

Reading for the Memorial of St Richard Gwyn (Wales)

16th October 2026

First reading

Ephesians 1:11-14

‘We who were the first to hope in Christ, were sealed with the Holy Spirit.’

Brothers and Sisters: In Christ we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 12-13. R12b

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the Lord is upright, and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his heritage.

From the heavens the Lord looks forth; he sees the whole human race.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 33(32):22

Alleluia, alleluia.

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 12:1-7

‘Even the hairs of your head are all numbered.’

At that time: When so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, Jesus began to say to his disciples first, ‘Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

‘I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

The words about sparrows are a key statement about God. The sparrow was a very common bird of no great distinction. Yet not one sparrow is forgotten in God’s sight. God knows even the least and smallest of creatures. If the humble sparrow is cherished and cared for by God, how much more are we cherished and cared for, says the Lord.

God knows the smallest detail of our lives. In the larger scheme of things this verges on the incredible. If God the Creator is transcendent above all things, worthy of reverence and awe (‘the fear of the Lord’) how can He pay attention to each individual in this crowded world? Yet Jesus assures us that God is a caring *Abba-Father* close to us and caring for each one. If that is so, we can trust ourselves to God without reserve.

