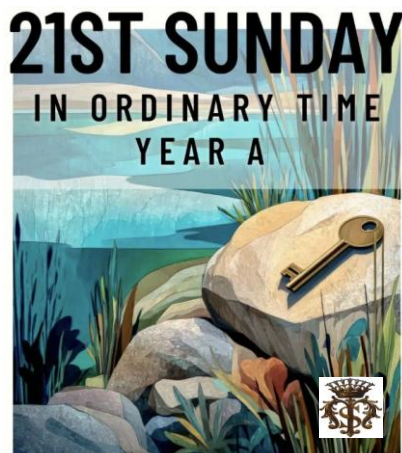




OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YR. A 23RD AUGUST 2026

Reflection

The readings for the Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, invite us to contemplate our identity in Christ and the authority and responsibility that comes with following Him.

God does not call people without also giving them the strength and grace needed for their mission. He works through ordinary people to guide, strengthen and care for His people.

The 1st reading from the prophet Isaiah 22:19-23, we hear God appointing Eliakim as the steward of His house. This act illustrates the divine authority bestowed upon certain leaders, but is also reminds us that leadership is a sacred trust. Eliakim's key symbolize access and responsibility indicating that true authority comes from God and must be exercised in His service.

The 2nd reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 11:33-36, calls out the depth of God's wisdom and knowledge. His rhetorical question, "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things," summons us to marvel at our place within God's grand design. Our faith is not just an acknowledgment of God's authority, it is a response to His love and the realization that all creation is a reflection of His glory.

The Gospel is taken from St. Matthew 16:13-20, we encounter Jesus asking His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" St. Peter's confession of faith is foundational. Jesus responds by affirming Peter's role and the authority that will be given to him. This moment marks the establishment of the Church, built upon the rock of faith.



Baptismal Course – The next baptismal course starts on 1st September 2026 (Tuesday) with the second concluding part on 8th September 2026 (Tuesday). These will be held in the Founders Room at 7:00pm.

Summer Mass - As the Priests in the Community will be taking holidays at different times during August, it was decided to have One Mass each weekday from Monday 3rd August to Friday 28th August at 10 am each day only. There will be NO 6.30 pm Evening Mass. Except on 26th August (Wednesday) for St. Peregrine Healing Mass at 6:30 pm. Though Saturday and Sunday masses will be as usual; Saturday at 10:00 am and Vigil at 6:30pm, Sundays at 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 am (Spanish Mass) and 6:30 pm.

Appeal for the Lighting System – We are deeply grateful to the generosity of our parishioners who donated £10,000 (which will increase to £12,500 through Gift Aid), two others who have generously donated £5,000 each, and others who shared towards the repair and upgrade of our church lighting system. We prayerfully invite other parishioners and friends of the parish to help us meet the remaining cost. Every gift, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference and is sincerely appreciated. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and continued support of our parish. May God bless you abundantly.

Adult Confirmations – The next Adult Confirmation celebration in the Diocese of Westminster will take place on 24th October 2026 (Saturday) at 6:00 pm. This celebration is intended primarily for adults who need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation outside the parish RCIA programme. If you wish to be considered or would like further information, please visit or contact the Parish Office to assist you with the necessary arrangements.

Mass Collections (15th & 16th August 2026) – £1,459 was received in the main collection, and £221 in the second collection for Church Restoration. Thank you for your faithful kindness and wholehearted support.



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Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30 pm
 Sunday 9.30 am
 11.00 am
 Spanish Mass 12.30 pm
 6.30 pm
 Mon to Sat 10am & 6.30 pm

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15 am
 6.00 – 6.30 pm
 Mon – Fri 6:15 – 6:30 pm

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm
 (Lunch from 1.30pm to 2.30pm)

Rosary

Every Wednesday after
 10am Mass followed by Tea
 in the Founders Room.

- Rosary also held on Sundays
 at 3pm in the Colonnade.

Legion of Mary

Every Tuesday at 7pm in the
 Parlour.

Holy Hour

1st Friday of every month after
 10am Mass. The hour will include
 Rosary, Litany Divine Mercy &
 Benediction.

Saints Days

Mon 24th – St. Bartholomew
Tue 25th – St. Louis of France
Wed 26th – St. Joseph Calasanz
Thu 27th – St. Monica
Fri 28th – St. Augustine of Hippo
Sat 29th – Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist



St. Peregrine Mass of Healing

Our next St. Peregrine Mass of
 Healing is on **26th August 2026** at
 6.30pm.

Relic of St. Carlo Acutis

Exposition of this Relic on every
 Monday after our 10am Mass.

St. Carlo Acutis, Pray for us.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 23rd August 2026

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of

Isaiah

22:15, 19-23

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house." '

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 138(137):1-2a. 2bc, 3. 6, 8bc. R8bc

R. O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth. In the presence of the angels I praise you. I bow down towards your holy Temple. **R.**

2. I give thanks to your name for your merciful love and your faithfulness. On the day I called, you answered me; you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

3. The Lord is high, yet he looks on the

lowly, and the haughty he knows from afar. O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of

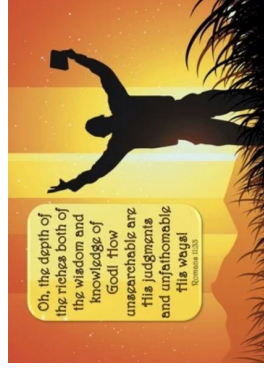
St. Paul to the Romans

11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel

according to Matthew

16:13-20

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar -Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you,

Lord Jesus Christ



NICENE CREED—See Laudate 479 (205)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (All bow for following three lines) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.