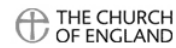




St John the Baptist, Catford & Downham Team Ministry
The 15th Sunday after Trinity
 13th September 2026



www.stjohnscatford.co.uk

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Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
 grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1st Reading: Genesis 50.15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said,
 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us

and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?'

¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying,
 'Your father gave this instruction before he died,

¹⁷ "Say to Joseph:
 I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you."
 Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.'

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said,
 'We are here as your slaves.'

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them,
 'Do not be afraid!
 Am I in the place of God?

²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me,
 God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

²¹ So have no fear;
 I myself will provide for you and your little ones.'

In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 103.8-13

Refrain:

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:
long-suffering, and of great goodness.

⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: long-suffering, and of great goodness.

⁹He will not always be chiding;
 neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

R

¹⁰He hath not dealt with us after our sins: nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

¹¹For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth:
 so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

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¹²Look how wide also the east is from the west:
 so far hath he set our sins from us.

¹³Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children: even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.

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2nd Reading: Romans 14.1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith,
 but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain,

and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another?

It is before their own lord that they stand or fall.

And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord,

since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister?

Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?

For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written,
 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 18.21-35

We repeat the Gospel acclamation:
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.
Glory to you O, Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'

²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe."

²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers

For healing and protection for: Bevin Scott, Lloyd Page, Cameron, Joyce Howard, Gabriel Solomon, Laura Verlander, Eunice, Youngson, Pelu Thomas, Alison Marrett, Dwayne, Eric, Annie, Beverley, Glyn, Drew Spikes, Ruth Bennett, Bilki, Marcel, Leila, Theresa.

For those departed this life including. Marianne Nandu, Chris Cole, Arthurlin Silvera, Marie Lydia Joseph, and those with an anniversary of a death at this time.

Notices

St John's WhatsApp prayer group- speak to Anne-Marie or Shea to join.

Foodbank donations

Can be left in the collection bins outside the hall, or in the crate at the back of church. All non-perishable donations welcome.

Volunteers appreciated to help once a month with Children's Church or Youth Church. Speak to Cynthia or Shea for details.

Church Diary

Prayer chapel open:
7.30-5.30pm Weekdays
9.30-5.30pm Weekends

15th Sunday after Trinity (13th)
10.30am Sung Mass with Children's Church & Youth Church

Monday 14th Holy Cross Day
7.30am Morning Prayer (MP)
5pm Evensong (ES)

Tuesday 15th Cyprian, martyr, 258
7.30am MP 8.30am said Mass
1.30pm Mothers' Union. 5pm ES.

Wednesday 16th Ninian, bishop, c432
7.30am MP. 10am Said Mass followed by Bible Study. 5pm ES

Thursday 17th Hildegard, abbess, 1179
7.30am MP. 5pm ES

Friday 18th
7.30am MP.
10am Said Mass at St Barnabas

16th Sunday after Trinity (20th)
10.30am Sung Mass with Children's Church & Youth Church

Any queries contact:

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