

## Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

24th September 2026

### First reading

**Ecclesiastes 1:2-11**

**‘There is nothing new under the sun.’**

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains for ever.

The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.

The wind blows to the south and goes round to the north;

round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.

All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full;

to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.

All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it;

the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done,

and there is nothing new under the sun.

Is there a thing of which it is said, ‘See, this is new’?

It has been already in the ages before us.

There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R1**

*O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

You turn man back to dust, and say, ‘Return, O children of Adam.’

To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream, like grass which is fresh in the morning.

In the morning it sprouts and is fresh; by evening it withers and fades.

Then teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Turn back, O Lord! How long? Show pity to your servants.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days.

Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us; give success to the work of our hands.

O give success to the work of our hands.

### Gospel Acclamation

**John 14:6**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

### Gospel

**Luke 9:7-9**

**‘John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?’**

At that time: Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. Herod said, ‘John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?’ And he sought to see him.

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

In the Gospel, the patron of trivial pursuits was Herod the Tetrarch, for whom religion was a curiosity, a momentary pang of conscience, a way to win his people's allegiance. Herod was curious about Jesus, but his curiosity did not lead to faith. He wanted to see the famous prophet from Nazareth that everyone was talking about, curious to know if he was in any way related to John the Baptist, whom he had executed at the whim of his step-daughter. Herod did indeed get to see Jesus, during the Lord's Passion, when he had him mocked as a king (Lk 23:8). The Gospel writer saw Herod as a shallow, cynical ruler, who respected neither God nor man.

Herod's example is a wake-up call against cynicism in our own attitudes. We too want to see Jesus, but it is in order to know him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly.