



**Diocese of
Salford**

SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

2nd March 2025
**The Eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time (C)**



*“For no good tree bears bad
fruit, nor again does a bad
tree bear good fruit.”*

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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:

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.

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

In our prayers ...

Requests for Masses & Prayers:

Recently Deceased: Patrick Kirby, Michael Fitzgerald, Peter Kevin Kelly, Mary Walsh, Anne Kershaw, Molly Moran.

Anniversaries: Eva Lloyd, John Murray, Dorothy Rogerson.

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.

The Holy Father's Intention

March: For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Let us pray for the people of the parish of The Good Shepherd, Colne, and for Monsignor Peter Wilkinson, their parish priest. We pray for the parish primary school and for Saint John Fisher and Saint Thomas More High School.

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.

At Saint Vincent's This Week ...

The Eighth Week of Ordinary Time and First Days of Lent		PSALTER WEEK 4
Monday 3rd March Weekday	📖 Sirach 17:24-29; Mark 10:17-27	9.30 a.m. Word & Communion
Tuesday 4th March Saint Casimir [Optional Memorial]	📖 Sirach 35:1-15; Mark 10:28-31	9.30 a.m. MASS
Wednesday 5th March ASH WEDNESDAY	📖 Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Matthew 6:1-6.16-18	9.30 a.m. MASS with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes 6.30 p.m. MASS with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>
Thursday 6th March Lent Weekday	📖 Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25	9.30 a.m. MASS
Friday 7th March Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, Martyrs [Optional Commemoration]	📖 Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15	9.30 a.m. MASS 12.00 noon Stations of the Cross <i>Day of Abstinence</i>
Saturday 8th March Saint John of God, Religious [Optional Commemoration]	📖 Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32	11.00 a.m. MASS for Peace 6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Penance (Confessions) 6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday
Sunday 9th March THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT [C]	📖 Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13	9.00 a.m. MASS <i>Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre</i> 11.00 a.m. MASS <i>Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre</i>

THE WORD THIS WEEK

We have many sayings about results being more important than promises, such as “the proof of the pudding is in the eating”. Today’s scripture readings are all about this – the ways in which our words and actions will reveal who we truly are. There is a wonderful mosaic of poetic wisdom in the readings this Sunday – images and parables and similes that can sit in our heads and hearts, and make us think about the sort of people we are, and the words we use and the fruits we produce by them. And we should pray that we will always produce good, sound fruit, so that we may keep on working at the Lord’s work always, and so share in Christ’s victory over death itself.

LENT 2025

Lent Message of Pope Francis

As always, the Holy father has written a message to the whole Church for the season of Lent, in which he calls us, in this Jubilee Year, to consider how we “journey together in hope”. You can read the Holy Father’s message at <https://tinyurl.com/4eb4a44z>

Shrove Tuesday

This coming Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday (though more often referred to as ‘Pancake Day’ nowadays!) Pancakes on this day are a throwback to religious practices of the Middle Ages, when Christians in this country would give up not just meat for Lent, but dairy products too—everyone went vegan! This is why eggs and milk and butter were to be used up before Lent started—and what better way than by making delicious pancakes! Enjoy yours this Tuesday!

Ash Wednesday

It starts this week! Ash Wednesday this year is **Wednesday 5th March**, and there will be the usual two Masses with the blessing and distribution of ashes here at 9.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Our children will be observing Ash Wednesday with services in school.

Pray, Fast, Give

Every year Lent is an invitation and an opportunity to look at our own lives, to deepen our faith, and to make steps on that journey. The traditional means of doing this are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—more details of which are found below. Each person much choose their own path, but the important think is to do something—don’t let this season slip aside!

PRAYER: Lent Course

Many of us struggle with prayer at times: in Lent we are all called to make prayer a priority, so to help with this we are offering a Lent Course open to anyone, called “Teach Us To Pray”. There will be three sessions on Wednesday evenings (**12th March, 28th March, 9th April**) at 6.30 p.m. here in Church. Please pop a tick in the relevant box on the clipboard in the porch, so we have some idea of how many resources to print for each session. Everyone is very welcome! Why not take up the Lent challenge “Pray Every

Day”: in the porch are some purple sheets with a short and simple form of prayer for every day of Lent. Please take one, and try to find a moment every day to spend quietly with the Lord!

You will also find some sheets with a simple form of the **Stations of the Cross** that can be used anywhere, at anytime.

FASTING: Soup and Stations

As in previous years we will walk the Way of the Cross in Church every Friday in Lent at 12.00 noon (including Good Friday). From **14th March** on we will also be offering a simple “fasting” lunch after the Stations - soup and a bread roll in the parish centre. There is no charge but we will be collecting donations for CAFOD. *Soup volunteers please sign up soon on the sheet in the porch!*

ALMSGIVING: Lent Appeal 2025

This year our Appeal in Lent is for the charity **Lepra**. Lepra is a Catholic charity, founded in 1924 to provide practical assistance to people suffering from leprosy. Leprosy is still afflicting people today - it is estimated that one person is diagnosed with leprosy every three minutes, mainly in the developing world. Lepra provides research, treatment, reconstructive surgery and support for victims. It costs Lepra £25.00 to change a life, especially at their clinics, such as the one in India displayed in the porch. Please pray for this work, and for people suffering from this disease, and give what you can to our appeal this Lent. Starting next Sunday there will be baskets available at all Masses for donations. Thank you.

Deanery Station Masses

An ancient tradition in Rome is to travel between different Churches during Lent: we do this as a Deanery. Especially in this Holy Year, when pilgrimage is such an important feature, please see this Lenten Journey from place to place in our Deanery as our own mini-pilgrimage, walking together as Pilgrims of Hope. This year we are delighted that two of our High Schools are hosting Masses – everyone is invited to these Masses as well as those in some of our Churches. Masses all begin at 7.00 p.m., with confessions beforehand and refreshments afterwards. The full program is:

Thursday 13th March

Cardinal Langley RC High School, Middleton

Thursday 20th March

Saint Mary and Saint Philip Neri, Radcliffe

Thursday 27th March

Saint Gabriel’s RC High School, Bury

Thursday 3rd April

Saint John the Evangelist, Rochdale

Thursday 10th April

Our Lady of Dolours, Kersal.

Full addresses are on the poster in the porch.

Ramadan

Every year the Vatican issues a message to our Muslim brothers and sisters at the beginning of the holy time of Ramadan, which began this week. It includes the following: “This year, Ramadan largely coincides with Lent, which for Christians is a period of fasting, supplica-

tion and conversion to Christ. This proximity in the spiritual calendar offers us a unique opportunity to walk side-by-side. For us Catholics, it is a joy to share this time with you, for it reminds us that we are all pilgrims on this earth, and that we are all seeking to live better lives. This year, we wish to reflect with you not only on what we can do together to live better lives, but above all on what we want to *become* together, as Christians and Muslims, in a world in search of hope." *You can read the whole message (and share it with Muslim friends and neighbours) at <https://tinyurl.com/4ab9mvpa>*

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 Palm Sunday. All names will be displayed at Easter.

NEWS AND NOTES

Pope Francis' Health

The Holy Father is still in hospital, receiving treatment: recent press releases tell us that his condition is slowly improving, though it "remains complex". He spends most of the day in the hospital chapel or working when not receiving treatment. The most recent statement ended: "*Due to the complexity of the clinical picture, further days of clinical stability are needed to clarify the prognosis.*" Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Diocesan Synod The End of the Journey

This weekend, our Diocesan Synod draws to a close with the final stage of the journey. On Saturday, clergy and lay synod members gathered to vote on the 40 recommendations that will form our Pastoral Plan to guide our diocese in the years to come. To find out more about the process, the recommendations, and results, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/diocesan-synod-end-of-the-journey> This Sunday afternoon there is an opportunity to give thanks for the Synod and pray for guidance as we move into the planning and implementation phases. This Thanksgiving Service will officially close the Diocesan Synod and is open to all to attend. It's at Saint Patrick's RC Church, Livesey Street, Collyhurst, Manchester. M4 5HF at 3.00 p.m. Parking is available in Caritas House car park at the end of Nobby Stiles Drive and various car parks within easy walking distance of the Church.

"And There's More ..."

Join Jimmy Cricket and friends for a charity 'Jam Night' on Tuesday **11th March 2025** in the Parish centre. The proceeds from donations will go to Derian House Children's Hospice and The Alzheimer's Society. Everyone is very welcome to come along and enjoy the evening - no entrance charge, just donations!

Saint Patrick's Night Party

Coming up on **Saturday 15th March** at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre is a Saint Patrick's Night Party, with music from Middlewich Paddies and Dancing from the Ward Mallinson Irish Dancers! Tickets cost £15.00 (under 15s free) and include a Pea and Pie Supper (Meat and Potato or Cheese and Onion). Tickets are available at Church or by calling Graham on **0787 584 2218**.

DIOCESAN NOTES

Primary ECT Pool 2025

Are you looking for a career in teaching? Do you know someone who is training for a career in primary education? ECT (Early Career Teachers) due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in Summer 2025 are being invited to apply for recommendation for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September. Email millie.burton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more and apply or call **0161 817 2201**.

Pilgrims of Hope: Lenten Talks

The Diocese of Salford is holding a series of talks this Lent that explores themes of journeying and pilgrimage through the lens of the Jubilee. Each week, the talks will focus on a different person from the Bible. The weekly talks begin on **Tuesday 4th March** at 11.00 a.m. at Wardley Hall. Contact Sister Joan on joankfmsj@gmail.com or call **0161 971 7842** to find out more.

Caritas Salford

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 local area. By remembering Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity during Lent, your donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people in Greater Manchester and Lancashire they support. People facing poverty, discrimination, and homelessness. If you're able to make a donation or support in another way, you can find out more here: www.caritassalford.org.uk/SJP Thank you.

Salford Diocesan Synod Prayer: Loving Father, be with us as we seek new ways of being your people in our Diocese. May each new day bring us closer to your son, Jesus, as we follow his teaching and become disciples of love. As we continue our Synodal journey draw us closer to each other. May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us. Open our hearts, as we listen to each other and reach out in love to your people. Stay with us, Lord, on our journey. Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

At that time: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were over, he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone."' And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, 'To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' And Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."' And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' And Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."' And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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 also by appointment. Please take an information leaflet from the porch and return the tear-off portion to arrange an interview. Please do not make bookings before this interview and note that 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

Registration for First Communion this year is closed, as the program has begun. Children baptised in the Catholic Church in **Year 8** but NOT at Catholic High School, please ask Father James for registration forms for Confirmation.

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 **rochdale-foodbank.org.uk** and a full "shopping list" is available by the donations box.

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!

Gospel Wordsearch

H	E	A	R	T	P	L	A	I	D
E	H	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	I
T	G	R	A	P	E	S	R	R	S
I	E	O	S	R	H	E	B	P	C
R	S	A	O	G	E	A	L	L	I
C	S	T	P	D	D	I	P	A	P
O	S	P	Y	N	N	A	E	N	L
P	L	A	H	T	A	E	C	H	E
Y	N	N	A	L	P	U	S	T	O
H	S	R	T	H	O	R	N	S	H

DISCIPLE
TEACHER
SPLINTER
PLANK
HYPOCRITE
TREE
GRAPES
THORNS
GOODNESS
BADNESS
STORE
HEART



✠ STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY ✠