Eighth Sunday after Trinity

SS Joachim & Anne · Sunday 17 · **26 July 2026**

PUBLISHED BY THE EASTBOURNE ORDINARIATE MISSION FOR ALL THE COMMUNITIES AT CHRIST THE KING

From an Angelus homily of Pope Benedict XVI (24 July 2011):

Today, in the liturgy, the Old Testament Reading presents to us the figure of King Solomon, the son and successor of David. It presents him at the beginning of his reign, when he was still very young. Solomon inherited a very demanding task and the responsibility that lay heavily on his shoulders was great for a young king. He first of all offered God a solemn sacrifice, "a thousand burnt offerings", as the Bible says.

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night and promised to grant him what he asked in prayer. And here we see the greatness of Solomon's soul. He did not ask for a long life, nor wealth, nor the elimination of his enemies; instead he said to the Lord: "Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong" (1 Kings 3:9). And the Lord heard him, so that Solomon became famous throughout the world for his wisdom and his right judgements.

Therefore he prayed God to grant him "an understanding heart". What do these words mean? We know that the "heart" in the Bible does not only indicate a part of the body, but also the centre of the person, the seat of his intentions and opinions. We might say: the conscience. Thus an "understanding heart" means a conscience that knows how to listen, that is sensitive to the voice of truth and for this reason can discern right from wrong.

In Solomon's case, the request was motivated by the responsibility of leading a nation, Israel, the people whom God chose to show the world his plan of salvation. The King of Israel, therefore, had to try always to be in tune with God, listening to his word, in order to guide the people on the paths of the Lord, the path of justice and of peace.

However, Solomon's example is valid for every person. Each one of us has a conscience so as to be, in a certain way, "king", that is, to exercise the great human dignity of acting in accordance with an upright conscience, doing what is right and avoiding wrong.

The moral conscience presupposes the ability to hear the voice of truth and to be docile to its indications. People who are called to the task of government naturally have a further responsibility and, therefore — as Solomon teaches — are in even greater need of God's help. Yet each one has his own part to play, in the concrete situation in which he finds himself. An erroneous mentality suggests to us that we ask God for favourable things or conditions; in fact, the true quality of our life and of social life depends on the upright conscience of each one, on the capacity of one and all to recognize right, separating it from wrong and seeking patiently to put it into practice, thereby contributing to justice and to peace.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom, for help in this. Her "heart" was perfectly docile to the Lord's will. Even though she was a humble and simple person, Mary was a queen in God's eyes, and we venerate her as such. May the Blessed Virgin help us to form in ourselves, with God's grace, a conscience ever open to the truth and sensitive to justice, to serve the Kingdom of God.

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neil.chatfield@ordinariate.org.uk

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01323 760048; neil.taylor@ordinariate.org.uk

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Website: https://eastbourneordinariate.org.uk
Facebook page: /eastbourneordinariate

Banking
Eastbourne Ordinariate Mission:
40-04-09 82035758

CTK Image: Dream of Solomon
Luca Giordano (c.1670–1705), c.1695
Location unknown

St Jo Image: SS Joachim and Anne and Our Lady
19th century anonymous illustration

Parish of Christ the King Langney with St Joachim Hampden Park

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Parish Hall Bookings 01323 760048

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Facebook page: Christ The King with St Joachim, Eastbourne

Banking
Christ the King: 40-05-20 91127012;
CTK Building Account: "RCD A&B Christ the King Eastbourne" 40-05-20 61256130.
St Joachim's: 40-05-20 51077058.

Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

(Week 17) (Year A) (Year II)

Day			*Location**	*Intention*
	Vigil Mass NO	5:00 pm	CTK	For our Community
Sunday 26 July	Mass NO	9:30 am	St Jo	Mary Noel Hall RIP
Trinity VIII	Rosary	10:45 am	CTK	
SS Joachim & Anne	Sung Mass DW	11:30 am	CTK	Catherine Lee RIP
SUNDAY 17				
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Feria	Private Mass			Thanksgiving
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S Ignatius of Loyola Pr	Exposition after Mass			
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S Alphonsus	Exposition	4:00 pm	CTK	
Liguori BD	Vigil Mass of Sunday NO	5:00 pm	CTK	Holy Souls
Sunday 2 August	Mass NO	9:30 am	St Jo	For our Community
Trinity IX	Exposition & Rosary	10:30 am	CTK	
SUNDAY 18	Sung Mass DW	11:30 am	CTK	Claire & Martin Telford Silver Wedding Anniversary

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DW Divine Worship (2014)
NO Novus Ordo (2010)
SM Syro-Malabar Rite (2021)
TLM Traditional Latin Mass (1962), when available

* **CTK** Christ the King Church, 3 Princes Rd BN23 6HT
St Jo St Joachim's Church, 106 Brodrick Rd BN22 9NY
OLR Our Lady of Ransom Church, 2 Grange Rd BN21 4EU
DGH Chapel, District General Hospital, Kings Dr BN21 2UD
‡ In the Parish room: enter by the side door

This parish is part of
The Catholic Deanery of Eastbourne and St Leonards
working towards implementing the Pastoral Plan

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. Isaiah 43:5

Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of Our Lady

Trinity VIII · Sunday 17 · **26 July 2026**

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From a homily of Fr Philip Wrigley, of the Catholic Diocese of Lancaster (26 July 2022):

Today is the feast day of St Joachim and St Anne, the parents of Mary, and the grandparents of Jesus. There is very little known about them; we receive their names in the gnostic gospel of St James. Stories about Mary's parents came to us mainly through legend and tradition.

We are told they were childless and sterile into old age, and after Joachim's fasting and prayer in the desert and Anne weeping in lamentation for many years, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child to God. They were told by the angel the reason why it has taken so long. It was to increase their longing, to increase their awareness that every child comes from God.

The conception in Anne's womb was unlike any other in human history, because her long-awaited daughter was conceived without any stain of original sin, she was *immaculate.*

Mary was given *prevenient grace,* which is a grace given by God before she was conceived. In the same way as God had always thought from the beginning of time, to send his Son Jesus to the world, it was also his thought to make Mary spotless and full of grace, so she could conceive Jesus as her Son.

Mary is full of grace because of the divine task she was willingly to accept. She needed the full amount of grace to fulfil her role as God's Mother.

St Joachim and St Anne knew that Mary was conceived miraculously in their old age, as a result of many prayers, but they had no idea of what God had planned for Mary.

It was the parents of Mary who nurtured her, taught her, and brought her up to be a worthy 'Mother of God'. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith. "Let it be done to me as your will". It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified and allowed her to still believe in God's plan.

Such parents can be examples and models for all parents and grandparents today.

Popes have long stressed how important it is for grandparents and great-grandparents to be the transmitters of wisdom to the younger generation. How important it is for the younger generation to ask them for wisdom, which they have gained through years of experience and lifelong reflection and prayerful examination on the Word of God! Let us have the inspiration to pass on our faith for the sake of the younger generation, so they may receive the wisdom and knowledge we have received through our years of prayer and close relationship with the Lord. "We are the virtuous that will shine like the Sun in the Kingdom of our Father in Heaven."

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