Religious Education Department
Thirtieth Sunday of the Year A
Week Beginning 25th October 2026
Living Love

First Reading (Exodus 22:20-26): Reminds believers to protect vulnerable strangers, widows, orphans, and the poor with genuine compassion and justice.
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 18): "I love you, Lord, my strength," praising God as our rock, fortress, and deliverer.
Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10): Commends the community for turning away from idols to serve the living God and living out the faith with joy through trials.
Gospel Reading: The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A centres on one clear call. Put God first. Care for the people around you. Jesus says these two loves hold everything together. God's law is not a list of cold rules. It shows us how to live right in a relationship. When we love God, we learn how to treat others with respect and mercy.

Introduction:
The Gospel reading is **Matthew 22:34–40**. In this passage, Jesus teaches that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and the second is to love your neighbour as yourself.

Sorry:
When we fall, we pick ourselves up again and carry on as before. As we journey through life, sometimes we get thing wrong, we make mistakes, we stumble and fall. Jesus is always there to help us up, so we can carry on.

Gospel Matthew 22:34–40:
When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Reflection: Gospel Matthew 22- 34-40:
Jesus brings the whole law into focus: love of God with our entire being and love of our neighbour as ourselves. These loves cannot be separated. The Lord, who is our strength, hears the cry of the stranger, the widow, the orphan, and the poor, and he commands his people to remember their own experience of being strangers. Love therefore becomes concrete: refusing to exploit the

vulnerable, returning what another needs for dignity and shelter, and treating the suffering with compassion.

The Christians in Thessalonica received the word amid tribulation, yet their joy in the Holy Spirit made their faith visible and caused the word of the Lord to spread. Their example shows that love is also a witness. When we turn from false securities to serve the living God, his word changes how we use our power, possessions, and attention. Keeping Christ's word may require sacrifice, but it gives a strength deeper than self-protection. A simple act of mercy, especially toward someone easily overlooked, can reveal that our love for God is becoming real.

St Paul wrote a letter to the Christians who lived in the Greek city of Corinth, to remind them of the perfect love, which Jesus had shared with everyone. **(1 Corinthians 3: 4-7).** Love never hurries, it is always kind, it is not jealous, and never boasts of its greatness. Love is not rude or selfish. It is always ready to forgive and forgive mistakes we make. Love is no friend of wickedness, but delights in honesty and truth. Love is strong and never gives up. It never loses its trust in God or its hope for the future. Love will survive all things because it is everlasting. If we remember to put these words into action, then we will be putting the two greatest commandments into action in our lives.

Prayer:

Lord my God, you are my strength, refuge, and deliverer. Give me a heart that loves you with my whole being and recognises your presence in the vulnerable and forgotten. Keep me from using another person's need for my advantage. Teach me to remember compassion when I have power, possessions, or influence, and give me courage to serve with generosity. When faith brings difficulty, sustain me with the joy of the Holy Spirit. May the way I treat others make the living and true God known, as I await Jesus, your risen Son. Amen.

The God Who Speaks:

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (**Isaiah 41:10).**

However, they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint**. (Isaiah 40:31).**

October 28, 2026: St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

St. Jude is called the saint of lost causes. St. Simon is the "other Simon", also known as Simon the Zealot or Simeon. It is thought that he and St. Jude travelled to Persia to preach the gospel there. Both were eventually martyred.

Wishing you a restful half term

As we come to the end of this half term, we would like to wish all our students, parents and families a peaceful and restful break. May God bless you and your families, keep you safe, and give you time to rest and enjoy being together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term.