

Sunday Newsletter

St Ninian RC Church & St Joseph RC Church

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

ORDINARY TIME

THE GROWTH OF DISCIPLESHIP

Ordinary Time is the longest season of the liturgical year. It is a time to deepen our faith, grow in holiness, and live out our baptismal call through everyday life.



God's Generosity, Our Gratitude

Today's Gospel challenges a habit: comparing ourselves with others. The workers who came complained because those who worked one hour received the same wage. Their problem was not that the master was unfair; it was that a person's blessing made them feel cheated.

We can behave the same way. We see someone buying a house, getting a promotion, enjoying a marriage, having children, or receiving an opportunity we wanted, and we ask, "Why them and not me?" in the Church, we compare our sacrifices, responsibilities,

or gifts with those of others.

Jesus reminds us that God's goodness is not limited. Someone else's blessing does not reduce what God can give us. Instead of counting another person's blessings, we should recognise our own.

Isaiah tells us, "Seek the Lord while he may be found." This means turning our attention to God rather than measuring our lives against others. St Paul gives us lesson: whether in life or death, Christ is our purpose. Therefore, our question should not be, "Am I ahead of others?" but, "Am I faithful to God today?"

Let us stop comparing and start thanking. Let us work faithfully, rejoice in another person's success, and trust God with the journey. His ways are higher than ours, and his generosity is greater than we can imagine.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW WEEK

Heavenly Father, as I begin this new week, I place myself and my entire family into Your loving hands. Thank You for the gift of life, Your unfailing mercy, and Your constant protection. Go before us in every step we take and fill our hearts with Your peace. Bless our work, studies, ministry, and daily responsibilities with success and purpose. Keep us safe from every danger, sickness, accident, temptation, and evil. Strengthen our faith when we face challenges, and help us to trust You in every circumstance. Fill our home with love, unity, forgiveness, and joy. Grant us wisdom to make good decisions and generous hearts to serve others. May Your Holy Spirit guide our words and actions so that we may glorify You in all we do. We entrust this new week to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Our Sunday Masses:

Vigil Mass: 5.00pm in St Ninian's RC Church

Sunday Mass:

9.30am in St. Ninian's RC Church
11.00am in St. Joseph's RC Church

Daily Masses

St Ninian's RC Church:

Tuesday; 10am
Wednesday; 10am
Friday; 10am.

St Joseph's RC Church:

Wednesday; 11am
Thursday; 10am
Saturday; 10am

Holy Days of Obligation:

Vigil Mass: 5.00pm in St Ninian's RC Church

Day Masses:

Morning: As announced.

EXPOSITION;

Saturday; 10.30am to 11am in St Joseph's Church
Friday; 10.30am to 11am in St. Ninian's Church
Birthday Celebrations; 3rd Sunday of the month

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession

St. Ninian; Saturday 4.15pm—4.45pm
St. Joseph; Saturday 10.30am

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO HAVE A CUPPA WITH US AFTER THE SUNDAY MASSES.

Rev. Michael Ngobili +441382669966

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Parishes Web Addresses

<https://stniniansparish.co.uk>

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Sunday 20 September 2026

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time ■

Liturgical Colour: Green. Year: A(II).

Readings at Mass

First reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

‘My thoughts are not your thoughts.’

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R18a

The LORD is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

The LORD is close to all who call him.

Second reading

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

‘For to me to live is Christ.’

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body,
whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ,

and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Acts 16:14b

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

‘Do you begrudge my generosity?’

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, “You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.” So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, “Why do you stand here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You go into the vineyard too.”

‘And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, “Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.” And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” So the last will be first, and the first last.’

BIDDING PRAYERS

Celebrant:

My brothers and sisters, trusting in the goodness and generosity of God, let us bring our prayers before him with confidence.

1. For the Church:

That the Church may faithfully proclaim God's ways, which are higher than our ways, and lead people everywhere to seek the Lord with sincere hearts, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For our world and those in need:

That God may bless those who are struggling with poverty, unemployment, loneliness, illness or uncertainty, and that through our generosity they may experience his loving care, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For our care of creation:

That we may respect and protect God's creation, using the earth's resources responsibly and caring especially for those most affected by pollution, climate change and environmental destruction, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For our parish Harvest:

As we prepare for our parish Harvest celebration on **27 September**, that God may bless our preparations and inspire us to be grateful for his abundant gifts, sharing generously with those who are in need, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For our parish community:

That we may avoid jealousy and comparison, rejoice in the blessings of others, and remain faithful to Christ in our daily lives, whatever our circumstances, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. For those who have died:

That our departed brothers and sisters, having placed their hope in Christ, may receive the reward of eternal life in God's presence, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

Heavenly Father, you are generous beyond our understanding. Hear the prayers we offer in faith and teach us to trust in your wisdom and goodness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pope Leo: Remembering the Tragedy of 9/11 Urges us to Work for Peace

Pope Leo XIV prays for those who lost their lives in the 9/11 terror attacks and appeals for prayers for peace for our war-torn world.

Vatican News (13.9.2026)

"Two days ago, marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks in the United States of America," said Pope Leo as he addressed the faithful after the Angelus prayer on Sunday.

Almost 3,000 people died in coordinated attacks on New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania and hundreds have died since with 9/11 related illnesses. Speaking from the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square, he said he renews his prayers "for those who lost their lives and for those who continue to bear the wounds of that tragic day." And urgently the Pope added: "At a time when conflict and violence afflict so many of our brothers and sisters, I invite everyone to pray that the Lord will bestow his gift of peace upon the world." He added that the tragic event of twenty-five years ago drives us to "**renew our commitment to peace, first and foremost with prayer, that we entrust to the intercession of the Virgin Mary.**"

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Cecilia McCartney, Pam Herron, Jim Ashwood, Moira Stewart, Tony and Margaret Beck, Maureen Clements-Smith, Moira Stewart, Tony and Margaret Beck, Anya Behl, Cathie and Albert Soave, Baby Hayden, Alan Newell, May Cosgrove, Margaret McDonagh, Gillian Donnelly, Stan Clements-Smith, Fletcher Ditchburn, Margaret Forsyth, Gordon Sangster, Mary Clark, Bella Shaw, Angela Keith, Bethany Williamson, Irene McKay, Andrew Fyffe, Lyn Fyffe, Lisa Gillespie and Gerard Halliday. **May they feel the healing power of Christ, in body and in spirit.**

PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

Please pray for those who have died and gone before us in faith - for the souls of Saul Sangster and Bill Martin, who have died recently, and for Noel McGivern and Darren McPherson, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**



PARISH PRIEST DESK

PARISHES HARVEST (27 SEPTEMBER AT 10AM)

St Ninian's and St Joseph's Parishes look forward to Bishop Andrew celebrating our Harvest Festival Mass together on Sunday 27th September at 10.00am in St Ninian's. We encourage everyone to come in **national dress or bright clothing**. If you would like to bring a food donation then **fruit, vegetables, tinned or dry goods** are all welcome and we would appreciate volunteers to uplift and deliver items locally after Mass. Teas and coffees will be served afterwards to allow members of both parishes to meet and chat. We look forward to welcoming everyone for a wonderful celebration! *Louise Hunter*

ST JOSEPH

ST JOSEPH'S - OFFERTORY COLLECTION – SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Loose Plate £130 Gift Aid Envelopes £205
Standing Orders £350 Additional Offertories £10
Restoration Fund (New) £30 **TOTAL OFFERTORIES £725**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please try to give a little more each week to help St Jo's.

ST JOSEPH'S – 200 CLUB 2026 – SEPTEMBER DRAW

Congratulations to the winners:

1st Prize £100 – Ticket number 71 – Brenden McGivern

2nd Prize £25 – Ticket number 123 – Marie Walesby

There are plenty of numbers still available for the draws in October, November and December at a pro rata rate of **£7!** Why don't you join or take a further number? Speak to Linda Gow today – available numbers on the porch notice board. Is your lucky number still there....waiting for you!

ST NINIAN

200 club winner 13/09 /26 No.124 R. Hagan

Afternoon Tea

Our delicious Afternoon Tea will be served this coming Thursday 24 September in CC's. All are welcome! As our lovely CC's helpers like to have tables beautifully set and be ready to welcome and serve, we kindly and respectfully ask that

our guests arrive no earlier than 12.30pm. Thank you. *If you haven't already reserved a place please text Margret 07917461640. Cost £6.*

CC's Donations

As part of our ongoing contributions to needy and worthwhile causes, CC's has contributed £100 to SCIAF as a donation towards the flood crisis in Nepal and £60 to both our church and St Ninian's School.

Pope Leo and the Season of Creation – Living Water
Pope Leo focused on access to clean water in his September prayer intention. Thanking God for the gift of water, the pope prayed for the "right of every brother and sister to drink without fear and without inequality." "Forgive us for turning it into a commodity, forgetting that it is a universal gift, a right without borders, meant for all your children," he prayed. "We see with pain so many brothers and sisters who lack clean water, who walk for miles to find it, who become ill due to its scarcity."

Synodal Parish Pastoral Council.

At St Ninian's Parish Pastoral Council meeting on Wednesday members spent some time in silent prayer before reflecting on St Paul's letter to the Corinthians 12:4-11 and engaging in small group Conversations in the Spirit which focused on how the process of synodality is developing in our parish and where we see the most pastoral need is. This was followed by a short business meeting. Minutes will be displayed on the notice boards soon and a list of discussion points will be announced as Masses in a few weeks time.

Next meeting: Wednesday 18 November at 7pm

September Ethical Challenge

Think before you buy:

Do I really need it? Who made it? What impact will it have on people and our planet?

This month, make one ethical choice

ST NINIAN OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Offertory: 388.50

GA 167.00

Community Café 60.00 Total 615.50