

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**  
Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

**COLLECT**

Grant us, Lord our God,  
that we may honour you with all our mind,  
and love everyone in truth of heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah. Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you shall leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 146(145)6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R. Matthew 5:3

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit;  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Or: Alleluia.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age.

**SECOND READING**  
A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast

Ps. 105:47

in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

# Our Faith On Sunday

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



When we read the gospels, we are often confronted with the "already-but-not-yet" reality of the Kingdom of God. If we love one another the way Jesus loved us then we are already living "on earth as it is in heaven". However, we also know that Jesus suffered while he was on earth. He was betrayed and then crucified. He Father poured out for us through

fully experienced the "not-yet" of the Kingdom. It is the experience of all those who are being daily crucified by the sufferings of war, hunger, human-trafficking, poverty, disease, homelessness, the lingering pain of a terminal illness. Looked at from a purely human point of view their situation appears hopeless. It is to all of these that the beatitudes are addressed. Jesus can speak to us about the truth of the human condition because he lived it up to its final consummation, to the point of feeling abandoned even by God. But that is not where the story ends. He rose from the dead. He conquered death and brought in the reign of the eternal love of the

Spirit who has been given to us. While we are called to do everything in our power to witness to this love in our daily lives, we need the assurance the beatitudes who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness will experience the fullness of the Kingdom of God; that the day will come when there will be no more suffering, when every tear will be wiped away.



### POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCICAL FRATELLI TUTTI



**Pope Francis**  
Encyclical Fratelli Tutti

#### THE DEATH PENALTY

269. Let us keep in mind that "not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this".<sup>258</sup> The firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognize the inalienable dignity of every human being and to accept that he or she has a place in this universe. If I do not deny that dignity to the worst of criminals, I will not deny it to anyone. I will give everyone the possibility of sharing this planet with me, despite all our differences.

<sup>258</sup> SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter Evangelium Vitae (25 March 1995), 9; AAS 87 (1995), 41.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
Nourished by these redeeming gifts,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that through this help to eternal salvation  
true faith may ever increase.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

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Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame,  
for I call on you.

Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

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<p><b>This weekend (31st January/1st February)</b></p> <p>There will be a Collection for the White Flower Appeal.</p> <p><b>CAFOD</b></p> <p>There will be a CAFOD Coffee Morning after Mass on Sunday, 1st February.</p>	<p><b>Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham - 2026</b></p> <p>This will take place from Friday, 21st to Sunday, 23rd August, 2026. All places have now been taken.</p> <p>The deposit this year will be £ 50.00 which should be given to Callum Walker by the end of the day on <b>Sunday, 8th February, 2026</b>. You can pay this in cash, or by cheque (please make cheques payable to <b>St Thomas of Canterbury</b>).</p> <p>If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, then please email Callum at <a href="mailto:callum.walker100@gmail.com">callum.walker100@gmail.com</a> and he will email you with the necessary details.</p>
<p><b>Medway Thursdays</b></p> <p>Please join us for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat every Thursday morning from 11.00 AM in the Medway. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p><b>Lourdes Pilgrimage - Youth Section</b></p> <p>A reminder that bookings for the Youth Section of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will close on 31st January, 2026. If you, or any young people you know, are interested in joining this pilgrimage, then please get in touch as soon as possible to secure a place.</p>	<p><b>Baptismal Preparation Meeting</b></p> <p>There will be a meeting on Thursday, 12th February at 6.15 p.m. in The Medway for parents/carers of children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism in the near future.</p> <p><b>St Patrick's Day Party</b> Jig the night away with the fabulous 'Blind' Stag', supporting CAFOD and SVP fundraising. Synthonia Suites, Belasis Avenue, Billingham TS23 1LH This takes place on Friday, 20th March, 2026 from 6.30 PM to 11.00 PM. Adults: £8 Children: £4. For tickets, please call 07843 245257 or collect them at the end of weekend Mass.</p>
<p><b>Holy Rosary Crib - and the Crib at St John's</b></p> <p>Thanks to Kevin, Bill, Peter, and Brian for the Holy Rosary Crib. Read the full story, including construction photos and a tribute to John Huitson, on our website. Thanks also for the beautiful crib at St. John's.</p>	<p><b>Light a Virtual Candle</b></p> <p>Please join us at the Prayer Wall - We invite you to visit the Prayer Wall on our parish website - a dedicated space where our community comes together in spirit.</p> <p><b>Last week's colour leaflet</b></p> <p>This is available on our website.</p> <p><b>January Puzzle Challenge</b></p> <p>Results of high scorers for Fr Adrian's puzzle include: Elizabeth, Olivia, The Chihuahua, Buzz lighter , Patty, The Chihuahua and Pauline. Well done all.</p>
<p><b>RCIA Programme</b> This continues on Wednesday after Mass for those preparing to become members of the Church.</p>	<p><b>Holy Island SVP Summer Camps 2026</b> There is more information about this which can be found on the Parish website.</p>
<p><b>SVP Food Hub</b></p> <p>The SVP Food Hub continues to run, in the Medway, on Fridays and is open from 12 NOON to 2 PM Everyone is welcome.</p>	