**The Collect and Readings appointed for Sunday 26 September, the 17th Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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. Amen.

**The First Reading is taken from the Letter of St James,**

**Chapter 5, verses 13-20**

Is any one of you in trouble?

He should pray.

Is anyone happy?

Let him sing songs of praise.

Is any one of you sick?

He should call the elders of the church to pray over him

and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well;

the Lord will raise him up.

If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to each other

and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Elijah was a man just like us.

He prayed earnestly that it would not rain,

and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain,

and the earth produced its crops.

My brothers,

if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

remember this:

Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way

will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

**The Second Reading is taken from St Mark’s Gospel,**

**chapter 9, verses 38-50**

‘Teacher,’ said John,

‘we saw a man driving out demons in your name

and we told him to stop,

because he was not one of us.’

‘Do not stop him,’ Jesus said.

‘No-one who does a miracle in my name

can in the next moment say anything bad about me,

for whoever is not against us is for us.

I tell you the truth,

anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ

will certainly not lose his reward.

‘And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,

it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea

with a large millstone tied around his neck.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter life maimed

than with two hands to go into hell,

where the fire never goes out.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter life crippled

than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.

It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye

than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

where “their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched”.

Everyone will be salted with fire.

Salt is good,

but if it loses its saltiness,

how can you make it salty again?

Have salt in yourselves,

and be at peace with each other.’