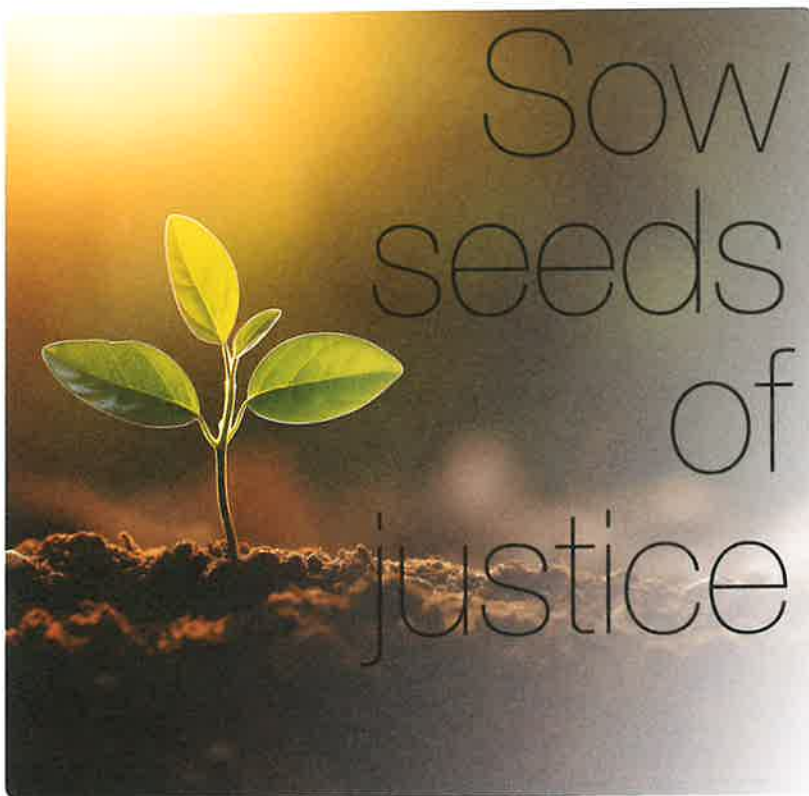


SUNDAY *Plus*

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week III** Year A



As yet, we seem incapable of recognising that the destruction of nature does not affect everyone in the same way. When justice and peace are trampled underfoot, those who are most hurt are the poor, the marginalised and the excluded. The suffering of indigenous communities is emblematic in this regard.

That is not all. Nature itself is reduced at times to a bargaining chip, a commodity to be bartered for economic or political gain. As a result, God's creation turns into a battleground for the control of vital resources. We see this in agricultural areas and forests peppered with landmines, "scorched earth" policies, conflicts over water sources, and the unequal distribution of raw materials, which penalises the poorer nations and undermines social stability itself...

Environmental justice... is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice – social, economic and human. For believers it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed...

By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope. It may well take years for this plant to bear its first fruits, years that, for their part, involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love, especially if that love mirrors the Lord's own self-sacrificing Love.

Leo XIV, Message for the Tenth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 2025

Loving Lord, sow your Word in my heart. May I be good soil, bearing fruit in faith. Bless all who sail the seas – guide, protect, and nourish them with your love.  Amen.

On Sea Sunday...



Loving God, we thank you for the gift of the sea and for all who work upon it.

Bless the seafarers who sail far from home, bringing us the goods and resources we need each day. Grant them safe passage through calm and storm, strength in times of loneliness and hope when the journey feels long.

Bless the chaplains, ship visitors, and volunteers of Stella Maris, who offer welcome, comfort, and care to those in need. May their kindness be a beacon of your love in every port.

On this Sea Sunday, we remember the families waiting on distant shores. Hold them in your peace until they are reunited. Amen.

Jesus lived and prayed around the Sea of Galilee. That is where he called his first disciples in the setting of their daily lives and work.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week Sunday 12 July

St John Jones (1530-1592)

St John Jones, born around 1530 in Clynog Fawr, Wales, was a Franciscan priest and one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. Amid fierce persecution under Queen Elizabeth I, Jones ministered to Catholics in London and the countryside, offering sacraments in secret. Arrested in 1596 by notorious and sadistically cruel priest-hunter Richard Topcliffe, he endured brutal torture and two years of imprisonment. Despite his intense suffering, he remained steadfast in faith, encouraging fellow prisoners like John Rigby, who also became a martyr. On 12 July 1598, Jones was executed at St Thomas' Waterings, Southwark: hanged, drawn and quartered for the "crime" of being a Catholic priest. Before his death, he preached to the gathered crowd, affirming his loyalty to God and the Church. Canonised in 1970 by Pope Paul VI, his courage and compassion continue to inspire those who seek justice, mercy and unwavering spiritual conviction.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

Monday:
Isaiah 1:10-17
Matthew 10:34 – 11:1

Tuesday:
Isaiah 7:1-9
Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday:
Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16
Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday:
Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
Matthew 11:28-30

Friday:
Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday:
Micah 2:1-5
Matthew 12:14-21

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23