

RESPONDING TO THE PSALMS – August 2025

a project of the Spirituality Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

We offer the Sunday Responsorial Psalm as a focus for prayer and reflection during the week ahead for yourself or share with others. You could note your own thoughts as a possible personal journal.

As the Year of Jubilee, the Holy Year, each week different groups and individuals travel to Rome as Pilgrims of Hope. Try to associate yourself with them who are the Church with us.

Our mission to care for creation, to foster peace and reconciliation, is Jesus' own mission, the mission that the Lord entrusts to us. We hear the cry of the earth and we hear the cry of the poor, because this plea has reached the heart of God. Our indignation is his indignation; our work is his work.

In this regard, the psalmist's song inspires us: "The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty" (Ps 29:3-4). That voice commits the Church to speak prophetically, even when it calls for the courage to oppose the destructive power of the princes of this world. The unbreakable covenant between Creator and his creatures inspires our minds and galvanizes our efforts to ensure that evil may turn into good, injustice into justice, and greed to sharing.

With infinite love, God has created all things and given them life. That is why Saint Francis of Assisi could call every creature his brother, his sister and his mother. Only a contemplative gaze can change our relationship with creation and bring us out of the ecological crisis brought on by the breakdown of our relationship with God, with our neighbours and with the earth that is the effect of sin (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 66).

Leo XIV – 9 July 2025 – Celebrating the Mass for the Care of Creation

August 2025

Sunday 3 August 2025 **18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

Sunday 10 August 2025 **19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

Friday 15 August 2025 ***The Assumption. of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

Sunday 17 August 2025 **20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

Sunday 24 August 2025 **21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

Sunday 31 August 2025 **22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

Sunday 3 August 2025 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R1

[Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8° is an option offered for this Sunday instead of this psalm]

O LORD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR REFUGE,
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

You turn man back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

*Reflect on the creation story, humanity created from the earth to which it ultimately returns
Think of how God is beyond all time, all history, and yet he still cares for us*

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.

*Reflect how insignificant each person is in terms of the whole of history
Think how you, each of us, is but a fleeting moment of the human story*

Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants.

*Take time and look back over your life and ask what you have learned about yourself
Ask God to forgive the times we have failed him and others and his creation*

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.

*Pray for the grace to make the most of the days you have left to live
Ask God to bless and prosper particular projects that you want to achieve*

Sunday 10 August 2025 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):1,12. 18-19. 20, 22. R12b

BLESSED THE PEOPLE THE LORD HAS CHOSEN AS HIS HERITAGE.

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.

Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he has chosen as his heritage.

*Thank God that by the grace of baptism he has made us his just and upright people
Remember gratefully the witness of the Jewish people and the heritage they share with us*

Yes, the LORD'S eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

*Reflect how the Lord indeed looks at us constantly, how that gaze is merciful and loving
Thank God for how he gives us our daily bread here and at promises us eternal life*

Our soul is waiting for the LORD.

He is our help and our shield.

May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.

Stand still and wait on the Lord in the silence of your heart

Thank God for the virtue of hope we have because we trust in his merciful love

Friday 15 August 2025

The Assumption of Mary

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R10b

ON YOUR RIGHT STANDS THE QUEEN IN GOLD OF OPHIR.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Pray for all women and men seeking the sacrament of Matrimony and its graces

Ask Mary to intercede for them and hopefully their future families

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:

forget your own people and your father's house.

Pray that like Mary we will be attentive to God's Word and respond to do his will

Pray for all those women who have are committed to lives of contemplation and prayer

So will the king desire your beauty.

He is your lord, pay homage to him.

Pray for all our young people who have poor self images to find hope and courage

Let us pray that we will heed Mary's words to do whatever Christ is telling us

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;

they pass within the palace of the king.

Pray for all our dead to enter into the joy of heaven

Pray that we will live so that one day we enjoy the company of Mary and all the saints

Sunday 17 August 2025

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 40(39):2. 3. 4. 18. R14b

LORD, MAKE HASTE TO HELP ME!

I waited, I waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me.
He heard my cry.

*Think of a time when you waited for God to help you and thank him for hearing you then
Pray for people who are waiting hopefully for God to answer their prayers today*

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock,
made my footsteps firm.

*Reflect on people and situations in the world today where people feel they have no future.
Pray that they will know God as their rock and think how we might support them in any way*

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the LORD.

*Do we praise God joyfully enough for all he has done for us and for our world?
Pray that the way we show our trust in the Lord will be a convincing witness to others*

Wretched and poor though I am,
the Lord is mindful of me.
You are my rescuer, my help;
O my God, do not delay.

*Reflect on how God, as mighty as he is, has time for you as an individual human being
Pray for God to help you in facing the challenges that lie ahead in your life.*

Sunday 24 August 2025 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117(116):1. 2.  Mark 16:15

GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS.

O praise the LORD, all you nations;
acclaim him, all you peoples!

Pray for a deeper sense of mission to the world for yourself and your local community

Pray for people who do not believe to open their hearts to God's Spirit

For his mercy has prevailed over us;
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.

Thank God for his mercy to us and his faithfulness to the Church and all Christians

Ask for the inspiration to demonstrate God's mercy and faithfulness by our lives

Sunday 31 August 2025 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68(67):4-5ac. 6-7b. 10-11. R̄ cf. 11b

IN YOUR GOODNESS, O GOD, YOU PROVIDED A HOME FOR THE POOR.

The upright shall rejoice at the presence of God;
they shall exult with glad rejoicing.

O sing to God; make music to his name.

The LORD is his name.

Pray for all who celebrate the Eucharist and other forms of prayer with us

Thank God for the music that enhances our liturgy and all who provide it for us

Father of orphans, defender of widows:

such is God in his holy place.

God gives the desolate a home to dwell in;

he leads the prisoners forth into prosperity.

Pray for all orphans, widows, widowers and all who struggle with loneliness and isolation

Pray for those who have no hope, all in prison and all who look after them in any way

You poured down, O God, a generous rain;

when your heritage languished, you restored it.

It was there that your flock began to dwell.

In your goodness, O God, you provided for the poor.

Pray for places and people across the earth that need water now for God to help them

Pray for those in material need of any kind and ask God to stir our hearts to help them