

# Monday 25 May 2026 Mary, Help of Christians Year A

## First Reading Sirach 4:11-18

### A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Wisdom brings up her own sons, and cares for those who seek her. Whoever loves her loves life, those who wait on her early will be filled with happiness. Whoever holds her close will inherit honour, and wherever he walks the Lord will bless him. Those who serve her minister to the Holy One, and the Lord loves those who love her. Whoever obeys her judges aright, and whoever pays attention to her dwells secure. If he trusts himself to her, he will inherit her; and his descendants will remain in possession of her; for though she takes him at first through winding ways, bringing fear and faintness on him, plaguing him with her discipline until she can trust him, and testing him with her ordeals, in the end she will lead him back to the straight road, and reveal her secrets to him.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 112:1-8. R. v.2

#### (R.) Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord!  
May the name of the Lord be blessed  
both now and for evermore! (R.)
2. From the rising of the sun to its setting  
praised be the name of the Lord!  
High above all nations is the Lord,  
above the heavens his glory. (R.)
3. Who is like the Lord, our God,  
who has risen on high to his throne?  
yet stoops from the heights to look down,  
to look down upon heaven and earth? (R.)
4. From the dust he lifts up the lowly,  
from the dung heap he raised the poor  
to set him in the company of princes  
yes, with the princes of his people. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save. As scripture says: I shall destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing all the learning of the learned. Where are the philosophers now? Where are the scribes? Where are any of our thinkers of today? Do you see now how God has shown up the foolishness of human wisdom? If it was God's wisdom that human wisdom should not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message we preach. And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagan's madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are you, O blessed Virgin Mary; without dying you won the martyr's crown beside the cross of the Lord.

Alleluia!

## Gospel John 19:25-27

### A reading from the Gospel according to John

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

## **Tuesday 26 May 2026 of the eighth week in Ordinary Time Year 2**

### **First Reading 1 Peter 1:10-16**

#### **A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

It was this salvation that the prophets were looking and searching so hard for; their prophecies were about the grace which was to come to you. The Spirit of Christ which was in them foretold the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would come after them, and they tried to find out at what time and in what circumstances all this was to be expected. It was revealed to them that the news they brought of all the things which have now been announced to you, by those who preached to you the Good News through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, was for you and not for themselves. Even the angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

Free your minds, then, of encumbrances; control them, and put your trust in nothing but the grace that will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Do not behave in the way that you liked to before you learnt the truth; make a habit of obedience: be holy in all you do, since it is the Holy One who has called you, and scripture says: Be holy, for I am holy.

#### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-4. R. v.2**

#### **(R.) The Lord has made known his salvation.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. (R.)

#### **Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 11:25**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.**

**Alleluia!**

#### **Gospel Mark 10:28-31**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

‘What about us?’ Peter asked Jesus. ‘We have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecution – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.

‘Many who are first will be last, and the last first.’

# Wednesday 27 May 2026 of the eighth week in Ordinary Time Year 2

## First Reading 1 Peter 1:18-25

### A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God. You have been obedient to the truth and purified your souls until you can love like brothers, in sincerity; let your love for each other be real and from the heart – your new birth was not from any mortal seed but from the everlasting word of the living and eternal God. All flesh is grass and its glory like the wild flowers. The grass withers, the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains for ever. What is this word? It is the Good News that has been brought to you.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 147:12-15. 19-20. R. v.12

### (R.) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!  
Zion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates,  
he has blessed the children within you. (R.)
2. He established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command. (R.)
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations,  
he has not taught them his decrees. (R.)

## Gospel Acclamation Mark 10:45

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all.

Alleluia!

## Gospel Mark 10:32-45

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem; Jesus was walking on ahead of them; they were in a daze, and those who followed were apprehensive. Once more taking the Twelve aside he began to tell them what was going to happen to him: 'Now we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the pagans, who will mock him and spit at him and scourge him and put him to death; and after three days he will rise again.' James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.' When the other ten heard this, they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

## **Thursday 28 May 2026 of the eighth week in Ordinary Time 2**

### **First Reading 1 Pt 2:2-5. 9-12**

#### **A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

You are new born, and, like babies, you should be hungry for nothing but milk – the spiritual honesty which will help you to grow up to salvation – now that you have tasted the goodness of the Lord.

He is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy.

I urge you, my dear people, while you are visitors and pilgrims to keep yourselves free from the selfish passions that attack the soul. Always behave honourably among pagans so that they can see your good works for themselves and, when the day of reckoning comes, give thanks to God for the things which now make them denounce you as criminals.

#### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 99. R. v.2**

#### **(R.) Come with joy into the presence of the Lord.**

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.  
He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Go within his gates, giving thanks.  
Enter his courts with songs of praise.  
Give thanks to him and bless his name. (R.)
4. Indeed, how good is the Lord,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

#### **Gospel Acclamation John 8:12**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.**

**Alleluia!**

#### **Gospel Mark 10:46-52**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So, they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said, 'get up; he is calling you.' So, throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you? 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him, 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

# Friday 29 May 2026 of the eighth week in Ordinary Time Year 2

## First Reading 1 Peter 4:7-13

### A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Everything will soon come to an end, so, to pray better, keep a calm and sober mind. Above all, never let your love for each other be insincere, since love covers over many a sin. Welcome each other into your houses without grumbling. Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others. If you are a speaker, speak in words which seem to come from God; if you are a helper, help as though every action was done at God's orders; so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ, since to him alone belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. My dear people, you must think it unaccountable that you should be tested by fire. There is nothing extraordinary in what has happened to you. If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:10-13, R. v.13

#### (R.) The Lord comes to judge the earth.

1. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'  
The world he made firm in its place;  
he will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

2. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad. Let  
the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,

3. With his justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

### Gospel Acclamation See John 15:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will last.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Mark 11:11-26

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

After he had been acclaimed by the crowds, Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple. He looked all round him, but as it was now late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Next day as they were leaving Bethany, he felt hungry. Seeing a fig tree in leaf some distance away, he went to see if he could find any fruit on it, but when he came up to it, he found nothing but leaves; for it was not the season for figs. And he addresses the fig tree. 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again' he said. And his disciples heard him say this. So, they reached Jerusalem and he went into the Temple and began driving out those who were selling and buying there; he upset the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those who were selling pigeons. Nor would he allow anyone to carry anything through the Temple. And he taught them and said, does not scriptures say: My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples? But you have turned it into a robber's den.' This came to the ears of the chief priests and the scribes, and they tried to find some way of doing away with him; they were afraid of him because the people were carried away by his teaching. And when evening came, he went out of the city.

Next morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered to the roots. Peter remembered. 'Look Rabbi,' he said to Jesus 'the fig tree you cursed has withered away.' Jesus answered, 'have faith in God. I tell you solemnly, if anyone says to this mountain, "Get up and throw yourself into the sea," with no hesitation in his heart but believing that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. I tell you therefore: everything you ask and pray for, believe that you have it already, and it will be yours. And when you stand in prayer, forgive whatever you have against anybody, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your failings too. But if you do not forgive, your Father in heaven will not forgive your failings either.

# Saturday 30 May 2026 of the eighth week in Ordinary Time Year 2

## First Reading Jude 17:20-25

### A reading from the letter of St Jude

Remember, my dear friends, what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ told you to expect. You must use your holy faith as your foundation and build on that, praying in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves within the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you eternal life. When there are some who have doubts, reassure them; when there are some to be saved from the fire, pull them out; but there are others to whom you must be kind with great caution, keeping your distance even from outside clothing which is contaminated by vice.

Glory be to him who can keep you from falling and bring you safe to his glorious presence, innocent and happy. To God, the only God, who saves us through Jesus Christ our Lord, be the glory, majesty, authority and power, which he had before time began, now and for ever. Amen.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-6. R. v.2

#### (R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry weary land without water. (R.)
2. So, I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So, I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

### Gospel Acclamation See Colossians 3:16. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord, and may the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Mark 11:27-33

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his disciples came to Jerusalem, and as Jesus was walking in the Temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, 'What authority have you for acting like this? Or who gave you the authority to do these things?' Jesus said to them, 'I will ask you a question, only one; answer me and I will tell you my authority for acting like this. John's baptism: did it come from heaven, or from man? Answer me that.' And they argued it out this way among themselves: 'If we say from heaven, he will say, "Then why did you refuse to believe him?" But dare we say from man?' – they had the people to fear, for everyone held that John was a real prophet. So, their reply to Jesus was, 'We do not know.' And Jesus said to them, 'Nor will I tell you my authority for acting like this.'