

# Sunday Readings

## 14th June 2026

### Collect

O God, strength of those who hope in you,  
graciously hear our pleas,  
and, since without you mortal frailty can do  
nothing,  
grant us always the help of your grace,  
that in following your commands  
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Exodus

19:2-6

In those days: The people of Israel came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 99:2-3,5

**R/. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy. **R/.**

Know that he, the Lord, is God.  
He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R/.**

Indeed, how good is the Lord,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age. **R/.**



### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans

5:6-11

Brothers and Sisters: While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia.  
The kingdom of God is at hand;  
repent and believe in the gospel.  
Alleluia.

### GOSPEL

Matthew 9:36-10:8

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

At that time: When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

# The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

**W**e begin today the second of the five discourses of Jesus which are a unique feature of Matthew's gospel. It consists of instructions to Jesus' disciples on how they are to conduct their missionary work and the reactions they can expect in carrying it out.

It begins by the summoning of the inner circle of twelve disciples. Matthew presumes we already know about their formal selection, which he does not recount. These twelve disciples are now called apostles.

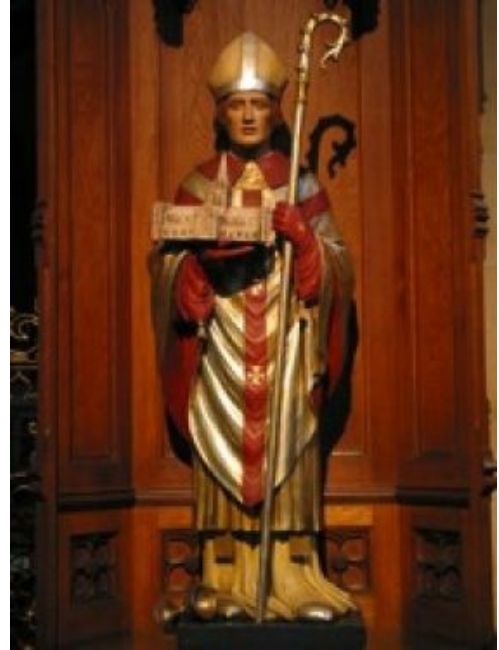
The two words are distinct in meaning and we should not confuse them. A disciple (Latin *discipulus*, from *discere*, to learn) is a follower, someone who learns from a teacher and assimilates that teaching into his own life. An apostle (Greek, *apostolos*, from *apostello*,) is someone who is sent out on a mission, someone who is deputed to disseminate the teaching of the master to others. In the New Testament a distinction is made between the two. However, that does not mean the two roles are mutually exclusive. On the contrary, all of us who are called to be disciples are also expected to be apostles, actively sharing our faith with others. It is very easy for us to see ourselves as disciples and to regard priests and religious as doing the apostolic work of the Church. That would be very wrong. Every one of us called to be a disciple is *eo ipso*, in virtue of Baptism and Confirmation, also called to be an apostle.

## Prayer of the Week

### A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ  
for all the benefits which thou hast given us,  
for all the pains and insults which thou hast  
borne for us:

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,  
may we know thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly day by day.



**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**St Richard of Chichester  
(1197 - 1253)**

Richard was from a land-owning, farming family and went to study in Oxford. On the death of his father he returned home to help run the estate but prosperity meant that he could soon pursue his calling from God and returned to Oxford, where he became the earliest Doctor of Canon Law. He may also have travelled to study at Paris and Bologna. Between 1235-37 he was chosen for the office of chancellor, which meant he was the legal and administrative head of the university. In those times there were many conflicts between kings and bishops. Henry III learnt that Richard had been appointed Bishop Elect for Chichester over his own clerk. It was two years before the King, threatened with excommunication by the Pope, agreed to accept Richard into the palace at Chichester.

In 1252 Richard took a commission from the Pope to preach the latest crusade throughout Sussex and Kent, urging people to 'take the cross' or give money. The tour took its toll on his health and he died in Dover on the 3rd April 1253. His body was returned to Chichester Cathedral. Three years after Richard's death, the Bishop and Canons of Chichester supported by Henry III, petitioned the Pope to enquire into Richard's life and miracles. On 22nd January 1262, Richard was canonised and his tomb became a popular shrine.