

Sunday Message

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 11 October 2026 • Psalter Week 4



A FEAST FOR EVERYONE

MATTHEW 22:1-14

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like a king who gives a great feast for his son's wedding. He has sent out the invitations, but those he invited to the feast aren't interested. They don't show up. They make excuses and avoid committing themselves.

The king is furious and tells his servants that those he invited have shown themselves unworthy of the banquet. Instead, the servants are to go out onto the roads and streets and invite absolutely everyone they can find. There is no need for personal invitations. Everyone is welcome. Before long, the wedding hall is full.

In the parable, the king represents God. The great feast is a traditional Jewish image of God's kingdom. We see this in today's first reading from Isaiah. Matthew is telling the story of God's involvement with God's people, and how this is played out in the life of Jesus.

Matthew knows the end of the story. He has seen how Jesus was rejected by the people of Israel, for whom he came, just as they had rejected the prophets before him. They have rejected God's invitation over and over again, and so the Good News is now preached to the Gentiles. God is opening the gates of the kingdom to everyone everywhere.

God is a gracious host who hopes that everyone will come to his feast. It doesn't matter who we are or where we come from. All that is asked of us is that we respond wholeheartedly to this invitation by doing our best to live in tune with the values of God's kingdom. ■

DO

Think of your attitude to the stranger, the newcomer, the one who is different. How welcoming are you?

SAY

'Lord, help me to live in such a way that I will be able to feast at your heavenly banquet for ever. Amen.'

PRAY

Pray for those who have rejected God's invitation to his wedding feast. Pray that you will respond more fully to God's invitation.

LEARN

This is Prisoners' Sunday. We pray for prisoners and their families. We remember especially prisoners of conscience and political prisoners, those brave people made to suffer for their beliefs and moral courage.

REFLECT

Several years ago, an American woman called Tamara Fowler was due to get married. Two hundred guests were invited. But then, a few weeks before the big day, Tamara decided to break off her engagement. Her parents were heartbroken. They had been looking forward to the wedding and had spent thousands of dollars planning a dinner reception at a top restaurant.

Her father thought about the situation, talked it over with his wife, and prayed about it one night before going to bed. The next morning, he later said, he knew what they had to do. They decided to go ahead with the wedding dinner as planned – but not with the original guest list. Instead, they invited a different group: 200 homeless men, women and children. The family contacted a local homeless charity. The woman who picked up the phone later said she was so shocked, she thought it was a prank call. The Fowlers explained what they wanted to do and that they especially wanted to help children.

And so, on the day the wedding was due to take place, buses brought dozens of needy people to one of Atlanta's top wedding venues. Children had space outside to play. Face painters and jugglers were hired to entertain them.

The children, it transpired, had to be shown how to eat hors d'oeuvres, how to use the right cutlery. They weren't used to fine china. At evening's end, the caterer was amazed. For the first time, she said, at the end of a big wedding there were no leftovers. Every plate was clean. Those special guests were fed, but they received more than a great meal that day – they received love. They felt included. They hadn't been forgotten.

That meal was a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven, an image of the heavenly feast. Pope Francis often described the church as a big tent and not a small chapel that holds only a few. He repeatedly stressed the importance of welcome and inclusion. Inclusion reflects God's mercy, he said, and God's mercy embraces everyone. Christians must mirror God's mercy by

opening our hearts to others without judging or excluding anyone based on status, race, ability, or background. Inclusion, he emphasised, must go beyond rhetoric and be reflected in daily life. It should create a 'culture of social tenderness.'

Days after his election, Pope Leo said the same: 'We must be a church with open arms for everyone, open to all who need our presence, dialogue, love.'

As they sat in that hotel eating great food off of fine china, those homeless people must have said to themselves, 'I wish it could be like this all the time.' Of course, it couldn't. But they had been given a glimpse of how things could be, of how things should be.

To be Christian is to welcome and include. It's the opposite of them and us. Our challenge is to live in such a way as to make God's presence real and tangible, by creating homes, families, communities, and parishes that are welcoming and loving, so that ours will be a church of which it can be said: 'Here comes everybody.' ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.*

COLLECT

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
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 25:6-10a

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
He will swallow up death for ever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
'Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R. 6cd

**R: In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.**

1. 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;
he revives my soul. **R.**
2. He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R.**
3. You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. **R.**

SECOND READING Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.
Brothers and sisters: I know how to be brought low, and I know
how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the

secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do
all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you
to share my trouble. And my God will supply every need of yours
according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and
Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. Ephesians 1:17, 18

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the
elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of
heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast
for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited
to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent
other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have
prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been
slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'"
But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another
to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them
shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his
troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then
he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those
invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite
to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants
went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both
bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. <
'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man
who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, "Friend, how did
you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless.
Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and
cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping
and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that, through these acts of devotedness,
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.*

Or

*When the Lord appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord,
that, as you feed us with the nourishment
which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son,
so you may make us sharers of his divine nature.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.



St Patrick's Church
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TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco
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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: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423
Safeguarding Rep: Cheryl Breeze M: 07748870755 E: olspsafeguarding@hotmail.com

Sat	10	17:30	Dorothy Hall — 2nd Anniversary Mass	St Patrick's
Sun	11	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Eighth		09:00	Sheldon Murray RIP – <i>Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Parishioners	St Patrick's
		<i>Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents</i>		
Mon	12	St Wilfrid		
Tues	13	St Edward the Confessor		
		10:30	Funeral Service - Michael Tierney	Telford Crematorium
		12:00	Rose & Finlay Douglas – Anniversary Mass	St Patrick's
Wed	14	St Callistus		
		12:00	Jacob Wilfred Ponnuthurai - Anniversary Mass	Our Lady's
Thurs	15	St Theresa of Avila		
		19:00	Catherine Isidor Comster RIP	St Patrick's
Fri	16	St Hedwig & St Margaret Mary Alacoque		
		09:30	Augusto Fernandes - 10th Anniversary	St Patrick's
		18:00	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Sat	17	17:30	Joyce P Sarojini & Jacob W Ponnuthurai RIP	St Patrick's
Sun	18	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Ninth		09:00	Maria & Family	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Michael Tierney - SVP Intention	St Patrick's
		<i>Day of Special Prayer for World Missions – 2nd Collection</i>		
		12:30	Baptisms - Lucas, Ellie L, & Brodie J Gallagher	St Patrick's

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Eileen P O'Brien (Funeral Service, Aston House Chapel, 22/10, 2pm), & Michael Tierney. 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 Vince & Veronica, Sherrel, Nigel & Bernadette **17/10:** Appurwa & Pansilu, Nicky, Anne & John
Sun 9:00 Katrina & Ria, Phillip, Bruce & Mick **18/10:** Alex & Janet, Rita, Laura & Edith
Sun 11:00 Oluchi & Adrian, Moira, Kate & Geraldine **18/10:** Graham & Carmen, Jane, Diane & Collette

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1,588.45 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £255.00, Loose Plate £522.33, 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.

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

Our Lady of the Rosary: Wednesday 7th October marked the beautiful Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. To honour this special feast, we will celebrate Our Blessed Mother at the 9.00am Mass this Sunday at Our Lady's Church. Wishing all our parishioners a very happy and blessed Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary!

Prisons Week 11th-17th October: This October, churches across the UK will unite once again for Prisons Week, the annual ecumenical initiative calling Christians to prayer and action for all those affected by imprisonment. This year's theme, "All Are Invited," draws on the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:1—14, where the servants are sent out *"into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests"*. It is a theme of radical hospitality, a reminder that God's invitation excludes no one, whatever their past. Jesus' love reaches people wherever they are but refuses to leave them as they are.

One in Christ, united in mission - World Mission Sunday 18th October: As this year marks the centenary of a celebration established by Pius XI that is very dear to the Church, the theme chosen is 'One in Christ, united in mission'. The whole Church is called upon to continue its missionary journey with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit. This requires hearts united in Christ, reconciled communities and, in everyone, a willingness to cooperate with generosity and trust.

Safeguarding Sunday: 15th November marks National Safeguarding Sunday. The theme this year is 'Love Protects', which comes from 1 Corinthians 13. Encouraging churches to understand that in its simplest terms, safeguarding is the protection of those in our care and that it isn't an external pressure or just another 'thing to do', it's an act of love, which is central to our faith.

November Cemetery Mass: As we have done for the past three years, we will have the annual remembrance Mass at Wellington Cemetery (by Fr Alban's grave) on Sat 7th Nov at 11am for all our dear ones who have died. It is an opportunity for those who cannot visit the graves of their loved ones in other places/countries to visit a cemetery and celebrate the memory of their loved ones

Parish Fellowship Afternoon Tea: Please join us at OLOR & SL on Friday, 16th October at 2pm for our final Tea of the year. Please Sign-up (sheets available in both churches for 30 available seats) by Sunday 11th October. Enjoy our usual first-class savoury and sweet delights. Donations welcome.

St Vincent de Paul Festival Meeting: Last Sunday afternoon our St Vincent de Paul members hosted their bi-annual festival meeting at St Patrick's. SVP members from across Shropshire and Cheshire attended. Deacon Ron Ball was on hand to expose the Blessed Sacrament, Gayle Roberts, Deputy Head from SS Peter & Paul gave an inspiring talk on the large cohort of Mini Vinnies at her school and Head Teacher Graham Hawes and Gaye Kendrick from our own school brought some of their wonderful Minnie Vinnies to read the bidding prayers and help serve refreshments. Thank you to all who attended and helped to make the event such a success

Parish Meal: Thank you to everyone who has confirmed their place for the Parish Christmas Meal on 6th December 2026 at the Hadley Park Hotel. If anyone else would like to join us, you are most welcome. Please pay by 31st October. Cheques and cash payments to be given directly to Pauline Hoyle and if you are transferring money to parish bank accounts:

Our Lady & St Luke Telford: 30-15-52, 54582160 or

St Patrick Wellington: 30-15-52, 54546760

Please mention *Christmas meal* and let Pauline know after you have transferred the amount. Please contact pauline.hoyle@outlook.com if you need further information.

Our Blessed Saints Federation - Foundation Governor Vacancy: We are seeking a committed member of our church community to join our governing board as a Foundation Governor. This role will cover two schools: St. Luke's Catholic Primary in Trench and St. Peter and St. Paul's Catholic Primary in Newport. Please note, if you are currently a parent of a child at either school, you will not be able to apply. Please see the advert on the table in the porch, or Robyn Burns for further information.

Hadley Male Voice Choir: We are pleased to welcome Hadley Male Voice Choir back to St Patrick's Church on Friday, 6th November and they will be performing from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets will cost £10 which will include Tea/Coffee. Tickets on sale at Sunday Masses from 10th October or to reserve tickets please phone Gay Kendrick 01952 401084.

First Holy Communion 2027: Enrolment forms for the next Holy Communion Group are available from the porch. Please fill in the forms and return them before the 30th of Nov. The dates for the masses and lessons will also be on the notice board and can be emailed to you by request.

Thank You: Fr Ravi thanks everyone for their prayers and beautiful expressions of love on his special days in August and in early October.