**The Collect and Readings appointed for**

**the 16th Sunday after Trinity, 27th September**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers  
of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**The Old Testament Reading is taken from**

**Psalm 25 verses 1-8**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust;   
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame,   
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,   
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,   
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,   
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions,   
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love.

Gracious and upright is the Lord;   
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right   
and teach his way to the lowly.

**The New Testament Reading is taken from**

**St Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 21 verses 23-32**

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching,

the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him.

‘By what authority are you doing these things?’ they asked.

‘And who gave you this authority?’

Jesus replied,

‘I will also ask you one question.

If you answer me,

I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

John’s baptism – where did it come from?

Was it from heaven, or from men?’

They discussed it among themselves and said,

‘If we say, ‘From heaven’,

he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’

But if we say, ‘From men’ – we are afraid of the people,

for they all hold that John was a prophet.’

So they answered Jesus, ‘We don’t know.’

Then he said,

‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think?

There was a man who had two sons.

He went to the first and said,

‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

‘‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

‘Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, “I will, sir,” but he did not go.

‘Which of the two did what his father wanted?’

‘The first,’ they answered.

Jesus said to them,

‘I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness,

and you did not believe him,

but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did.

And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.’