

Sunday Message

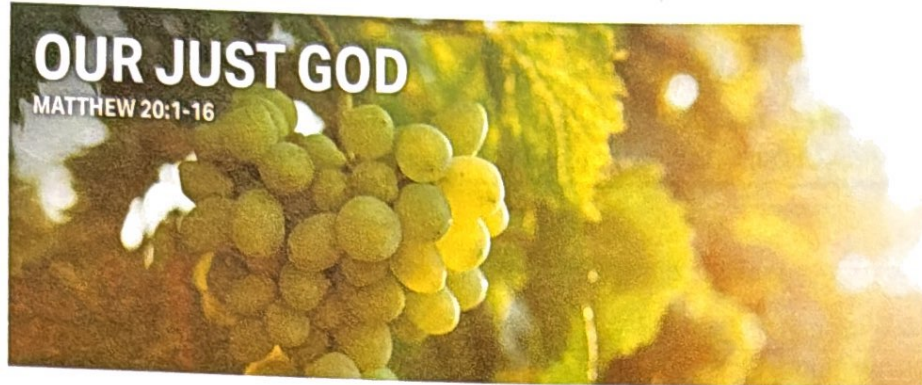
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 20 September 2026 • Psalter Week 1

OUR JUST GOD

MATTHEW 20:1-16



The landowner in today's Gospel story probably needs extra labour to get the grape harvest in. It may reflect something of the economy of Palestine in Jesus' time.

Small family farms had often given way to large holdings, forcing landless workers to hire themselves out for a day's work when they could get it (something that still happens today). They probably congregated in the marketplace or village square at dawn, hoping to be hired for the day. A day's work meant a family could be fed; otherwise, the outlook was bleak.

The landowner goes out to hire five times in the day – at daybreak, the usual time for starting work; mid-morning ('third hour'); noon ('sixth hour'); mid-afternoon ('ninth hour'); and just an hour before sunset ('the eleventh hour'), the end of the working day. The only conversation recorded is with the first and the last groups. To the first, he promises a 'fair wage' (a denarius). With the last group, he doesn't mention a precise wage.

The parable has a surprising ending. It would have been normal to begin by paying those who were hired first. Instead, the landowner tells the foreman to start from the end. Probably to their immense surprise, those hired last are given an entire day's wage. Word probably passed back along the line so that those who had been there since dawn were expecting to receive more. To their disappointment, they got the denarius they had agreed on, even though, as they argued, they had been slaving all day in the heat. The landowner reminds them of their bargain: a denarius for a day's work. He is not being unjust, but why, he asks, should they be jealous if he has chosen to be generous? ■

DO

Look at your life at home and at work. Do you always treat others with justice, compassion and love?

SAY

'Lord, help me to see and treat others the way you see and treat them. Amen.'

PRAY

We are aware of the appalling conditions in which many children and vulnerable adults throughout the world are forced to work. Pray for them today, and for a more just world.



LEARN

God's justice is ruled by generosity and compassion.

All are equal in the eyes of God.

REFLECT

Some people don't like the parable of the Good Employer. It seems unfair, even unjust, that those who had worked since dawn were paid the same amount as those who had worked for only a few hours or less. But the employer isn't being unfair. He has cheated nobody. He has paid them what they were entitled to and what they agreed on – a just wage. Instead, the employer is compassionate. He pays the latecomers a full day's wages because he takes pity on them. He doesn't want them to go hungry. He doesn't want their loved ones to suffer. He wants them to be able to feed their families tomorrow. He knows he's unlikely to become a billionaire if he pays people a day's wages for an hour's work – but he does it anyway. His sense of justice demands that he do it.

Today's Gospel reminds us of God's justice. At the heart of the Old Testament is God's covenant with the people of Israel. God promised them that, if they stuck by him,

he would never abandon them, he would be forever committed to them. God would always lavish his love on them, no matter how often they let God down.

This covenant formed the template for how the people of Israel should live. They were to treat each other with justice because that was the way God had treated them. They were to stand alongside the oppressed because God had stood alongside them when they were oppressed in Egypt. They were to care for the weakest in society, the widow and orphan, because God had cared for them in their distress. By being compassionate, they were simply mirroring God's compassion for them.

Jesus epitomised God's justice. He stood alongside the poor. He identified with the most marginal. He said they would be first in the kingdom of heaven. Justice and compassion informed everything Jesus said and did, and he said it must be the

same with us. We must all have a heart for the weak and oppressed; we must all have a passion for justice.

That's why it's important to make a distinction between charity and justice. I can contribute to charity even if I'm not interested in the causes of poverty and injustice. I can feed the poor without asking why they're hungry. I can pray for asylum seekers without wondering how they ended up in this terrible situation. To imitate God's justice demands more of me than simple charity.

The 1971 Synod of Bishops in Rome declared that action for justice is a constitutive part of the Gospel. It's central to the Gospel, not an addendum to it. Simply being charitable isn't enough to salve my conscience. I must not be content to live in a world where there is a yawning gap between the 'have yachts' and the great many 'have nots'. ■



St Patrick's Church
King Street
Wellington
TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco
M: 07447 632733 E: fr ravi.bosco@gmail.com

Our Lady of the Rosary &
St Luke's Church
Church Road, Trench
TF2 7HG

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michał Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org
Parish Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: our ladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423
Safeguarding Rep: Cheryl Breeze M: 07748870755 E: olspsafeguarding@hotmail.com

Sat	19	17:30	Pat Jervis - 1st anniversary	St Patrick's
Sun	20	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Fifth		09:00	Alfred Dawes RIP	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Thanksgiving AL family / Ruth Medlicott (90 th Birthday)	St Patrick's
		HOME MISSION SUNDAY – 2 nd Collection		
Mon	21	St Matthew		
Tues	22	Ferial		
		12:00	Alan & Wayne Stansfield RIP	St Patrick's
Wed	23	St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)		
		12:00	Alex Beyer - OLOR SVP	Our Lady's
Thurs	24	Our Lady of Walsingham		
		19:00	Antony Zcaria RIP	St Patrick's
Fri	25	Ferial		
		09:15	Mary Kutty - Anniversary	St Patrick's
			Funeral Service for Alan Armitage	
		18:00	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Sat	26	17:30	Christiana Omojola - 3rd Anniversary	St Patrick's
Sun	27	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Sixth		09:00	Gay & Peter Kendrick - Intentions	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Philip - Anniversary	St Patrick's
		SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HARVEST		

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Alan Armitage. We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

BAPTISMS: Forms are available from the porch. Please hand your form to Fr Ravi. Baptism Preparation class on the last Saturday of the month at 12pm.

ROTAS (W, EM, C)

Sat 5:30 Lynne & Lewis, Ann N, Anne & John **26/09:** Lucy & Damien, Gail, Gay & Nicky
Sun 9:00 Pauline He & Tony, Catherine K, Laura & Edith **27/9:** Phillip & Bobbie, John, Bobbie & John & Nick
Sun 11:00 Evangeline & Shreya, Anna, Jarmila & Eliska **27/09:** Graham & Carmen, Jane, Kate & Geraldine

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1,511.82 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £221.50, Loose Plate £527.20, Dona £15.00
We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details:

SRC DT 234025
St Patrick Wellington
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54546760

SRC DT -234025
Our Lady & St Luke Telford
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54582160



Please scan this QR code to donate to your parish online. You can register your card for gift aid to be added to every donation

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Children who have not received communion are welcome to join in children's liturgy.

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTREAMED MASSES from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>

Home Mission Sunday 20 September 2026: This Sunday we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a second collection. A few years ago, this day was re-named Evangelii Gaudium Sunday after Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation the 'Joy of the Gospel'. Now, in 2026, we revert to using the original name – Home Mission Sunday. On this day, the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful of our countries to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. When we speak of 'Home Mission' we are not neglecting our sisters and brothers around the world (World Mission Sunday gives due attention to this important work), but we recognise that we are called to witness to Christ in our homes, at work, in our friendships and in every aspect of our daily life. Being part of the family of God means we should feel 'at home' but this also challenges us to be missionary disciples in England and Wales so that we can make a home for all who hunger and thirst for the God who loves them and wants them to come home to him.

First Holy Communion 2027: Enrolment forms for the next Holy Communion Group are available from the porch. The relevant dates will be:

- **Enrolment Masses:**

Saturday 12th December 5.30pm at St Patrick's
Sunday 13th December 9am at Our Lady's.

- **Parents Meeting:**

Monday 11th January at 6pm at St Patrick's

- **Lessons (Mondays):**

1 st February	15 th March
8 th February	22 nd March
22 nd February	12 th April
1 st March	19 th April

- **Practices:** 26th April and 10th & 17th May depending on groups and numbers

- **Sacraments:**

First Forgiveness – 8th March

First Holy Communion – 8th May at Our Lady's and 22nd May at St Patrick's

Sunday Word: A group of Parishioners along with Fr Joe Donlan meet in both churches every week to reflect on the Scripture Readings for the following Sunday - Our Lady's, Wednesdays at 10.30am; St Patrick's, Thursdays, after 7pm Mass. All are welcome.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: Fr Ravi visits the sick and housebound on Thursdays – 1st Thursday around St Patrick's; 2nd Thursday around Our Lady's; 3rd Thursday around Telford; 4th Thursday on request – every month. The person concerned or the next of kin should request and needs to be aware of these pastoral visits. As much as possible, we encourage people to attend church if they are able to on Sundays. We thank all those taking communion to the homebound and if you would to help in this important ministry, please do contact Eliska the Parish Secretary.

Parish Pastoral Team (PPT): We are looking forward to our next meeting at 10.30am on Saturday, 26th September at St Patrick's. The meeting will focus on all aspects of our life and mission during Advent and Christmas – Faith Formation, Faith Celebration, Faith Action and Faith Administration. We encourage all our parishioners to be part of the discernment process and share your hopes and plans to Fr Ravi or any of the members of the team before the next meeting.

Mass Counts 2026: The Mass attendance count takes place as usual on the third and fourth weekends of September and the first and second weekends of October.

19th & 20th and 26th & 27th of September and 3rd & 4th and 10th & 11th of October 2026. This will include all present at all Saturday evening & Sunday Masses on the named weekends.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School: Wellington, has had a fantastic start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to welcome our children, families and friends back to school and to share our exciting plans for the year ahead.

If you are new to the parish, or if you are looking for a nurturing and high-quality Catholic education for your child, we currently have places available in Year 1 and Year 2. St Patrick's is a welcoming school community built on strong Catholic values, where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. If you know of a family who may be interested, or if you are considering a change of school for your child, please contact the school office to arrange a visit. Mr Hawes, Headteacher, would be delighted to show you around and share what makes St Patrick's such a special place to learn and grow. We look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

World Day of Prayer 2027: Friday 5th March. A planning meeting will be held at OLoR on Monday 28th September at 7pm. Women's World Day of Prayer was established in 1927: 2027 celebrates 100 years of prayerful action. If you'd like to be involved or find out more but can't attend the meeting, please contact Pauline Heffernan via email or text: paulineheffernan60@gmail.com or 07721 785224

Monthly Ecumenical Service: 1pm on Monday 5th October at Our Lady of the Rosary. The theme will be on Justice & Peace. All welcome

Season of Creation 1st September - 4th October:

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, celebrated on 1 September, is the start of the Season of Creation, a time of prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Roman Catholic Chaplain Vacancy at HMP & YOI Styal:

We are seeking a compassionate and committed Roman Catholic Chaplain (Priest or Lay) to join our multi-faith chaplaincy team in a women's prison. Alongside providing faith-based care to Roman Catholic prisoners and staff, you will work collaboratively with colleagues to meet the pastoral needs of people of all faiths and none. You will be able to help create an environment where women can rediscover dignity, purpose and hope. We are looking for someone who is empathetic, resilient and committed to serving others with respect and integrity. This role provides an opportunity to live out your vocation in a setting where your faith and pastoral gifts can have a profound and lasting impact. If you are interested in helping people build brighter futures, we would love to hear from you. This is a one day a week post (8hrs). Please contact Managing Chaplain Jo Hirst: 01625 553015 / Joanna.hirst1@justice.gov.uk

Diamond Wedding Anniversary: Janet & Alex Beyer would thank all the parishioners from Our Lady's and St Patrick's who sent cards and good wishes and prayers on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Thank you!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.*

COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. 18a

R: The LORD is close to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured. *R.*
2. The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *R.*
3. The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth. *R.*

SECOND READING Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. Acts 16:14b

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your people,
that what they profess with devotion and faith
may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.*

Or

*I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously raise up, O Lord,
those you renew with this Sacrament,
that we may come to possess your redemption
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.