

**Sunday 22 August 2027**  
*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)*

**First Reading - Joshua 24.1a, 14-18**

A reading from the book of Joshua.  
Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel,  
with their elders, leaders, judges, and officers,  
and addressed them, saying:  
‘Turn away from the gods  
that your ancestors served,  
and honour the Lord your God  
with all your heart;  
for it is the Lord your God who has  
brought you to this place,  
and to this day.  
And if you are  
unwilling  
to serve the Lord your God,  
choose this day  
the gods you will serve,  
whether the gods of your ancestors,  
or the gods of those  
in whose land you are living.  
But as for me and my household,  
we will serve the Lord!’  
And the people answered,  
‘Far be it from us  
that we should forsake the Lord our God  
to serve other gods;  
for it is the Lord our God who brought us,  
and our ancestors,  
out of the house of slavery in the land of Egypt.  
It is the Lord our God who gave many  
great signs  
in our sight,  
protected us along the way,  
and brought us to this land.  
Therefore we also  
will serve the Lord,  
for the Lord  
is our God.’  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Ephesians 6.10-20**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.  
Be strong  
in the power of the Lord.  
Put on  
the whole armour of God,  
to protect you  
from all the tricks of the devil.  
For we struggle  
not against flesh and blood,  
but against  
all the powers of darkness,  
in this world,  
and the world beyond.  
Therefore, put on  
the whole armour of God,  
so that you may be able to stand firm  
against every assault of the devil.

Fasten the belt of truth  
around your waist.  
Put on the helmet of salvation,  
and the breast-plate of righteousness,  
and on your feet, the gospel of peace.  
Take up the shield of faith,  
to protect you  
from the flaming arrows  
of the evil one.  
And the word of God  
will be your sword.  
At all times, pray in the Spirit,  
making all your requests  
known to God.  
Stay alert, and persevere  
in prayer  
for all the believers.  
And pray also for me,  
that whenever I speak,  
I may be given the words  
to proclaim, with confidence,  
the gospel  
for which I remain  
an ambassador in chains.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - John 6.58a,c,60-69**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.  
Jesus said, ‘I am the true and living bread  
that comes down from heaven.  
All who eat this bread  
will live for ever.’  
Many of the disciples said  
that this teaching  
was difficult to understand.  
Jesus said, ‘Some of you will see  
the Son of Man ascending, back up, into heaven.  
The spirit gives life;  
the flesh counts for nothing;  
and the words that I have spoken to you  
are spirit, and life.  
The call to follow me  
is a gift from the Father;  
and yet, still, amongst you,  
there are some who do not believe.’  
For Jesus knew,  
from the beginning, who did not believe;  
and he knew who would betray him.  
Many of the disciples  
now turned away,  
and no longer went about with him.  
Jesus asked the twelve  
whether they also  
would now turn away.  
Simon Peter said, ‘Lord,  
there is no other  
that we could follow.  
You have the words of eternal life.  
We have come to believe, and to know,  
that you are the Holy One of God.’  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.