

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

21<sup>st</sup> July 2026

### First reading

**Micah 7:14-15, 18-20**

**‘You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.’**

Shepherd your people, Lord, with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old. As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them marvellous things.

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger for ever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 85(84):2-4. 5-6. 7-8. R8a**

*Show us, O Lord, your mercy.*

O Lord, you have favoured your land, and brought back the captives of Jacob.

You forgave the guilt of your people, and covered all their sins.

You averted all your rage; you turned back the heat of your anger.

Bring us back, O God, our saviour!

Put an end to your grievance against us.

Will you be angry with us for ever?

Will your anger last from age to age?

Will you not restore again our life, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

### Gospel Acclamation

**John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,

and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia.

### Gospel

**Matthew 12:46-50**

**‘Stretching out his hand towards his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers and sisters!” ’**

At that time: While Jesus was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers and sisters stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, ‘Who is my mother, and who are my brothers and sisters?’ And stretching out his hand towards his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers and sisters! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’

## **Short reflection on the reading for today**

We all value our families. As we get older we might not see them as often as we once did, but they still matter a great deal to us. They say blood is thicker than water. When a family member is in difficulty, we will generally gather around him or her to give support. The gospels don't tell us a great deal really about Jesus' family. Yet, when they do mention his family, they give the impression that there was often tension between Jesus and his blood family. In today's gospel, Jesus' family, including his mother, were standing outside where Jesus was speaking, anxious to have a word with him. They were trying to get his attention, perhaps even trying to get him home, away from the crowds that were always pursuing him. However, on this occasion Jesus stood his ground; he didn't go with his family. Rather, he redefined who his family really were. He identifies his disciples as his family, and declares that all those who do the will of his heavenly Father are now his family. As disciples we are all brothers and sisters of the Lord, and of each other, and sons and daughters of God. This is the new family that Jesus came to form, and what distinguishes this family is the desire to do the will of God as Jesus has revealed that to us by his words and by his life. That is why, together, as members of the Lord's family, we pray, 'Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'