

Monday in 11th Week in Ordinary Time – 15th June 2026:

“You have heard it said, ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you!’”.

The gospel established a definitive advance from the notion of vengeance as the answer for criminality. As the UK Bishops teach us, *‘a Catholic understanding of criminal justice has three aims: retribution, rehabilitation and redemption. Criminal justice must always prioritise care for victims while seeking the reformation and rehabilitation of offenders into the community. A well-balanced criminal justice system properly punishes, rigorously rehabilitates, and effectively enables the practice of both justice and mercy to serve the ultimate good of victim, offender and wider society. This can help ensure that somebody convicted of a crime both plays a part in repairing the harm done to the victim and takes responsibility for their actions’.*

Mem. of St Richard of Chichester, 2nd Diocesan Patron (16th June 2026):

Richard was chancellor to Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury. When King Henry III appointed his own man as Bishop of Chichester, Archbishop Boniface was unhappy at the King’s interference, declaring the King’s appointment invalid and appointed Richard in his stead. Even so, the Cathedral Chapter and the King’s servants prevented him from taking possession of the See. Richard had to live outside the diocese and walk in to visit. Richard insisted on strict discipline for his clergy, enforcing the new mandate on clerical celibacy. He checked that his priests were celebrating Mass properly, not simply mumbling their way through it. And those to be Confirmed needed to be able to recite the Apostles’ Creed. Richard insisted on the Church’s rights, reminding people to support the Church’s mission. He was tireless in helping the poor, denouncing corruption, teaching the people to keep away from sin. He died at Dover in a home for poor priests and was Canonized in 1262.

Wednesday in 11th Week in Ordinary Time – 17th June 2026:

Is heaven a state or a place? It is easiest for us to think of it as a state for souls, and yet the Ascension shows it must also be a place, for Christ, Our Lady and Elijah seem to be there, in body and soul. Despite how challenging it is, we must try and grasp transcendent concepts, for when we celebrate Mass, we believe heaven and earth are united, and we join with the whole company of angels and saints in singing God’s praises and express our hope that we will one day take our place at the heavenly banquet. It is our constant yes to God’s will in our life that merits our place in heaven.

Thursday in 11th Week in Ordinary Time – 18th June 2026:

The *'Our Father'* fills us with hope, consolation and gratitude. The *'Lord's Prayer'* teaches us to praise God for his majesty and though unworthy we are brought into his presence and minister to Him. Then we petition Him for what we need (*not want we want*). Assuring us that we are His children, he knows what we need and waits for us to ask him. He is not a tyrannical master but *'Our Father'* who brings us to an examination of our faults: our lack of generosity, our sins, our mistakes, so we might do better and reach perfection. Thus, we pray for the coming of the Kingdom so we may be brought into the fulness of relationship with God among the saints. Our *'daily bread'* nourishes us, making us fit for the Kingdom, and we respond to God lovingly and trustingly which includes consideration of how we interact with our neighbour, asking God to help us let go of our grudges. To live the life of grace, we must avoid sin and ask God to keep us focused on heaven. God is strong enough to free us from all that anchors us here below but only if we lean on *'Our Father'* when times get tough.

Friday in 11th Week in Ordinary Time – 19th June 2026:

God's people have struggled with idol worship. The Northern Kingdom of Israel, having failed to be faithful to God, are swept away (for ever) by neighbouring powers – ten tribes are lost. In the Southern Kingdom, a remnant (one tribe - Judah) survives but they are not immune from invading powers and are eventually conquered. From exile, God raises up prophets speaking of the Messianic Prophecy, that the anointed one, a descendant of King David would rescue his people. But what is the point of rescuing us, if we never change our behaviour? Jesus, then, asks us what is it we most value? For where the heart is, there we will find our treasure. If it is in material things, they will eventually wither and fade or away. Every treasure in the form of earthly goods is a constant source of worry, because there is the risk it will be lost or taken away from us. Putting our faith in material things is a form of idol worship which cannot lead to salvation. *'There are no pockets in a shroud, you cannot take it with you!'* For a Christian, treasure exists in bearing eternal fruit and our reward is great in heaven!

Opt. Mem. of St Alban, proto-martyr of England – Saturday 20th June 2026:

Alban was martyred in the town that now holds his name for having tried to take the place of a priest whom the Roman authorities wished to kill. Alban was a Pagan but was so impressed by the priest whom he was protecting, he converted to Christianity.