

Sunday Message

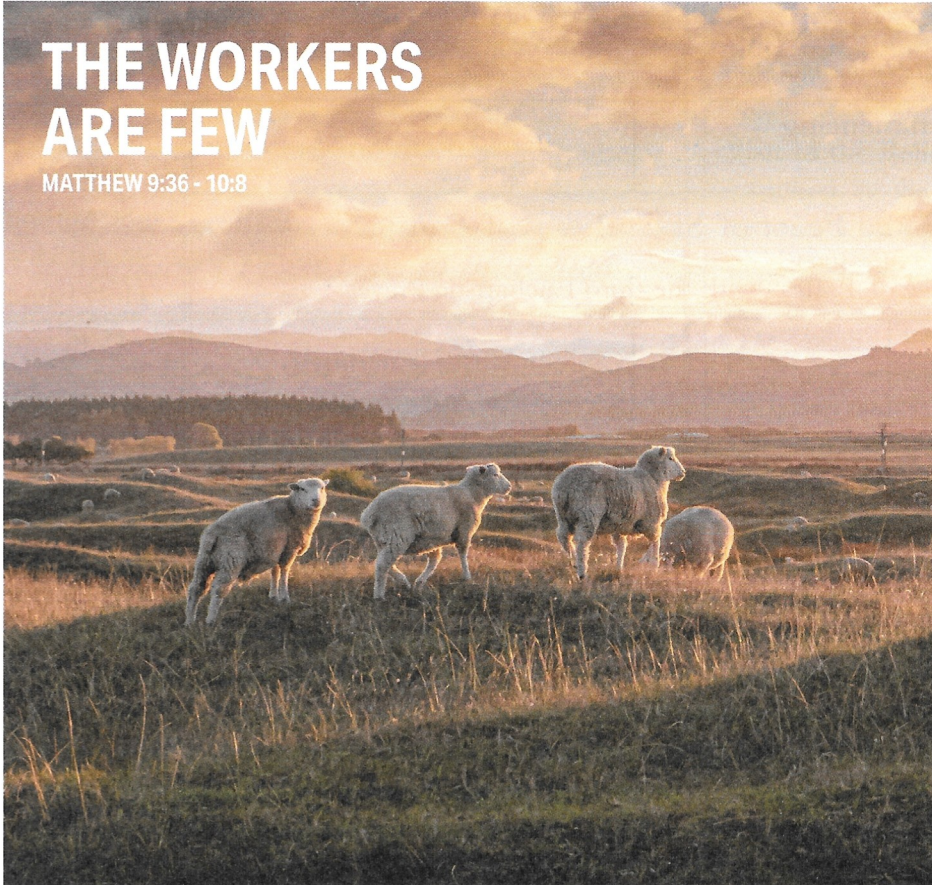
ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 14 June 2026 • Psalter Week 3

THE WORKERS ARE FEW

MATTHEW 9:36 - 10:8



In this passage, Matthew presents a striking image of Jesus' compassion. Seeing the crowds, "he was moved with pity because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd". The metaphor of the shepherd is central: it conveys not only guidance but protection and care. Jesus' response is immediate; he does not simply feel sympathy but takes action.

He calls his twelve disciples and gives them authority to act in his name. This authority is specific and practical: to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. The mission is rooted in service, not status or power. Jesus sends them out "to the lost sheep of Israel," emphasising that ministry begins with attention to those most in need and vulnerable.

The passage also shows the close link between compassion and mission. Jesus' pity for the crowd leads directly to commissioning others. His concern is not abstract; it has tangible consequences for those around him. For Matthew, discipleship means participating in this same pattern: seeing human need, feeling compassion, and acting with God's authority to bring healing, restoration, and hope. ■

REFLECT

Jesus looks beyond the surface, beyond the busyness and noise, and notices their struggle, their loneliness, their need. "They were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." How often do we pass by others without really seeing them, or fail to notice the burden they carry?

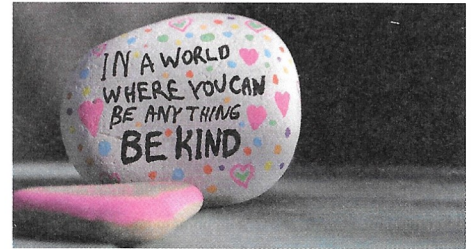
Jesus doesn't stop at feeling pity. He acts. He calls his disciples and gives them

authority to heal, to restore, to bring hope. Compassion, in his way, always leads to action. Following him means allowing our concern for others to move us beyond words into deeds, however small they might seem.

We are invited to be part of that mission today. To speak a kind word, offer a helping hand, or simply listen to someone who feels lost. Like the disciples, we don't need

LEARN

The Church teaches that the mission of the baptised is rooted in Christ's compassion: seeing human need and responding with service and love. (CCC 898, 900)



DO

Like the disciples, we can look for ways this week to bring hope to those around us – a visit, a message, or a simple act of service.



SAY

Lord Jesus,
You saw the crowds and were moved with compassion.
Open our eyes to those who are weary and in need.
Give us hearts ready to listen, serve, and bring hope.
May our words and actions reflect your love and care in the world.
Amen.

special power – only willingness to be sent, to carry Christ's care into the world.

In this Gospel, discipleship is clear: see, care, act. Compassion is not passive. It is lived, shared, and multiplied. In reaching out to others, we follow the shepherd who goes before us and invites us to join his work. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!*

COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas,
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.
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 Exodus 19:2-6a

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

In those days: The people of Israel came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 100(99):1-2. 3. 5. R. 3c

R: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**
2. Know that he, the LORD, is God.
He made us; we belong to him.
We are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**
3. Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 5:6-11

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

Brothers and sisters: While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:15

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the Gospel.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the twofold needs of human nature,
nourishing us with food
and renewing us with your Sacrament,
grant, we pray,
that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

Or

*Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,
that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord,
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,
so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: St Anthony's Presbytery,
Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
Tel: 01772 725193
Email: stanthony.preston@lrcd.org.uk
Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Dawson
Annexe: 07792 256592
Social Centre: 01772 735963
Primary School: 01772 726621
Playgroup/Preschool: 07963 700591

Holy Family

Whitby Avenue, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YP
Tel: 01772 725193
Priest-in-Charge: Fr Andrew Dawson
(Resident at St Anthony's)
Primary School: 01772 727471
Covenant Books: 07396 796969
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Confession): On Request

Mass Schedule for week commencing Sunday 14 th June			Intention	Last Weekend:
Sunday 14th June Patronal Feast of St Anthony of Padua				Attendance
Today we shall use the Preface of Pastors with the third Eucharistic Prayer				St Anthony's: 93 + 154 = 247 Holy Family 59
Saturday 6pm (Sunday Vigil)	Mass at St Anthony's	<i>St Anthony of Padua</i>	Graham Warwick (Anniv)	Collections St Anthony's: £482.35 + £132.50 (Cards) Holy Family £95
Sunday 9:30am	Mass at St Anthony's		The People of our Parishes	
Monday 9.15am	Mass at St Anthony's		Cletus Aduku	Scan the QR code below to donate to the weekly collection online (St Anthony's)
Tuesday 9.15am	Mass at St Anthony's	<i>St Richard: Bishop</i>	Brian Cornwell RIP	
Wednesday	No Mass			
Thursday 9.15am	Mass at HF School		In Thanksgiving (CD)	
Friday 10am	Mass at St Anthony's		Requiem: Andy Greenwood	
Sunday 21st June Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time				
Saturday 6pm (Sunday Vigil)	Mass at St Anthony's	<i>St Alban</i>	The People of our Parishes	
Sunday 9:30am	Mass at St Anthony's		Rita Keane	



Confessions: At St Anthony's Saturdays 5:30-5:50pm or by appointment.

Baptism and Marriage: If you are a parent and would like to have your child baptised or are hoping to get married either in this parish or elsewhere (minimum six months' notice for weddings is required), please speak to Fr Andrew at the end of Mass.

Tea and Coffee: You are welcome to join us for some light refreshments after each of our Sunday Masses – 6pm (Saturday) and 9:30 at St Anthony's.

Prayer intentions

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for June: For the values of sports.

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Cycle of Prayer: Ordinary Time, Summer: For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; for those who suffer persecution, oppression and the denial of their human rights; for Europe; for human life and for seafarers.

We pray for the sick and the elderly, especially Jo Counsel, Bill Embery and John Mulholland.

For those who have died recently, especially Andy Greenwood, Joan Hughes, Keith Battersby, Marlene Thompson and Deacon Tom Bland and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Teresa Routledge, Jackie Bennett-Baut, Robert Whittaker, Roy Garside, Robert Salisbury, Mary Derry, John Gielty, Fr. Thomas Harrison, Anne Jarvis, Doreen Noon, Thomas Donaghy.

Father, may these, and all whom we have known who have gone before us, be received into the glory of the resurrection, won for us by your Son, Jesus, the Risen Lord.

OUR PARISHES

The **Requiem Mass** for the late Andy Greenwood will be on Friday 19 June at 10am. The funeral for the Late Keith Battersby will also be on Friday 19 June at 1.30 (at Preston Crematorium). The funeral for the Late Joan Hughes will be on Monday 22 June at 12.30. The requiem for the Late Marlene Thompson will be on Thursday 25 June at 11:15. May they rest in peace.



Testament – Wednesday 17th June at 7pm: Persecutions and hostility come to the fore with the martyrdom of Stephen, threatening the cohesion of the early church as they weigh the cost of spreading the Good News of the Resurrection.

St Anthony's Feast Day, 14 June 2026

Discover what makes our parish tick ...

After 9.30 Mass, come over to the Social Centre 10.30-12.30

Find out what's happening in our parish, meet the groups, explore parish activities and see how you can get involved

'Lost & Found' Singers - Refreshments - Cake sale - Raffle - Please bring some spending money!

Volunteers Wanted: Do you have an interest in gardening? Would you like to get involved with looking after the grounds at St. Anthony's? If so, or for more information, please let Fr Andrew have your contact details. Thank you.

St Anthony's Gutters: The end is in sight! The site meeting on Friday went well. There are a few matters that still require attention to be completed, but we should be back to normal soon.. Thank you for your patience and please continue to avoid bringing a vehicle to St Anthony's if possible.

Holy Family Parish Update: Following the latest Core Group Meeting progress has been made in identifying next steps. One of these is obviously fundraising. If you have any ideas, please share with Fr Andrew.

Requiem Mass for Fr Paul Hackett will be at 12.15pm on Tuesday, 16th June at St Wilfrid's, Preston. If you are planning on attending, please can you inform Fr Chris Pedley SJ. Fr Paul Hackett was 96 years old and in the 80th year of Religious Life.

Churches Together Evening Stroll, Wednesday, 24th June, meeting at The Continental 7:00pm for 7:15pm. The looped route will take in the new tram bridge pausing on the way for reflections, finishing back at The Continental for a drink. Everyone is welcome.

OUR CITY AND DIOCESE

THIS WEEK

Day for Life 2026: On Sunday, 21 June, we mark the Day for Life under the theme "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb." The theme also recognises the loss of children who died before birth and the grief of their parents. The bishops' message and prayers can be found on the Day for Life website: www.dayforlife.org. The second collection will go towards the Day for Life Fund, which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. You can also donate online via the Day for Life website."

Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella: A national tour organised by the Redemptorists. St Gerard is the patron saints of mothers, those trying to conceive and making a good confession. There's two opportunities to learn more about this saint, to venerate his relics and seek his intercession. 6pm on Monday 15th June at **Lancaster Cathedral** with time for personal prayer and an opportunity for confession, 7pm Mass. See poster for details; and Friday 19th June 5.30pm-6.20pm at **St Joseph's, Preston** followed by Mass at 6.30pm. After Mass there will be an opportunity to be blessed with the relics. See the poster for details.

Fatima Day: The World Apostolate of Fatima are touring the cathedrals of England and Wales to spread the message of Our Lady at Fatima. They'll be in Lancaster on Saturday 20th June beginning with Mass at 12.15pm. For full programme please see poster.

FURTHER AHEAD

Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is seeking one volunteer from this parish please to help with Sea Sunday (which falls on 11/12 July this year) in this parish. This is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families, and takes a second collection to support the work of Stella Maris. The volunteer will read out the appeal (which Stella Maris will provide) at the end of Masses that weekend. If you can kindly do this, please contact roland.hayes@stellamarismail.org

Join Bishop Swarbrick on the London March for Life on September 5th 2026. SPUC Preston Branch wish to arrange a coach with pick up in Preston. Please register your interest by contacting the secretary on 07523 183758 or at spucpreston@gmail.com.

Education Mass; St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster, Thursday, 25th June 2026 at 6:30 pm. All parishioners are invited to join Bishop Paul Swarbrick at the annual Diocese of Lancaster Education Mass. This invitation extends in a special way to all those involved in education and faith formation; priests, deacons, catechists, children's liturgy, those in seminary and teachers outside of the Catholic sector. Please complete the online booking form: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/lancasterromancatholicdioceseeducationservice/2163378>.

The readings we shall hear at Mass this week are for the Patronal Feast of St Anthony of Padua. The readings for the Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time are overleaf.

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