



**The Parish of the Assumption**  
**West Oxfordshire**  
**Holy Trinity Chipping Norton**  
**St Teresa's Charlbury**

Fr Clive Dytor

[holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk) · 07484 158642

[holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.com](http://holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.com)

*The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust*

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026 – Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings: Year A**

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**Dear Friends,**

In Fr Clive's stead while he is taking a well-deserved rest, I thought it best to defer to the Church Fathers for their words on the heart of this week's Gospel – *'let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me'*.

To start, I found this quote from St Basil the Great on what it is to deny oneself:

A denial of one's self is indeed a total forgetfulness of things past, and a forsaking of his own will and affection.

St Augustine knew what it was to let his will get in the way of taking up his cross, though he knew he was living a dual life, of one that wishes to follow God but not yet:

I was bound, not with the irons of another, but my own iron will. My will the enemy held, and thence had made a chain for me, and bound me. [...] But that new will which had begun to be in me, freely to serve Thee, and to wish to enjoy Thee, O God. [...] Thus did my two wills, one new, and the other old, one carnal, the other spiritual, struggle within me; and by their discord, undid my soul.

Eventually, this dual-will catches us with him. We see this in his recounting of his Conversion in the Garden:

I cast myself down I know not how, under a certain fig-tree, giving full vent to my tears; [...] Spake I much unto Thee: "and Thou, O Lord, how long? how long, Lord, wilt Thou be angry for ever? Remember not our former iniquities, for I felt that I was held by them. I sent up these sorrowful words: How long, how long, tomorrow, and tomorrow? Why not now? why not is there this hour an end to my uncleanness?"  
So was I speaking and weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when, lo! I heard from a neighbouring house a voice, as of boy or girl, I know not, chanting, and oft repeating, *"Take up and read; Take up and read"*.

St John Chrysostom shows us that our will is the main thing holding us back. It is our free choice, however difficult at times, to follow Him and "set our minds on the things of God". Referring to the passage, he says:

[...] and see how He also makes His discourse unexceptionable: not saying at all, *"whether you will, or no, you must suffer this"*, but how? *"If any man will come after me"*.

*"I force not, I compel not, but each one I make lord of his own choice; wherefore also I say, 'If any man will'. For to good things do I call you, not to things evil, or burdensome; not to punishment and vengeance, that I should have to compel. Nay, the nature of the thing is alone sufficient to attract you".*

God bless everyone,  
Declan (Newsletter Editor)

#### Masses & Rosary:

|           | Holy Trinity            | St Teresa's |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Monday    |                         |             |
| Tuesday   |                         |             |
| Wednesday |                         | 9.15am Mass |
| Thursday  | 9.15am Mass             |             |
| Friday    | 9.15am Rosary for Peace | 9.15am Mass |
| Saturday  | 6pm Vigil Mass          |             |
| Sunday    | 11am Mass               | 9.15am Mass |

**Hosting Fr Tony:** if you are interested in hosting Fr Tony, a new list can be found at the back of church should you want to put your name forward.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September for OHCT's Ride and Stride** is being organised at St Teresa's by *Suze Mathews*. You can participate either as a rider/strider or helping as a Welcomer for an hour to sign people's forms. Suze will be available after Mass on Sundays in August so you can sign up.

**Annual Pilgrimage to Harvington Hall, Shrine of the English Martyrs**, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September.  
Principal Celebrant: His Excellency *Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia*, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, assisted by The Most Reverend *Bernard Longley*, Archbishop of Birmingham. **Mass 3pm, Confessions 1.45-2.30pm**. Free Parking, free timed tours of Harvington Hall are available to pilgrims on the day, and can be booked at the table in the Hall's courtyard on arrival. **It is essential that you bring your own chairs and packed lunch.**

**As we enter September, let us pray with the Holy Father** for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

**Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of our Parish, in particular Hilda and Anne Clifton of St Teresa's. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember:** All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. For the Middle-East, Ukraine, Nepal, and Tibet.

**The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times.** Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tina Short** ([sg.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk)) and **Sharnalee Foster** ([sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk)). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.