



The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul, Norden



Diocese of Salford

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SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

25th January 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [A]

At Saint Vincent's This Week ...

The Third Week of Ordinary Time (Psalter Week 3)

Monday 26th January

Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, Bishops [Memorial]

📖 2 Timothy 1:1-8; Mark 3:22-30

9.30 a.m. Word & Communion

Tuesday 27th January

Saint Angela Merici, Virgin [Optional Memorial]

Holocaust Memorial Day

📖 2 Samuel 6:12b-15.17-19; Mark 3:31-35

9.30 a.m. MASS

1.00 p.m. "Getting Together"

Wednesday 28th January

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church [Memorial]

📖 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20

10.00 a.m. Funeral MASS of Barbara Buckley

Thursday 29th January

Weekday

📖 2 Samuel 7:18-19.24-29; Mark 4:21-25

9.30 a.m. MASS with Year 5 pupils

Friday 30th January

Weekday

🐟 *Day of Abstinence*

📖 2 Sam 11:1-4a.5-10a.13-17; Mark 4:26-34

9.30 a.m. MASS

Saturday 31st January

Saint John Bosco, Priest [Memorial]

📖 2 Samuel 12:1-7a.10-17; Mark 4:35-41

11.00 a.m. MASS for Peace

12.00 noon Baptism of Daisy Parry

6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday

Sunday 1st February

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

📖 Zephaniah 2:3. 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a

9.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass

11.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass

Welcome to Saint Vincent's

If you are a visitor to Saint Vincent's this weekend, please feel welcome! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Here is some information to help you feel at home.

Parking: please try to give priority to places nearest Church for people with restricted mobility. Thank you.

HARD OF HEARING? There is an Induction Loop System installed in this Church: if you wear a hearing aid, please turn it to the 'T' setting

Refreshments after Mass: Everyone is very welcome to stay behind after Sunday morning Masses and share a cuppa! Tea and Coffee are served in the Parish Centre on the opposite side of the carpark after 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Toilets: The toilet is located near the side entrance: children should not go out of Church unaccompanied. Please use the disinfectant wipes to clean all surfaces after every use—dispose of them in the bin but do not flush them down the toilet. Thank you.

Saint Vincent's Parish Centre: The Parish Centre is available for parish use and outside bookings. Please contact Robert Allen on 0758 320 7810 for all enquiries.

Please remember this Sunday afternoon the United Service to end the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, taking place at 3.00 p.m. at Norden Methodist Church, Edenfield Road. A good Catholic turn-out would be very much appreciated!

In our prayers ...

Masses & Prayer Requests

Recently Deceased: Barbara Buckley.

Anniversaries: Tony Manock, Harry Tomlinson, Joan Smethurst, Stephen Karpluch.

National Cycle of Prayer

During Ordinary Time (Winter) we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care For Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat It; The Unemployed.

Holy Father's Intention (January)

For prayer with the Word of God: Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

The Word This Week

We will spend most of the Sundays of the coming year in the company of Saint Matthew. His Gospel (like the others) has its own characteristics. He is writing for a Jewish audience, and so is always at pains to stress one thing: that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. He does this by reference to Jesus' teaching and miracles, and very often by quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament to show that Jesus was their fulfilment. Today is a perfect example. "Zebulun and Naphthali" was an old name for the area round Capernaum by the side of the Lake of Galilee, a busy fishing and trading area, with many Gentile towns and settlements: it is here, rather than in the dangerous town of Nazareth, that Jesus 'settles' and begins his ministry. This is where the proclamation of the Kingdom of God begins, as was foretold, and the first followers are invited to join Jesus.

News and Notes

Sunday of the Word of God

Today through the world we celebrate the "Sunday of the Word of God". It's an opportunity for us to think about how God's Word impacts our daily lives – whether that is the bible readings we hear at Sunday or weekday Mass, or our own daily reading of Scripture. The Bible can be a bit forbidding sometimes – we pick it up and with the best will in the world come away from our reading more confused than ever! Nevertheless we should never give up on the scriptures: first, find a translation that you can understand; then, don't try too hard to look for meaning – let it come to you. And always, if you aren't sure, feel free to ask someone (like your parish priest!) for help!

Caritas Sunday

Caritas Sunday, which takes place this Sunday, is an important date in the annual calendar. It's an opportunity for people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire to reflect on the social action work which has taken place in their local communities over the last year. Parishes, community groups and individuals hold collections and make donations in support of that work across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Demand for our services is continuing to increase as the continued high costs of living continue to hit

families and individuals hard. We'd like to say thank you for your support and donations, which mean we can continue to work alongside thousands of local people every year, at a time when they need us the most. There will be a retiring collection for Caritas after Masses this weekend, so please be generous as always!

Holocaust Memorial Day

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day on Tuesday is 'Bridging Generations'. This is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors – it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past – to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future. Please pray for all victims of the holocaust, their families and especially their descendants.

"Getting Together"

The next meeting is this **Tuesday 27th January** from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. in the parish Centre, with the usual hospitality, refreshments and raffle. This week we will be having Bingo and a quiz! Everyone is very welcome.

Racial Justice Sunday

Next Sunday, parishes in England and Wales will mark Racial Justice Sunday, a day that invites us to reflect prayerfully and honestly on how we live the Gospel call to love our neighbour, to uphold human dignity and to challenge racism wherever it exists – including within our own communities. More on this next week.

Parish Census

As you will know from last week we are conducting a new Parish Census: a parish census is an important tool for a Roman Catholic community because it helps the parish understand and better serve its members. By gathering accurate information about households, ages, and sacramental status, the parish can plan pastoral care, liturgies, catechesis, and outreach more effectively. The census strengthens communication between parishioners and clergy, ensuring that no one feels overlooked, especially the elderly, sick, or new families. It also supports responsible stewardship by guiding the use of resources and facilities. Ultimately, a parish census helps build a more connected, welcoming, and faith-filled community centred on Christ and the mission of the Church. It will not be used for indiscriminate "marketing" or be passed on to any third party. This is not a geographical survey, so if you live outside Saint Vincent's, but still consider this to be your parish, please fill in a form! *If you know of someone who is a Catholic living in this parish, but who does not attend Church, please feel free to ask (respectfully and without pressure!) if they would also like to be included in the Parish Census.* Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Marriage Matters (www.marriagecare.org.uk)

"God has a stake in our marriage" Today, we see two aspects of God's plan for our marriage: '... (I will make) their joy increase' (Isaiah) and 'I will make you fishers of men' (Matthew). God wants us to make our love for each other as close to Jesus' love for us as possible, that all whose lives we touch might experience how much God loves them.

Diocesan Notes

Exploring God's Creation in Catholic Theology

Doctor Finlay Malcolm from the University of Manchester will be delivering an interactive teaching session exploring how creation and the environment are integral to Catholic faith and theology. The session will involve theological and environmental teaching, spiritual reflection, and discussion of how we can be part of God's work, through the Church, in redeeming God's creation. The event will take place on **25th February 2026**, 7.00-9.00 p.m., at Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Church in Bury. Refreshments will be provided. For more information and to sign up for the event, please use the following link: Exploring God's Creation within Catholic Theology - Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford

Lenten Talks: School of Prayer

During Lent, a series of talks and prayerful reflections will be taking place every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., led by Monsignor Paul Smith, Sister Joan Kerley and Maria Kidd. These will be held at Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church, Little Hulton, from **17th February to 24th March**, and light refreshments will be served. For more information on how to book your place please visit the diocesan website by clicking the following link:

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lenten-talks-school-of-prayer/>

Early Career Teachers

Primary Pool Applications

The Diocese of Salford Education Team are inviting applications from ECTs to be added to their Primary Pool for 2026. The Application Form, Person Specification and Job Description can be found in Vacancies on the Diocesan website by following this link: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/> If you require further information, please contact the Education Team by emailing education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Relics of Saint Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese

This month, the relics of Saint Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at

the age of 15. The relics will be presented at Saint Mary's Church, Burnley from **28th-29th January** before they travel to Saint Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from **30th January to 1st February**. For more information and to view the schedule for the visits, please visit: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/relics-of-st-carlo-acutis-to-visit-diocesan-churches/>

Mass for Engaged Couples

On **Saturday 14th February**, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass for engaged couples across the diocese. The Mass provides couples with an opportunity to seek God's blessing to guide and strengthen them during this time of preparation. Newly-married couples are also invited to receive a blessing in their first year of marriage. The Mass will take place at Saint Patrick's Church in Collyhurst on Saturday 14th February 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Women of the Old Testament

29: Susannah

The story of Susannah and the wicked elders is one of my favourite parts of the Bible, though I have to confess to first coming across it, not in the Bible, but in a collection of "Historical Detective Stories". This is because it is one of the earliest crime dramas and features the first example of forensic questioning after a crime. Susannah is a beautiful young woman, who is subjected to the unwanted advances of two elders - powerful men in the community. She rebuffs their advances but in retaliation for this rejection they accuse her of adultery with an unknown man. The penalty for this is death. Susannah is powerless against these influential men, and it seems that this false accusation will prevail. But God sends his prophet, Daniel, to look into the case. Daniel questions each elder separately, and when their stories do not agree, gets the case thrown out, thereby saving Susannah's life. While this story is completely fictional, it is trying to make a point: God is on the side of the innocent, the victim, the oppressed, the falsely accused. When the wickedness of the powerful is at work, God is with the victim. It is interesting that Susannah is, in some ways, a prefiguration of Jesus - the innocent one, falsely accused, who is our God come to be with all who fall victim to abuse and cruelty and do not have a Daniel to save them.

The Sacraments

Home Communion

Brenda Robinson is our Coordinator for Home Communion: if you or a relative find yourself housebound for a period of time, or know of a Catholic moving into one of our care homes, and would like to receive communion at home, please let Brenda know on **0785 559 8016**.

Baptisms

...are by appointment: please collect, fill in and return one of the Information forms from the porch. They

provide details of what is required and the next steps in the process.

Marriage

...is by appointment. Please take an information leaflet from the porch and return the tear-off portion to arrange an interview. Do not make bookings before the interview. Six months' notice is required.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Presbytery to ask for this Sacrament. It should not be left until the last minute, but the sick should celebrate this sacrament to receive God's healing and comfort.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion

As the Communion programme has begun, no further candidates can sign up for 2026. Registration for 2027 will begin next September. Confirmation is in Year 8—children in Catholic High Schools will soon be invited directly, otherwise please have a word with Father James.

Care and Concern

Our Parish S.V.P.

The S.V.P. Conference at Saint Vincent's support people in need in a variety of ways; visiting people at home or in care homes, responding to calls for practical help, providing home cooked meals for around twenty four residents of Leopold Court, a local homeless unit, one day every fortnight, providing food bags for local families. If you or anyone you know would like any kind of help please contact Joan Hamilton on **0773 990 8561** or send an email to **PresidentD111410@svp.org.uk**. Please also remember that donations to the SVP can made at any time through the donations slot on the back wall of Church, or by bank transfer online: Account Name D111410 SVP ST VINCENT—ROCHDALE; Account

Number 4608 2506; Sort Code 60-60-04. Thank you for your support!

Rochdale Food Bank

Please place your donations in the boxes at the back of the Church. The Food Bank is currently short of everything, but in urgent need of Coffee, Tinned Rice/Custard, Sugar, Tinned Potatoes, Fruit Juice and Jam. More details at rochdalefoodbank.org.uk

Donations

Please be aware that there are permanent donation boxes on the back wall of Church for CAFOD, Caritas Diocese of Salford, Caritas Ukraine and the Parish S.V.P. Thank you for your constant generosity!

Bank Donations

The account details for direct banking, for either one-off or regular giving are: Account Name: "The Salford Diocesan Trust St Vincent de Paul Norden" Account Number: 80492523 Sort Code: 20.55.34

Next Sunday's Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

Sunday Gospel Wordsearch

M	I	W	E	R	D	N	A	P	M
S	U	L	E	D	E	B	E	Z	E
E	J	A	M	E	S	T	N	E	U
E	A	E	N	I	E	H		B	A
D	E	E	A	R	O	J	H	U	N
E	M	L	R	J	E	N	A	L	R
B	S	I	M	O	N	P	I	U	E
E	I	L	A	T	H	P	A	N	P
Z	N	A	D	R	O	J	S	C	A
N	U	G	U	B	E	Z	I	N	C

GALILEE	CAPERNAUM	ZEBULON
NAPHTALI	JORDAN	ISAIAH
SIMON	PETER	ANDREW
JAMES	ZEBEDEE	JOHN



✠ STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY ✠