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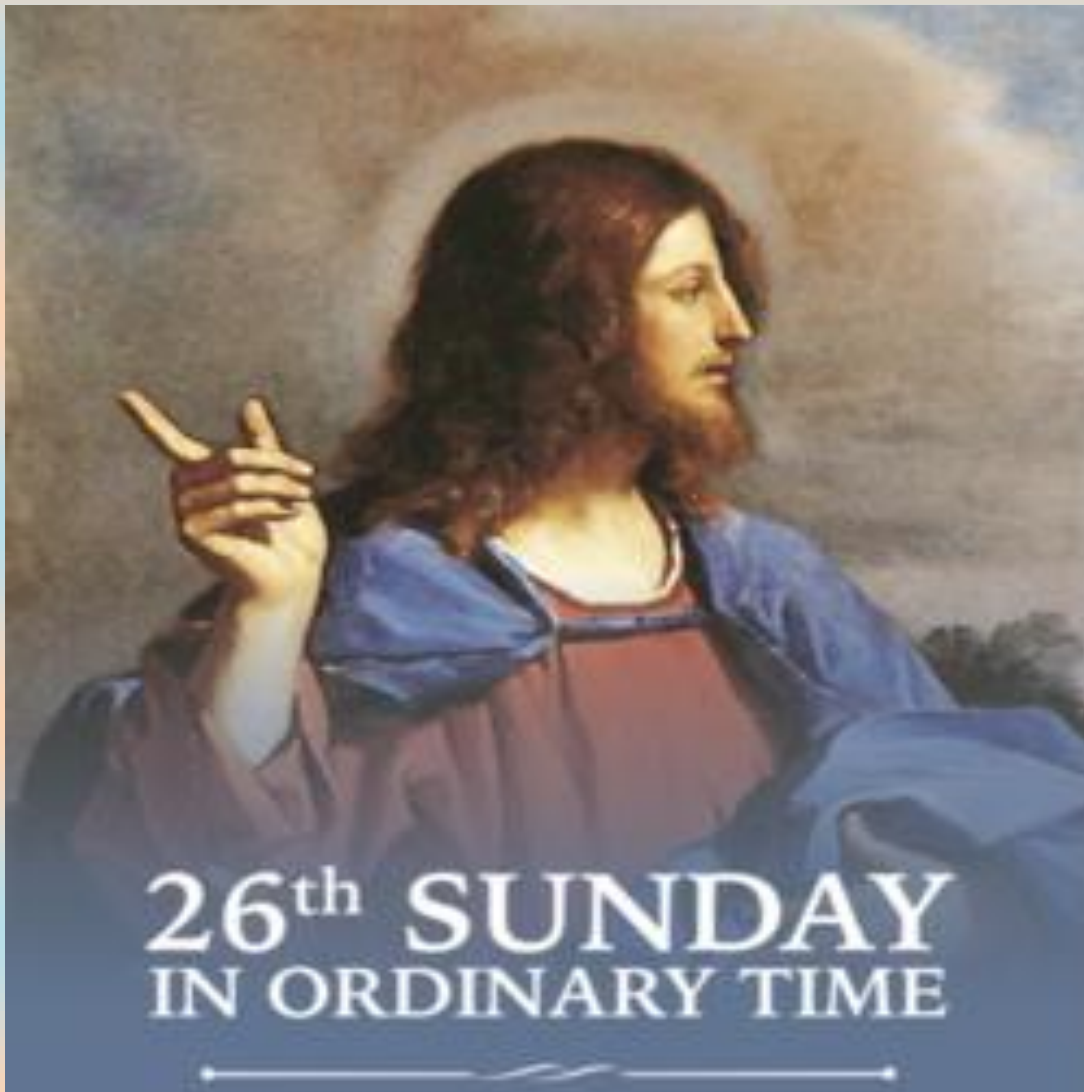
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Dear Friends,

This excerpt from Mark calls us to be alert, awake, attentive and sensitive to the dangers and scandals that surround us. Mark tells us that Jesus used some harsh words to give us this warning. This warning must be taken seriously, not literally. It emphasizes our responsibility to avoid the occasions of sin. People of the kingdom must remain open to the goodness of God and His love and live the values of the kingdom and not be misled by the values of the world around them.

While avoiding the occasions of sin, it is important to recognize the goodness in the world and the good people who do good and be inspired and challenged by them. Jesus called the disciples, and he calls us today to recognize and appreciate the spirit-filled and spirit-moved people and not be jealous of them and get in their way. John said to Jesus, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him because he does not belong to us”. Jesus said to John, “Do not prevent him... anyone who gives a cup of water to drink... will not lose his reward”.

Jesus teaches tolerance. This is of great significance to us at this time in our history. Let the one, who lives a good life, live the good life... let the one, who does a good work, do the good work... there may be differences in thinking, ideologies, beliefs and doctrines... be tolerant and appreciate the good you see!

Doctrines and beliefs and churches and religions are judged by the people they hold, nurture, and sustain. Our character, our lifestyle, our values, our relationship - who we are and how we live, how good and noble our lives are - these are the most important factors and not our affiliation to groups and organizations.

“God fulfils himself in many ways” (Tennyson). We need to learn to respect the ways others have found to fulfil themselves in God. Let God reveal himself and do His work the way he chooses to.....Let God be God! The Gospel of John tells us: “the wind blows where it wills... so it is with everyone who is born of the spirit’ (Jn.3:8). It is not up to us to dictate how the spirit should work and on whom the spirit should rest. We are called and blessed to remain open and docile to the spirit of God.

Mark offers us several sayings of Jesus for reflection. To help, even in small ways, is to gather wealth into the eternal. But to hurt or to cause a weaker person to stumble is to lose the wealth. Take care to remove the stumbling blocks.

It will cost you much if you chose to enter the Kingdom of God... You will have to sacrifice everything that gets on the way... Ultimate goal in life is worth the sacrifice.

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

When	Where	Masses Requested	Saints & Feasts
Sat 28 th Sep 5.30pm	St. Peter’s		Adoration followed by Mass
Sun 29 th Sep 9.00am 11.00am	St. Michael’s St. Peter’s		Twenty Sixth Sunday
Mon 30 th Sep	No Mass		St. Jerome
Tue 1 st Oct 9.30am	St. Peter’s	Betty Jolliffe - RIP	St. Therese of the Child Jesus
Wed 2 nd Oct 10.00am	St. Michael’s		The Holy Guardian Angels
Thu 3 rd Oct	No Mass		
Fri 4 th Oct 9.30am	St. Peter’s		St. Francis of Assisi

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

In St. Peter’s Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

In St. Michael’s Wednesday 10.30am to 11.00am and by appointment, please ring to arrange.

Thank you.

A Warm Welcome: today is Sunday 29th September. As always, we welcome visitors and newcomers to join our “regulars,” asking Almighty God to bestow His blessings and graces on us all. You are most welcome to join us for coffee and tea in the Parish Hall.

NO MASS

On Thursday the 3rd, as I will be attending training on “New Lectionary” there will be no mass on that day.

OCTOBER: A MONTH OF DEVOTION TO OUR LADY

As we enter the sacred month of October, dedicated to the Rosary, we are reminded of the special bond that keeps us close to our Heavenly Mother. In honor of Our Lady, we invite you to join us every Sunday before Mass at 10:40 AM to pray the Holy Rosary. This beautiful devotion offers us a time of reflection, peace, and the opportunity to receive the intercession of Our Blessed Mother.

Come and be a part of this cherished tradition, deepening your connection with Mary and finding strength through prayer. Let us unite our hearts in this powerful act of faith and devotion throughout the month of October.

All are welcome!

THANKS... AND A REQUEST...

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Pamela Corringham at St. Peter's and Brian Helm at St. Michael's, the respective treasurers of each parish, for presenting such a meticulous financial report covering the months of January through August. Their dedication and hard work are truly appreciated.

Reflecting on their efforts and the needs of our parishes, I kindly ask that, if you haven't reviewed your standing order for some time, you could perhaps consider increasing it if you are able. Additionally, if you are not already doing so, please consider gift-aiding your offertory contributions, whether made via the Dona machine or as a standing order. Your generosity, in any amount, goes a long way in supporting the important works of our parishes.

HARVEST LUNCH INVITATION – SUNDAY, 13TH OCTOBER AT 12:00 PM, AT ST PETER'S

We are excited to invite all parishioners from both St Peter's and St Michael's to our special Harvest Lunch! This year, we'll gather on **Sunday, 13th October at 12:00 PM** at St Peter's hall for a **Bring and Share** lunch. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, celebrate the season, and contribute to a great cause.

All proceeds from the event will support **CAFOD** in their vital work, helping those in need around the world. A sign-up list will be available at the back of the Church from next week – all contributions are welcome!

Let's make this a memorable and generous celebration. Your support can make a big difference, and we look forward to sharing this special afternoon with you all.

See you there!

What has Jerusalem to do with Athens? Catholic Social Teaching as Formation for Mission

Join Jason Charewicz from the Department of Adult Education for an introductory Catholic Social Teaching workshop. Come to learn how Catholic Social Teaching fits within the ancient tradition of Catholic moral theology, serves as a bridge between our faith and our neighbours of other traditions, and how Catholic Social Teaching forms us to be missionary disciples in the 21st century. The evening will begin in prayer, and be a mix of presentation and group-discussion workshops. It will take place on Wednesday 16th October at the Immaculate Conception, Stroud, from 7:00pm until 9:00pm (refreshments from 6:30pm).

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ST MICHAEL'S

There will be a meeting for parishioners after Mass on Sunday 6th October to discuss ideas for social events during 2025. Please join us and come along with your ideas.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH AT WOODCHESTER

On Thursday 10th October at 7:00pm Bishop Bosco will be celebrating Mass for this important anniversary. Everyone is welcome to the Mass (at the Church of the Annunciation, Saint Mary's Hill, Woodchester GL5 5HP) which will be followed by light refreshments.

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

An afternoon talk, with Michal Paszkoewicz on Geo versus Heliocentrism and where the church stands will be held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 2.30pm in the lounge of the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Moorend Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 9AU. Admission to include refreshments: Visitors £3.00. All are Welcome. Please see poster for more information.

FUTURE SECOND COLLECTIONS

6th October CAFOD

13th October PACT (Prisoners Sunday)

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Sunday, 29 September, is the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Pope Francis calls on the whole Church to welcome refugees and migrants, treating them as our neighbours. You can read Pope Francis's message here [*Pope's Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees*](#)

This year, there is a special emphasis on meditative walks, and the Vatican has provided a template for how we might organise such a walk with our brothers and sisters. [*Walking the road with Migrants and Refugees*](#)

At Mass this Sunday, and throughout the week, be sure to keep migrants and refugees throughout the world in your prayers. CAFOD has a number of prayers for you to use: [*Refugee prayers \(cafod.org.uk\)*](#)



Offertory Collection

Last Week:

St. Peter's: £460.66 (incl. via the Dona Machine)

St. Michael: £87.70

Thank You

