

RESPONDING TO THE PSALMS – OCTOBER 2026

a project of

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

We use the Sunday Responsorial Psalm as a focus for prayer and reflection during the week ahead for yourself or to share with others.

You could note your own thoughts as a possible personal journal.

"These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (Jn 14:25-26; 16:13).

In the light of Christ's words, quoted above, the Council affirms that "this tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit" (*Dei Verbum*, 8). This occurs with full comprehension through "contemplation and study made by believers", through "a penetrating understanding of the spiritual realities which they experience" and, above all, with the preaching of the successors of the apostles who have received "the sure gift of truth". In short, "the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes" (*ibid.*).

In this regard, the expression of Saint Gregory the Great is famous:

"The Sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them". And Saint Augustine had already remarked that "there is only one word of God that unfolds through Scripture, and there is only one Word that sounds on the lips of many saints". The Word of God, then, is not fossilized, but rather it is a living and organic reality that develops and grows in Tradition. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Tradition understands it in the richness of its truth and embodies it in the shifting coordinates of history.

In this regard, the proposal of the holy Doctor of the Church John Henry Newman in his work entitled *The Development of Christian Doctrine* is striking. He affirmed that Christianity, both as a communal experience and as a doctrine, is a dynamic reality, in the manner indicated by Jesus himself in the parables of the seed (cf. Mk 4:26-29): a living reality that develops thanks to an inner vital force. [\[3\]](#)



*Pope Leo XIV – catechesis on Dei Verbum [Vatican II Dogmatic Constitution on the Word of God]
28 January 2026*

Sunday 4 October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 11 October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 18 October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 25 October 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79):9, 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. *R* Isaiah 5:7a

THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
It stretched out its branches to the sea;
to the River it stretched out its shoots.

*We pray for all refugees and people living outside their own land to know peace and consolation
We remember the Church and all the peoples of the Holy Land and that area of God's world*

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by the way.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

*We pray for all who live in fear suffering conflict and oppression
We name in our prayer those places we wish to pray for especially*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

*We ask God to help all who work to bring together war-torn nations and communities
We pray for all agencies and individuals working to rebuild places that have been destroyed by war*

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
Bring us back, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

*We pray that enemies in every context, national and personal, may be reconciled
We pray for people of good will throughout the world to enjoy God's peace*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. ~~R~~1

IN THE LORD'S OWN HOUSE SHALL I DWELL
FOR LENGTH OF DAYS UNENDING.

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

*We pray for the Holy Father, all bishops and all who lead God's flock in our world today
Let us thank God for the rest and peace we find in our relationship with him*

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

*We thank God for the guidance for life that we find in his Word and the Church's tradition
We pray for all who are dying and all who care for them, especially the hospice movement*

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

*Thank God for the gift of the Eucharist in your life
Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit received by chrismation in confirmation and ordination*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

*Pray that we can show God's mercy and goodness to people in our daily living
Pray for the grace of heaven that comes by being faithful to God's love*

Sunday 18 October 2026

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10a, c. ~~R~~7b

ASCRIBE TO THE LORD GLORY AND POWER.

O sing a new song to the LORD;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Pray for all who make music in any way to enhance our worship

Pray for all who proclaim God's glory by their preaching, teaching and example of life

For the LORD is great and highly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods.

For the gods of the nations are naught.

It was the LORD who made the heavens.

Simply praise God for his greatness

Pray that the Church can help draw people away from the false gods in modern society

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples,

ascribe to the LORD glory and power;

ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.

Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Pray that our families can build their homes into schools of prayer

Pray that more people will be inspired to give greater service to the church in our parishes

Worship the LORD in holy splendour.

O tremble before him, all the earth.

Say to the nations, 'The LORD is king.'

He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Thank God for all who care for our churches and chapels so that we can worship well

Pray for fairness and equity in the commercial and business world around us

Sunday 25 October 2026

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18(17):2-3a. 3b-4. 47, 51ab. ~~R~~2

I LOVE YOU, LORD, MY STRENGTH.

I love you, LORD, my strength;
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
How do you express your love for God?
Pray for anyone struggling with their faith

My God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, 'O praised be the LORD!'
and see, I am saved from my foes.
Thank God for the times when he has been your refuge and stronghold
Pray for people who are in despair of any kind

The LORD lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The LORD gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed.
Pray for all who exercise secular power to always work for the common good
Pray for all anointed as ministers of the Church to exercise their role with mercy and love