



ST FAITH'S
GREAT CROSBY

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Sunday 21st September 2025

Hymns

163 Lord for the years
292 Will you come and follow me
238 Soul of my Saviour
271 To God be the glory!

Notices

The Blessed Sacrament lamp burns this week in memory of Anne Cailes, dearly loved sister of Christine. **R.I.P.**

Giving to St Faith's: If you do not give regularly to St Faith's and wish to join our Parish Giving Scheme (subscribing through your bank on a monthly basis), please ask David Jones for details or use this link - <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/great-crosby-st-faith-liverpool/>. All enquiries are confidential.

Fit for Mission: The Diocese requires the PCCs of all churches in the South Sefton Deanery to vote on whether to join their 'Fit for Mission' (FfM) initiative on the 29th of September. Prior to the PCC vote we have produced a booklet which it is hoped will help to explain this venture to the congregation. Two large copies of the booklet are available to read through at the back of church. There is also a display of the individual pages of the booklet pinned to the board above the table. If you have any questions, please approach any member of the PCC:- we will endeavour to assist! You can also access a list of Frequently asked Questions (and their answers) on the Diocesan website: <https://tinyurl.com/FfM-faqs>.

St Faith's "Going for Bronze" to become an Eco Church – An A Rocha UK Project. Eco-friendly living does not mean doing everything perfectly, it means making better choices, one step at a time. Start with what feels achievable for you and build momentum. Your small actions inspire others, and together we can create a more sustainable world. Here are our **Eco tips for September:** (1) Use water twice in the kitchen – try to reuse water wherever you can, for example water boiled for pasta once cooled is great for plants! (2) Only boil what you need – avoid overfilling the kettle and save money on your electricity bill.

Events

Family Fun Day: Family Fun Day on **Sunday 28th September, 1pm – 5pm** at St Faith's Parish Hall. Bouncy castle, soft play, Disney characters and more! External fundraiser for the late Andrew Martin's children. Admission by ticket – adults £10, children £5, open to families of St Faith's but organisers request that this event is not to be posted on social media please, thank you. See Corinne Hedgecock for more information.

Seekers Group Meeting: The next Seekers meeting will take place at Belmont, 20 Kingsway at 4:00pm on Thursday 2nd October. All welcome.

Pet Service on The Feast of St Francis for Creationtide: We will be holding a Pet Blessing Service at St Mary's on **Saturday 4th October at 11am** - this will mark both the Feast of St Francis, and the end of the season of Creationtide - more details to follow, but please put the date and time in your diary and come along if you can, whether you have a pet to bring or not!

St Faith's Patronal Festival: St Faith's will be celebrating its Patronal Festival on **Sunday 5th October** at **10.30am** - and we will be welcoming as a guest preacher The Venerable Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Archdeacon of Liverpool, and will be having celebratory refreshments afterwards, so please also put this date in your diary and join us with friends from our group of local churches to mark the occasion.

This Week's Services

This Sunday 11:00am, Eucharist Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	Fr. Louis Johnson Paula Lampard
Monday 22nd September, 9:30am Morning Prayer	Fr. Louis Johnson
Wednesday 24th September, 10:30am Eucharist at St Mary's	Fr. Louis Johnson
Thursday 25th September, 12 noon Low Mass	Fr. Louis Johnson
Next Sunday 11:00am, Eucharist Harvest Festival	Fr. Dennis Smith <i>Readings: Deuteronomy 26.1-11, Psalm 100, Philippians 4.4-9, John 6.25-35</i>

Contacts

Vicar: Fr. Louis Johnson 07947 752 399 / louis.johnson@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Assistant Clergy: Fr. Dennis Smith 0151 928 5065; Fr. Bill Matthews 0151 281 4879; Fr. Peter Cowley CA Tel. 0151 426 5441, Fr. Steve Hall steve.hall@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Parish Reader: Mrs Paula Lampard

Church Wardens: Mr Rick Walker 0151 924 6267 / 07710 226 300; Mrs Maureen Madden 0151 924 2154 / 07704 004 670

Administrator: Mrs Carolanne Leary 07913 873 697

Please keep in your prayers

The Diocese: St Michael in the Hamlet, St. Philemon Toxteth, Holy Trinity Wavertree, Wavertree School, St Bridget & St Thomas Wavertree, St Mary Wavertree, Parish of Wigan Central (Saint Mary Ince-in-Makerfield, Saint Catharine Wigan, Saint Andrew Wigan, Christ Church & Saint Anne Ince-in-Makerfield), St Catharine's School, Ince School, St. Andrew's School.

Parish: Businesses and shops in the area, particularly those along Crosby Road and Stuart Road.

The World: For peace in all areas of conflict in the world. For those affected by fires, floods, famines and earthquakes. For emergency workers working in disaster areas. For refugees, asylum seekers and agencies that help them. For good stewardship of the earth and its resources. For all victims of cruelty, injustice and exploitation.

The Church: The unity of all Christians everywhere. Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Ruth, Ven Pete Spiers, our Archdeacon, Area Dean Rev. Alex Peach, Churches in the South Sefton Deanery, and local ecumenical partners.

Those who are sick: Joan McKortel, Sheila Roberts, Alistair Byron, Peter Smith, Fr. Michael Brinkworth, Angie Price, Susie Greenwood, Jill Deeprise, Holly Keira Barnes, Ken Welsby, Martin Goodwin.

Recently departed: Steve Seneviratne, Clare Peacock.

Those who are to be remembered at this time: Calvin Matthews, Annie White, Ethel Hill, Harold Costin, Ernest Storer (Priest), Dorothy Scott, Brian Passingham, Herbert Victor Rourke, Ken Miller (Priest), Emma Wenlock, Arthur Jamieson, Miriam Bettesworth, Nigel Williams, Helen Duggan (aged 104), Ann Jones, George Stead, Kathleen Winstanley, Emily Eleanor Jane Hartland, John Edwin Owen, Reginald Stembridge, Henry Miller Stembridge, Ken Harding, George Fricker.

The Collect

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love

of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading, Proverbs 3.13-18

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

Psalm 119.65 - 72

You have dealt graciously with your servant, according to your word, O Lord. O teach me true understanding and knowledge, for I have trusted in your commandments. Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word. You are gracious and do good; O Lord, teach me your statutes. The proud have smeared me with lies, but I will keep your commandments with my whole heart. Their heart has become gross with fat, but my delight is in your law. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes. The law of your mouth is dearer to me than a hoard of gold and silver.

Second Reading, 2 Corinthians 4.1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

Alleluia.

Gospel, Matthew 9.9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his

disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Benedicite

Bless the Lord frost and cold:
bless the Lord you ice and snow;

bless the Lord lightnings and clouds:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord:
bless the Lord you mountains and hills;

bless the Lord all that grows in the ground:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you springs:
bless the Lord you seas and rivers;

bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Post Communion

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Creationtide from 1st September to 4th October

What will be going on at St Faith's and St Mary's?

As well as there being a Creation theme in the hymns, prayers and sermons during September, there will be a few other ways in which we can observe this wonderful season:

- The Holy Rosary will be said on the 28th September at 9:45am, during which there will also be prayers for God's creation.
- During the four Sundays in September, at the end of the Angelus, we will say a section from the Benedicite, which is a prayer which celebrates the beauty of Creation – thanks go to Judy Riley for this wonderful suggestion.
- A Fair-Trade Coffee and Tea Tasting will be held after the service on Sunday 28th September at St Faith's.
- A Pet Service will take place at St Mary's at 11am, on Saturday 4th October, which is the Feast of St Francis.