

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

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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Sunday 26th July 2026



“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 27th July	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Tuesday 28th July	Mass 10.00am		
Wednesday 29th July			10.00am
Thursday 30th July	Funeral Service 11.00am	Mass 9.30am	
Friday 31st July	Morning Prayer <i>St Paul's</i> 7.45am		
Saturday 1st August	Mass 5.30pm		
Sunday 2nd August		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am

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 take place this weekend on Sunday 26th July. All donations will be gratefully received, thank you.

Save The Date Friday 20th November 2026 at 7pm

Please note that there will be a Hotpot Supper Fundraiser for St Peter & St Paul's Church at Ribchester Parish Hall (Riverside). Cost will be £12 per head. Details to follow.

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:

Alice Hamilton, Joseph Platt, Mary Astley, John Brady and John Park.

May they rest in peace.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 19th July 2026:

£235.00

Thank you.

Stella Maris:

£20.00

Thank you.

Parish of St Mary Chipping**Parish Notices****Sunday Missal page 373****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.

Welcome

We warmly welcome Olivia Rose Rogerson into the family of the Church who has recently been baptised. May she continue to grow in the ways of faith.

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:

Doreen Margaret Bailey and James Furlong.

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

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 19th July 2026:

£222.60

Thank you.

Parish of St Wilfrid Longridge**Parish Notices****Sunday Missal page 373****Afternoon Tea**

Please note that the next afternoon tea will be on Thursday 17th September in the Parish Room from 12:30 – 2:30pm. The cost is a very reasonable £12.50 per head. To book a place please contact Denise on 07746 295974.

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, Canon Paul Mitcheson, Francis James Sherrington, John Rae Smith and Peter Andrew Heaney.

May they now have the reward of their earthly goodness in heaven.

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.

A thought on the Gospel

In the parables of the treasure and the pearl that Jesus gives, the focus isn't on what the treasure-hunter or the merchant had to sacrifice. What is emphasized is the worth of the Kingdom, that is, the supreme good that comes from knowing and loving Jesus Christ.

Once we recognize the riches that Jesus brings, who wouldn't give up all they owned - everything - to possess him. Or rather we do not possess Christ - it is he who embraces and possesses us with his love, but first we have to let go of all the other things we cling on to so that we can hold firm to him.

For me, the key phrase in the Gospel which motivates this letting go of all else are those three words: "in his joy".

Without joy, the man in the parable would not have been motivated to sell all in order to buy the field and its treasure. So, too, without joy, it's hard to be a Christian, or a poor, obedient celibate priest. Without joy, the Christian life becomes drudgery, an obligation, and not worth living or, indeed, dying for.

Pope Francis once said, "those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew" and this sentiment is also expressed of course in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. This joy comes from being held in God's love, through a daily personal encounter with Jesus Christ who is our treasure and our pearl of great price. For him, we joyfully give up all without counting the cost.

The selfless giving and example of the martyrs has been a constant source of inspiration to seek this radical joy, and so, too, does the authentic witness of a consecrated life. For as Pope Francis also said: "This is the beauty of consecration: it is joy!"

So, I think today's Gospel is an invitation for all of us to find anew the joy of loving and serving Christ, but, in particular, how he might be calling some of us to live out our own vocation. In the ordinary circumstances of our own lives, we might ask:

"How do I serve Christ? How do I make his name known? What is the real source of my joy? Where is my treasure?"