

St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

13th September 2026

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

*A warm welcome to St Mary's,
especially if this is your first time here.*

Refreshments are served in the hall after the Sung Eucharist.

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50 vv 15-21 *Joseph reassures his brothers that only God can forgive and heal man's guilt.*

New Testament Reading: Romans 14 vv 1-12 *St Paul pleads for tolerance – that we should be critical of ourselves rather than of others.*

Gospel: Matthew 18 vv 21-35 *Jesus speaks about forgiveness, illustrating his argument with the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.*

Hymns: 436, 64, 263, 101, 393

5.00pm **EVENSONG** for the **Eve of Holy Cross Day**

Hymns: 379, 480, 95

Our flowers this week have been arranged by Pearl Shepherd and donated by Jenny Blumson in memory of Nigel Bain

The Week Ahead

Tuesday *St Cyprian, bishop & martyr*

9.30am Morning Prayer

10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors

5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday *St Ninian, bishop & apostle of the Picts*

9.30am Said Eucharist

10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors

5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday *St Hildegard, abbess & visionary*

9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors

5.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday 9.30am Morning Prayer

10.00am – 3.00pm Health & Wellbeing Event at the Wyllyotts Centre

5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Saturday 2.00pm Installation of the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey as Bishop of St Albans at St Albans Cathedral

Next Sunday is the **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

Next Sunday's readings will be: Jonah 3 v 10 – 4 v 11; Philippians 1 vv 21-30 & Matthew 20 vv 1-16.

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Parish Notices

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make last Sunday's Patronal Festival celebration such a joyous occasion, especially the catering team and everyone who provided food for the bring & share lunch.

Many thanks to those who helped yesterday with stewarding the church for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike 'n Hike.

Geoff Foster took part in the bike ride and would be grateful for sponsors. The money he raises will be shared between the Trust and St Mary's.

Many thanks again for the generous response to the Christian Aid appeal for the relief effort in Nepal. We are sending a donation of **£1,550**.

Next Saturday Bishop Andrew will be installed as the 11th Bishop of St Albans at the cathedral. Please pray for him and his family. You can join the service at 2pm at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A81P_yOK9vU

The St Mary's Friendship Group will meet on **Monday 21st September** at 10.30am at the Oakmere Tea Room.

HARVEST FESTIVAL is on **Sunday 11th October**. Our Harvest gifts of produce will be donated to the Open Door Project for the homeless in St Albans and our gifts of money will go to the USPG Harvest Appeal to create healthier communities in Madagascar.

There will be a **Bring & Share Lunch** in the hall at 12 noon. Please sign the list on the noticeboard if you are coming to the lunch and also indicate the food you will be bringing. If you would prefer to make a donation instead of bringing food, just write a note to this effect on the list.

Other dates to note in your diaries:

- **Sunday 4th October** – **Pets Blessing Service** at 4.00pm
- **Saturday 21st November** – **Quiz Night** in the hall at 7.00pm.

Potters Bar Choral Society is holding a 'Come and Sing Pirates of Penzance' here on **Saturday 3rd October** from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Full details are on the flyers in the narthex or have a word with Dave Miller.

We were sorry to hear that former choir member **Nigel Bain** died suddenly a week ago following a fall. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

For your prayers

The sick Joan Golden, Elizabeth Liney, Anna Downes, Carole Waller, Elizabeth Wiseman, Janice Neal, Valerie Taylor, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Judy & Bob Keefe, Robert Peters, Maureen Alderman, Ben Jones, Richard Peart, Alison Stevens, Kirsty Edmunds, Marilyn Gibbs, Joyce Bowry, Judy Makin

We also pray for Margaret Terry, Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Susan North, Pauline Phillips, Ron Golden, Sasha Burt, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ricky Mella, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Prussia Blake, Mary Healey

The recently departed Nigel Bain, Kathleen Byrne

Anniversaries of death this week Winifred Bigwood, Sylvia Hardy, Elizabeth Randall, George Snook

Our parish We remember those who live and work in the High Street, Highview Close and Highview Gardens

COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realising that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Or Exodus 14:19-end

PSALM Psalm 103:1-13 [or 103:8-13]

R *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his
holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits; **R**

Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
Who redeems your life from the Pit
and crowns you with faithful love and
compassion; **R**

Who satisfies you with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like an
eagle's.
The Lord executes righteousness
and judgement for all who are oppressed. **R**

He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.
[The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness. **R**

He will not always accuse us,
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to
our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our
wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above
the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who
fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who
fear him.] **R**

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church,
with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human
frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things
hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

