

**THE RIBBLE VALLEY PARISHES OF
ST WILFRID, LONGRIDGE: ST MARY, CHIPPING:
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RIBCHESTER.**

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Dutton

Telephone: 01772 782641

Email: stwilfridslongridge@outlook.com

Website: <http://stwilfridsparish.org.uk>

Emergency contact please phone Fr Doyle: Tel: 01772 782244

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Sunday 19th July 2026



“Let both grow together until the harvest.”

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 20th July	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Tuesday 21st July	Mass 10.00am		
Wednesday 22nd July	Requiem Mass 1.00pm		10.00am
Thursday 23rd July		Mass 9.30am	
Friday 24th July	Funeral Service 2.00pm		
Saturday 25th July	Mass 5.30pm		
Sunday 26th July		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am

Parish of St Mary Chipping

Parish Notices

Sunday Missal page 369

Book Stall

The book stall continues to be very popular and any books in good condition to keep it stocked up would be gratefully received. Many thanks.

Food Bank

The food bank welcomes all donations from parishioners and in particular baby products, toiletries, long life milk, juice, tea and coffee. Please note that there will be a container at the back of the church so items can be left at any time. Thank you.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our departed loved ones and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again.

We remember especially:

Richard Joseph Wells and John Birkett

May the Risen Lord grant them a share in his Resurrection.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 12th July 2026:

£182.45

Thank you.

Stella Maris:

£ 85.00

Thank you.

Parish of St Wilfrid Longridge**Parish Notices****Sunday Missal page 369****Longridge Foodbank**

Kindly note that Longridge Foodbank is currently in short supply of the following items: Long Life Milk, Tinned Meat, Tinned Potatoes, Instant Mash, Savoury/School Snacks, Washing Up Liquid and Shampoo. If you can donate any of these items in the collection box at the back of church, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our departed loved ones and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again.

We especially remember:

Simon Holden, Pearl Nicholson, Michael Rainford, Francis Pinfield Wells, George Holden, Lena Timbrell, Dorothy Bamber and William Derek Hayhurst. May they now have the reward of their earthly goodness in heaven.

Parish of St Peter and St Paul Ribchester**Parish Notices****T.H.O.M.A.S.**

Please note that the monthly collection for T.H.O.M.A.S. will be made on Sunday 26th July. All donations will be gratefully received, thank you.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our departed loved ones and for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again.

We especially remember:

Jack Livesey, Benny Beetson, Theresa Ward, Vincent Stringfellow, Thomas Henshaw, Ellen Hollingworth and Shiela Barnett Brown. May they rest in peace.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 12th July 2026:

£147.00

Thank you.

Stella Maris:

£44.00

Thank you.

Faith Formation Group for Men

Men from all three parishes are invited to attend six faith-sharing sessions to be held in St Mary's Presbytery, Chipping on Thursday mornings after the 9.30am Mass, beginning 23rd of July and finishing on 27th August. Through prayerful reading of Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, through reflection and sharing, the aim is to deepen our relationship with God while exploring how faith affects our everyday lives. Bring your bible!

A thought on the Gospel

It would be something of an understatement to say that the kingdom of heaven is very important to Jesus. Not only is it the thrust of his message today, but, like John the Baptist before him, it is the first thing Jesus preaches in his ministry: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

We might ask the question: "Well, what is the kingdom of heaven?" As depicted in popular iconography however, Jesus doesn't paint a serene picture of angels sitting around on fluffy clouds playing harps. Neither is Jesus speaking particularly about a happy life hereafter, although that is certainly part of the picture.

Actually, "What is the kingdom of heaven?" is the wrong question. The first of today's parables tells us that *"the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed."* neither the seed, nor the field where it is sown, is the main subject, it is the Sower, the one who sows it.

And later, in his explanation of the parable, Jesus says, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of man", which is his way of referring to himself. In other words, it is Christ himself who is the kingdom of heaven. So, the question is not "What is the kingdom of heaven?" but instead "Who is the kingdom of heaven?"; and the answer is Jesus of Nazareth, the one whom Peter will later describe as "the Christ, the Son of the living God". When Christ says: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!", he's effectively saying, "Repent – because I am here!"

The coming of Christ signals a new era, a new people of God, a new reign. And returning to the parables we can perhaps now better understand what that reign entails.

"I am the God of whom the book of Wisdom speaks, who cares for everything, who is merciful and mild in judgement, who grants the grace of repentance to those who sin, but who, in my supreme strength will see justice done."

This is Jesus Christ, the kingdom of heaven, who is proclaimed by the gospels and whom we are called to follow. Let us therefore rejoice – for he is indeed at hand!