

# Sunday Readings

## 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

### Collect

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,  
and answer their prayers with unceasing  
kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their  
Creator and guide, you may restore what you  
have created and keep safe what you have  
restored. 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.  
Amen.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of  
vanities! All is vanity.

Sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom  
and knowledge and skill must leave everything to  
be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This  
also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from  
all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils  
beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow,  
and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his  
heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

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

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 94:1-2,6-9 R/. vv. 7-8

**R/. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R/.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **R/.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my  
work.' **R/.**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul  
to the Colossians

3:1-5. 9-11

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with  
Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ  
is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds  
on things that are above, not on things that are on  
earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden  
with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life  
appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: sexual  
immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and  
covetousness, which is idolatry. Do not lie to one  
another, seeing that you have put off the old self with  
its practices and have put on the new self, which is  
being renewed in knowledge after the image of its  
creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised  
and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free;  
but Christ is all, and in all.

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

### Gospel Acclamation

**Matthew 5:3**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia.

### GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Glory to you, O Lord.*

At that time: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,  
'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with  
me.' But he said to him, 'Man, who made me a judge  
or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take  
care, and be on your guard against all covetousness,  
for one's life does not consist in the abundance of  
one's possessions.' And he told them a parable, saying,  
'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he  
thought to himself, "What shall I do, for I have  
nowhere to store my crops?" And he said, "I will do  
this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones,  
and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And  
I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid  
up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But  
God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is  
required of you, and the things you have prepared,  
whose will they be?" So is the one who lays up  
treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.'

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

### Prayer after Communion

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord,  
those you renew with these heavenly gifts  
and, in your never-failing care for them,  
make them worthy of eternal redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



# The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

## The Word of God

## Saint of the Week

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025

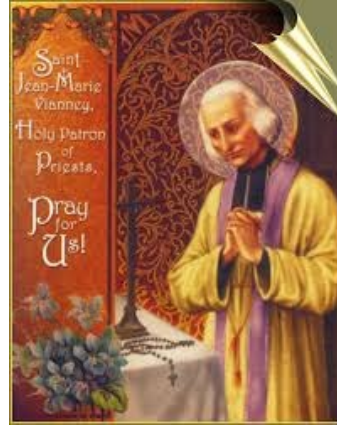
**St Jean-Baptiste Vianney,  
Curé of Ars (1786 - 1859)**

**O**ur attitudes to wealth and possessions lie at the heart of all three readings. What light do our readings cast on these issues?

- We do not find our ultimate security in money: This is an important thing to remember at a time of economic crisis, for it is possible for us to harbour the illusion that a recovery will provide our 'salvation'. It is worth remembering the agonised debate Britain was having *before* the credit crunch – about our inability to turn wealth into well-being in an increasingly unequal, consumerist society.
- Wealth is a gift from God, but can become an idol: The Epistle to the Colossians states that greed is "the same thing as worshipping a false God." It is *idolatry*, the placing of a gift in the place of the Giver.
- Spirituality has implications for the material world: 'Letting your thoughts be on heavenly things' transforms our behaviour here on earth. The Epistle to the Colossians echoes the focus of the Law and the Prophets on the way we use our bodies – either to embody the values and the love of God's Kingdom or to pursue our own pleasure at the expense of others. This applies as much to our behaviour in the boardroom as in the bedroom.

For Christians, spirituality is not about turning our backs on the material world, or retreating into a purely private sphere. On a Biblical understanding, spirituality is embodied and it is communal. It is about growing in communion with God and neighbour, and seeing the world around us as a gift which enables us to grow in that communion – so that the material world is something to be shared and delighted in, not hoarded and defended.

This, of course, is something we not only see in today's readings, but which we celebrate at every Eucharist, where the good things of creation enable us to experience and grow in 'holy communion' with God and with our neighbours.



He was the son of a peasant farmer, and a slow and unpromising candidate for the priesthood: he was eventually ordained on account of his devoutness rather than any achievement or promise.

In 1818 he was sent to be the parish priest of Ars-en-Dombes, an isolated village some distance from Lyon, and

remained there for the rest of his life because his parishioners would not let him leave. He was a noted preacher, and a celebrated confessor: such was his fame, and his reputation for insight into his penitents' souls and their futures, that he had to spend up to eighteen hours a day in the confessional, so great was the demand. The tens of thousands of people who came to visit this obscure parish priest turned Ars into a place of pilgrimage.

The French State recognised his eminence by awarding him the medal of the Légion d'Honneur in 1848, and he sold it and gave the money to the poor.

## Prayer of the Week

### A Prayer of St John Vianney

I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life.  
I love You, O my infinitely lovable God,  
and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You.  
I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally.  
My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You,  
I want my heart to repeat it to You  
as often as I draw breath.

Amen.