

Sunday Message

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 18 October 2026 • Psalter Week 1

TAXING QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 22:15-21



Today's Gospel has drawn conflicting interpretations throughout Christian history, especially when it has been invoked for guidance on relations between church and state.

'Rendering to Caesar' has sometimes been taken to mean that Christians should keep religion and politics strictly separate. But this isn't the point of this story. To understand it properly, we need to bear in mind that the heart of Jesus' preaching was that the kingdom of God is at hand.

That kingdom is not a place, but a call to submit every aspect of our lives to God's kingly rule. Until God's rule is fully realised, we live in provisional times. We live, for example, in a political world whose values often fall short of the values of God's kingdom and can even be directly opposed to them. 'Rendering to God the things that are God's' acknowledges that God has an interest in the human world, including the world of finance and politics, especially when it concerns itself with moral issues. To be a disciple of Jesus means that all other values, including our political allegiances, must always be weighed against Jesus' values.

As Christians, we know that everything we have comes from God. All is gift. We depend on God at every moment of every day. We must live in such a way that we do not allow money or material things to supersede our relationship with God and our commitment to God's kingdom. ■

DO

Speak to somebody about your faith. Explain why it's important to you.

SAY

'Lord, help me to be an effective witness to you today and every day. Amen.'

PRAY

Remember those missionaries who travelled to every corner of the world to proclaim the Good News. Thank God for them. Remember all those who instructed you in the faith. Thank God for their witness.



LEARN

Being a missionary has nothing to do with being a priest or religious or with leaving home to preach the Gospel. The church is missionary by its very nature, and all of us by virtue of our baptism are called to be missionaries. All we have to do is to witness to the love of God by the way we live our lives.

REFLECT

In the 1960s, my aunt was one of a group of Irish Presentation sisters who established a new foundation in the United States. A bishop in Utah wanted to bring some teaching sisters to his diocese, and he came to Ireland in search of them. The Presentation Sisters in Co Tipperary answered his plea. They opened a parochial school in Salt Lake City. Utah was a strongly Mormon state, and most of the pupils were members of that religion. The sisters did not see their role as proselytising. They saw themselves as witnesses who would point to Jesus by the example of their lives.

It worked. These nuns made a big impact on all who encountered them. It was easy to see that they loved teaching and loved their pupils. They made no distinctions between Catholic pupils and others.

Several years ago, my aunt, Sr Josephine, died, and shortly afterwards, the principal of her school in Salt Lake City received an email. This is what it said:

'Many years ago, I attended your school for just one year, after spending three years in the public school system. That one year was the most important in my education. I learned how to read that year, and I learned self-respect and respect for others. I learned about God. I am forever grateful to the nuns and teachers there. I attended Fifth Grade in 1972. Sr Josephine was my teacher. I just want to state how grateful I am to her and how much she meant to me and how I still hold her in my heart.'

Twenty-four years after I attended your school, I converted to Catholicism. My two daughters are Catholic and attending

Catholic school. At your school, a seed was planted, and I find that the gifts from that seed are plentiful and richly rewarding...'

My aunt had no idea of the impact she made on that young pupil, but I am not surprised. That was the kind of person she was. Even without explicitly stating it, she was a missionary. Even without preaching about the Gospel, she lived the Gospel. In everything, she radiated love.

This Mission Sunday is a reminder that we are all called to be missionaries. We don't have to join the priesthood or religious life to be missionaries. We don't have to give up our work, home or family. We don't have to move to a far distant country. All we have to do is to witness to our Christian calling as best we can. Imagine how different our world would be if everybody lived like that. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

'For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

R: Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.

1. 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. **R.**
2. 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. **R.**
3. 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. **R.**
4. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly
mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our
God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know,
brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,
because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in
power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Philippians 2:15d, 16a

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle
Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along
with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true
and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about
anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell
us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or
not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to
the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.' And
they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose
likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he
said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are
Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.*

Or

*The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



St Patrick's Church
King Street
Wellington
TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco
M: 07447 632733 E: fr ravi.bosco@gmail.com

Our Lady of the Rosary &
St Luke's Church
Church Road, Trench
TF2 7HG

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michał Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmw.org
Parish Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423
Safeguarding Rep: Cheryl Breeze M: 07748870755 E: olspsafeguarding@hotmail.com

Sat	17	17:30	Joyce P Sarojini & Jacob W Ponnuthurai RIP	St Patrick's
		18:30	Baptism - Bella Somtochukwu Nwofor	St Patrick's
Sun	18	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Ninth		09:00	Maria & Family	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Michael Tierney - SVP Intention	St Patrick's
Time			Day of Special Prayer for World Missions – 2 nd Collection	
		12:30	Baptisms – Lucas P, Ellie L, & Brooke J Gallagher	St Patrick's
Mon	19	St Peter of Alcantara, Secondary Patron of Shrewsbury Cathedral		
Tues	20	Ferial		
		12:00	Ros & Derek Hargrave (Farewell), CWL Mass	St Patrick's
Wed	21	Ferial		
		10:00	Joseph Maya RIP	St Luke's School
Thurs	22	St John Paul II		
		14:00	Funeral Service - Eileen P O'Brien	Aston House Chapel
		19:00	James Oliver Butler RIP	St Patrick's
Fri	23	St John of Capestrano		
		09:30	Vincent Kwasnica - health	St Patrick's
		14:00	Mass with Teachers	Our Lady's
		18:00	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Sat	24	17:30	James Douglas - Anniversary	St Patrick's
Sun	25	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Thirtieth Sunday in		09:00	Maria Maya Family Thanksgiving	Our Lady's
Ordinary Time		11:00	T.M. Jacob RIP	St Patrick's
		12:30	Baptism - Awele Adaeze Ofobeze	St Patrick's

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

RIP: Eileen P O'Brien. We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

BAPTISMS: Forms are available from the porch. Please hand your form to Fr Ravi. Baptism Preparation class on the last Saturday of the month at 12pm – 31/10.

ROTAS (W, EM, C)

Sat 5:30 Appurwa & Pansilu, Nicky, Anne & John **24/10:** Martin & Mary, Nicky, Gay & Nicky

Sun 9:00 Alex & Janet, Rita, Laura & Edith **25/10:** Elias & Laura, Catharine D, Bobbie & John & Nick

Sun 11:00 Graham & Carmen, Jane, Diane & Collette **25/10:** Stephen & Shan, Ewa, Kate & Geraldine

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1,510.40 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £295.30, Loose Plate £393.98, Dona £58.00
We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details:

SRC DT 234025
St Patrick Wellington
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54546760

SRC DT -234025
Our Lady & St Luke Telford
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54582160



Please scan this QR code to donate to your parish online. You can register your card for gift aid to be added to every donation

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTREAMED MASSES from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>

World Mission Sunday: Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday (WMS). By supporting Missio – the Pope's charity for world mission – we stand united as God's global family, in prayer, solidarity and action. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission' to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday and encourages us to unite with missionaries as they strive to reach out with God's love to communities in need. Please pray for the work of mission and give what you can to this vital collection.

What is World Mission Sunday (WMS)? Since Pope Pius XI established WMS in 1926, it has grown from a simple appeal to support missionaries through prayer and giving, into a global celebration of the Church's missionary identity, reminding every baptised person of their call to share Christ's mission.

Why do all parishes take part? Mission is the responsibility of the whole Church, and this global celebration of WMS is a reminder that we are one family in Christ. This special day is our chance to show love and solidarity to our sisters and brothers overseas living in great poverty, conflict and turmoil. In offering our prayers, we unite with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to share our faith in Jesus so that all may experience God's love. On WMS, every parish contributes according to its means, so that churches in greatest need receive support from the worldwide Catholic family. For example, in 2025 Catholics in Myanmar raised £13,395; Malawi gave £31,310; Ecuador contributed £312,896; France donated £921,000; and here in England and Wales, we raised £713,954.

How has mission changed over the last 100 years?

The Church's mission remains the same: to proclaim Christ and to serve humanity. Today, we understand that mission is the responsibility of every baptised person and is carried out through dialogue, justice, peace, care for creation, respect for cultures and witness to the Gospel.

How does WMS help? Prayers and donations support local churches in providing such things as pastoral care, education and healthcare. Donations to WMS go directly to missionaries and local churches in mission dioceses. Funds are distributed via local bishops to meet the priorities identified by the community, whether it's helping to build a simple chapel, provide vital healthcare, set up a school or create a safe space for children. Your support encourages communities to grow in faith, dignity and self-reliance.

How can I take part?

- Pray for missionaries and the people they serve and empower
- Give what you can to the World Mission Sunday collection in your parish or donate directly to

Missio: missio.org.uk/donate or call 020 7821 9755 during office hours. Direct debit and Gift aid can also be set-up with your donation.

- Invite others to celebrate our belonging to the universal Church by sharing our appeal in person or online, or both!

World Mission Sunday is a special day of prayer, solidarity and giving that unites Catholics in sharing the Good News of God's love for all people.

First Holy Communion 2027: Enrolment forms for the next Holy Communion Group are available from the porch. Please fill in the forms and return them before the 30th of Nov. The dates for the masses and lessons will also be on the notice board and can be emailed to you by request.

Thank You: A big thank you from the Telford Crisis Centre for the Harvest Festival grocery collection from Our Lady's, and the regular donations from St Patrick's. All very much appreciated.

November Cemetery Mass: As we have done for the past three years, we will have the annual remembrance Mass at Wellington Cemetery (by Fr Alban's grave) on Sat 7th Nov at 11am for all our dear ones who have died. It is an opportunity for those who cannot visit the graves of their loved ones in other places/countries to visit a cemetery and celebrate the memory of their loved ones

Parish Meal: Thank you to everyone who has confirmed their place for the Parish Christmas Meal on 6th December 2026 at the Hadley Park Hotel. If anyone else would like to join us, you are most welcome. Please pay by 31st October. Cheques and cash payments to be given directly to Pauline Hoyle and if you are transferring money to parish bank accounts:

Our Lady & St Luke Telford: 30-15-52, 54582160 or
St Patrick Wellington: 30-15-52, 54546760

Please mention *Christmas meal* and let Pauline know after you have transferred the amount. Please contact pauline.hoyle@outlook.com if you need further information.

Hadley Male Voice Choir: We are pleased to welcome Hadley Male Voice Choir back to St Patrick's Church on Friday, 6th November and they will be performing from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets will cost £10 which will include Tea/Coffee. Tickets on sale at Sunday Masses from 10th October or to reserve tickets please phone Gay Kendrick 01952 401084.

Parish Pastoral Team: A summary of our parish conversation held on 26th September, will be included in next week's newsletter.

Please continue to keep **Pope Leo** in your prayers.