

Sunday Message

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 6 September 2026 Psalter Week 3



LESSONS IN PEACEMAKING

MATTHEW 18:15-20

Today's Gospel offers practical advice on dealing with disagreements within the community. The early Christians did not just gather for the Eucharist or for common prayer. They often lived in the same area of a town or city.

They shared their property with one another, looked after their sick, and kept an open door for other Christians on their travels. In such close-knit communities, disagreements between individuals can poison the atmosphere for others.

Jesus proposes a three-step process to solve such disputes. In step one, those in disagreement are expected to meet to clear the air. This reminds us of Jesus' advice in the Sermon on the Mount that when 'you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you... first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.'

If this doesn't work, the disputants should invite two or three others to act as brokers. If this fails, the third step is to submit the dispute to a meeting of the whole church community to find a solution. If either party refuses to accept mediation, they are to be excluded. This is a drastic step, but it recognises that if action is not taken and bitterness is allowed to simmer, it has the potential to destroy the life of a close-knit community.

Jesus is reminding us that, as Christians, we must never turn a blind eye to anything that harms another person or damages the community. To really love another means sometimes having to say difficult and painful things. It means speaking candidly and honestly, even at the risk of losing the friendship. It means sometimes having to show tough love. ■

REFLECT

The Reverend Harold Good is one of the main architects of the Irish peace process. A former president of the Methodist Church in Ireland, he was, with Fr Alex Reid, one of two independent eyewitnesses to the decommissioning of IRA arms in 2005. For decades, he worked quietly behind the scenes to bring the opposing sides together. During that time, he learned several lessons about reconciliation and peacemaking, lessons he has also used to help resolve conflicts in Spain and Colombia. He calls them his four T's.

The first T stands for 'talk.' Without the willingness to talk, to engage with the other, conflict resolution will be impossible. Whether it is a violent conflict like the 'Troubles' or a local or family dispute, dialogue is the only effective dynamic for peaceful conflict resolution. Real dialogue

involves face-to-face communication between those in conflict. The first and most important part of dialogue is listening. Its purpose is to uncover common ground that will enable all concerned to build an agreement that resolves their conflict. For agreement to take place, there must be a willingness to sit down and talk.

The second T stands for 'truth.' If talks are to be fruitful, they must be honest. Both sides must be completely sincere with each other, however uncomfortable that might be. If we are not upfront with each other, if we don't speak our truth clearly and honestly, then mistrust will remain, and any lasting understanding or agreement will be impossible.

The third T is 'trust.' Without trust, there can be no resolution or settlement. If we doubt the sincerity of the other side, or they doubt our truthfulness and sincerity, deep

SAY

'Lord, help me to speak your truth at all times. Amen.'

DO

How do you respond when arguments or disputes break out? Are you a peacemaker?

PRAY

It is not easy to challenge someone or point out their faults. Pray for the strength to take the loving course of action in your dealings with others.



LEARN

As Christians, we have a responsibility for each other. We have a duty to point out each other's wrongdoing, and to do all we can to promote forgiveness and reconciliation.

True love hurts sometimes.

suspensions will remain, and peacemaking will fail.

The fourth T is 'time.' To build trust, one must be prepared to invest as much time as it takes. Patience is necessary. It took many, many years before the parties in the North trusted one another enough to sign the Good Friday Agreement. The four Ts made agreement possible.

Harold Good often adds a fifth T: 'tea.' If people are willing to literally break bread together, reaching an agreement or settlement will be more likely. Table fellowship helps to break down barriers.

Rev Good's lessons mirror Jesus' advice for resolving disputes. No matter what dispute we find ourselves caught up in, we must trust in God's presence, be willing to talk and speak the truth, and be ready to spend time listening. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
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.

Amen.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord: 'So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R. 7c, 8a

R: *O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'*

- 1 Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R.**
- 2 O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R.**
- 3 O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-10

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

Brothers and sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet', and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You

shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL 2 Corinthians 5:19

R: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that, through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

Or

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.



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THE BEACON

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Sat	05	17:30	Ian Martindale (RIP)	St Patrick's
Sun	06	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Third Sunday		09:00	Mary Harlow (Anniversary Mass), Steven A J (1 st Birthday)	Our Lady's
in Ordinary Time		11:00	Liza Mročaj, Moira & Ralph Rebeiro (RIP)	St Patrick's
Mon	07	Ferial	Ecumenical Service 1pm at Holy Trinity Church Wrockwardine Wood	
Tues	08	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
		12:00	Fr Alban Greenwood RIP (2nd Anniversary)	St Patrick's
Wed	09	St Pete Claver		
		12:00	Morgan Fernandes & Family (Thanksgiving)	Our Lady's
Thurs	10	St Ambrose Barlow		
		13:15	Funeral Service, Elizabeth Watton	St Patrick's
		19:00	Jean, Veronica and Michael Costello	St Patrick's
Fri	11	Ferial		
		09:15	Catherine Nickson	St Patrick's Primary School
		18:00	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Sat	12	17:30	Mary Price (Thanksgiving Mass - St Patrick's Governors)	St Patrick's
Sun	13	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Fourth		09:00	Janet and Alex Beyer (Diamond Wedding Thanksgiving)	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Parishioners	St Patrick's
Time				

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Inez Dennis (St Patrick's, 18/9, 12 noon), Alan Armitage (Telford Crematorium, 25/9, 10.30am), Elizabeth Watton. 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 Geraldine & Stephen, Gay, Maggie & Gail **12/09:** Denzil & Joanne, Nicky, Nigel & Bernadette

Sun 9:00 Alex & Janet, Rita, C & C & Felicity **13/9:** Elias & Laura, Catherine D, Bruce & Mick

Sun 11:00 Stephen & Shan, Ewa, Diane & Collette **13/9:** Jennifer & Paul, Jarmila, Kate & Geraldine

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1,383.37 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £161.00 Loose Plate £411.25 Dona £48.00
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>

Parish Safeguarding Update: Parish volunteers in non-DBS roles are now required to complete a Volunteer Registration Form and the Level 1 Safeguarding e-learning course (training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk) by 6th September.

First Communions 2027: Enrolment forms for the next Holy Communion Group are available from the porch. There will be an Enrolment Mass on the third Sunday of Advent – 12th & 13th Dec. Lessons will be through February to April and Holy communions will be celebrated on 8th May at Our Lady's and 22nd May at St Patrick's in 2027. More information will be provided next week and to those who sign up. Please return the forms by 6th December. Children should be in Yr 3 or above.

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.

Catholic Women's League: Members of the CWL will meet on Tuesday 15th September after the midday Mass. Also, at 1:30 we will have a speaker from The Severn Hospice, telling us about their work and to receive the cheque of £500 which was raised in Flora Quests name. All are welcome to join us.

Letter to your local MP: Postcards, prepared by Not Dead Yet Uk, are available in both churches if you wish to write to your local MP regarding the Bill coming up in Parliament for Second Reading on 11th September.

From Fr Ravi: Last Sunday's International/Jubilee event brought our parish together – from every language, culture, ethnicity – local and global. It was a celebration of our unity, fellowship and faith including some amazing home-food from our parishioners. Also, our young ones initiated us into some Bollywood moves!

We thank all those who participated in the gathering, our generous volunteers who worked hard to make it special, and to all who contributed towards the generous gift given to me to mark the occasion. May the Parish of Our Lady and St Patrick be Firm in Faith, Joyful in Hope and Active in Love!

A Prayer for Children

God,

We place our children in Your hands as they begin another school year.

Thank You for making each one of them unique and for the good plans You have for their lives.

Be with them in every classroom, every hallway, every conversation, and every challenge they face. Give them courage to try new things, wisdom to make good choices, and kindness toward everyone they meet.

Surround them with teachers who will encourage them, friends who will help them grow, and people who will remind them they are loved. Protect them from harm and give them peace when they feel overwhelmed.

When they succeed, help them to be thankful. When they make mistakes, remind them that Your love never changes and that Your grace is always enough.

Help us, as the adults who love them, to encourage them more than we pressure them, to listen more than we speak, and to pray more than we worry.

May they grow in wisdom, confidence, and faith throughout this school year, and may their lives reflect your love.

Amen.

A Prayer for Teachers

God,

We pray for the teachers beginning a new school year. Thank You for calling them to this important work. As they teach, inspire, and care for their students, help them to do it all for Your glory.

Give them patience on the hard days and joy in the good ones. When they feel tired, remind them that You are with them. When they face challenges, give them wisdom to know what to do and courage to do it.

Fill their hearts with compassion for every student who walks into their classroom. Help them to notice the quiet child, encourage the struggling one, celebrate each success, and speak words that bring hope and life. Teach them, too, through the students You have placed in their care.

Protect them and their schools. Give them peace in the middle of busy days and rest when the day is done. Remind them that You love their students even more than they do and that You are at work in ways they cannot always see. May everything they do this year point others to You.

Amen

A Prayer for Parents and Guardians

God,

As we send our children into a new school year, we place them in Your hands. Thank You for loving them even more than we do.

You know the hopes we have for them and the worries we carry. When we're tempted to hold on too tightly, help us trust that You are already with them. Go before them, walk beside them, and watch over them each day.

As they meet new teachers, make new friends, and settle into new routines, give them confidence, wisdom, and joy. When they feel uncertain, remind them they are never alone.

Give us grace as parents and guardians. Help us to encourage instead of control, to listen instead of lecture, and to trust You instead of giving in to fear. Remind us that our greatest work is not to prepare the perfect path for our children, but to faithfully point them to You. Bless this school year with growth, laughter, learning, and opportunities to see Your faithfulness again and again.

We trust our children to Your care today and every day.

Amen.