

ST. THOMAS of CANTERBURY, MAYFIELD

Part of the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust – a Registered Charity No. 252878
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Sunday, 20 September – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass at 10 am and at 5.30 pm

Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20:1-16

From this Sunday, 20th September, we will have a Sunday evening Mass for a trial period of five weeks, until 18th October. If it is a success, we will continue but this will always be a temporary Mass for the duration of the pandemic.

**Please follow the guidance of the stewards when entering the church.
and please SIT or STAND during Mass – DO NOT KNEEL**

Please note: The new measure, 'Rule of Six', introduced last Monday, 14 September, does not affect the celebration of Mass; church services are still being permitted and will take place as usual with all existing safety measures in place.

Masses during the week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 am.

Monday, 21 September – Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday, 23 September – St. Pius of Pietrelcino, 'Padre Pio'

Thursday, 24 September – Our Lady of Walsingham

Sunday, 27 September – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass at 10 am and 5.30 pm

Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2: 1-11; Matthew 21: 28-32

*Special Collection for the Education of Future Priests (**GiftAided**)*

Covid-19: The present regulations mean that every parishioner will be able to attend Mass at least once a week but not necessarily on Sunday.

Fr Patrick is sending out regular emails to those whose addresses he has. If you are not receiving them and would like to do so, please email him at: pflombard@gmx.com

Fr Patrick and the [Parish Finance Committee](#) would like to thank all the parishioners who have made donations through the Diocesan Parish Just Giving scheme. If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to contribute to the parish, you may donate through: <https://www.justgiving.com/abdiocese>

Bishop Richards's podcast for the 26th Sunday of the year

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Isaiah, in the first Reading of this Sunday's Mass, presents us with two connected themes: the search for God and the ways of God. Every human heart is designed for God. The greatest journey of our lives is the journey to God. It is what our lives are all about – it is what gives us a purpose and fulfilment beyond anything we might imagine. This journey is one of many surprises, many discoveries and encounters with the God who is love. We come to realise that, in comparison to God, we are very small indeed. God is so great that our language fails. God is so much greater than we can understand or describe. God is mystery – and the moment will always come when we realise that, as Isaiah puts it, His way are not our ways.

Jesus, in the parable of the workers in the vineyard, offers a vision that we might find problematic. In contractual terms, the worker who has laboured all day is paid according to the agreement – but how can it be just to pay the same to someone who is hired when the working day is almost done? We must remember the first line of the parable: 'The kingdom of God is like....' This is a parable about this journey to a loving Father. One person may be blest to know this journey for many years – another might only find the way late in the day; the kingdom is there for both. The God of love wants us to share His life, both now as we travel our pilgrim way and in eternity.

St. Paul struggles with this somewhat. The love of God in eternity is so great, he wants it now; but Paul also knows that he has work to do for the good of the kingdom. Knowing that we are truly loved by God right now, striving to live the purpose for which we are created, is a most wonderful discovery on this journey – a journey with and to the One who loves us.

With every blessing,
+R

Please find the podcast on the Diocesan website: www.abdiocese.org.uk, where you find other News as well

Lectio Divina:

Bishop Richard is leading a Zoom retreat at the House of Prayer in East Molesey on **Saturday, 31 October, 11am – 1pm**. The Event will introduce the practice of Lectio Divina – praying with the Scriptures. Bishop Richard will explore the history of this special way of prayer that has been a part of the Church's life since the earliest times.

Our Annual Volunteer Forum will take place on Saturday 7th November online

We are blessed to have a large number of volunteers in our Diocese, giving of their time and many skills to the great benefit of our parish communities. Our **Annual Volunteer Forum** in Arundel has traditionally provided a wonderful opportunity for our Bishop's House team to meet those who serve our community in this way, with staff members delivering presentations on the latest developments in: Finance, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Fundraising and Gift Aid.

The current pandemic and restrictions presently in place mean that this year's forum on **Saturday 7th November** will take place online. Further details and a programme of events will be shared in future E-Bulletins and on our [website](#).