



St Peter & St Thomas More
CATHOLIC PARISH

11 February 2024

Masses and Liturgies		
Time, church		Liturgy
Monday	0900 STM	Mass
Tuesday	0900 STM	Mass
Wednesday	0900 STM	Mass
Ash	1230 SP	Mass
Wednesday	1900 SP	Mass
Thursday	0900 SP	Mass
Friday	1230 SP	Mass
Saturday	0900 STM	Reconciliation
	1000 SP	Reconciliation
	1100 SP	Mass and Novena
	1830 STM	Mass
Sunday	0930 SP	Mass
	1100 STM	Mass
	1830 SP	Mass

Baptisms Registration takes place at STM after 1100 Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Parents are warmly invited to register their child after that Mass

Pray for those who are sick

Mary Welsby, Colette Ogden, Denis Bardsley, Roy Smethurst, Eileen Gill, Clare Hadlow, Jean O'Loughlin, Ellen (Nell) Orry, Austin Fagan, Anne Edge, Madeleine Sale, Fiona Jones, Paul Brierley, Margaret Murray, Danny Duignan, Irene Woolrich, Christine Cowen, Gordon Jackson, Mary Upton, John Kirby, Anna Beisty, Kathleen Mastin, Denis Fitzpatrick, Martin Brennan, Michael Adamson, Peggy Connarty, Jean Woolley, John Loran, Donald Adamson, Paul Tamburro, James Weinowski, Liane Clegg

Masses received

People of the Parish, Sick and Housebound, Sheila Welsby RIP wedding anniversary, Nora and Norman Brown, Special intention 2, Joan Hall, Imelda O'Hanlon, Deborah (Debbie) Edwards nee Owen LD 3, Colette Maria Parnell, Paula Welsh O'Malley special intention, Albert Land AV, Barry White LD, Frances Miller AV, Arthur Douglas BA, Patrick O'Dowd Snr BA, Gerard Traynor, Joanna Anderson LD, Lucja Luc AV, Arthur Smethurst BA, James Weinowski S, Kathryn Seager LD Bryan Smith BA, Thomas Halliwell AV

Parish finance and lucky envelope 70

Last week £2172 was banked for the parish. Thank you.

Confirmations

Confirmation applications are now being received. Thank you to those who have already handed forms in. Those in Cardinal Langley school will receive the forms via Sr Linda.

All those who are not in Catholic schools and would like an application form, please contact the parish office. (Email address in footer).

Church cleaning at St Peter's

If you can spare one hour every fortnight on a Thursday, after 0900 Mass, please ring 07968 771263. This is an important ministry and we would value any support you can give to keep our church in a clean and pristine condition. Thank you.

Ministry of Lector

		11-12 Feb	17-18 Feb	24-25 Feb
Sat	1830	J Williams	M Wray	C Williams
Sun	0930	F Coltas	M Perks	D Walsh
Sun	1100	J Cavanagh	J Duffin	P Martin
Sun	1830	D Walsh	M Gifford	M Hopkins
Extra-ordinary Ministers of The Eucharist				
Sun	0930	M Smith	C Halliwell	A Sowerby

This week's Gospel

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear about the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. The man approached Jesus and asked for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus is a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man. Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses.

After this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

Pope Francis Angelus, 4 February

During his Sunday Angelus address, Pope Francis urged the faithful to follow the Lord's example and set forth, transmitting faith and hope in our loving God. The Pope drew inspiration from the Gospel passage according to St. Mark which shows Jesus continually in motion, doing good and proclaiming God. The Pope urged the faithful to look at Jesus' ongoing movement. This tells us something important about God and, at the same time, challenges us with some questions on our faith. Jesus, the Pope said, goes towards wounded humanity, and shows us the face of the Father. While some, the Pope observed, still may perceive a somewhat distant God, on the contrary, the



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Gospel lets us see that Jesus, after teaching in the synagogue, goes out, so that the Word He has preached may reach, touch and heal people. By doing this Jesus reveals to us that God is not a detached master who speaks to us from on high; on the contrary, He is a Father filled with love who makes Himself close to us, who visits our homes, who wants to save and liberate, heal from every ill of the body and spirit. God is always close to us. God's attitude can be summed up in three words: closeness, compassion and tenderness. God who comes close to accompany us, tenderly, and to forgive us. We might ask ourselves, the Pope suggested, have we discovered the face of God as the Father of mercy, or do we believe and proclaim a cold and distant God? Let us look at Jesus' journeying and remind ourselves that our first spiritual task is this: to abandon the God we think we know, and to convert every day to the God Jesus presents to us in the Gospel, the Father of love and compassion.

Middleton and Heywood Lourdes Group

Coffee Morning - We are holding a coffee morning with refreshments including bacon butties in STM hall after 1100 Mass on Sunday 18 February. *St Patrick's Social Evening* - This will take place on Friday 15 March in STM hall at 7.00pm. Come along and join in a fun filled night of music, lighted hearted quizzes and entertainment for all the family as we celebrate the feast day of St Patrick. Remember to bring your own drinks and snacks, though tea and coffee will be provided for a donation. The cost of entry is only £3.00.

Prayer in Lent – Focus on the 'Our Father'

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee, Pope Francis has designated 2024 as a Year of Prayer, calling people to revisit the basics of the prayer and, in particular, the Our Father. The first of these workshops is on Friday 16 February, 10am, at Wardley Hall. Please see dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-prayer-programme-1/

Young Adults Mass

The next Diocesan Mass for Young Adults takes place Sunday 11 February, 5.30pm, at St Augustine's, Manchester. There is currently no vehicle access to the church. Alternative parking details can be found here: dioceseofsalford.org.uk/young-adults-mass-feb-2024/

World day of Prayer 2024 - A service for everyone!

Theme: I beg you, bear with one another in love
To be held in **Alkington & Providence United Reform Church** Manchester New Road, Middleton, M24 1LB
Friday 1st March 2-3pm, followed by light refreshments.

Toddler Group STM Hall

From Monday 26th February there will be a toddler group every Monday afternoon, 1.15-3pm (term time only) in STM church hall. Entrance will be £2 for an adult & child. Hope to see you there for a play, a cuppa & biscuits, any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thanks, Gemma. 07986696479

Bishop Brain's 60th Jubilee

Bishop Brain will be celebrating 60 years of priesthood in February. There will be a Mass at St Thomas More church at 1pm on Saturday 24th February, followed by refreshments in STM hall. It is an opportunity for us to give thanks for the gift of his priestly ministry and we ask God to continue to bless us as a diocese and a parish. Please keep Bishop Brain and his family in your prayers at this special time. 60 years spent in the service of the Lord is truly a great gift to the church and a wonderful gift to celebrate.

St Joseph's Penny and Lent appeal

Caritas Salford has lots of information and resources on its website about how you can join in with this year's Lent and St Joseph's Penny appeals. Get the latest news and resources - as well as your free St Joseph's Penny box to collect coins to donate during Lent - at www.caritassalford.org.uk/SJP

Peruvian Mission Fr Raymond

I would like to thank Claire Bianchi and her group that organised a fundraising activity in benefit of our mission work in Iquitos, Peru. The sum of 2140 euro have been deposited in my bank account on the 5th of February 2024. The money will be wisely used to buy school uniforms and supplies for poor children of the Amazon Jungle in the city of Iquitos, Peru. I will be distributing the supplies during the first days of March 2024 and will send some photographs of the event. Again, thank you all. I know how hard it is to organise such events and one needs the help of a whole team. I encourage you all to keep up the missionary spirit. Do it for the poorest of the poor, even though it gets tougher each year. Do with out of love and I pray the Lord may bless you all for your great effort. In my prayers, Fr. Raymond Portelli

St Joseph's RC Technical High School Annual Reunion Mass

Former pupils and staff of St Joseph's RC Technical High School (Laindon Road, Manchester) are invited to this year's reunion with their families to celebrate the school's history. The reunion will take place on Saturday 16th March 2024 at St Bernard's RC Church, Burnage. Mass begins at 12 noon, with opportunity for confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11am. Refreshments will be available in the parish hall after Mass