

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.*

## COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the Prophet Amos. Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, 'When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the chaff of the wheat?'

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: 'Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.'

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 113(112):1-2. 4-6. 7-8. R. cf. 1a. 7b

*R: Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.*

Or *Alleluia!*

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! May the name of the Lord be blest both now and for evermore! *R.*
2. High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who dwells on high, who lowers himself to look down upon heaven and earth? *R.*
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the ash heap he raises the poor, to set them in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. *R.*

## SECOND READING 1 Timothy 2:1-8

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings, and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

For this I was appointed a preacher and an Apostle – I am telling the truth, I am not lying – a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL 2 Corinthians 8:9

*R: Alleluia, alleluia.*

Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

*R: Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL Luke 16:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*(for shorter form read between > <)*

> At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, <

'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager." And the manager said to himself, "What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He said, "A hundred measures of oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty." Then he said to another, "And how much do you owe?" He said, "A hundred measures of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and write eighty." The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.'

> 'One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful with the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.' <

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.*

Or

*I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

# Sunday Message

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year C • 21 September 2025 • Psalter Week 1



This is an unusual parable. It seems as though Jesus is condoning sharp practice by the steward. In the Palestine of Jesus' time, many large estates were owned by absentee landlords who left the running of the business to a steward (a little like the situation that existed in Ireland for so long).

These stewards usually ran the business to their own advantage. Provided the owner received what he considered a regular income, he wasn't too bothered about any sharp practice the steward might get up to.

In this parable, the landowner decides that his steward's shady dealings have gone too far and calls him in and fires him. Faced with ruin, the steward assesses his options. Hard work is out of the question. So too is begging. Both would entail a loss of status in a community where a person's reputation was paramount. The only option left is to call in all the favours that are owed him.

Jewish law forbade earning interest on a loan. But there was a way around it. The rabbis knew that unless the lender could foresee some return on the loan, he was unlikely to lend money with no hope of reward. This might mean more hardship for the poor who couldn't borrow to get them out of a hard time. The solution went along these lines: when someone wanted to borrow something, they agreed on the amount to be repaid but a larger amount was handed over. The difference constituted the interest.

In the parable we see several examples of this practice. The person who borrowed fifty measures of oil agreed to repay a hundred; the borrower of eighty measures of wheat agreed to repay a hundred, and so on. The extra fifty or twenty was probably the steward's 'take,' as it was he who negotiated the deals. By inviting the borrowers to write smaller sums on their bonds, he is doing them a favour but losing out himself. He is calculating that favours done demand to be repaid. Known perhaps in the past for driving a hard bargain, he is now acquiring a reputation for fair play and generosity, and won't lose out by the rise in his public esteem. If the borrowers have gained a little money, they have also taken on a new obligation to take care of him. He manipulates the money to make friends for his forced retirement.

Instead of feeling cheated, the landowner is forced to smile at the steward's ingenuity. This leads Jesus to comment that 'the children of this world' are more astute business people than 'the children of light'. He goes further in advising wealthy Christians to make the best use of their wealth for the sake of the kingdom. Jesus is no champion of money. He regards it as 'that tainted thing'. Some older translations use an unusual phrase here, 'the mammon of iniquity'. Mammon means something like possessions. On the only other occasion when the word is used in the Gospel (Matthew 6:24), it also points up a tension between serving God and making wealth the centre of one's life.

We need to be astute in our use of material things and not become a slave to them. We need to be as clever in safeguarding our spiritual future – and the salvation of our souls – as the smart people of this world are when their financial future is in peril. ■

## REFLECT

We know that money makes the world go round. We know the power of Wall Street and big business. We know how seductive it is. Today's Gospel challenges us to think about our attitude to money, power and material things. Jesus is not opposed to money, power or material things. He knows they are necessary. But he says they are dangerous because they can easily lead us astray. They can become our obsession, our goal, our number one focus. They can become false gods. So, like the smart steward, we need to take stock, to rethink our priorities, to consider what's really in our best interest going forward. The steward sought to protect his future by making friends for his forced retirement. We also must protect our future by making sure that it is God – and not money, possessions, fame, self-indulgence or anything else – that comes first in our lives. ■

## SAY

*"Lord, help me to put you first whatever the cost. Amen."*

## PRAY

Pray for business and government leaders, that they will use their power and wealth for the common good.

## DO

In today's first reading, the prophet Amos castigates the greedy who buy up the poor for money and abuse others for their personal gain. Think about your attitude to money. Do you abuse it? What comes first in your life?



## LEARN

Every disciple must make a decision about which she or he loves more: God or wealth.

Christians must never let the love of material things draw them away from God.





# The Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Robert Harrogate

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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C			
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	4 – 4.40pm	Confessions	Pro Populo
	5.00pm	Vigil Mass	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	9am	Mass	Ruth Morales RIP (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
	11am	Mass	Jim Brophy (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	12 Noon	Mass	Jim Brophy (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	9am	Mass <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest</i>	Sally Kowaliw (Anniversary)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	12 Noon	Mass <i>St Robert and Our Lady of Walsingham - Feast</i>	Marie Zadinova (Lately Dead)
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>1pm</b>	<b>REQUIEM MASS</b>	Jane Keating
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11.30am	Exposition	John Thompson (Anniversary)
	12 Noon	Mass	

<b><i>Recent deaths:</i></b> please pray for Jane Keating whose Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September at 1pm.
<b><i>Mass intentions received for Lately Dead:</i></b> Jane Keating, Sarah (Sally) Kerr

***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.

**Retiring Collection** – After all Masses for the **Catholic Education Service**. This collection is not Gift Aidable and there are no envelopes. Next weekend, there will be a retiring collection for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday.

The photographer will be in the Lady Chapel after Masses this weekend to take your photo for the **new parish directory**.

## REGULAR EVENTS

APF Red Mission – Michael Brennan  
Presbytery 01423 504988

Children's Liturgy - Suzanne Walker  
swalker@systra.com

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](mailto: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](mailto:Office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Phoenix (Bereavement Support) -  
Presbytery 01423 504988

Piety Stall - Caroline Walker  
[office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Safeguarding Representative (Parish)  
Mick Hopwood  
[psr.mhopwood@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:psr.mhopwood@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

SoulCore - Monday 9.30 - Marie Baker  
[mbaker0813@gmail.com](mailto:mbaker0813@gmail.com)

St Robert's Brownies - Wed 5.30-7.15  
Sarah Mansfield 01423 566651  
[mansfield.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:mansfield.sarah@gmail.com)

St Vincent de Paul Society - Mon 7pm  
Katherine Merton Jones 01423 522731  
Furniture – 0113 245 0800

St Robert's Walking Group - Second  
Thurs of the month, contact George  
Marczak 07905820864 or  
[george@vbs-computers.com](mailto:george@vbs-computers.com)

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) –  
[info@strobertsclub.co.uk](mailto:info@strobertsclub.co.uk)

200 Club - Caroline Walker  
[office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**SEPT**  
21<sup>st</sup> – 5pm Apologia

**OCT**  
5<sup>th</sup> – 11am International Mass

**NOV**  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 5pm Apologia 2

**SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH 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:  
Diocese Leeds Our Lady Immaculate St Robert H'gate

Sort Code: 40-27-15

Account No: 81017489

Or you can make a donation by  
scanning this QR CODE



**Apologia** The first session will begin this weekend, **on Sunday evening at 5pm** with an exploration of the various elements of the Mass. Beginning in church, we will move across to the parish centre where refreshments will be served and there will be opportunities for discussion and to ask questions on the substance and form of the Catholic Mass. Do join us for the first of these informative sessions designed to help us deepen, together, our Catholic faith.

We will begin **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** on the first Saturday of each month from 4-4.50pm, starting on Saturday 4th October. It will be an opportunity to spend some time with the Lord and, perhaps, to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation which is offered at the same time before the 5pm Mass.

**International Mass and Luncheon** celebrating our diverse cultural parish community on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October at 11am. Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer to serve that day representing their country of origin. In addition, we invite anyone who would like to offer a tasting of an authentic meal from their country to bring a dish to share at a meal after the Mass in the parish centre. A donation from those wanting to taste the different meals will be accepted and donated to the church building fund. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Marie Baker  
[mbaker0813@gmail.com](mailto:mbaker0813@gmail.com)

The **Baptism** Seminar will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 10am in preparation for the Baptism Mass at 11am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October when children will be baptised into the Church and our parish family. Please pray for our children to be baptised, their parents and godparents as they all prepare, together, for this momentous day in the spiritual journey of these little ones. Please hand the completed enrolment form, which is available at the back of church, to Fr Simon.

The new session of **Journey in Faith** has begun with five members so far. If you are not a Catholic and regularly worship at St Robert's on Sundays and would like to join us, please speak with Fr Simon.

**APF Mill Hill Red Box Collection** Your Red Box will be available for collection in the sacristy from next weekend.

A new **bible study** will begin on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October. The study will be Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance. Ephesians was one of the most widely circulated of St. Paul's writings because of its powerful, practical instructions for disciples of Christ. This study examines many important themes that are still relevant in today's Christian culture and society—the nature of marriage, the purpose and role of the Church, the pre-eminence of grace in God's plan, and the reality of spiritual warfare. This is an 8wk study and classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm. The cost is £20 and financial assistance is available. Please register by contacting Marie Baker at [mbaker0813@gmail.com](mailto:mbaker0813@gmail.com) by 30 Sept.

**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July 2026** we are hoping to plan for a contingent from St Robert's to accompany the pilgrimage and details will be promulgated once they are received from the tour operators.

**St Robert's Primary School** are holding an Open Day for Reception 2026 new starters on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Tours will be available between 9.30am – 11.30am and 1pm – 3pm. To book a tour please use this link [here](#).

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal - 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025** Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at **[cafod.org.uk/envelope](https://cafod.org.uk/envelope)** or call **0303 303 3030**. You can also **text CAFOD to 70560** to donate £10.

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage** 4th - 11th June 2026 Leeds/Bradford to Dubrovnik. Half board at Villa Grace in Medjugorje, transfers and guide. £715.00 per person (single room supplement £175.00 subject to availability, 10kg hand luggage included, 20kg if needed £75 supplement). For further information please call Richard on 07970 198096 or Katherine on 07974 941441  
[www.aglowpilgrimages.com](http://www.aglowpilgrimages.com) All very welcome.

**Harrogate foodbank** are in desperate need of: Strong Carrier Bags, Tinned Meat, Laundry Pods, Washing up Liquid, UHT Milk, Longlife Juice/Cordial, Jam/Spreads, Female Deodorant, Male Deodorant. There is a box in the Narthex to place any donations. Thank you for your generous donations received so far. Your support is greatly appreciated and is making a meaningful difference.

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