The Catholic Parish of Saint Joseph
St Neots

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle II, Psalter Week 3
Sunday 8th November 2026



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Liturgy of the Word

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 87: 3

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
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.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 6:12-16

'Wisdom is found by those who seek her.'

Commentary

For the Bible, Wisdom is not knowledge, such as scientific or philosophical knowledge acquired by study and learning, or even the sound judgement acquired by experience and maturity. It is the reflection of God's own Wisdom, the Wisdom by which God creates the world and guides humanity. Wisdom is therefore divine, a reflection or image of God, 'the reflection of the eternal light and the image of his power'. Everything created is good in so far as it expresses this Wisdom of God. In the New Testament Jesus is seen as the incarnation of God's own Wisdom as well as the incarnation of the 'Word' of God, for Jesus is both the first-born and the summit of God's creative purpose. In Greek 'Wisdom' is a feminine noun, and therefore divine Wisdom is often represented as a female character, a hostess inviting to her banquet all who desire true Wisdom. We need to seek out this Wisdom. It can be granted only by God, but God is eager to share divine Wisdom with those who truly seek it. This reading is given here to pair with the gospel-reading,

through the image of keeping awake to seek for the banquet of Wisdom.

HW

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. ℟ 2b

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

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.

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

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.

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

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;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

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

When I remember you upon my bed,
On you I muse through the watches of the night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

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

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

'Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.'

Commentary

The first Christians were unclear about many things in their faith. The Thessalonians were obviously worried about the fate of Christians who had died. Had not Paul taught them that Christ had conquered death? What was this talk about an imminent final coming of Christ to bring history to its end? How soon would it occur? Paul gives an answer in terms of a familiar image, a Roman triumphal procession. After a great victory in battle a Roman general could be granted a 'triumph', marching through the streets of Rome with his victorious army amid cheering crowds, like a successful football team or local regiment coming home. There was no need to worry about Christian friends and relations who had died, for they would come with Christ in his triumphal procession, and the rest of us would join him on the way. All this, of course, is imagery. Neither Paul nor anyone else had any idea when it would occur. But he teaches with firm confidence that it would occur. The timing is irrelevant. We don't mind waiting a bit, so long as we can be sure that we will all be re-united in the joyful triumph of Christ's victory over death. HW

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 24:42a, 44

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

Commentary

The principal moment of a wedding at this date was when the groom went to fetch the bride from her father's house and took her to his own. The torches should be pictured as oil-soaked rags, flaming on the end of a stick, to usher him either into

one house or into the other. (The little oil-lamps found in archaeological excavations would hardly be suitable for such a celebration: they provide minimal light and would blow out in any gust of wind).

In a typical black-and-white Matthean parable the point is not that they all went to sleep, but that only some had brought oil with which to soak the rags. In Matthew this would be a stock of good works (like the wedding-garment in 22.12). The point is no longer alertness, as in the previous parable, but due preparation. It is not that the silly girls did not have enough oil; they simply did not have any; no wonder the rags kept going out! Without oil the rags wouldn't even light properly! The story is not an allegory, but only a single-point parable on the need to prepare for the final wedding. That wedding-feast is the joyful moment of the wedding of the Lord to his bride at the end of time, as so often in both Old and New Testaments. *HW*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son,
we may honour it with loving devotion.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 22: 1-2

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,
we give you thanks and beseech your mercy,
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,
the grace of integrity may endure
in those your heavenly power has entered.
Through Christ our Lord.



Parish Events & Meetings

This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday.

Parish Retreat Day St. Joseph's Parish is pleased to announce a Parish Retreat Day **on Saturday**, **November 21st**, led by the Capuchin friar Fr. Jinson. The program begins at 10:00 am and will include three talks, Adoration with Benediction, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a concluding Holy Mass at 5:30pm. All details will be displayed next Sunday. We invite you all to join us for this special day of personal sanctification—through the Word of God, Reflections, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, quiet reflection, and the celebration of the Eucharist—for the glory of God and the good of our souls and lives. Please mark this date in your calendars and set this day aside for yourselves, your souls, and your minds.

First Communion preparation: Next session is Wednesday 11 November at 5.00pm in the Upper Room/ presbytery.

Confirmation/RCIA: - The next meeting is on Thursday 12th November at 6.30pm in the Upper Room (entry at side door of church). Anyone interested in either Confirmation (youth) or RCIA (adults) is invited to attend.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next baptism preparation session will be on **Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm**, in the presbytery. All those planning to baptise a child in the next few months are asked to attend. Please complete a Baptism form beforehand (copies available in the church porch).

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place in the Upper Room during the 10.00am Sunday Mass. It is aimed at children over the age of 4.

Coffee and tea in the presbytery after the 10.00am Sunday Mass. All welcome!

Parish Information

Weekly Collection: £338.50 plus ~£820 in standing orders/Dona donations. Thank you for your contributions!

Please pray for the sick and housebound: Sarah Keys, Cynthia Brown, Beryl Wordsworth, John and Jean Dunn, John Fernandes, Alex and Kerry Golding, Sal Jola, Mick Ellis, Maureen Palmer, Bob Lloyd, Jenny Savage, Sandra Clayton, Kit Touhy, Carl Wordsworth, Maureen Heffer, Bernie Dobson, Joyce Perkins, Karen Sayers, Allan Palmer, Trevor Simkins, Mrs Anderson, Anne Tubridy, Nuala Robinson, Joan Jones, Sam and Mina, Margaret Rose, Anne Hawks, Liam Taggart, John Lumley.
The Requiem Mass for Anne Courtenay † will be at 12.00pm on Tuesday 17th November. *May God grant rest to her soul and consolation to her family and friends.*

Altar Servers Needed! Training for new altar servers will be held at 4.00pm on Friday 23rd October in the church. Children who have made their First communion are eligible to serve. If interested, please contact Fr Tibor or John Fernandes.

The Music Group needs you! We are looking for a keyboard player to join our Music Group for the 10.00am Sunday Mass and additional celebrations. If interested, please contact Richard: richard.tubridy@talk21.com / mob. 07955 662105.

Red Mission Boxes: Thank you to all those who brought in their Red Missio boxes. The Red Boxes will be returned to you soon. *With many thanks for your generosity!*

A Message from St Neots Food Bank: Thank you so much for all the Harvest donations from St Joseph's RC Church, which amounted to 35.98 kg of food and £67.50 in cash. Please pass on our grateful thanks to all the members of your congregation for their generous Harvest donations and also for your faithful weekly donations. We do appreciate your continuing support.

Parish Offer

We are looking for ……
We are offering ……

The Upper Room (Church Hall): Our parish offers its parishioners the use of the Hall above the sacristy, equipped for family celebrations, birthday parties, carols, and interest groups. The room has 9 beautiful mahogany tables and 29 upholstered chairs. Please contact secretary Theresa with your request. If you need a larger covered open space for your family or interest activities, the Upper Room is available to you. We also offer for rent: porcelain service for 40 people - plates, cups etc.; garden furniture - plastic tables and chairs; gazebos; 2 child car seats

Deanery & Diocesan & UK & World Events, Meetings and Information

Italian Medical Charity Commission: This charity has inherited the work of the former Italian Hospital in London. Funds are available for those of Italian origin who need medical treatment that the NHS has difficulty in providing, or for their carers. For further details, please visit www.italianmedicalcharity.co.uk or write to IMC, Kings Lodge, Kingsway, N12 0EW. For independent verification, please visit the Charity Commission website and search either using Italian Medical Charity or the Charity's number 218259.

PARISH RETREAT DAY

Overall Theme: "The second Christ 800 Years Alive" The Three Hands of Francis

10.00 - 10.45am:
LECTURE 1:
The Empty Hands - Francis and the Freedom of Poverty
Subtitle: What Francis Lost to Find Everything
Bible: Matthew 19:21 *"If you want to be perfect, go sell your possessions"* and Luke 9:3

10.45 - 11.00 break

11.00 - 11.45
LECTURE 2:
The Wounded Hands - Francis and the Seal of Love
Subtitle: The Stigmata - When Love Leaves a Mark
Bible: Galatians 6:17 *"I bear on my body the marks of Jesus"* and Galatians 2:20 *"It is no longer I who live"*
11.45 - 12.30 exposition of the sacrament for adoration and moderated adoration

12.30 - 14.30 lunch break – please bring a lunch

14.30 - 15.30
LECTURE 3:
The Open Hands - Francis as Brother to All
Subtitle: From Brotherhood to Sister Mother Earth
Bible: Mark 16:15 *"Go into all the world"* and Matthew 5:9 *"Blessed are the peacemakers"*

15.30 - 17.00 adoration + confession + blessing at the end of the spiritual renewal



17.30 Holy Mass

18.15 Agape

800 SAN FRANCESCO 1226-2026 COMITATO NAZIONALE

Sacraments

Baptism: If you wish to have a child baptised, please take an application form from the church porch. Completed forms can be handed in to the parish priest or the parish office. **Baptism Preparation Session:** Tuesday 10 November at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

Confession: Fr Tibor will be available for confession on weekdays from Tuesday to Friday, a half hour before Mass.

Holy Communion: To prepare for Holy Communion each year, children must be registered no later than the end of July and must be 8 years old and year 4 in school at the time of admission. Application forms will be available in early summer.

Confirmation: The course for this year has started and will complete next year.

Anointing of the Sick: Anointing of the sick can be arranged at any time through the office and secretary Theresa.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please register for an interview with the Parish priest at least 6-12 months before the planned wedding date in order to have time to complete all the necessary paperwork (especially for weddings abroad and mixed marriages).



Mass Times, Intentions and Liturgical Events for the coming week

Saturday 7th November	**St Willibrord, Bishop** ***optional memorial***	
	10.00am	*xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx*
	Vigil of the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	5.30pm	Priyani Fernando RIP
Sunday 8th November	**Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
	8.00am 10.00am	Sarah Keys' intentions People of the Parish
Monday 9th November	**The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** ***feast***	
		No Mass
Tuesday 10th November	**St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church** ***memorial***	
	10.00am 10.30am	Leigh Davis † *Rosary Prayer group in the presbytery*

Wednesday 11th November	**St Martin of Tours, Bishop** *memorial*	
	10.00am	Patrtick Callahan RIP
Thursday 12th November	**St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr** *memorial*	
	10.00am	Krystina Snow †
Friday 13th November	**Weekday in Ordinary Time**	
	10.00am	Gerald Wisson †
Saturday 14th November	**Weekday in Ordinary Time**	
	10.00am	*Holy hour – Exposition and Adoration*
	Vigil of the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	5.30pm	Antonio Migliaccio, Giovanni Migliaccio †
Sunday 15th November	**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
	8.00am 10.00am	Brendan Jackson † People of the Parish

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Representative has special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults in risk.

Your Safeguarding Representative is:

Noreen Sinclair

Email: sinclana7@gmail.com

Find out more: www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk



For safety reasons,
ALL CHILDREN MUST
be accompanied
to the restroom by a parent or adult.

Thank you for understanding.

We respectfully request
that you turn off the sound on your mobile devices
when entering the church
(or better still, turn off your mobiles completely)
and maintain this status
while you are in the church.

Thank you for understanding.



!!! PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE CHURCH !!!



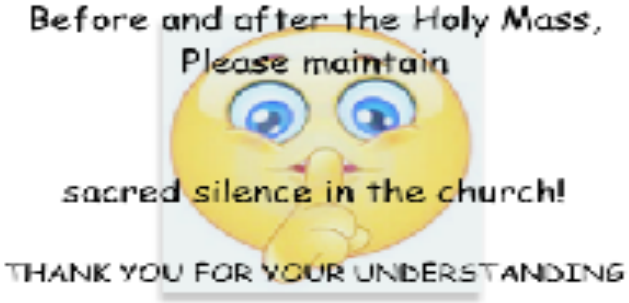
Photography in the church is not permitted
without the consent of a priest or a sacristan during public gathering.

We are obliged to comply with the regulations of the Diocese of East Anglia and the GDPR regulations on the protection of minors and vulnerable persons in particular.

PLEASE **respect and protect** all members of our community, especially the young and the vulnerable to avoid any possible sanctions or criminal charges against individuals or the Parish.

THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING.



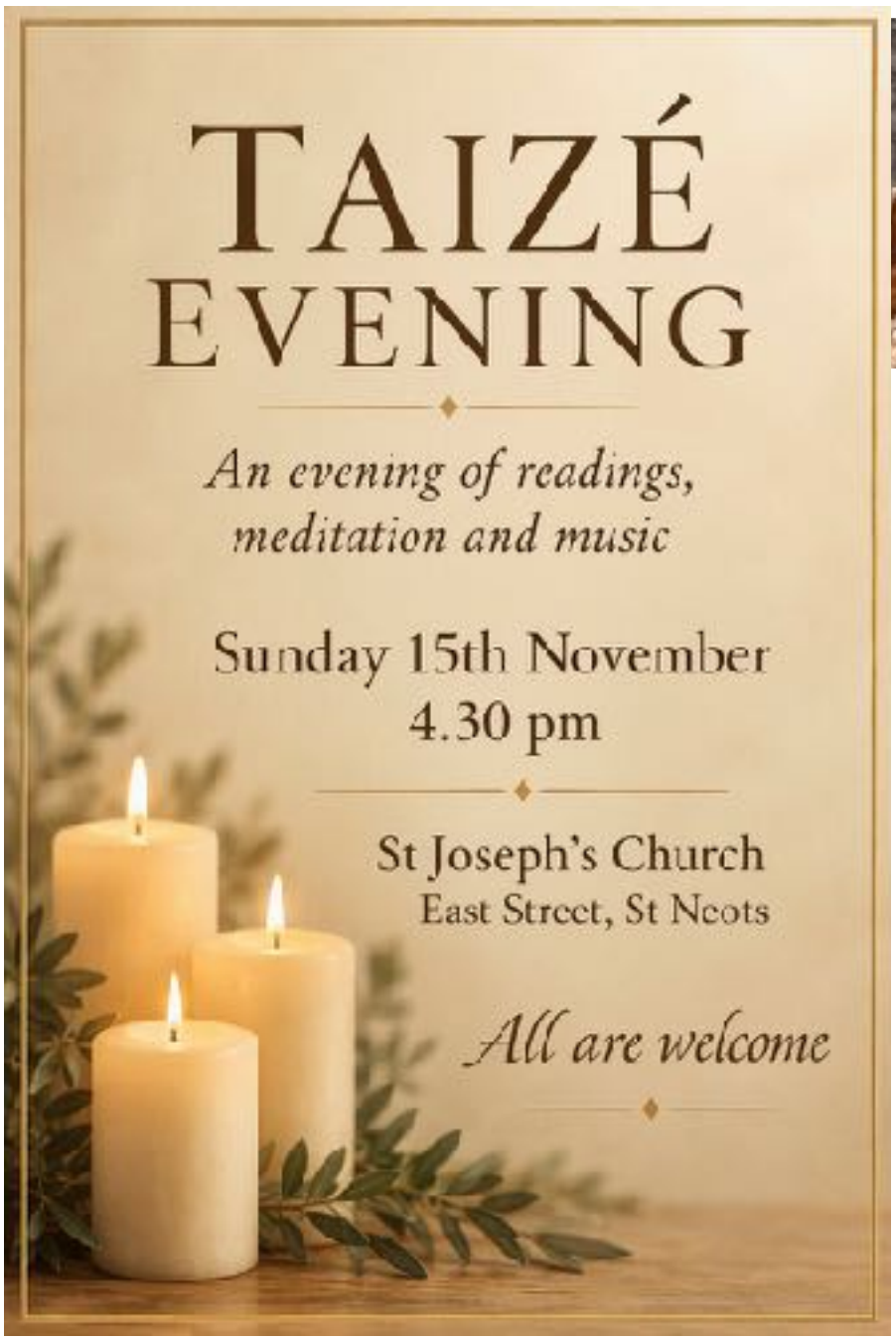




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Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
my great protector, Saint Joseph,
that no one ever had recourse to your protection,
or implored your aid without obtaining relief.
Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you.
Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer,
but graciously receive them.

Amen.





Saint Joseph, pray for us!