

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

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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Sunday 2nd August 2026



“They all ate and were satisfied.”

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 3rd August	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Tuesday 4th August	No Mass		
Wednesday 5th August			No Mass
Thursday 6th August		Mass 9.30am	
Friday 7th August	Morning Prayer <i>St Paul's</i> 7.45am		
Saturday 8th August	Mass 5.30pm		
Sunday 9th August		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am

Parish of St Peter and St Paul Ribchester

Parish Notices

No Weekday Mass

Kindly note that I shall be away on Wednesday 5th August and so there will be no celebration of Mass on this day.

T.H.O.M.A.S.

The monthly collection for T.H.O.M.A.S. held last week raised £51, thank you for your generous donations.

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:

Mildred Cooper, Clarice Fowler, Francis Livesey, Ellen Holt, Joseph Geoffrey Penny and Joseph Leo Cardwell.

May they rest in peace.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 26th July 2026:

£145.00

Thank you.

Lee House Mass

Please note that the monthly first Friday Mass at Lee House is to be held on 7th August at 7:30pm. All are most welcome to attend.

Parish of St Mary Chipping**Parish Notices****Sunday Missal page 377****Chipping in Bloom**

Kindly note that the "North West in Bloom" Judging Day for Chipping will take place on Thursday 13th August in the Community Hall.

Coffee Morning

The regular monthly coffee morning will be held after Mass this Sunday. You are all warmly invited to attend.

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:

Mary Moss, Jack Winder, Doreen Margaret Bailey, James Furlong and Francis Marsden.

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

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 26th July 2026: £170.20 Coffee Morning: £84.00 Thank you.

Parish of St Wilfrid Longridge**Parish Notices****Sunday Missal page 377****No Weekday Mass**

Kindly note that on Tuesday 4th August I shall be away and so there will not be a celebration of Mass on that day.

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:

Vincent Raymond, Margaret Mary Holden, George Cooke, Marie Davis, Poppy Olivia Gray-Wilson and Bryan Moffat. May they rest in peace.

Longridge Foodbank

Kindly note that Longridge Foodbank is currently in short supply of the following items: Tinned Fruit, Tinned Spaghetti, Instant Mash, Coffee, Ketchup, Mayo and all toiletries. 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

On hearing the death of John the Baptist, Jesus was deeply upset and in need of a quiet place. However, that was not to be, as he stepped ashore, he was greeted with a huge crowd eager to reach out and touch him and to listen to him. We can see clearly that the crowd were nourished and fed by him, not just in the miracle of the two fishes and five loaves but by his word also.

As we listen to the account of this miraculous event in St Matthew's Gospel, there are familiar overtones. He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to the people to eat. At every Mass we acknowledge that Jesus is the fulfilment of all human need and likewise we are nourished and fed by his body and blood which he describes as being "real food and drink" and of course we are nourished and fed by his Word.

We can see this miraculous event as being a picture of the Church as it acts in every age. He accomplished this task of feeding the five thousand with the help of his disciples who initially were reluctant to accept any responsibility for the hungry people. Their first reaction was to send the people away to fend for themselves. The small amount of food they had brought, when placed in the hands of Jesus turned out to be more than enough for all.

Whenever we gather at the altar to celebrate the Eucharist by our presence, we make an offering of self and show that with the rest of the Church we accept the challenge of Jesus to serve one another. It is in our service of each other that we express our love for him.

Sometimes, our own efforts may seem small and insignificant but when placed in God's hands and guided by his Spirit, they become part of the great saving mission of the Church and give a deeper meaning to our lives and indeed the lives of others.

With the coming of Jesus, God gives a new kind of food, which even his disciples found it hard to recognise. Jesus gently chides the crowd that thronged him after the feeding of the five thousand. 'You are seeking me because you had all the bread you wanted, not because you understood what that meant'. He is himself the bread which comes down from heaven.