

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.*

COLLECT

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
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 55:1-3

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

'Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145(144):8-9. 15-16. 17-18. R. cf. 16

R: You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.

1. 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.**
2. The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing. **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 Romans 8:35, 37-39

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

Brothers and sisters: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things

present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 4:4b

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.*

Or

*I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will not hunger
and whoever believes in me will not thirst.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord,
those you renew with these heavenly gifts
and, in your never-failing care for them,
make them worthy of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

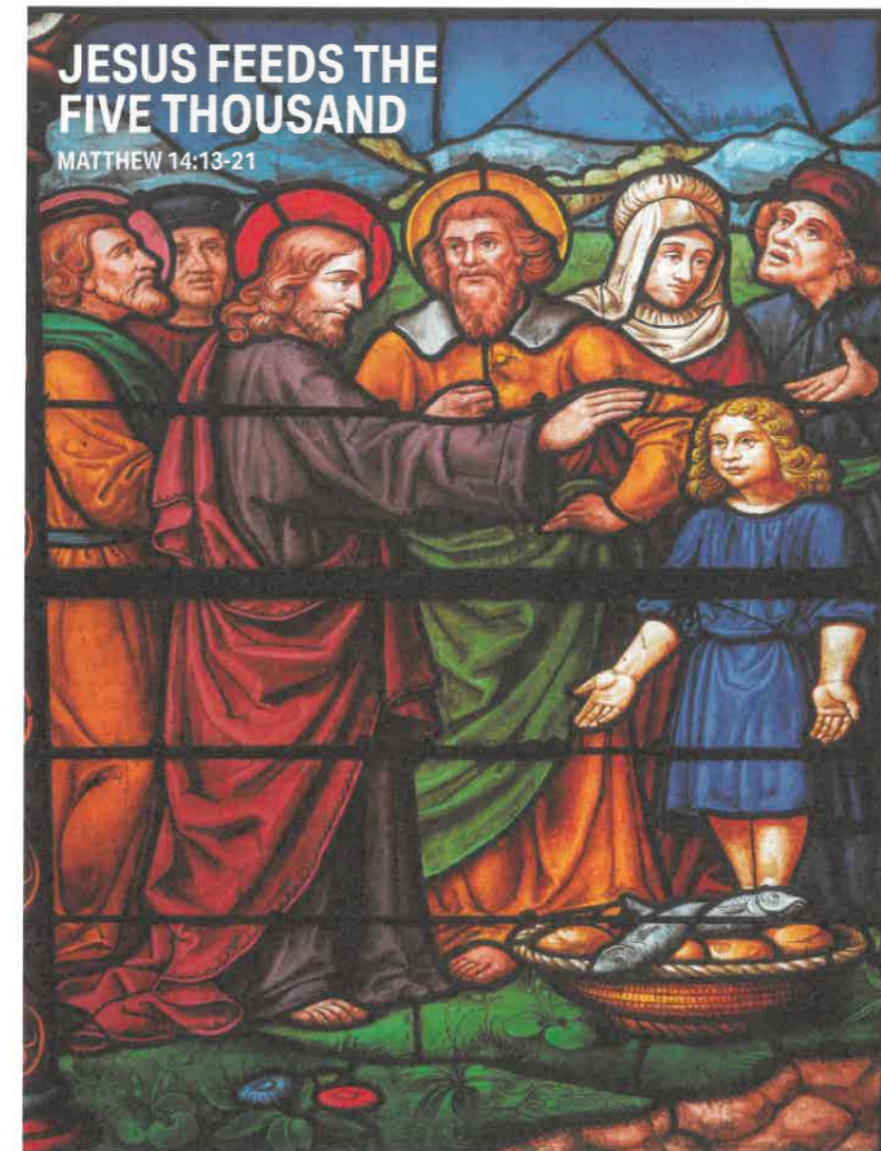
Amen.

Sunday Message

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 2 August 2026 • Psalter Week 2



In this passage, we witness Jesus' compassion in action. Upon hearing of John the Baptist's death, he withdraws to a quiet place, yet the crowds follow him. Seeing their need, "he had compassion on them and healed their sick". Jesus' concern is both spiritual and physical – he attends to their suffering, showing that God's care embraces every aspect of human life.

The miracle of the feeding highlights the abundance of God's providence. With only five loaves and two fish, Jesus blesses the small offering, distributes it to the crowd, and everyone eats their fill. The leftover fragments emphasise that God's generosity is overflowing and cannot be exhausted. The disciples' participation in distributing the food demonstrates the partnership between divine action and human response.

Matthew presents this event as a sign of the kingdom: God provides for his people, satisfies their needs, and invites cooperation in his work. It also prefigures the Eucharist, where Christ gives himself as spiritual nourishment. The passage calls readers to trust in God's providence, offer what they have, and participate actively in sharing his love and care with others. ■

REFLECT

Jesus heals the sick and cares for them, showing that discipleship begins with attentiveness to the suffering around us. Faith is not only belief but action: seeing the needs of others and responding with love.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand reminds us that God can transform even our smallest efforts into abundance. The disciples' simple offering of five loaves and two fish, given to Jesus, becomes enough to satisfy thousands. This teaches us that nothing we offer – no act of kindness, prayer, or generosity – is too small for God to use.

We are invited to participate in God's work today. Small gestures of care, encouragement, or sharing what we have can have greater impact than we imagine. Jesus shows us that when we bring our limited resources and trust them to God, they are multiplied, and everyone benefits. Discipleship calls us to compassionate action, to notice needs, and to offer what we can, trusting God to provide abundantly and transform ordinary efforts into blessings.

LEARN

God calls us to participate in his work of compassion; even small offerings, when entrusted to Christ, can be multiplied to meet the needs of others.

DO

Bring what little you have – time, talent, or resources – and trust God to use it to bless others.

SAY

*Little things done with great love
are mighty in God's sight.
St Thérèse of Lisieux*





The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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Parish Administrator: Caroline Walker
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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A			
Saturday 1 st Aug	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	Albin Hanzely (Lately Dead)
	5.00pm	Mass	
Sunday 2 nd August 2026	9am	Mass	Pro Populo Gjet Nikolli (Lately Dead)
	11am	Mass	
Monday 3 rd Aug	12 Noon	Mass <i>St Oswald, Martyr</i>	Noel McDouagh (Lately Dead)
Tuesday 4 th Aug	9am	Mass <i>St John Vianney, Priest</i>	Sean Finam
Wednesday 5 th Aug	12 Noon	Mass	Pat O'Donnell (Anniversary)
Thursday 6 th Aug	12 Noon	REQUIEM MASS <i>The Transfiguration of the Lord - Feast</i>	Barbara Stitt
Friday 7 th Aug	11.30am	Exposition	Tony Lynch (Lately Dead)
	12 Noon	Mass	

Recent deaths: Rosalind Wynne whose Funeral Service will take place on Monday 3rd August at 1.30pm
Barbara Stitt whose Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 6th August at 12 Noon.
Peter Geoffrey Evans

Mass intentions received for Lately Dead:

**Please remember in prayer all those who have died this week, may they rest in peace.
Please pray for all the sick of the Parish and those for whom Mass is offered this week
and those whose anniversaries occurs at this time**

**A warm welcome to Mass this weekend and a special welcome to our visitors
Do join us for refreshments after Mass**

With very grateful thanks for your generous donations to the Parish.

REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker

9am Choir – John Ibison
11am Choir – Lisa Madden
Presbytery 01423 504988

Churches Flower team – Sue Greveson
Presbytery 01423 504988

Gift Aid – Richard Boscoe
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Mary's Angels Parent & Toddler Group -
1st & 3rd Mondays -
Katherine 01423 734828

Mothers' Prayers - meetings held
fortnightly. Jackie Tevlin 01423 529035

Parish Centre bookings
Office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Phoenix (Bereavement Support) -
Presbytery 01423 504988

Piety Stall - Caroline Walker
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Safeguarding Representative (Parish)
Mick Hopwood
psr.mhopwood@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

St Robert's Brownies - Wed 5.30-7.15
Sarah Mansfield 01423 566651

St Vincent de Paul Society - Mon 6pm
07442485316

St Robert's Walking Group - Second
Thurs of the month, contact George
Marczak 07905820864

St John Fisher - Mr S Mort
01423 887254

St Robert's Primary - Miss J Collins
01423 504730

St Roberts Club: open Mon-Fri from 7pm
(or by arrangement)

200 Club - Caroline Walker
office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS
This is not a full list and just gives a little
advance notice of events coming up.

AUG
12th & 26th – Loss Support Café
23rd – Pet's Blessing Service

SEP
7th & 21st – Mary's Angels
9th & 23rd – Loss Support Café

OCT
7th & 21st – Loss Support Café
18th – Baptism Mass
– Apologia

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FINANCIALLY** The most popular
way of ensuring that the Parish
benefits from whatever regular
giving you can afford, and where
possible, ensuring Gift Aid is
claimed (at no extra cost to you) is
by Standing Order. Forms can be
accessed by clicking the link
below, picking up a form at the
back of church or simply set up via
your own banking facilities.:
[Standing Order form](#)
[DOL Gift Aid Declaration form](#)

Account name:
DOL HARR OLI&STR

Sort Code: 40-27-15

Account No: 81017489

Or you can make a donation by
scanning this QR CODE

Copies of the **Annual Financial Statement** for the year ended 31 March 2026 are available in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline in the Presbytery in the first instance. We will respond to your queries as quickly as possible.

The **Journey in Faith** group is open to seekers already attending Mass at St Robert's and who wish to be accompanied on their journey of discovery to find out what God is calling them to. The group tends to meet on a Tuesday evening a couple of times a month and, while we follow a programme of instruction, it's a relaxed programme which fosters questions and the chance to make new friends. In past years, most of those attending Journey in Faith have discerned their calling and been received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. If you would like to know more, please speak with Fr Simon after Mass.

Loss Support Café - Grief is a heavy burden to carry alone. This is a relaxed, welcoming drop-in where you can talk about loss or just sit with others who understand. Volunteer hosts are here to listen, not to diagnose or advise. You're welcome whether your loss was recent or years ago. The sessions will run fortnightly with the next one being on Wednesday, 12th August in the parish centre. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

Congratulations to all our children and volunteers who spent an enormously fulfilling and joyful week of mornings together in the parish centre on this years **Holiday Bible Camp**. Learning about the virtues of responsibility, trust, respect and humility through the lives of the saints and the patterns of our faith, the children were led on a virtual journey through the faith and customs of Canada, Poland, France, Italy and Mexico! Much was learnt about prayer and the week ended with a joyful celebration of adoration and Mass last Friday when the children led the readings and bidding prayers and showed parishioners some of the songs that they had learnt during the week. A very big thank you goes to each of the volunteers who gave so much of their effort, time and faith to truly inspire and inform our children about the tremendous gifts that faith brings to our lives.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the **Thanksgiving Retirement Mass for Miss Collins**. It was a truly joyful celebration, made all the more special by the glorious singing and the wonderful support of our parish and school community. Miss Collins was deeply touched by the many kind words, good wishes and expressions of gratitude she received. Your presence helped make the occasion a memorable and fitting celebration of her years of dedicated service.

Date for the diary - **Pet's Blessing Service** at 3.30pm on Sunday 23rd August 2026. Venue and details to be confirmed in due course. Well behaved owners welcome too.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 26th September – We are joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. The coach will depart Harrogate at 6.15am arriving in time for Mass at 12 noon, followed by procession along the Holy Mile and Benediction in the Abbey grounds. We expect to return to Harrogate about 10pm. Please bring a packed lunch. On the return journey, we are hoping to stop by the seaside for fish and chips. The cost is £35 per person (including fish and chips). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. For further details or to book a place, please email Caroline office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

"Love, Katuska" Dress Rehearsal Preview - Kat Lozano, a member of our 9am Choir and a Mexican-American singer, will be performing at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival in mid-August. Before she heads north, Kat is kindly offering us a sneak peek from her dress rehearsal on Saturday 8th August at 6pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and enjoy this special performance. To learn more or to book tickets for her show at the Fringe, visit <https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/love-katuska>.

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley – will take place on Sunday 16th August. The Rosary will be prayed at 2.30pm, and Bishop Marcus will preside at the Celebration of Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 3pm.

There is a collection box **near the Baptistry** for donations of tinned and packet food, as well as toiletries, for **Harrogate Foodbank**. At present, they are in particular need of toiletries, toilet paper, washing up liquid and washing tablets. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Mass prayers and responses – if you need some guidance on the responses during mass there is a sheet available at the back of church. The Nicene Creed is affixed to the inside front cover of the hymn books for easier reference during Mass.

All the diocesan notices can be found at <https://www.strobertsharrogate.co.uk/diocese-news>