

**Sunday 2 August 2026**  
*Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*

**First Reading - Isaiah 55.1-3**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Come, all who are thirsty;  
come to the water and drink.  
Come, all who are in poverty;  
come for grain, and milk, and wine,  
without money,  
and without cost.  
For you work,  
and you spend,  
but you find  
neither food  
nor fulfilment.  
So listen now  
to the word of the Lord,  
and you will eat,  
and be filled,  
and your soul  
will delight  
in abundance.  
Come to me,  
and hear my word.  
Hear my word,  
that you may live,  
says the Lord.  
And the Lord  
will make with you  
an everlasting covenant.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Romans 8.28-30**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

God's purpose,  
from the beginning,  
was that many  
would become like Christ,  
the Son of God,  
so that Christ  
would be the firstborn  
of many  
brothers and sisters.  
And now, by God's grace,  
we have indeed  
been called,  
and reconciled with God.  
We have even  
entered into  
the glory of God.  
And so we see  
that  
in accordance  
with God's  
plan  
and purpose,  
all things  
work together  
for good  
for those who love God.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Matthew 14.13-21**

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

On hearing  
that John the Baptist  
had been killed  
by King Herod,  
Jesus  
withdrew  
by boat  
to a wilderness place,  
alone.  
But news of it  
spread,  
and the crowds  
followed him  
on foot  
from the towns,  
so that when Jesus went ashore,  
a great crowd  
had already gathered.  
Jesus had compassion on them,  
and healed the sick amongst them.  
As evening came,  
the disciples  
said to Jesus  
that he should send the crowds away  
from this desolate place,  
into the villages,  
to buy food.  
But Jesus said to the disciples,  
'The people can stay,  
if you give them something to eat.'  
The disciples replied,  
'We have nothing here  
but five loaves,  
and two fish.'  
Jesus said, 'Bring them to me.'  
Then Jesus ordered the crowds  
to sit down on the grass.  
He took  
the five loaves, and the two fish.  
And looking up to heaven,  
he blessed them,  
and broke them into pieces.  
And he gave the pieces  
to the disciples.  
And the disciples  
gave the pieces  
to the crowds.  
And everyone ate,  
and was filled.  
And the disciples collected up  
what was left over  
of the broken pieces,  
filling twelve baskets.  
Those who ate  
were about five thousand men,  
in addition  
to the women  
and the children.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.