

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon:

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Collect: Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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:

Sirach 35:15b-17, 20-22b

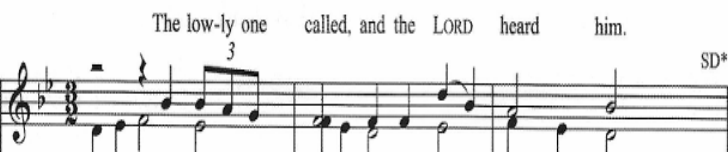
‘The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.’

The Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan or the widow when she pours out her story. He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him and does justice for the righteous and executes judgement. And the Lord will not delay.

R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD

C/ THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 34(33):2-3. 17-18. 19, 23. R7a



I will bless the Lord at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.

In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. **(R)**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to cut off their remembrance from the earth.

When the just one cries out, the Lord hears,
and rescues him in all his distress. **(R)**

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

All who trust in him shall not be condemned. **(R)**

Second Reading:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

‘There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.’

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering,
and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the
good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will

Cf. Ps 104: 3-4

award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all
who have loved his appearing.

At my first defence no one came to stand by me, but all
deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the
Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through
me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the
Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s
mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and
bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the
glory for ever and ever. Amen.

R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD

C/ THANKS BE TO GOD

Gospel Acclamation:

2 Corinthians 5:19

(ALL STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Gospel:

Luke 18:9-14

**‘The tax collector went down to his house justified, rather
than the Pharisee.’**

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in
themselves that they were righteous, and treated others
with contempt: ‘Two men went up into the Temple to pray,
one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee,
standing by himself, prayed thus: “God, I thank you that I
am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or
even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes
of all that I get.” But the tax collector, standing far off,
would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his
breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you,
this man went down to his house justified, rather than the
other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.’

R/ THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

C/ PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

Prayer over the Offerings:

Look, we pray, O Lord,
on the offerings we make to your majesty,
that whatever is done by us in your service
may be directed above all to your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 19: 6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

Prayer after Communion:

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth. Through Christ our Lord.



Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Hal Camden Town

Reminder: Please turn your mobile phones OFF! Would you kindly take your weekly newsletter home with you!

26th October 2025 (Year C) | THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

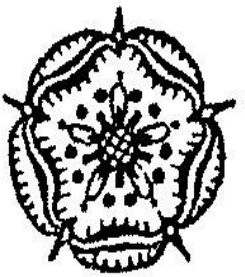
A MERCIFUL GOD

These two figures in today’s Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke’s brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists, they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew’s picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God’s Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus’ time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this parable is one more example of Jesus’ reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the ‘good thief’. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble ‘pierces the clouds’.

Take some moments to reflect on these words from the Gospel: “God be merciful to me, a sinner”. Through these words, what is God saying to you? *

* Wansbrough, Henry - The Wednesday Word

*Welcome to all at Mass
today, especially to any
visitors who are here for
the first time. Please take
this sheet home with you
which will tell you about
this week’s celebration and
the activities in the parish
during the week.*



WHO’S WHO AT OUR LADY OF HAL:

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Dunglinson
Email: markdunglinson@rcdow.org.uk

Also in residence:
Fr. Colin McLean *(Retired)*
Fr. John Deehan *(Retired)*
Fr. Christopher Connor *(School Chaplain)*

Carl Williams *(Pastoral Assistant/Director of Music)*
Email addresses:
camdenpastoralassistant@rcdow.org.uk
camdenmusicdirector@rcdow.org.uk

Administrator: Althea Scully
Contact: The Presbytery, 165, Arlington Road,
London NW1 7EX
Tel: 020 7485 2727
Email: camdentown@rcdow.org.uk
Web: www.ourladyofhal.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 233699

Portuguese Community: Fr. Claudio Dos Reis
Portuguese Office Tel: 020 7587 0881
Email: ukportuguesechaplain@gmail.com

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK, HOUSEBOUND, THOSE WHO RECEIVE COMMUNION AT HOME:

Mike Power, Father Anthony, Margaret Quinn, Michael O’Brien, Christine Smith, Rachel Cottrell, Alice O’Neill, Janice Davidson, Jilly Taylor, Peter Cawdery, Pauline Guthrie, Maureen Lyden, Richard Ainsworth, Francesco Sesia, Joe Owen, Doreen O’Callaghan, Wesley Gilead, Henrik Sperlich, Allan & Lynne Mackintosh, Ray Norris, Morag & Raj Puri, Stephen de Winter

HAL LAMPS: THE HOLY SOULS

RECENTLY DEPARTED: We pray for all those who have died recently.

DEAD ANNIVERSARIES: We pray for all who died around this time.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK						
SUNDAY MASS: 6pm (Saturday Vigil), 10.00am (Family) & 12 Noon (Solemn). 5pm (Portuguese). OTHER MASS TIMES: <u>Monday, Tuesday & Friday at 12 Noon</u> ; <u>Wednesday and Thursday at 9.30am</u> HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION: As Announced. EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Fridays: 12.30pm-1pm and Saturday: 5.15-5.45pm CONFESSIONS: Friday 12.35-1pm, Saturday 11am-11.30 & 5.15pm-5.45pm and by appointment.						
G	Sunday	26th October	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil	6:00 pm 10:00 am 12 Noon	Richard Costello (ANN) and Margaret Costello (RIP) Pat and Eileen Famey (RIP) Mr. and Mrs Moriba (RIP) & People of the Parish
G	Monday	27th October	Feria		12 Noon	Joseph Lansana (RIP)
R	Tuesday	28th October	Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles		12 Noon	Rosa Albuquerque (INT)
R	Wednesday	29th October	Blessed Martyrs of Douai (Diocesan)		09:30 am	Gertrude Ann Aherne (Get Well Int)
G	Thursday	30th October	Feria		09:30 am	Vic Alberstern (RIP)
G	Friday abstinence	31st October	Feria		12 Noon	Martin Kielthy (ANN)
W	Saturday	1st November	All Saints	Vigil	6:00 pm	John Inayatullah (RIP)

NEWS AND VIEWS

WELCOME to all at Mass today, especially visitors, or to anyone who is new to the Parish.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS: Mon; Tue; Thu and Fri: 10.00 to 2.00pm; Wednesday closed.

WEEKDAY MASSES: At present, we will be able to retain weekday Masses from Monday to Friday. The situation will be reviewed at the end of the year.

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS and envelopes are available to pick up from the back of the church. Please return them to the parish office or through the presbytery letter box **as soon as possible**. The lists will be placed near the altar and Masses will be celebrated throughout November for all your loved ones.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026: Applications Now Open. Programme begins in January. FHC is one of the most joyful milestones in a Catholic child’s life. In the Eucharist, we receive not ordinary food, but Christ Himself—His Body and Blood. Children normally make their FHC in Year 3, provided they are baptised and able to understand the sacredness of what they are receiving. As part of the preparation programme, they will also make their First Confession learning about God’s forgiveness and mercy. If your child is due to make their First Communion next year—or if you are an older child, teenager, or adult who has not yet received the sacrament—please get in touch. We would be delighted to welcome you into the preparation journey. For an application form please e-mail the parish office: camdentown@rcdow.org.uk **Closing date: 30th November 2025.**

CONFIRMATION 2026: We hope to run a Confirmation Programme provided there are sufficient candidates. Confirmation, together with Baptism and the Eucharist, completes our initiation into the Church. In this sacrament, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live as adult Christians. Young people are normally confirmed in Year 9 or above. Older candidates may be invited to prepare through the RCIA programme.
Requirements: **1.** A Baptism certificate (if not baptised at Our Lady of Hal)
2. Regular Sunday Mass attendance.
3. Commitment to attend all preparation sessions
4. Choosing a saint’s name for Confirmation.
5. A practising Catholic sponsor (aged 16+, not a parent). The Confirmation Mass is usually celebrated by the Bishop during the Easter season. If you wish to apply, the candidate is to e-mail the parish priest: markdunglinson@rcdow.org.uk (copying in your parent or guardian) and explain why you wish to be confirmed. **Closing date: 31st October 2025.**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) COURSE: If you are not a catholic and wish to know more about the Catholic Faith with a view to be received into the Catholic Church, or if you are an adult catholic who has not been confirmed, please e-mail Father Mark to arrange an appointment to see him: markdunglinson@rcdow.org.uk We hope to run an RCIA course to **begin in November.**

Thank you for celebrating World Mission Sunday: Thank you for your donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

“How To Be Romantic” Open Dress Rehearsal Friday 31st October, 7:30pm: Our Sunday Cantor Soprano, Valerie Wong, has offered parishioners of Our Lady of Hal an opportunity to see her one woman show “How To Be Romantic” in the context of an open dress rehearsal performed at our church. “How To Be Romantic” is about a woman, Rosa, trying to find the romance that are found in books but modern dating has deflated her faith in such romantic pursuits. She embarks on a journey, taking inspiration from her favourite literary heroines, to find the very nature of love in our world. **Doors are opened at 6:30pm and the entrance is free with a bucket collection to support production costs.** Please support Valerie as she prepares for this production on November 17th & 18th at 7pm as part of the Voila! Festival. The Questors Theatre, 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing W5 5BQ. Tickets: £12-15
Age Advisory: 12+

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Friday 28th November, 7pm ‘Taste of the World’ Potluck Event

Following on from the successful bingo evening back in June, many people have recently asked about future parish social events. And although we are currently planning events for December, we would like to take a moment before Christmas to celebrate the rich diversity of our parish community, by coming together for an evening of international culinary delights. For this event to be successful, we are asking people to sign up to bringing either a main dish, side dish or dessert that is special to your background and culture. Food sign-up sheets are available as an insert in this week’s newsletter or from the table at the rear of the church. Please place your food sign-up sheets into the box in front of the Event notice boards after Sunday Masses or call in the office during the week. Tickets are £5 to include a Welcome drink, and will go on sale after Sunday Masses commencing next week, or from the office during the week, alternatively please email camdenpastoralassistant@rcdow.org.uk. Tickets for Musical Bingo can be purchased on the night at £2 per game, with all proceeds from ticket, bar and Musical Bingo sales going towards the parish building maintenance fund. This promises to be an evening of fun and laughter whilst celebrating the rich diversity of our community

Due to auditions taking place on Monday 27th October, there will be no access to the hall during these dates. If toilets are needed, please ring the bell to the Parish Office. There will be **no Over 50’s Lunch Club on Monday 27th October.**

OUR FORMER PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, Judith Murphy, has asked the parish to thank parishioners on her behalf for the gift of money collected when she retired from the parish.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2025

First Holy Communion 2026: please see separate item.

Confirmation 2026: please see separate item.

RCIA Course: please see separate item.

TEAS AND COFFEES TODAY for parishioners and visitors after the 10am Sunday Mass.

COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY: (THANK YOU!)
Envelopes: £295.50 Loose: £195.39 Total: £490.89
Donation by Dona Card Machine on Sunday: £149.02 and £519 per week by standing order.