

# Sunday Prayers and Readings from 5<sup>th</sup> September

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**The Lord's Prayer:** as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. **Amen**



## Asking for God's forgiveness

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

**Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**



**The Prayer for each Sunday – Collect** – see separate sheet

## The Readings:

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September:** James 2:1-17; Isaiah 35:4-7a; Mark 7:24-37

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September:** James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September:** James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September:** James 5:13-end; Mark 9:38-50



## Time of Reflection

**The Creed:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

**Intercessions** – we pray for our community and the world  
A separate sheet of intercessions is attached.



### **Prayers of spiritual communion**

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6.35

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. We ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with us today, as we offer ourselves to you. Hear our prayers for others and for ourselves, and keep us in your care. **Amen.**

O God, help us to trust you, help each of us to know that you are with us, help us to believe that nothing can separate us from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of waiting open our hearts to the mystery of your cross. The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Or we remember:** St Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:22-26*)

*I invite you, if you wish, to break and eat part of your bread or cracker and to sip your fruit juice or wine, in remembrance of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is not Holy Communion.*

**The Peace:** We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**The Blessing:** The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing: and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit with you all. **Amen.**

# Bible Reading Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

# Bible Reading Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp

# Gospel Reading Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus[c] ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

# Readings Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September

## James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters,[a] for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature,[b] and is itself set on fire by hell.[c] 7 For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters,[d] this ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters,[e] yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

## Gospel - Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words[c] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

# Readings Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

## Gospel – Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

# Readings Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters,[a] if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## Gospel – Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

# Some prayers of Intercession

## Prayer 1

For all Christians throughout the world, that every person may be a servant of Christ, truly and faithfully following his teaching  
Lord we pray

Renew your peace in our hearts, and give us the courage of faith in our daily life, Lord we pray.

Free us from all prejudice and hate, deepen our understanding and our love, Lord we pray.

May those in authority work for health, safety, justice and freedom in their countries and throughout the world, ( and especially in ...)

Show us the way to bring your compassion to the poor, the sick, the lonely and the unloved.  
Lord we pray (especially remembering..)

For those who seek to be bearers of friendship to young and old, across all age barriers, Lord we pray.

For all who are in prison, condemned, or exiled from their home, Lord we pray

For parents and teachers and all who are entrusted with the care of children and young people, Lord we pray.

Forgive those who hurt us or distort our best intentions; forgive us also and remedy our acts of injustice, Lord we pray.

Console those who are grieving or in sorrow, Lord we pray. And we remember those who have died (especially...)

God our Father, you care for us and know all our needs. May we find rest in your love.

**Amen**

## Prayer 2

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Lord:  
Almighty God, our heavenly Father;  
Your promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Strengthen Sarah and Graham our bishops and all your church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united by your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

(We pray for St. Dunstan's ..... and all Churches in Feltham.)

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace, that we may honour one another and seek the common good.  
(We pray for .....)

Give grace to us, our families and our friends, and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another as he loves us.  
(We pray for .....)

Comfort and heal all who suffer in body, mind or Spirit (.....) give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ (.....) according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Dunstan and all your saints we commend ourselves and the whole creation to you unfailing love.

**Amen**

### **Prayer 3**

Jesus, light of the world,  
Bring the light and peace of your Gospel to the  
nations (*and especially to...*)

*Lord of life*

*In your mercy hear our prayer*

Jesus, bread of life,  
Give food to hungry (and especially...)  
and nourish us with your word

*Lord of life*

*In your mercy hear our prayer*

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way  
(*and especially...*)

Deepen our appreciation of your truth, and fill  
us with your life

*Lord of life*

*In your mercy hear our prayer*

Jesus, the good shepherd who gave your life for  
the sheep,

Surround with your care  
those in particular need (*and especially...*)

*Lord of life*

*In your mercy hear our prayer*

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks  
for all who have lived and believed in you  
(*and especially...* )

Raise us with them to eternal life

*Jesus, Lord of life*

*in your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers, and be with us always.*

*Amen*

Jesus, light

**Amen**

# Collects

## **5<sup>th</sup> September**

Merciful God,  
your Son came to save us  
and bore our sins on the cross:  
may we trust in your mercy  
and know your love,  
rejoicing in the righteousness  
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **12<sup>th</sup> September**

Lord God,  
defend your Church from all false teaching  
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,  
that we may enjoy eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **19<sup>th</sup> September**

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **26<sup>th</sup> September**

Gracious God,  
you call us to fullness of life:  
deliver us from unbelief  
and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.