

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Proper 20 Year A



The Labourers in the Vineyard
by Vincent van Gogh

The Parish Mass
with Admission of a Chorister

Sunday 20 September 2026

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any safeguarding concern, or are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a member of the clergy, or a churchwarden.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Ben Drouet safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk 01604 791251

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If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, please call 999.

Live Streaming and Recording Please note that some services are live-streamed or recorded. Filming is limited as far as reasonably possible to those leading or assisting with the service, including clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians, choir members, and servers. Holy Communion is not filmed.

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Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

For Younger Children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.



Collection – ‘Building a Generous Church’



Our response to God’s generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew’s is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

* * * * *

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew’s Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



Good morning, and a very warm welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church as we gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist on this Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity. Today we are especially pleased to welcome Eloise Druet, who will be admitted as a chorister, as she continues her ministry of service and praise among us.

Today's Gospel gives us one of Jesus' most challenging parables. The labourers in the vineyard remind us that God's kingdom is not governed by our calculations of merit or reward, but by the overflowing generosity of divine grace. God calls each of us to serve him, and gives freely according to the abundance of his love.

In our first reading, Saint Paul urges us to live lives worthy of the Gospel, standing firm together in one spirit. As we gather around the altar today, we come as brothers and sisters who have each been called by Christ and welcomed into his vineyard.

As we prepare to celebrate these holy mysteries, may we receive with thanksgiving the generosity of God, rejoice in the gifts he gives to each of us, and discover anew the joy of serving him together.

It is our custom to spend a few moments in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, saving further conversation until refreshments after Mass. May this time of silence help us to become still before God and ready to receive all that he longs to give us.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
you have called each one of us into the vineyard of your kingdom,
not because of our worthiness, but because of your generous love.
Quieten our hearts, still our restless thoughts,
and fill us with grateful joy,
that, hearing your holy word
and sharing in the sacrament of your Son's body and blood,
we may learn to rejoice in your goodness,
serve you with faithful hearts,
and delight in the blessings you freely bestow;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Settings

Mass of St Thomas (Gloria only)

David Thorne

Mass of the quiet hour

George Oldroyd

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell, **all stand***

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All **FIGHT the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside, upon thy guide
Lean, and his mercy will provide;
Lean, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faint not nor fear, his arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.**

Words John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811-1875

Music Duke Street
attributed to John L. Hatton d 1793

All † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

All Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you
and also with you.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ calls each of us into the service of his kingdom,
welcoming us with mercy and sustaining us by his grace.
Yet we have not always trusted in his generosity,
nor have we rejoiced in the blessings given to others.

Therefore, with humble and penitent hearts,
let us confess our sins to Almighty God,
that we may receive his forgiveness
and be renewed in the joy of his salvation.

Silence for reflection

Confession

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Kyries

Lord Jesus, you call us into the vineyard of your kingdom
and invite us to share in the work of your Gospel:
Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Christ Jesus, you reveal the boundless generosity of the Father's love
and welcome all who turn to you:

Christe eleison.

All **Christe eleison.**

Lord Jesus, you gather your people around one table
and strengthen us to live lives worthy of the Gospel:

Kyrie eleison.

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive † you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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.

All

Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
now that we have prepared for this encounter with God
in the holy scriptures,
let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds
the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain

and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

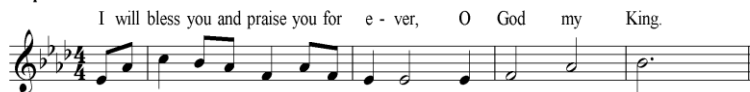
Philippians 1:21-30

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Response

Andrew Moore



Choir I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is beyond all searching out. **Response**

One generation shall praise your works to another
and declare your mighty acts.
They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. **Response**

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,
and I will also tell of your greatness.
They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
Long-suffering and of great goodness. **Response**

Psalms 145.1-8

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation



Choir Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may live a life worthy
of the gospel of Christ.

All **Alleluia.**

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

All



Jesus said to his disciples, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the

usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Matthew 20.1-16

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ Sit

§ *At the end, silence is kept for personal reflection*

The Nicene Creed

§ Stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

*All may
bow*

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven***

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Admission of a New Chorister

*The vicar, director of music, and the probationer gather in front of the nave altar.
The director of music introduces the ceremony, and presents the probationer to
the vicar.*

Director **Father Nicholas, I present to you Eloise Drouet, to be admitted as a
chorister in the Choir of St Matthew's Church.**

Vicar **Eloise, do you wish to become choristers in our choir?**

Probationer **Yes, I do.**

Vicar **As a chorister in the choir here at St Matthew's you are part of
a century-old tradition of worship offered to God in this place.
Do you promise to devote your effort and skill to helping others
in their worship?**

Probationer **With the help of God, I will.**

Vicar Do you promise to perform your part in the worship of God to the best of your ability?

Probationer **With the help of God, I will.**

Vicar Do you promise to be faithful in fulfilling all the duties involved in being a member of the choir?

Probationer **With the help of God, I will.**

Vicar Eloise, I admit you as a chorister in the choir of this church, in the name of God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The new chorister receives her surplice

Vicar The Lord has given you musical gifts;
may he also give you happiness in his service;
may he bless you and keep you from this day forward
and give you his peace.

All **Amen.**

All **Bless, O Lord, your servants
who make music in this Church of St Matthew.
May they inspire our worship
and hold fast to the vision of the heavenly Jerusalem.
Grant that what they sing with their lips
they may believe in their hearts,
and that what they believe in their hearts
they may show forth in their lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest United in Christ, and trusting in the generous mercy of God,
let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for all the blessings we have received,
and commending to the Lord all those who stand in need of his grace.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, in your generosity,
All **hear our prayer.**

After the final petition

Priest Gracious Father,
whose generosity exceeds all our deserving,
teach us to rejoice in your goodness,
to serve you with faithful and thankful hearts,
and to labour gladly in your vineyard,
until that day when all your people are gathered
into your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to the Father
and has made us one in his Body.
As those who have received the generosity of God's mercy,
let us share with one another the peace of Christ.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest.
The altar is prepared.*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken and placed under the nave altar.
For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.
Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

All

**GREAT is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
And thou hast been for ever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.***

**Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their course above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bring hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Words Thomas O Chisholm 1866-1960

Music Faithfulness
William M Tunyan 1870-1957

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Heavenly Father, receive these gifts which we bring to your altar,
together with the offering of our hearts and lives.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
make this bread and wine the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood,
that, nourished by these holy mysteries,
we may become joyful servants in your vineyard,
faithful stewards of your grace,
and witnesses to the generosity of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending song of praise:

Choir

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body † and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the mystery of faith:

All

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Above the staff, the dynamics *mf*, *cresc.*, and *f* are indicated. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes: 'Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
Saint Matthew and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All



A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

As children called into the vineyard of the Father's kingdom
and trusting not in our own deserving but in the abundance of his grace,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

All We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Choir O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Invitation to Communion

All Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Giving of Communion

Lord, you have charged that we should diligently keep your commandments. O that we might keep your statutes.

Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

Act of Reception

All In union, blessed Jesus,
 with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
 where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.

I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
 my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Motet

The Call

Charles Lloyd b. 1938

Hymn

All

**LORD, teach us how to pray aright
With reverence and with fear;
Though dust and ashes in thy sight,
We may, we must draw near.**

**We perish if we cease from prayer;
O grant us power to pray;
And when to meet thee we prepare,
Lord, meet us by the way.**

**God of all grace, we come to thee
With broken contrite hearts;
Give, what thine eye delights to see,
Truth in the inward parts;**

**Faith in the only sacrifice
That can for sin atone;
To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes,
On Christ, on Christ alone;**

**Patience to watch, and wait, and weep,
Though mercy long delay;
Courage our fainting souls to keep,
And trust thee though thou slay.**

**Give these, and then thy will be done;
Thus, strengthened will all might,
We, through thy Spirit and thy Son,
Shall pray, and pray aright.**

Words James Montgomery 1771-1854

Music St Hugh
Edward John Hopkins 1818-1901

§ *All sit for a time of personal reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

Hymn

All **LEAD us, heavenly Father, lead us,
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Self denying, death defying,
Thou to Calvary didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**

Words James Edmeston 1791-1867

Music Mannheim
Friedrich Filtz 1804-18765 *Choralbuch*, 1847
Harmony by Lowell Mason 1792-1872

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

All The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All May God the Father,
whose generosity knows no measure
and whose mercy is new every morning,
fill you with thankful hearts and joyful confidence in his love.
Amen.

All May Christ the Son,
who has called you into the vineyard of his kingdom,
strengthen you to serve him faithfully
and to rejoice in the blessings he bestows upon all his people.
Amen.

All May the Holy Spirit,
who gathers the Church into one body
and equips every disciple for the work of the Gospel,
keep you steadfast in faith, abounding in hope, and rich in love.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

All The Mass is ended, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Pax vobiscum Op. 86 No. 5

Sigfrid Karg-Elert 1877-1933

- § *Please remain standing until the procession has departed*
- § *Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary*
- § *Refreshments are served in church, please do join us*
- § *If you are a newcomer to the parish or area, please introduce yourself to one of the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

Congregational Evensong and Benediction

Tomorrow at 7.30 pm

133rd Patronal Festival

The Feast of St Matthew, Apostle

7.30 pm The Parish Mass
followed by reception

Preacher

Father Ben Eadon CMP

Priest Administrator, The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

*Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 10
who has generously financed
the production of this week's service booklet.*

**Please take this booklet home
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,
and then re-cycle it.**

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