

The real thirst

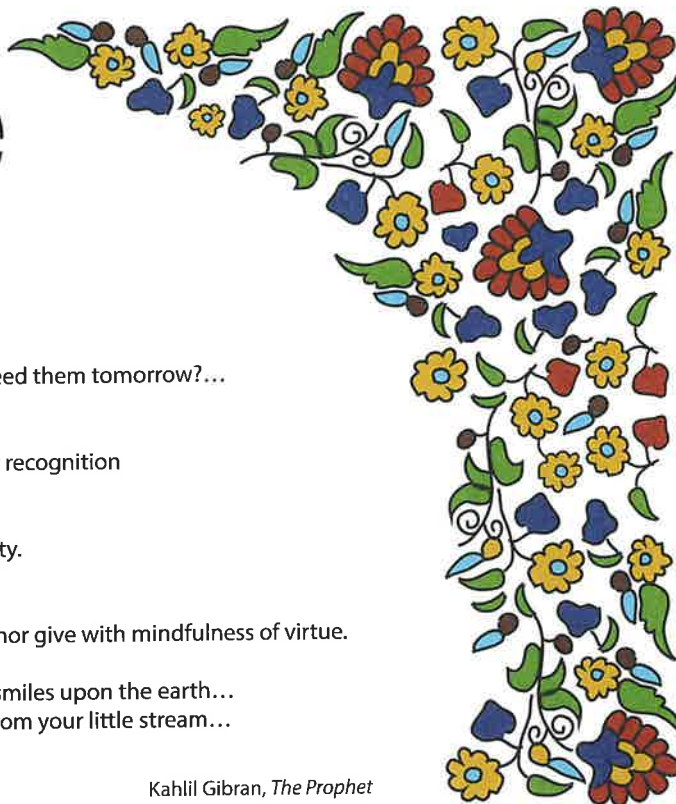
8 MARCH 2026

# SUNDAY *Plus*

3rd Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week III** Year A

England & Wales: **Bible Sunday**

## Believe in life



Then said a rich man, Speak to us of Giving.

And he answered:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?...

And what is fear of need but need itself?

Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable?

There are those who give little of the much which they have – and they give it for recognition

and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue.


They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes. He smiles upon the earth...

And he who has deserved to drink from the ocean of life deserves to fill his cup from your little stream...

See first that you yourself deserve to be a giver, and an instrument of giving.

Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

Dearest Jesus, living water, refresh my soul  
and fill me with new life and love.  Amen.

### Don't give up

I cannot pretend to understand God, but this is what I see: people who have moved from seeming success to seeming success seldom understand success at all, except a very limited version of their own. People who fail to do it right, by even their own definition of right, are those who often break through to enlightenment and compassion... It is God's greatest surprise and God's constant disguise, but you

only know it to be true by going through it and coming out the other side yourself. You cannot know it by just going to church, reading scriptures or listening to someone else talk about it, even if you agree with them... The surrender of faith does not happen in one moment but is an extended journey, a trust walk, a gradual letting go, unlearning and handing over. No-one does it on the first or even second try.

Richard Rohr OFM,  
*Breathing Under Water*

Our prayer embraces all those peoples suffering because of war. Let us implore courage and perseverance for those engaged in dialogue and in the sincere search for peace.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week  
Thursday 12 March

### Blessed Rutilio Grande García SJ (1928-1977)

The Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, might not have become a martyr for social justice and a saint had it not been for the influence and assassination of his close friend Fr Rutilio Grande García SJ. Rutilio Grande's death transformed Romero from a quiet, bookish, predictable archbishop into someone who was also a voice for the voiceless, impoverished, oppressed people of El Salvador.

Grande worked for social transformation through the creation of Basic Christian Communities, which led people to come together to share and live the Gospel – but in criticising the unjust political system, he made enemies of the authorities.

A death squad ambushed Grande's vehicle. He was shot twelve times. An elderly man who tried to shield the priest was also killed, as was a sixteen-year-old boy.

At the funeral, Romero declared, "The true reason for [Grande's] death was his prophetic and pastoral efforts to raise the consciousness of the people throughout his parish."

### READINGS

Today:  
Exodus 17:3-7  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42

Monday:  
2 Kings 5:1-15  
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday:  
Daniel 3:25, 34-43  
Matthew 18:21-35  
Scotland: St John  
Ogilvie (Feast):  
Isaiah 50:5-9  
2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
John 12:24-26

Wednesday:  
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9  
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday:  
Jeremiah 7:23-28  
Luke 11:14-23

Friday:  
Hosea 14:2-10  
Mark 12:28-34  
Scotland: St John  
Ogilvie (Feast):  
Isaiah 50:5-9; 2  
Corinthians 1:3-7  
John 12:24-26

Saturday:  
Hosea 5:15 – 6:6  
Luke 18:9-14

Next Sunday:  
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7,  
10-13  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41