RESPONDING TO THE PSALMS – NOVEMBER 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.

"Why should the Book of Psalms, set within the heart of the Old Testament, be singled out as worthy of independent consideration? The psalms have no great stories; the worldview expressed in the poetry is sometimes puzzling, and the language frequently vitriolic. Yet, as an anthology of one hundred and fifty hymns and prayers, composed and compiled over some seven hundred years of biblical history, it could be argued that the psalms represent, in microcosm, the literature and theology of the entire Old Testament expressed in poetic form. Without the psalms we would know far less about the emergence of early Jewish and Christian beliefs, and we would be far less informed about the cultural history of Judaism and Christianity in both the East and the West……..



People tend to think of the Book of Psalms being used by both Jews and Christians primarily in private and in public as a text for use in worship in the synagogue or church. That the psalter is intrinsically bound up with prayer and worship is an accurate observation, but this is hardly enough to present it as an example of classical literature. Yet the fact is that the Psalter is on of the most cited and imitated books in Scripture, and over the centuries no other religious work offers quite the same rich reception history – not only in the written and spoken word, but also, for example in art music and film.

Susan Gillingham *The Psalms – A Companion* Penguin Classics 2026 p.2

Sunday 1 November	All Saints - Solemnity
Sunday 8 November	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 15 November	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 22 November	34th Sunday in Ordinary Time Christ the Universal King
Sunday 29 November	First Sunday of Advent - B

All Saints - Solemnity

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. ℟ cf. 6

SUCH ARE THE PEOPLE WHO SEEK YOUR FACE, O LORD.

The LORD'S is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.
- Reflect how this feast asks us to focus on our calling to live one day in the presence of the living God
- Stop and meditate on God's nature as creator and all-powerful Lord

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.
- Ask for strength to live your baptism faithfully as pilgrims journeying to heaven, God's holy place
- Ask for the courage to live pure and holy lives, focussing on what really matters

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- Thank God for the call to holiness and the blessings he already shares with us
- Pray for all who encourage us on our shared journey in faith and think how to support them

Sunday 8 November 2026 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. ℟2b

℟ FOR YOU MY SOUL IS THIRSTING, O LORD, MY GOD.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.
- *Thank God for gift of faith, for being able to have a personal relationship in Christ*
- *Pray for people who are struggling with their faith, who face dry and arid times*

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.
- *Thank God for how we worship together in all our liturgies to deepen our faith*
- *Pray for all who find prayer difficult or who have never known the gift of prayer*

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.
- *Thank God for the way we can live our faith serving others for love of God*
- *Just thank God joyfully for all the blessings we have from him, enriching our lives*

When I remember you upon my bed,
On you I muse through the watches of the night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
- *Thank God for those moments of stillness and quiet, privileged encounters with him*
- *Recognise how God is our strength and shelter in a challenging world*

Sunday 15 November 2026 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. ℟1a

BLESSED ARE ALL WHO FEAR THE LORD.

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper.
- Thank God for all who share Christian baptism with us and pray for ever deeper unity
- Pray for all whose work supports our daily living that God may bless the work of their hands

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table.
- On the tenth anniversary of Amoris Laetitia pray for the Church's ongoing work to support marriage and family life
- Pray for all our young people to grow strong as they face their future in today's world

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life!
- Pray for all married couples to be blessed with deeper love and enduring faithfulness
- Pray for Jewish people that they will be faithful to the promises made to Abraham and Sarah

Sunday 22 November 2026 Christ the King - Solemnity

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1-2a. 2b-3. 5. 6. ℟1

℟ THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
- Pray for people who are in want while we have more than enough
- Thank God for the people or places where you feel you have real peace

Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.
He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
- Pray for all those who are living in fear of any kind, facing conflict and division
-Thank God that our faith gives us direction and a sense of purpose in life

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
- Pray for a deeper gratitude for the gift of the eucharist, remembering those who are excluded for different reasons
- Pray for a deeper appreciation of how we have been anointed in Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, Sacrament of the Sick

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 for a deeper understanding of the sacrament of Reconciliation and God's mercy
- Pray for a deeper sense that our earthly liturgy prepares us to live in God's house forever

Sunday 29 November 2026 1st Sunday of Advent

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. ℟4

BRING US BACK, O GOD;
LET YOUR FACE SHINE FORTH, AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.
- Pray for your Advent to be a time of deeper inner silence to listen to God's call
- Pray that Christ's coming into the world may bring peace where it is needed

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.
- Pray for your Advent to be a time to deepen our awareness of God's presence with us every moment of every day
- Pray that Christ's coming into the world may bring protection to all who feel threatened in any way

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
- Pray for your Advent to be a time of deeper awareness of how privileged we are to be God's own people
- Pray for the times when we have neglected God's presence in our lives