

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.

Sunday Message

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 6 September 2026 Psalter Week 3



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. ■



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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year A			
Saturday 5 th Sept	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	Philip Binns (Anniversary)
	5.00pm	Mass	
Sunday 6 th September 2026	9am	Mass	Anna & Brian (Birthdays)
	11am	Mass	Pro Populo
Monday 7 th Sept	12 Noon	Mass	Jane Keating (First Anniversary)
Tuesday 8 th Sept	9am	Service of Word & Holy Communion	
Wednesday 9 th Sept	12 Noon	Mass	Sarah Ann & Joshua White (Anniversary)
Friday 11 th Sept	11.30am	Exposition	Sheila Costigan RIP
	12 Noon	Mass	

Recent deaths:
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.

We warmly welcome Fr Lawrie, who will celebrate Mass with us this weekend.

Next weekend 12/13th September there will be a **Retiring Collection** for the **Catholic Education Service**.

Children’s Liturgy is back and we are excited to welcome all children up to year 4, who haven’t yet made their holy communion, to attend our weekly sessions which run during 9 o’clock mass every Sunday. Sessions will run from the 13th September until 18th October for the Autumn term. We are very short of helpers so if any parishioner is willing to support, with helping to keep our group running, please get in touch with Suzanne Walker swalker@systra.co.uk to have a chat about how you can get involved.

REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children’s Liturgy - Suzanne Walker

9am Choir & 11am Choir
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.

SEP

7th & 21st – Mary’s Angels
9th & 23rd – Loss Support Café
27th – New Parishioners welcome event

OCT

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

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Account No: 81017489

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Music plays an important part in our worship at St Robert’s, helping us to pray, celebrate and participate more fully in the Mass. We are always keen to welcome **new singers and musicians** who might be willing to share their gifts with the parish. Whether you are an experienced musician or singer, or simply someone who enjoys singing and would like to become more involved, we would love to hear from you. In particular, we are looking to further support the incredible musicians and singers at both our **9am and 11am Sunday Masses**. There are opportunities for singers as well as instrumentalists, and you do not need to make an enormous commitment. Even being available from time to time can make a real difference. Matt Blackamore, our Parish Pastoral Council co-ordinator for parish music, would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in finding out more. Please use the form on the parish website to contact Matt via the Parish Office. Come and help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The next **baptism Mass** is 11am on Sunday 18th October. If you would like your child to be baptised at this Mass, please complete the Baptism request form available in the Narthex. Once you have completed the form, please contact the parish office by phone or email to arrange an appointment with Fr Simon to discuss the sacrament.

We are organising a **trip to Ushaw College in Durham (ushaw.org)** for our Altar Servers and 18–30 Group, and we have a limited number of additional places available for anyone who would like to join us. Saturday 3rd October, leaving St Roberts at 9am and returning by 4.30pm. The cost is £45 per person, which includes coach travel, a buffet lunch, a tour of the historic College and an opportunity to explore the grounds. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with Caroline in the parish office. Places are limited, so please book by 11th September.

Mary’s Angels - parent and baby/toddler group Mum’s and children are valued members of our church family so come and join us in the parish centre, for friendship fun and refreshments. All free! All children from 0-4 years welcome. Dads and grandparents welcome too! The next session is 1.30-3pm on Monday 7th September.

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 **this Wednesday**, 9th September in the parish centre. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

Strengthen your body while deepening your prayer life! Join us for **SoulCore**—a unique experience combining functional core exercises and stretching with the prayers of the Holy Rosary. All ages and fitness levels are welcome. When: **Mondays at 9:30 AM (Starting September 21st)** in the Parish Hall. For questions, contact Christine at 07379183980 to be added to the group for updates on classes.

St Robert’s September Walk Acaster Malbis Circular. Michael Stokes will lead our next walk on Thursday 10 September, taking us off the beaten track to the picturesque village of Acaster Malbis. The walk itself is a pleasant and easy 4.1-mile circular route, almost entirely flat with very few stiles and lovely views along the River Ouse. As usual, please meet at the back of Trinity Church at 9.55 am for a prompt 10.00 am departure. Start point is the Ship Inn (YO23 2UH) Approximately 30 miles and should take around 45 minutes by car. New walkers are always welcome. Mick’s mobile: 07580 301496.

Urgent: Stop assisted suicide The vote on assisted suicide is on 11 September. Not Dead Yet UK have provided postcards you can send to your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11 September. **Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard from the Narthex, fill out your details, add a stamp and post it to your MP today!**

Saturday 12th September, Al Bivio Hornbeam Park, 7pm for 7.30pm. Join us for a **Neapolitan and opera music** evening with dinner. This is a Catenian event, but everyone is warmly welcome to come along and enjoy this purely social evening. Tickets are £45 per person. Please see the poster in the Narthex for full details. For more information, contact Simon Gilbert 07802 876418 or Anthony Tindall 07836 237989.

Deanery day of renewal Saturday September 12th 11.30am to 3.45pm in St. Aelred’s church hall. Speaker is Nick Price.

There is a collection box **near the Baptistry** for donations of tinned and packet food, as well as toiletries, for **Harrogate Foodbank**. 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>