



The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul, Norden

Diocese of Salford

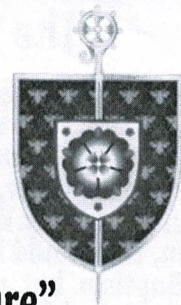
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SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

15th March 2026

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT [A] "Laetare"

At Saint Vincent's This Week ...

The Fourth Week of Lent (Psalter Week 4)

Monday 16th March

Lent Weekday

📖 Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

9.30 a.m. **Word & Communion**

Tuesday 17th March

Saint Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland

📖 Jeremiah 1:4-9; Luke 10:1-12,17-20

9.30 a.m. **MASS**

Wednesday 18th March

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church [Optional Commemoration]

📖 Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

10.00 a.m. **Funeral MASS of Katheen Lewis**

2.00 p.m. **"Coffee, Cake and Chat"**
in the Parish Centre

Thursday 19th March

SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED

VIRGIN MARY [Solemnity]

📖 2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a; Romans 4:13,16-18;

Matthew 1:16,18-21

9.30 a.m. **MASS**

7.00 p.m. **Lenten Station Mass at Sacred Heart, Rochdale**

Friday 20th March

Lent Weekday

📖 Wisdom 2:1a,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30

9.30 a.m. **MASS**

12.00 noon **Stations of the Cross**

🐟 *Day of Abstinence*

Saturday 21st March

Lent Weekday

📖 Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-52

10.00 a.m. **Exposition and Confessions**

10.45 a.m. **Benediction**

11.00 a.m. **MASS for Peace**

6.00 p.m. **Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)**

6.30 p.m. **First MASS of Sunday**

Sunday 22nd March

The Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

📖 Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

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.

In our prayers ...

Masses & Prayer Requests

Recently Deceased: Kathleen Lewis, Monica Bowden, Gerry Keogh, Theresa Pearsley, Joyce Creagh, John Patterson/

Anniversaries: Jim Massey, Angela Price, Mary Ellen Gallagher, Thomas Gallagher, Bernard Walsh, Veronica Walsh, Terence Entwistle.

National Cycle of Prayer

During Lent we are asked to pray for: Candidates for the Sacraments; the Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Let us hold in prayer the parishioners of Saint Anne's parish, Openshaw, Father Churchill Emeghera, MSSCC, their parish priest, and their parish primary school.

Holy Father's Intention (February)

For disarmament and peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear

disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

The Word This Week

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light - true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was "neophyte", which means "newly enlightened" There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed - as we were anointed at our Baptism and Confirmation - and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - 'no evil would I fear' as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being 'anointed' with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world.

News and Notes

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday has its roots in the history of the Church, as a day when people "in service" would have a day off to return to their homes, to their "mother Church" and their families. It has become a day to reflect on and give thanks for motherhood, to honour our own mothers, and to remember in prayer all those for whom this is a difficult day, especially children who mourn the loss of a mother and mothers who mourn the loss of a child. May Mary, mother of the Church, pray for them and protect them now and always.

Laetare Sunday

"Laetare Sunday" is the name given to this fourth Sunday of our Lenten journey. The name means "rejoice", which together with the rose vestments of this day is a reminder to us that the Lenten journey, though sometimes challenging, is all about letting God's grace work in us, so that we may find the lasting joy of God's kingdom of justice, peace and joy! Today is also an opportunity for us to "recommit" to Lent—perhaps it hasn't started well, or perhaps we have not kept to our Lenten promises: don't despair, start again, and use the rest of this holy season to be ready for Easter!

"Coffee, Cake and Chat"

We are hosting the second of our "ecumenical get-togethers" here at Saint Vincent's this coming **Wednesday 18th March** from 2.00 - 3.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre. This is an opportunity for people from all the different churches in our area to spend a bit of time getting to know each other a bit better. At this one Rev Richard from Bamford Chapel will be talking to us about the United Reform Church. Please try and attend if you can!

Easter Raffle

Once again someone has kindly donated some chocolatey Easter gifts for us to raffle! We are going to use this to

raise some funds for religious items for our primary school children - school budgets, as you will be aware, are very tight indeed nowadays, and religious resources are very much a luxury that cannot be afforded, so we will use this raffle for school to treat our children to some new Catholic resources! Tickets are available from the Piety Stall, £1.00 for a strip - five chances to win! The draw will be on Palm Sunday, so that someone can enjoy the goodies at Easter!

Deanery Station Masses

Lent is a journey, whereby we travel from Ashes to the Font at Easter. Along the way an ancient tradition of the Church is to stop at "stations": in our Deanery we will be calling at five different "stations" - four churches and a Sixth Form College - to celebrate Mass together as we journey through Lent. The Stations this year are:

Thursday 19th March: Sacred Heart, Rochdale

Thursday 26th March: Saint Vincent's Norden

Each Mass begins at 7.00 p.m., with the opportunity for confession beforehand, and refreshments afterwards. Everyone is very welcome to come to one or all Masses!

A Little Lent Extra ...

It's a long time since we had a "Wednesday Witter", so there will be a special one for Lent on **Wednesday 25th March** on "The Shroud of Turin." This remarkable object, whether miraculous or a medieval work of art, is a wonderful aid to understanding what the Lord went through in Holy Week. Starting with tea and coffee straight after 9.30 a.m. Mass, everyone is very welcome!

Easter Flowers

As you know there are no flowers in Church throughout Lent, but donations for Easter Flowers in memory of a loved one can be made: if you would like to, please place your offering in an envelope with the name of the individual marked "Easter Flowers" and hand it into the Presbytery before Maundy Thursday. All names will be displayed at Easter.

Holy Week

Our Easter Triduum Service this year are:

Maundy Thursday: 6.30 p.m. EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER followed by watching at the altar of repose until 9.00 p.m. (8.45 p.m. Night Prayer)

Good Friday: 3.00 p.m. THE SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Holy Saturday: 8.00 p.m. THE EASTER VIGIL

These three services are very special - they only happen once a year, and all Catholics are invited to make special efforts to attend them if possible: they are our opportunity to be with Jesus at the Last Supper, in the Garden of Gethsemane, at the Cross on Calvary and as witnesses to the Resurrection! Please consider if you can spare the time to join these great celebrations, especially the Easter Vigil! Masses on Easter Sunday will be at 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Washing of Feet

Maundy Thursday is a very special day, when we remember the Last Supper, and in particular the example of service Jesus gives in washing his disciples' feet. This is part of our evening Mass on that day, and it is a beautiful and thought-provoking gesture, but it needs two things: parishioners who are willing to have their feet washed, and parishioners who will make the effort to come to the Mass of the Lord's Supper to witness it! Please think about being a "foot-washee" and pop your name on the list in

the porch – let’s see if we can muster twelve “disciples” this year! (Please note that anyone – Catholic, non-Catholic, man, woman or child – can have their foot washed.)

Parish Census

Many thanks to everyone who has already returned Registration Forms: please keep them coming, and if you haven’t taken one to fill in yet there are plenty in the porch.

Marriage Matters

Stop and see, be aware: God was aware of David’s adultery with Bethsheba, Uriah’s wife, and how he arranged Uriah’s murder to cover his sin. Amid political and business ‘cover ups’ in today’s world, it’s important to ‘stop and see’ – the beauty of nature, the beauty and goodness of your spouse. Don’t be too busy to recall the joys you have brought to each other.

Diocesan Notes

Make a Change to Change a Life?

Whether you’re making a change to your diet, fasting, amending your behaviour or adapting your thoughts and focus ... as you pray, fast and give this Lent, the change you’re making could also help change lives in your parish. By remembering our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, during Lent, your actions, donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people experiencing homelessness, poverty and discrimination in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/Lent now for ways you can help. Thank you.

Exploring our Lenten Gospels

Each Tuesday during our Lenten period, a series of reflections will be given online by various speakers, exploring the meaning of our Lenten Gospels and their implications for our lives today. The series will continue on **Tuesday 17th March** with Sister Joan Kerley reflecting on The raising of Lazarus and will close with Bishop John reflecting on the Palm Sunday readings. For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

Manchester Chinese Catholic Community

MCCC would like to invite you to their monthly Mass. This takes place on the second Sunday of the month at 2.00 p.m. and is held in Salford’s temporary Cathedral on Great George Street, M3 6EH.

Youth Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

Following on from the success of last year’s pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, we are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from **Friday 22nd May – Sunday 24th May**. The cost is £120.00 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the S.V.P. Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Young Adults’ Hub

The diocesan Youth Team are delighted to share news of the Young Adults Hub, created especially for those aged 18–35 across the Diocese of Salford. The Hub offers a welcoming space for young adults to deepen their faith,

build authentic friendships, and grow together through prayer, formation, and social gatherings. If you would like more information, please reach out to Mikey hub.president@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk and Edward hub.chair@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

THE BODY BIBLE

6: The Ear

Scripture frequently uses metaphors: phrases mentioning the ear – “give ear”, “opened ears”, “closed ears” “incline your ear”, “let your ears be attentive” – are commonly used simply to mean “listening” or “paying attention,” as in Exodus “*give ear to His commandments.*” There’s a rather unusual literal reference to the ear in Leviticus – as part of the “guilt offering” to cleanse someone from sin, part of the blood of the sacrificed animal was to be “*put on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed*” – thank goodness we don’t have to do that in Confession! There is a delightful image in Job (a great example of so-called Wisdom literature): “*the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.*” Apart from similar metaphors (“Let the one who has ears to hear”) and ears of corn, there is one famous ear in the Gospels – that of Malchus, the High priest’s slave, which fell victim to Saint Peter’s sword in the Garden of Gethsemane before being restored by Jesus. There is one final vivid image in Saint Paul’s second letter to Timothy, advising him never to give up offering people sound teaching, because “*having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.*” What a wonderful expression! Let’s make sure our ears are never “itching” but always open to the Word of God!

Next week: *the Face.*

The Sacraments

Home Communions

Brenda Robinson is our Coordinator for Home Communions: 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 not in Catholic High Schools please ask Father James for a Registration Form as soon as possible. Thank you.

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 email **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: **8049 2523** Sort Code: **20.55.34**

Next Sunday's Gospel

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

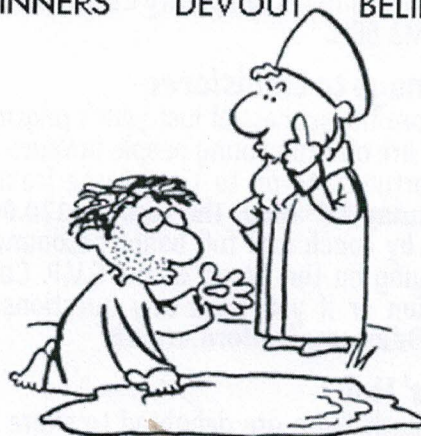
At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he

said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.' Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

Sunday Gospel Wordsearch

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BLIND SPAT PASTE
 SPITTLE SIGHT RESTORED
 PROPHET PARENTS DISCIPLES
 SINNERS DEVOUT BELIEVE



✠ STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY ✠