



## A PRAYER CALENDAR IN OCTOBER

*Responding to the Psalms, which offers reflections based on the Sunday responsorial psalms, follows this Calendar*

1. **St Teresa of the Child Jesus, known as St Therese of Lisieux.** Great spiritual writer. Her parents have been canonised, Saints Luis and Zelig Martin. We pray for faith in our families.
2. **Holy Guardian Angels. CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY**
4. **TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY of the YEAR**

Yours, O God, is the vineyard and its harvest, yours is the kingdom of justice and peace.  
You call your people to tend its growth. Bless the work entrusted to our hands,  
that we may offer you an abundance of just works, a harvest of peace.\*

*Usually we would keep the feast of St Francis of Assisi on this day. It marks the end of the Season of Creation. Pope Francis publishes his new encyclical letter, "Fratelli tutti", ["To all my brothers and sisters"] on the social, political and economic obligations that flow from a belief that all people are children of God and therefore brothers and sisters to one another. "It will indicate to the world a style for the future and will give the church and people of goodwill the responsibility for building it together. The pope is clearly inspired by Francis of Assisi who, in following Jesus, recognized in fraternity, lived under the sign of mutual and loving service, the horizon of a fulfilled and happy humanity." [Fr Mauro Gambetti ofm.Conv]*
- 5-11 **OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IN THE DIOCESE**
- 7 **OUR LADY of the ROSARY.** Where is the rosary in our lives? Do you use the Mysteries of Light?
- 9 **Feast of ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.** Canonised only last year, we celebrate his great gifts as a theologian, educator and author. Among his many writings is this simple prayer :

*May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.  
Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at the last.*
- 11 **TWENTY EIGHTH of the YEAR – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SUNDAY**

God of goodness and kindness,  
you invite all peoples to the banquet and offer them a feast beyond compare.  
Give us your saving grace to keep unstained the robe of baptism  
until that day when you welcome us to heaven's joyful table.\*
- 13 **St EDWARD the CONFESSOR. 1003-1066. The last King of Wessex. He founded Westminster Abbey**
- 15 **St Teresa of Jesus, known as St Teresa of Avila.** Great theologian and spiritual writer.
- 18 **TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY of the YEAR – World Mission Sunday**

O God, whose image we bear and whose name we carry, yours is the world and all it contains.  
Recall us to our true allegiance, so that above the powers and rulers of this world  
you alone may claim our fullest loyalty and love.\*
- 22 **Pope St John Paul II** – pope from 1978 to 2005, canonised 2014, the first Slavic pope, and the first non Italian pope since 1523. He survived an assassination attempt in 1981, was more widely travelled than any previous pope, wrote extensively on philosophical and theological topics.
- 25 **THIRTIETH SUNDAY of the YEAR**

Your love, O God, is boundless. We who were strangers have been made your children.  
We who were defenceless have been brought into your household.  
Keep us mindful of your deeds of mercy,  
that we may love you with our whole heart and love our neighbour as ourselves.\*
- 25 **Saint Chad and Saint Cedd** – great Anglo Saxon monks and missionaries.
- 30 **SAINTS SIMON and JUDE, apostles.** They preached the gospel in Persia where they were martyred.

\* Sunday Collects based on the Sunday gospel from OPENING PRAYERS ICEL Canterbury Press

## RESPONDING TO THE PSALMS – October 2020

- a project of the Spirituality Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

*The Responsorial Psalm is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word. You could reflect on a verse for one or two days, and then move onto the next verse. The questions that follow each verse of the psalm are for personal reflection. Some might be good for sharing with another, or a small group. Some might be too personal. The psalm texts are taken from The Grail version.*

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**Sunday 27A – 4 October 2020 : Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 79(80):9,12-16,19-20*

*The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.*

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

to plant it you drove out the nations.

It stretched out its branches to the sea,

to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

God saved the people from slavery in Israel.

*What are the slaveries we endure, impose on others, see in the world?*

*Are we grateful for the freedom in our lives?*

Then why have you broken down its walls?

It is plucked by all who pass by.

It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,

devoured by the beasts of the field.

*There are times we feel broken, worn down, overcome.*

*Do we shout at God? Does God deserve it?*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,

look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted.

*When things are not so good do we turn to God honestly?*

*How do we ask God to restore what is broken in our lives?*

And we shall never forsake you again;

give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back;

let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

*People often say "we won't do that again"*

*Do we ask for the courage to keep that sort of promise?*

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*In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

*How do I understand God when my spirit is "down"?  
What repose do I want and need from God?*

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

*Think about how God was with you in darkness.  
How did God comfort you?*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

*What are the enemies in my life at the moment?  
How do I sense God's presence with me?*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

*Think of moments when God has been good and kind.  
Do they draw us to think about heaven?*

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**Sunday 29A 18 October 2020 : Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 95(96):1,3-5,7-10*

*Give the Lord glory and power.*

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.  
*Are we joyful in our faith?  
Do we tell the world how good God is?*

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens.  
*Have we some "heathen gods" in our lives?  
Do we really appreciate God as creator of all?*

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts.  
*How will you give glory and power to God?  
What can you offer him?*

Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'  
He will judge the peoples in fairness.  
*Do we realise how great God is when we worship?  
How do we appreciate God's goodness to us mortal people?*

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**Sunday 30A 25 October 2020 : Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51*

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise, when I call I am saved from my foes.  
*A short passage yet powerful words. Concentrate on the "strong" words.  
Ask yourself how you have experienced God's strength in your own life*

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me,  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed  
*How do I praise God?  
How do I know God's love for me as his anointed?*