

TODAY’S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 118: 137, 124
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.

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b
‘Who can discern what the Lord wills?’

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthy tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you.

R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD
C/ THANKS BE TO GOD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R1

O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.
You turn man back to dust,
and say, ‘Return, O children of Adam.’
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.
O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.
You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.
O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.
Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How long?
Show pity to your servants.
O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.
At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.
O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.

Second Reading: Philemon 9b-10, 12-17
‘Have him back no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.’

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

R/ THE WORD OF THE LORD
C/ THANKS BE TO GOD

Gospel Acclamation: Psalm 119(118):135
(ALL STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let your face shine forth on your servant,
and teach me your decrees.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33
‘Any one who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.’

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.’

R/ THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD
C/ 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.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 41: 2-3
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.



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

Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Hal
Camden Town

7th September 2025 (Year C)

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME



Welcome to all at Mass today, especially to any visitors who are here for the first time. Please take this sheet home with you

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

This Sunday, the Church invites us to journey deeper into what it means to follow Christ fully. Our first reading reminds us of a profound truth: “Who can know God’s counsel... except you give wisdom and send your Holy Spirit.” Only God’s wisdom, not mere human understanding, can guide us along the straight path

The responsorial psalm echoes our human fragility and reliance on God’s mercy: “In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge... Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.”

In the second reading, we see a beautiful image of reconciliation: St. Paul urges Philemon to receive Onesimus no longer as a slave, but as a beloved brother in Christ. Here we glimpse how faith transforms relationships—inviting us to break down walls and build bonds of love.

Then comes the Gospel, a challenging but vital lesson: Jesus uses strong words (the hyperbolic “hate” our own family and even our lives) to drive home a point—discipleship demands our whole heart. He urges us to “count the cost”—like planning a tower or preparing for battle, true faith requires clarity, commitment, and surrender.

So what does this mean for us, here and now? We need God’s wisdom, not just our own plans. Let’s pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate our decisions. Let’s welcome others as family, especially those we might overlook or misunderstand—just as Onesimus was embraced not for his status, but for who he had become in Christ. Let’s be honest about the cost of following Jesus. It’s not always convenient, but it’s worthwhile—and it reshapes us and our priorities.

A Reflection for Our Community. Could we, as a parish, deepen our prayer life by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide not only our personal decisions but our communal direction? How might we extend a spirit of welcome that mirrors Paul’s heartfelt plea—especially to newcomers, the marginalized, and those journeying through difficulty? May we pray this week for the courage to follow Christ with clear eyes and open hearts, trusting that He is our true refuge and guide.

Blessings and peace,
Father Mark

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 (Director of Music/Pastoral Assistant)
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

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: NICK & DEBORAH DUFFY (B’DAY R) AND CARWOOD FAMILY (ANN)

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

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

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CROWDS COMPLETE MARCHING TWENTY

TOWER FOUNDATION THOUSAND ENVOYS

COST KING WAR PEACE

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. EUCCHARISTIC 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	7th September	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil	6:00 pm 10:00 am 12 Noon Witold Krolikowski (INT) Anne Barrett (ANN) & People of the Parish Kieran Conway (RIP)
W	Monday	8th September	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary		12 Noon Phil McCabe (Get Well INT)
G	Tuesday	9th September	Feria		12 Noon Michael Broderick (RIP)
G	Wednesday	10th September	Feria		09:30 am Jim McGovern (ANN)
G	Thursday	11th September	Feria Requiem Mass		09:30 am 6:00 pm Thomas Vincent Finnerty (RIP) Julia Dunglinson (RIP)
G	Friday abstinence	12th September	Feria		12 Noon Mary-Anne Flavin (Get Well INT)
R	Saturday	13th September	The Exaltation of The Holy Cross	Vigil	6:00 pm Caro O’Shea (ANN)

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: For the moment, we will be able to retain weekday Masses from Monday to Friday. The situation will be reviewed at the end of September.

VESPERS (EVENING PRAYER): Vespers will resume on the 20th September. On Saturday evenings, Sung Evening Prayer is celebrated at 5:15pm before Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

REQUIEM MASS FOR FR. MARK’S MOTHER: I will celebrate Mass for the repose of the soul of my mother, Julia, here at Our Lady of Hal on **Thursday 11th September at 6pm**. Mass will be sung by our cantor, Valerie. All are welcome to join me. Fr Mark

THANK YOU: Fr Mark thanks all those wonderful parishioners who have been so kind in expressing their condolences to him on the death of his mother, Julia. Thank you for cards received and the Masses which are to be said. May God reward your kindness.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE – SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER:
A day of prayer, fellowship, and pilgrimage to England’s Nazareth!
Departure: The coach leaves Our Lady of Hal at 7:30am sharp – please be on time, as we cannot wait for latecomers.
Arrival in Walsingham: Around 10:30am, giving you free time before Mass at 12 noon in the Catholic shrine. During the day you will have the opportunity to:
- Visit the Slipper Chapel
- Walk the Holy Mile
- Explore the village of Walsingham
- Spend time at the Anglican Shrine
Return: The coach departs Walsingham at 5:00pm (earlier than originally planned as the evenings draw in). We expect to be back at Our Lady of Hal around 7:50pm
**Practical Notes:* Please wear comfortable shoes and bring suitable outdoor clothing in case of rain. You will need to buy your own lunch and snacks.

Hal Singers Mass: 12 Noon, 21st September: Please join us for 12.00 noon Solemn Mass sung by the Hal Singers followed by a glass of wine in the Hall.
Music List:
Hymn: Come down O Love Divine. R. Vaughn Williams
Descant arr. Sir David Wilcocks
Introitus: Salus Populi Ego Sum
Kyrie: Missa Sancti Nicolai Joseph Haydn
Gloria: Missa Sancti Nicolai Joseph Haydn
Credo III
Offertory Motet: Tantum Ergo Sacramentum Deodat de Severac
Offertory Hymn: Lord Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour. St. Helen G.C. Martin

Sanctus & Benedictus: XVIII
Pater Noster (Lord’s Prayer)
Agnus Dei I XVIII
Agnus Dei II: Missa Sancti Nicolai Joseph Haydn
Communion Hymn: O bread of heaven. St. Catherine H.F. Hemy
Hymn: O Praise ye the Lord. Laudate Dominum C. Hubert H. Parry, (taken from the anthem ‘Hear my words, ye people’)

Between July 2025 and July 2026, The Hal Singers will sing a monthly Solemn Mass through the generous donation of an anonymous parishioner. As Advent & Christmas are now on our musical radar, and with an early Holy Week & Easter in 2026, please support us in elevating our worship through music during these great liturgical seasons, by donating to Music Ministry at the card machine next to the notice board at the rear of the church. If you are considering a substantial and more long-term donation, please contact our Music Director at camdenmusicdirector@rcdow.org.uk. All donations make a real impact to the musical life of our parish.

Support for couples: There is a notable spike in separation and divorce enquiries after the summer holidays, as stresses and pressures come to a head. Within our Catholic setting there are movements, who provide well-established models of support and accompaniment to help a couple to work through disillusionment in marriage and discover new narratives.
Retrouvaille provides programme and model of ongoing accompaniment for the couples who are willing to work together on their differences and find ways to resolve conflict in their relationship. This is a marriage support programme, not relationship counselling. Next course date: 17th-19th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk
Tel: 0788 7296983

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2025
Upcoming Dates for your diary:

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The dates for the FHC programme 2025/2026, and how to apply, will be advertised in the near future. Please watch this space!

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2026 will commence in January. Details will be advised in due course.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) COURSE will begin before Christmas. Details will follow. This catechesis is designed for adult Catholics who wish to be confirmed and for non-Catholics who wish to explore the Catholic Faith with a view to being received into the Church.

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

COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY: (THANK YOU!)
Envelopes: £219.50 Loose: £290.48 Total: £509.98
Donation by Dona Card Machine on Sunday: £208.50 and £519 per week by standing order.