

Be realistic

25 OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY *Plus*

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year A

It's still true!



We are in the midst of the post-industrial, interplanetary, technological age... Many things are going well, but they're bringing us consequences that are full of problems and dangers. These will have to be corrected and channelled rather better.

Paul VI, for instance has spoken of "hungry peoples, who today are calling dramatically to the rich peoples", and of the "anger of the poor, with its unforeseeable consequences". This is what is happening: in a third of the world there is a remarkable abundance of everything and shameless waste; in two-thirds of the world there is poverty, which is steadily growing worse. If what is spent so easily on armaments was saved and certain luxuries were cut out, technology could soon take the whole human family to a fairly high level, economically, socially and culturally...

I spoke of the "human family". We have never felt, as we do today, how small the world is: we hunger and thirst for unity but are continuously pulled between two opposing forces.

These things make for unity: the amazing network of communications that now binds the world in a hundred ways; the universal longing for peace; the existence of the United Nations Organisation and other supranatural organisations...

These things make for disunity: the waves of exaggerated nationalism, which flare up every now and then here and there, in old peoples and in new ones; the division of the world into opposing blocks led by superpowers: social tensions which are now no longer between classes but between regions and between rich states and poor states.

Illustrissimi: the letters of Pope John Paul I

The world needs more than ever the powerful witness of men and women of all religions living together in unity, friendship and cooperation.

Pope Leo XIV

Come as you are

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away, shamed, and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

Paul Gurr O. Carm.

Lord, it's not easy to be overlooked and perhaps forgotten, but it's the "little ones" of this world who are closest to your heart. That's where I want to be, for ever and always in your heart.  Amen.



Feast of the week Thursday 29 October

Blessed Chiara Badano (1971-1990)

Blessed Chiara Badano reminds us that holiness is not reserved for the old or the ordained: it blooms in youthful hearts open to God. Diagnosed with cancer at seventeen, Chiara faced suffering not with despair, but with radiant trust. She said, "If I had to choose between walking or going to heaven, I'd choose heaven."

Her life was marked by joy, generosity and deep love for Christ. She offered her pain as a gift, refusing morphine so she could stay alert and unite her suffering with Jesus. Chiara's witness shows that faith transforms even the darkest valley into a path of light.

Today, we're invited to live with purpose, to embrace each moment with love and to trust God's plan – even when it's hard. Like Chiara, may we say yes to Christ with courage, and let our lives shine with hope for others.

READINGS

Today:
Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Monday:
Ephesians 4:32-5:8
Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday:
Romans 8:18-25
Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday:
Ephesians 2:19-22
Luke 6:12-19

Thursday:
Romans 8:31-39
Luke 13:31-35

Friday:
Romans 9:1-5
Luke 14:1-6

Saturday:
Philippians 1:18-26
Luke 14:1, 7-11

Next Sunday:
Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12