

Sunday Message

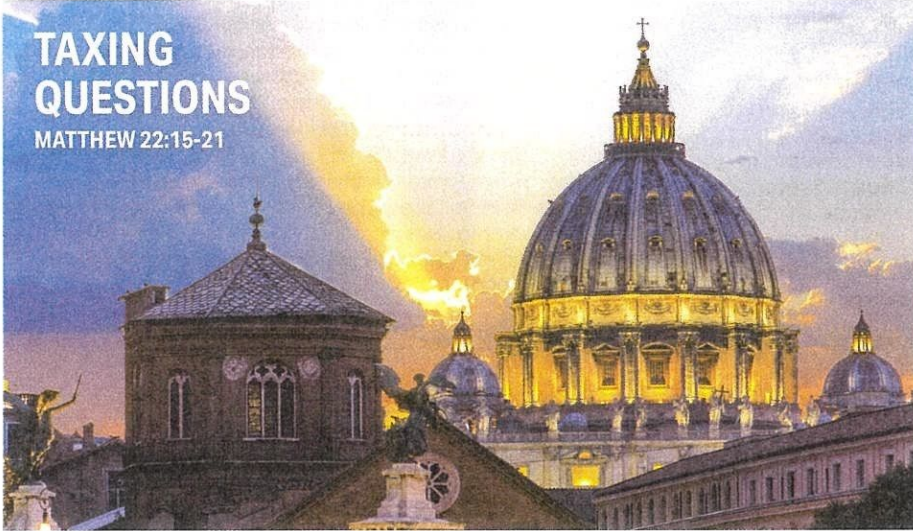
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 18 October 2026 • Psalter Week 1

TAXING QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 22:15-21



Today's Gospel has drawn conflicting interpretations throughout Christian history, especially when it has been invoked for guidance on relations between church and state.

'Rendering to Caesar' has sometimes been taken to mean that Christians should keep religion and politics strictly separate. But this isn't the point of this story. To understand it properly, we need to bear in mind that the heart of Jesus' preaching was that the kingdom of God is at hand.

That kingdom is not a place, but a call to submit every aspect of our lives to God's kingly rule. Until God's rule is fully realised, we live in provisional times. We live, for example, in a political world whose values often fall short of the values of God's kingdom and can even be directly opposed to them. 'Rendering to God the things that are God's' acknowledges that God has an interest in the human world, including the world of finance and politics, especially when it concerns itself with moral issues. To be a disciple of Jesus means that all other values, including our political allegiances, must always be weighed against Jesus' values.

As Christians, we know that everything we have comes from God. All is gift. We depend on God at every moment of every day. We must live in such a way that we do not allow money or material things to supersede our relationship with God and our commitment to God's kingdom. ■

DO

Speak to somebody about your faith. Explain why it's important to you.

SAY

'Lord, help me to be an effective witness to you today and every day. Amen.'

PRAY

Remember those missionaries who travelled to every corner of the world to proclaim the Good News. Thank God for them. Remember all those who instructed you in the faith. Thank God for their witness.



LEARN

Being a missionary has nothing to do with being a priest or religious or with leaving home to preach the Gospel. The church is missionary by its very nature, and all of us by virtue of our baptism are called to be missionaries. All we have to do is to witness to the love of God by the way we live our lives.

REFLECT

In the 1960s, my aunt was one of a group of Irish Presentation sisters who established a new foundation in the United States. A bishop in Utah wanted to bring some teaching sisters to his diocese, and he came to Ireland in search of them. The Presentation Sisters in Co Tipperary answered his plea. They opened a parochial school in Salt Lake City. Utah was a strongly Mormon state, and most of the pupils were members of that religion. The sisters did not see their role as proselytising. They saw themselves as witnesses who would point to Jesus by the example of their lives.

It worked. These nuns made a big impact on all who encountered them. It was easy to see that they loved teaching and loved their pupils. They made no distinctions between Catholic pupils and others.

Several years ago, my aunt, Sr Josephine, died, and shortly afterwards, the principal of her school in Salt Lake City received an email. This is what it said:

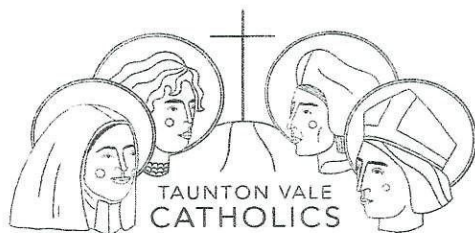
'Many years ago, I attended your school for just one year, after spending three years in the public school system. That one year was the most important in my education. I learned how to read that year, and I learned self-respect and respect for others. I learned about God. I am forever grateful to the nuns and teachers there. I attended Fifth Grade in 1972. Sr Josephine was my teacher. I just want to state how grateful I am to her and how much she meant to me and how I still hold her in my heart.'

Twenty-four years after I attended your school, I converted to Catholicism. My two daughters are Catholic and attending

Catholic school. At your school, a seed was planted, and I find that the gifts from that seed are plentiful and richly rewarding...'

My aunt had no idea of the impact she made on that young pupil, but I am not surprised. That was the kind of person she was. Even without explicitly stating it, she was a missionary. Even without preaching about the Gospel, she lived the Gospel. In everything, she radiated love.

This Mission Sunday is a reminder that we are all called to be missionaries. We don't have to join the priesthood or religious life to be missionaries. We don't have to give up our work, home or family. We don't have to move to a far distant country. All we have to do is to witness to our Christian calling as best we can. Imagine how different our world would be if everybody lived like that. ■



NEWSLETTER

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:

Francis Donnelly

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT

THIS TIME: Ludwik Janas, Eileen Storer, Joseph Bottomley, Jock Green, Cynthia Marshall, Ursula Dowley, Tom McLoughlin, Margaret Beadle, Louise Rogers, Pauline Moscardini, Patrick Sheehan, Deirdre Dowley, Josephine Bowen, Joanne Fish, Winifred Hersey, Len Holman, Bridgit Kimmins, Marjorie Rexworthy, Raphael Tramonte, Charles Dodd, Frances Foxwell, Algisa Roncaglia, Charles Sargent, Una Crumney, Joan Gordon, Susan Anne Morris, Lawrence Allen, Ann Vigurs, Freda Peckston, Elizabeth Miles, David Jones, Dominic Lucas, Margaret Butler, Timothy Butler, Christopher Hogg, Anastasia Carolan, Eileen Darnell, Anthony Swiggs.

AND THOSE WHO ARE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Eileen Strickland, Elizabeth Smart, Brian Smart, Julia Tucker, Catherine Twomey, Sister Theresa Smythe, Madeleine Page, Alma Hamilton, Jill Tansley, Anna Hradil, Penny Watson, Michael O'Connell, Paul Thorpe, Maureen Hughes, Anna Bingham, Mary Hutchings, Margarita Gibson, Anne King, Graham King, Mavis Parsons, Marie Mackay, Richard Fairfax, Roger Dore, Sandra Jones, Christopher Browne, Eveleen O'Farrell, Jane Tolfree, Sean Carroll, Martin Connolly, Joseph Hughes, Imogen Jenkins, Paul Jones, Riza Carol Khan, Marguerite Walker, Larry Kirtan, John MacNeice, Vlad, Paul White, Elizabeth Surridge, John Irwin, Elisabeth Collingridge, Jacqueline Park, Maria Margarita Gregorio.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sat	17th	9.30am	St George	Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr	Mary Houston, RIP
Sat	17th	5.30pm	St John Fisher	Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Maria Margarita Gregorio
Sun	18th	8.00am	St George	Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Cynthia Marshall, RIP
Sun	18th	9.15am	St George	Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Harvest Festival Mass	Mary Bradley, RIP
Sun	18th	11.00am	St Teresa	Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joan King, RIP
Mon	19th	9.30am	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Deceased members of the Walker & Baron Families
Wed	21st	9.30am	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Neil Amor, RIP
Thurs	22nd	9.30am	St John Fisher	No Mass today	
Thurs	22nd	12.30pm	St George	No Mass today	
Fri	23rd	10.00am	St Teresa	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Larry Lujon, RIP
Sat	24th	9.30am	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Stephen Keevil
Sat	24th	5.30pm	St John Fisher	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	Margaret Butler, RIP
Sun	25th	8.00am	St George	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	Richard Denis Samuel, RIP
Sun	25th	9.15am	St George	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	Max & Eva Walsh, RIP
Sun	25th	11.00am	St Teresa	Thirtieth Sunday of the Year	Brian Robertson, RIP

There will be a second collection today in aid of World Mission Sunday

PRAYER GROUPS:

Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Wednesday 10am-11.30am St. George's Centre

Led Holy Hour: St George's on the last Wednesday of the month 7:30-8:30pm

Mother's Prayer: Every other Thurs 8-10pm Parish Centre.

Prepare for Sunday praying the Mass readings together: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1pm in the Parish Centre.

Pray the Rosary: St Teresa, Fridays after 10am Mass, for world peace, 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30am St John Fisher.

Healing Prayer Ministry: 1st weekend each month after all Masses except 8am & after Mass on 3rd Sat at St. George. At other times by appointment: healing@tauntonvalecatholics.com

Legion of Mary: Meet Thursday 6:30pm in the Catholic Centre.

Men's Fellowship & Ladies Fellowship Groups: Meet at 8pm on alternate Tuesdays to each other in the Catholic Centre.

CONFESSION TIMES: At St George's: Sat 10am-10:30am;

Thurs 12 noon -12:30pm

At St Teresa's: Fri 9:30am -10am at St John Fisher: Sat 5pm-5:25pm

ADORATION TIMES:

St George: Tue-Sun 6:30am - 7:30am;

Wed 6:30am - 9.25am; Thurs 12 -12:25pm; Fri 6:00am – 5pm and 1.00pm – 6.00pm; Sat 10am - 11am.

St John Fisher: Wed 4pm - 7pm; Thurs 10 -12pm

BENEDICTION: 6:30pm on Wednesdays at St George's Church

PARISH YOUTH MASS: 6.30pm First Wednesday of the Month at St George's Church

IMPACT GROUP: Meet every Sunday 5.30pm – 7.00pm every Sunday in Canon John Room. All teenagers 12-17 very welcome.

AFRICAN CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP: Meet the first Sunday of every month from 10:30am in the Parish Centre.

NOTICES

Diocesan Prayer Link: Sacred Heart, Westbury on Trym, St Bonaventure, Bishopston, Bristol, St Anthonys, Henbury.

Standing Orders: 28/06/2026

St George: £2153.42 St Teresa: £257.40,
St John Fisher: £176.08

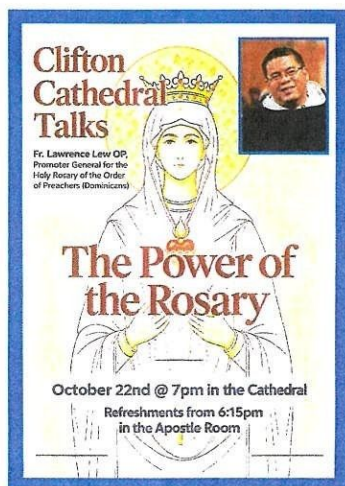
Offertory Collection: 5/07/2026

St George: £2169.04, St Teresa: £409.15,
St John Fisher: £217.60.

Fairtrade available at: St John Fisher's on Sat 17th Oct, St Teresa's on Sun 18th Oct.
Thank you for all your support towards the De La Salle project to Malawi.

World Mission Sunday, October 18th: The Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio - his charity for world mission through a second collection on Sunday, October 18th. The Red Box is a key support of this work. If you are a box holder and have not had your box emptied in the past six months please contact the parish office so this can be arranged. Thank you.

Pray for Peace: Every year on the Feast of St John Paul II (22nd October), we gather for a Global Rosary for Peace. This year hundreds of thousands of Catholics will join together in prayer live at 10.00 AM/ET/7.00 AM PT/4.00 PM Rome. We warmly invite you, your family and your friends to unite with Catholics across the world to join the intentions of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, to pray for peace. As a lead up to this event, Pope Leo XIV asks us to say the Rosary daily in the month of October for Peace in the World.



Pray the Rosary for World Peace: Will now be at St Teresa's every Friday after 10am Mass, and 1st Tuesday of the month at 10.30am at St John Fisher.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Icon painting day: is now fully subscribed, however Andrea is going to give an informal talk about iconography with examples from her own work at the end of the day. This talk is open to anyone who would like to come along. The talk will be in the Catholic Centre on **Saturday 17th October** from 5pm to 6pm.

Harvest Festival Mass: 9.15am **Sunday 18th October.** St Georges School are joining us for this wonderful celebration Mass during which there will be a procession of the children bringing tins and dried foods. Following the Mass this food will be given to local charities. Do please feel free to bring your own contributions to be placed in the boxes for Open Door and the Taunton Food Bank in the Church porch. Thank you.

Parish Ramblers: 13 ramblers took part in our last, wonderful walk on the Quantocks. And our next walk will be on **Saturday 31st October.** Full details to follow.

The Book Group will next meet at the Presbytery at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday 4th November.** We are keen to recruit new members and welcome a wide range of reading. So why not give it a try? Our next book is *The Chimes* by Charles Dickens. Contact May Flight on 07837796480 for more details.

Flame 2027: Saturday 6th March 2027: There is an exciting opportunity for the youth of our parish to attend FLAME2027 at the OVO Wembley Arena. A Catholic youth conference that takes place annually in London which brings together young people from across the country for an inspiring day of worship and joyful encouragement in their faith. There will be enlightening talks, lively worship and the chance to meet other young Catholics and be emboldened by testimonies. The Parish will organise travel by coach to and from London and volunteers to oversee. Contact the parish office to book. The cost is £30 per person but do speak to the parish office if this is difficult as we would like to encourage as many young people as can attend.
<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

Concert in aid of St George's Church Organ Appeal



St George's Church Choir & Junior Choir will be performing a varied programme of music.

**7.00pm
Friday 6th November**

**Followed by refreshments
in the Parish Centre**

**Cash donations to the Organ
Appeal gratefully received.**

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Rev Fr David Savoury, VF david.savoury@cliftondiocese.com
Permanent Deacon: Rev Trevor Jones trevor.jones@cliftondiocese.com (01823) 270935

PARISH WEBSITE: <https://tauntonvalecatholics.com>

Parish Administrator: Dale Sutcliffe taunton.stgeorge@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office: 01823 272700 Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri 9-1:30, Tues 9-3

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:

John Twomey psr.taunton.stgeorge@cliftondiocese.com

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING: safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com (0117) 954 0993

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

‘For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 96(95):1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10a, c. R.7b

R: Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.

1. 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. **R.**
2. For the LORD is great and highly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods.
For the gods of the nations are naught.
It was the LORD who made the heavens. **R.**
3. Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and power;
ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**
4. Worship the LORD in holy splendour.
O tremble before him, all the earth.
Say to the nations, ‘The LORD is king.’
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly
mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our
God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know,
brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,
because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in
power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Philippians 2:15d, 16a
R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle
Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along
with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are true
and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about
anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell
us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or
not?’ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why put me to
the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.’ And
they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, ‘Whose
likeness and inscription is this?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ Then he
said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are
Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.*

Or

*The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.