

*First Reading*     **Nehemiah 6: 1 – 16**

<sup>1</sup> Now when it was reported to Sanballat and Tobiah and to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had built the wall and that there was no gap left in it (though up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), <sup>2</sup> Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, ‘Come and let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono.’ But they intended to do me harm. <sup>3</sup> So I sent messengers to them, saying, ‘I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?’ <sup>4</sup> They sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. <sup>5</sup> In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. <sup>6</sup> In it was written, ‘It is reported among the nations - and Geshem also says it - that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall; and according to this report you wish to become their king. <sup>7</sup> You have also set up prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, “There is a king in Judah!” And now it will be reported to the king according to these words. So come, therefore, and let us confer together.’ <sup>8</sup> Then I sent to him, saying, ‘No such things as you say have been done; you are inventing them out of your own mind’ <sup>9</sup> - for they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, ‘Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.’ But now, O God, strengthen my hands. <sup>10</sup> One day when I went into the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his house, he said, ‘Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, tonight they are coming to kill you.’ <sup>11</sup> But I said, ‘Should a man like me run away? Would a man like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!’ <sup>12</sup> Then I perceived and saw that God had not sent him at all, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. <sup>13</sup> He was hired for this purpose, to intimidate me and make me sin by acting in this way, and so they could give me a bad name, in order to taunt me. <sup>14</sup> Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid. <sup>15</sup> So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup> And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem; for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

*Second Reading*     **John 15: 12 – 27**

<sup>12</sup> ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go     **(Continued on next page)**

*Second Reading*     **(Continued)**

and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. <sup>18</sup> ‘If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world - therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, “Servants are not greater than their master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> It was to fulfil the word that is written in their law, “They hated me without a cause.” <sup>26</sup> ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

**St. Mary’s Saturday Club**

The Saturday Roboteers Club starts again this Saturday, 18th October, at 1.30pm in St. Mary’s Church Hall. Please note that the club will run over the half terms in November 2025 and February 2026.

Term dates are:

Saturday 18th October 2025 13:30 – 16:30 running all the way through to Saturday 13th December 2025 (and will run over the half term).

Saturday 10th January 2026 13:30 – 16:30 running all the way through to Saturday 28th March 2026 (and will run over the half term). Dates after March 2026 will be confirmed in the new year.

No need to do anything just turn up when you are able to. If you have any ideas that could help improve the club, or if you have any questions, please contact Stephen Cain via [codeandpi@gmail.com](mailto:codeandpi@gmail.com). Don't forget to spread the word about the club. The link for newcomers to book a place on the Club website is. <http://bit.ly/3APjcM1> Looking forward to seeing you when we do.

**Mary Dean School Christmas Fair**

Mary Dean PTFA have asked if St. Mary’s Church would like a stall at their school Christmas Fair again this year. It is on Thursday 4th December from 3.15pm – 5pm. Set up is permitted from 2pm. Is anyone able to help with this? If so, we can let them know and book a place. Please let Andy King know if you can help. Mob. **07708590704** or email [andy@saintmarys.org.uk](mailto:andy@saintmarys.org.uk) Thank you.