

### **Monday in 14<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

So great is God's love for us, that despite our infidelities, He continues to console us with His Word and maintains the promise of fellowship with Him for eternity. God is slow to anger and swift in mercy, always encouraging us to come back to him with all our hearts. Give thanks to God that he has not fallen back to other approaches, such as the great flood, when he simply washed away all the evil and filth from the world and started over. Instead, the flood is re-directed to the waters of baptism, which rather than being destructive become waters of our re-birth, providing the sanctifying grace that brings about our redemption. This is the favourable time of our salvation – of the restoration of the marriage of the divine to the human and the Church, as the bride of Christ, responds to the covenant by striving to be holy and blameless before him.

### **Tuesday in 14<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026:**

While there are many calls on our time and resources, we should never forget God, giving him the first-fruits of everything we have, and in doing so, we find that the return is 100 hundred fold, but when we give our first fruits to the world, it often simply sucks us dry, demanding more and more from us until we are worn out and left spiritually empty; an eternal death. *'The harvest is rich', we are told, but the labourers are few'*. If we invest our energies into the proclamation of the Kingdom, we find it brings great joy, for it is nothing less than a share in the ministry of Christ who had compassion on his people. And although this means that we share in the sufferings of the people, embracing the cross is not a burden: *'yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light'*. There is a shortage of labourers for this spiritual harvest, and we might think we are talking about priests, but actually we are also talking about the lay apostolate, who as *'priests, prophets and kings'* are at the forefront of announcing the gospel in both word and deed. The missionary duty is one shared by all the baptised: *'Go, you are sent!'*

### **Wednesday in 14<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026:**

It may surprise us, but Jesus did not leave us a bible; no, he formed and left us the Church as a visible manifestation of his body. And this Church begins with the calling of the first Apostles. These twelve men are to be the patriarchs of the new people of God, the Church. This new 'people' is established not by a physical birth but by a spiritual generation in baptism. The word apostle means *'one who is sent'*, sent out to preach the coming of the Kingdom and Hand on the teaching of Jesus Christ.

### **Thursday in 14<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026:**

Even though God's people are unfaithful, the Lord acts like a father, continuing to bless and protect us. Despite the infidelities of the child, The Father cannot but love his child – nothing that we can do can ever separate us from The Father's love – but that, of course, is not a licence to commit sin! '*Out of Egypt*' God calls his people out of slavery into the freedom of the covenant, of the commandments, of the Promised Land. The very thought of Him abandoning his son breaks his heart. God so loves the world that he sends his only Son to be our Saviour and Redeemer. And so, we recall that at the start of Matthew's gospel, he uses the phrase '*Out of Egypt God calls his son*', applying it to Jesus who, along with the Holy Family are called out of their exile in Egypt, home to Nazareth so that he may grow in stature, ready for his mission to extend the Father's love to the world. "*Peace be with you*": This is the mission of the Church, assuring us of the reconciliation between God and Humanity achieved through the cross. People need to hear this message and so, the mission is urgent as ever. "*Repent and believe in the gospel*", for in the good news, salvation is near, but people need to be convinced of it by the way that we live our lives, full of goodness, virtue, mercy and compassion.

### **Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood (Fri. in 14<sup>th</sup> Week in OT II):**

May the Lord grant us the gift of priests filled with zeal for the Word, dedicated to the service of God, the Church and His Holy People. May they be nourished with the Sacraments and so strengthened for the Mission to which we are called. Priest should preach about this golden age of love between God and his people: '*the marriage of the Lamb has come, and her bride has made herself ready*'; but they must also call us to conversion, celebrating a liturgy of reconciliation: in baptism, in Confession, in the Eucharist, the re-presentation of the cross, the sign of our reconciliation with God.

### **The Feast of St Benedict, Abbott, Patron of Europe – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026:**

There is much to learn from Benedict's Rule, for it has moderation and reasonableness at its core, exhorting us to the virtue of obedience, to listen and give our assent to legitimate authority without undue grumbling, trying to play our part in bringing harmony to the community. Then, there is always the need for us to think before we speak; Benedict advising us to avoid foolish chatter and the Abbott teaches us that the first step in humility is to always keep the fear of the Lord before our eyes. Above all the praise of God should be on our lips, making our whole day a prayer to God.