scripture for this week: Jesus said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

Matthew 9:37-38

St John Fisher and St Thomas More, whose feast day is today, are recognised as martyrs for the faith in England. John Fisher was bishop of Rochester, famous for his learning and saintly life. Thomas More was Lord Chancellor of England. He was a great scholar.

Both were put to death in 1535 for their opposition to King Henry VIII's (eighth's) second marriage to Anne Boleyn. These two saints show how important it is to have the courage to stand by our convictions of what is right.

Let us pray for all prisoners of conscience who have lost their freedom because of standing up for what they believe in.
Lord, in your mercy. All: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who govern us that they may do so with justice and fairness to all people.
Lord, in your mercy. All: Hear our prayer.

We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Friday 23 June

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our scripture for this week: Jesus said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

Matthew 9:37-38

Tomorrow is the feast of the birth of Saint John the Baptist, a day to remind ourselves of our baptism. It is good for us to do this as most of us will not be able to remember our baptism.

When we are baptised, we are freed from the power of sin and become part of the family of God on earth, the Church. The main sign of baptism is water, which was poured over us in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A candle is lit for us and held by a godparent, symbolising the light of Christ in our lives. We are clothed in a white garment to show that we have been washed clean in the waters of the font to live our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

Remembering that we were baptised in the name of the Trinity, let us pray together:-

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.