

Our Lady of Lourdes, Perth

Parish Newsletter 20th September 2026

25th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME A

Are you envious because I am generous?



Today's The Gospel this Sunday unsettles us in the best possible way. Jesus tells the parable of the labourers in the vineyard — a story that never behaves the way we expect. Those who worked from dawn receive the same wage as those who arrived at the last hour. It feels unfair, almost provocative. And yet Jesus insists: “*Are you envious because I am generous?*”

This is the heart of the weekend liturgy: God's generosity is not measured, rationed, or distributed according to human calculations. His mercy is not a salary. His love is not a reward. His grace is not earned. God gives because God is good — not because we are.

In a world obsessed with comparison, competition, and keeping score, this Gospel invites us to breathe again. It reminds us that the Kingdom of God does not operate on merit but on mercy. The latecomer, the struggler, the one who feels behind in life or faith — all are welcomed with the same joy as the saint who has laboured long and faithfully. No one is “too late” for God.

This is good news for our parish community. It means that every person who walks through the doors of Our Lady of Lourdes — whether for the first time or after many years away — is greeted not with suspicion but with the generosity of Christ. It means that our ministries, our worship, and our daily interactions must reflect the same wide-open heart that Jesus reveals in the vineyard.

As we continue our journey through Ordinary Time, may this Sunday renew our gratitude for God's boundless generosity. May it soften our hearts toward one another. And may it remind us that in the Kingdom, no one is left behind, no one is forgotten, and no one is loved less.

The vineyard is wide, the Master is good, and His invitation is for all.

If you know someone in hospital who would like a visit from a priest for prayer, spiritual support, Holy Communion (*Viaticum: communion for dying*), Confession, or the Anointing of the Sick, **please contact the Priest on call, at 07842 538056 ASAP.**



During this Season of Creation, we are reminded that our responsibility extends not only to one another but also to the world God has entrusted to our care. Creation is not simply the backdrop to our lives; it is a gift, a home, and a sign of God's love. Every tree, every river, every creature speaks of the Creator's goodness.

This week, let us take one small step to honour that gift — perhaps by reducing waste, choosing to walk instead of drive, or simply pausing to thank God for the beauty around us. Caring for creation is an act of faith, an expression of hope, and a way of loving our neighbour. ***May we learn to see the world with grateful eyes and protect it with generous hearts.***

GOSPEL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You show us
that Your mercy is freely given,
not earned or measured.

Open our hearts to Your generosity.
Remove envy and comparison
from within us and help us rejoice
in Your blessings to others.

Make us grateful
for every gift You give and ready to
share Your compassion in our daily lives.
Amen.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2026–2027

Registration for First Reconciliation
and First Holy Communion is now open.

Forms available in the sacristy of the church.
Deadline: Sunday 4 October.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

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Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First reading Isaiah 55:6-9
'My thoughts are not your thoughts.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145(144) R/18a
The LORD is close to all who call him.

Second reading Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
'For to me to live is Christ.'

Gospel Acclamation cf. Acts 16:14b
Alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16
'Do you begrudge my generosity?'

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR



In this Franciscan Jubilee Year, we are invited to walk more simply, love more generously, and recognise Christ in every person we meet. May the spirit of St Francis guide us this week toward peace, humility, and joyful service.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesdays: 9.30am Holy Rosary; 10.00am Holy Mass. Tea and coffee in the hall.

Thursdays: 9.30am Holy Rosary; 10.00am Holy Mass – led by the school pupils. Please come and join us in supporting our school community

The Friday Drop-in Group resumes in the church hall in Our Lady of Lourdes, from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS

YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS!

Your Church Needs You!

All parishioners are warmly invited to an information evening on **Parish Pastoral Councils**, led by **Paul Allaker**, Communications & Evangelisation for the Diocese of Dunkeld. The meeting will take place in **Our Lady of Lourdes' hall on Tuesday 29 September at 6.30pm.**

Bishop Andrew has asked all parishes to begin forming pastoral councils. This session will explain the purpose, vision, and practical steps for establishing councils in **Our Lady's** and **St Mary Magdalene's**. **All are welcome — we look forward to seeing you there.**

PREPARING FOR OUR PARISH EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

As we continue preparing for our Parish Eucharistic Revival, we are invited to renew our love for Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

The Eucharist is the heart of our parish life — the place where Christ strengthens us, heals us, and sends us out in service.

This week, let us make a simple commitment: to approach the Eucharist with deeper faith and gratitude.

Whether by spending a few quiet minutes in prayer before Mass, or reflecting on the gift of Holy Communion, every small step helps us grow in Eucharistic devotion.

May our parish become a community that draws life from the altar and shares Christ's love with all we meet.

RENEW 23.3 – PERTH



Renew 23.3 is a welcoming Christian wellbeing space supporting people experiencing loneliness or mental health challenges.

It offers friendship, simple activities, refreshments and a gentle opportunity for prayer.

The group is currently looking for new volunteers. Anyone interested is warmly invited to an open session on Thursday 24 September, 3.45–5.00pm, at Perth Methodist Church, Scott Street, PH2 8JN. No booking is required.