



23 AUGUST 2026
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A
(Justice Sunday)



Introduction:

Today, as we observe Justice Sunday, the Church reminds us that whoever truly loves God must also love every brother and sister. In today's readings, God entrusts responsibility to faithful servants, while Jesus calls Peter to lead His Church. May this Eucharist strengthen us to build communities where justice, compassion, dignity and love reflect the heart of Christ.

Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 22: 19-23
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 138:1-2a, 2bcd-3, 6 & 8bc
Second Reading: Romans 11: 33-36
Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Confident that God hears the cries of every person and calls us to love without discrimination, let us pray together.

Response: God of justice, hear our prayer.

- For Pope Leo XIV, Bishops, Clergy, Religious and the lay faithful; that they may faithfully proclaim Christ, the Son of the Living God, through justice, compassion and inclusive love, we pray to the Lord.
- For governments and civic leaders; that they may protect every person's dignity, as they promote equality, peace and justice, we pray to the Lord.
- For our parish community, that rejecting prejudice and division, we may all embrace every neighbour with Christ's welcoming love and respect, we pray to the Lord.
- For victims of discrimination, violence, poverty and exclusion; that they may find healing, hope, justice and compassionate companions along life's journey, we pray to the Lord.
- For vocations to the priesthood and religious life, that faith-filled disciples may commit themselves to justice, mercy and faithful service of God's people, we pray to the Lord.
- For the prayers we carry in our hearts; that God may be generous with His provision and be merciful to all... *(pause for few seconds)*, we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Abba Father, we praise you because of your great love for each one of us. Thank you for listening to these prayers and those intentions of our hearts which we bring to you. We are certain you hear us through your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.