

Our Ladye Star of the Sea
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Nineteenth Ordinary Sunday

10th August 2025 Year C

Red Book page 121

***“When Israel came out of Egypt, and
the house of Jacob from an alien people,
Judah was his sanctuary,
and Israel his dominion”***

I remember singing these words from the time when I was just 8 years old. They are the opening verses of **Psalm 114**. Very comforting to a young child. The Psalm goes on to celebrate the Red Sea being opened to create a safe path for the people and the river Jordan being driven back on its course. The whole land rejoiced:

***“The mountains skipped like rams
and the little hills like yearling sheep”***

There’s an image with which to conjure. What a wonderful place Israel must have been in the imaginative mind of this young chorister, and what a wonderful place it must remain if God himself had led the people to that place. Israel was intended to be a sanctuary, a safe place where people could live with God and **Jeru-Shalom** was to be the *City of Peace*! (That’s why Catholics call the holiest place with the tabernacle in church, the “*Sanctuary*” because **“Here God lives among men”** as in Rev 21v3)

Later at secondary school I had a Jewish friend; **Adrian Reema** was a little over weight and always in trouble and I was often in trouble with him. Teachers used to yell his name down the corridors, **REEMA!** He came all the way from Tottenham because the schools in Enfield were said to be better. His family were jewellers. I remember that he celebrated his **Bar Mitzva** at 13 and we kind of celebrated with him in the knowledge that, unlike the rest of us, in his community he was now officially grown up. Although he diligently insisted that he didn’t believe in Jesus, he faithfully carried his little **“Gideon”**



New Testament which we had all been given, because it included the Psalms. We had things in common because we both knew those same Psalms. Being the only (active) Jewish boy in a school with an atheist agenda, he was surprised to find another kid who seemed to know **HIS Psalms!** So, here’s another one... Psalm 41:

***BLESSED is he that considereth
the poor and needy, the Lord shall
deliver him in the time of trouble.
The Lord preserve him, and keep him
alive, that he may be blessed upon earth***

I am finding it difficult now to read my Old Testament scriptures in the knowledge of what is happening in *Israel/Gaza* today. Given that so much of what we call **“Salvation History”** in the Hebrew/Old Testament is an ongoing traumatic account (from 1500 years “BC”) of the survival of God’s people against all the odds in the face of never ending political upheavals, how does modern Israel stand in the context of its own Biblical heritage? The reading this week from **Wisdom** is a celebration of that ancient memory of the night of the Passover, literally; **“When Israel came out of Egypt”**. It portrays Israel as the unlikely winners after so many generations of oppression & slavery. I fear as we learn more about what Israel is actually

perpetrating against the defenceless children of Gaza, it is no longer a valid image for today. The tide of public opinion is turning, and not least even among a groundswell of outspoken western Rabbis. I fear it is too little and too late. There is the greater dilemma that Judaism itself could unravel...

REEMA! I hope you are still out there somewhere and I hope you are still reading those Psalms! May God have mercy on us all! **God Bless Fr K**

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 73: 20, 19, 22, 23

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and
forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and
forget not the cries of those who seek you.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons
and daughters, that we may merit to enter into
the inheritance which you have promised...

First reading**Wisdom 18:6-9**

That night of our liberation was made known
beforehand to our fathers, so that they might
rejoice in sure knowledge of the oaths in which
they trusted. The deliverance of the righteous &
the destruction of their enemies were expected
by your people. For by the same means by
which you punished our enemies you called us
to yourself and glorified us. For in secret the
holy children of good people offered sacrifices
and with one accord agreed to the divine law,
that the saints would share alike the same
things, both blessings and dangers; and already
they were singing the praises of the fathers.

Responsorial**Verses from Psalm 33(32):**

*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. (R)

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. (R)

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. (R)

Second reading**Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19**

Brothers & Sisters: Faith is the assurance of
things hoped for, the conviction of things not
seen. For by it the people of old received their
commendation. By faith Abraham obeyed when

he was called to go out to a place that he was to
receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not
knowing where he was going. By faith he went
to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign
land, living in tents with Isaac & Jacob, heirs
with him of the same promise. For he was
looking forward to the city that has foundations,
whose designer & builder is God. By faith
Sarah herself received power to conceive, even
when she was past the age, since she considered
him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from
one man, and him as good as dead, were born
descendants as many as the stars of heaven and
as many as the innumerable grains of sand by
the seashore. These all died in faith, not having
received the things promised, but having seen
them and greeted them from afar, and having
acknowledged that they were strangers and
exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus
make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.
If they had been thinking of that land from
which they had gone out, they would have had
opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a
better country, that is, a heavenly one.
Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their
God, for he has prepared for them a city. By
faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up
Isaac, & he who had received the promises was
in the act of offering up his only son, of whom
it was said, 'Through Isaac shall your offspring
be named.' He considered that God was able
even to raise him from the dead, from which,
figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Alleluia, Stay awake and be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming
at an hour you do not expect.

Gospel**Luke 12:32-48**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Fear
not, little flock, for it is your Father's good
pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your
possessions, and give to the needy. Provide
yourselves with money bags that do not grow
old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not
fail, where no thief approaches and no moth
destroys. For where your treasure is, there will
your heart be also. 'Stay dressed for action and
keep your lamps burning, and be like men who
are waiting for their master to come home from
the wedding feast, so that they may open the

door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service, and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?' And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, "My master is delayed in coming", and begins to beat the male & female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 6: 51

The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.

Prayer after Communion

May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth.

Fr Kevin will be away from Greenwich Mon-Wed 11-13th this week – No Wedding administration on Tuesday. Church open as usual for Eucharistic Services.

The following extract, was written 22yrs ago but it could have been written yesterday! - It is part of a letter written by a 23yr old girl, **Rachel**, to her mother in 2003, less than a month before she was killed by an Israeli military bulldozer.

"This has to stop. I think it is a good idea for us all to drop everything and devote our lives to making this stop. I don't think it's an extremist thing to do anymore. I still really want to dance around and have boyfriends. But I also want this to stop. Disbelief and horror is what I feel. Disappointment. I am disappointed that this is the base reality of our world and that we, in fact, participate in it. This is not at all what I asked for when I came into this world. This is not at all what the people here asked for when they came into this world. This is not the world you and Dad wanted me to come into when you decided to have me. This is not what I meant when I looked out at the Lake and said: 'This is the wide world and I'm coming to it.' I did not mean that I was coming into a world where I could live a comfortable life and possibly, with no effort at all, exist in complete unawareness of my participation in genocide".

Rachel Corrie was an American peace activist from Washington, crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer on 16 March 2003, while undertaking nonviolent direct action to **protect the home of a Palestinian family from demolition**. Since then Rachel's words about peace, justice and human dignity from her journals and emails from her time in Palestine have been published in books, turned into plays and dramatic readings, they have all been collected here:

<https://rachelcorriefoundation.org/rachel/emails>

"I should at least mention that I am also discovering a degree of strength and of basic ability for humans to remain human in the direst of circumstances – which I also haven't seen before. I think the word is dignity. I wish you could meet these people. Maybe, hopefully, someday you will."

Rachel Corrie, in an email letter to her mother, February 28 2003.

The Nineteenth Ordinary Sunday August 10th - 17th 2025

Satd 9th 6.00pm Int: In Thanksgiving

Sunday 9.00am Int: David Lawrence & Robert Lawrence Nairac RiP

19th Ord 11.00am Int: Matthew Moroney (WB & Fmy Siobhan's brother)

Tues 12th 7.00pm **Eucharistic Service only** Holy Mass continues every Saturday

Wed 13th 9.30am **Eucharistic Service only** 4.30 at On Elisabeth Cottage Chapel

Thrs 14th 9.30am Int: Greg McCarthy (RiP) 11.30 Rip Sarah Walsh - Blackheath

Frid 15th **Feast of the Assumption BVM Masses at 9.30 & 7.30pm**

(Next Saturday Holy Baptism 12.30)

7.30 Int: Mary Caffrey (RiP)

Satd 16th 6.00pm Int: Eduardo Manuel & Antonio Yorge Alves (RiP)

Sunday 9.00am Int: Sheila Perkins 80th BD today.

20th Ord 11.00am Int: Sarah Walsh (RiP)



Can You Help Us Identify Your Standing Order?

Over the past few years, we have been blessed to receive a number of new standing orders into our parish bank account – thank you! These regular donations are vital in supporting the mission and ministry of our parish.

However, we're currently unable to identify some of these standing orders.

If you give by Standing Order to our parish, and can Gift Aid, please renew your Gift Aid declaration online via:

<https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid/>

Or by scanning the QR code with your phone:

Alternatively, if you are NOT a Gift Aider, but ARE supporting our parish via Standing Order, you can let us know by emailing the parish on:

greenwichwest@rcaos.org.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support, it makes a difference to the life & mission of our parish.

Sarah Walsh RiP Requiem this Thursday

Sarah was once well known at OLSS. She struggled with MND. Devotedly cared for at home by husband Stephen & their daughter.

Died at St Christopher's Hospice

Funeral "St Mary" Blackheath Aug 14th 11.30

"60+" Healing Mass and tea!

A warm welcome awaits you this Thursday at 2.00pm at the Dominican Convent in Hyde Vale and NB You don't need to be 60!

The Charlton Society

"Celebrating the past, embracing the future"
Saturday September 20th 2025

2.30pm at St Luke's Church, Charlton Village

Jane Lawson will present her talk

'Urban Plants – weeds or wonders?'

A Requiem Mass for Mr **James J McGovern** will be held on Tuesday 19th Aug at 11.30 at **"St Mary's"** Blackheath, with **Mgr Nicholas Rethon**. James was a highly respected solicitor for over 40 years, working almost exclusively in advocacy, from a practice in Islington until 1993 and then in Greenwich. He was well known for free legal advice services presented live on radio & TV and for his charitable work. He helped to set up voluntary duty solicitors schemes and free legal advice centres across London. He administered several charities and served on the Boards of Governors for Catholic Schools. In the early 1980's he was solicitor to the Archdiocese of Southwark. He received a Papal Blessing in 1989 from Pope John Paul II.

Times of Mass and OTHER Services

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Saturday Vigil at 6.00pm at the Star of the Sea **Twitter:** Stella Maris@MarisCrooms

Sunday Masses at 9.00 am & 11.00am

benchandpew@yahoo.com

Weekday Masses: Tuesday NB at 7.00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30 am

Saturday at 10.00am Tuesday from 18.15 at the Star of the Sea or by appointment

The Presbytery 68 Crooms Hill London SE10 8HG Tel: 020 8858 0662



Confessions:

BAPTISM

Preparation & Arrangement commences again in September.

Dominican Conv: 38 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH Tel: 020 8692 3382

St Joseph's RC Primary School Tel: 020 8858 4182 Commerell Str SE10 9AN H/T: Suzanne Long

St Ursula's Girls Convent School Tel: 020 8858 4613 Crooms Hill, SE10 8HN H/T: Mark O'Shaughnessy