



St Peter & St Thomas More
CATHOLIC PARISH

25 February 2024

Masses and Liturgies		
Time, church		Liturgy
Monday	0900 STM	Mass
Tuesday	0900 STM	Mass
Wednesday	0900 STM	Mass
	1900 SP	Stations of The Cross
Thursday	0900 SP	Mass
Friday	1030 STM	Requiem Deborah Edwards
	1230 SP	Mass
Saturday	1000 SP	Reconciliation
	1100 SP	Mass, then Novena
	1800 STM	Reconciliation
	1830 STM	Mass
Sunday	0930 SP	Mass
	1100 STM	Mass
	1500 STM	Stations of The Cross
	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, 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 2, Nora and Norman Brown, Special intention 3, Joan Hall, Imelda O'Hanlon, Geoff Gillen, Joanna Anderson, Marie Douglas, David Murphy AV, Tony Fenlon AV, Pam Bowden LD, Ken Burton BA, Anne Hughes LD, David Droган LD, Kathleen Carr LD, Francis Dunn BA, Peggy Connarty S, John Orry AV, Susan Daly-Adams BA, James Weinowski S, Denise June Turner AV, Joyce Feery AV

Sick and housebound visits

If you would like a visit, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

Anne E Cliff RIP (1934-2024)

Many will remember Anne. She died peacefully on 14 February 2024 at Laurel Court, Withington. Her funeral is at

12 noon on Friday 15 March at St Cuthbert's Church, Palatine Rd, Withington. All welcome.

Parish finance

Last week £1217 was banked for the parish. Thank you.

Piety stall

Mother's Day cards and gifts, St Patrick's Day cards and Easter cards are now available from the piety stall in St Peter's.

Deanery Station Mass – change of venue

The Mass on Thursday 29 February will **not** be at St Thomas More church and will now be held at St Vincent's, Norden.

Ministry of Lector				
		24-25 Feb	2-3 March	9-10 March
Sat	1830	C Williams	M O'Regan	A Kelly
Sun	0930	D Walsh	J Kelleher	M Sowerby
Sun	1100	P Martin	M Kelly	C Tennant
Sun	1830	M Hopkins	D Walsh	M Gifford
Extra-ordinary Ministers of The Eucharist				
Sun	0930		C Millward	M Smith

This week's Gospel

The Gospel reading is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent. The desert marks the beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus.

Pope Francis Angelus, 18 February

The Pope reflected on the symbolic significance of the wilderness, urging Christians to enter the wilderness, that is, silence, the inner world, listening to the heart, in contact with the truth. In the desert, Christ was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him. Wild beasts and angels were His company. But, in a symbolic sense, the Pope explained, they are our company too - when we enter the inner wilderness, we can encounter wild beasts and angels there.



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In the spiritual life, we can think of them (wild beasts) as the disordered passions that divide our heart, trying to take possession of it. Warning that they entice us; they seem seductive, the Pope said that if we are not careful, we risk being torn apart by them. He described them as the lust for wealth, which imprisons us in dissatisfaction, the vanity of pleasure, which condemns us to restlessness and solitude, and the craving for fame, which gives rise to insecurity and a continuous need for confirmation and prominence. These are wild beasts, the Pope said, and they must be tamed and fought; otherwise, they will devour our freedom. We need to go into the wilderness to become aware of their presence and to face them, he stated. Then, focusing on the angelic presence in the desert, the Pope said that angels are God's messengers, who help us, who do us good; their characteristic, according to the Gospel, is service. Contrasting this image with the possessive nature of disordered passions, he said they are the exact opposite of possession, typical of the passions. Highlighting the transformative power of divine inspirations, Pope Francis said that while temptations tear us apart, the good divine inspirations unify us in harmony: they quench the heart, infuse the taste of Christ, the flavour of Heaven. Thus, he upheld the need for silence and prayer to grasp these thoughts and feelings inspired by God, saying that Lent is the time to do this.

Coffee morning

The next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 13 March after 0900 Mass at STM.

'One In The Spirit' Prayer Group

We meet for praise, worship and spiritual support on Tuesday evenings 8-10pm in the sacristy at STM. All welcome.

Middleton and Heywood Lourdes Group

Thank you to all who attended the Lourdes fundraiser coffee morning last Sunday. An incredible £320 was raised. We look forward to seeing you at our St Patrick's Day event.

St Patrick's social evening

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 £3.00.

Toddler Group STM Hall

From Monday 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. Any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Gemma: 07986696479

World day of Prayer 2024

A service for everyone on the theme 'I beg you, bear with one another in love', to be held in Alkrington and Providence United Reform Church Manchester New Road, Middleton on Friday 1 March 2-3pm, followed by light refreshments.

This is my beloved Son; listen to Him

Mark 9:7

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bookings are now being taken for this year's diocesan pilgrimage which will take place between 26 July and 1 August. Find out more at www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/travel-accommodation

Pilgrimage to Walsingham

This takes place on Saturday 4 May, for both overnight and day options. We welcome applications for individuals and groups and would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to volunteer. Please fill out a booking form, at www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-2024, phone 0161 817 2214.



Young Adults Mass and Stations of the Cross

At 4pm on Sunday 10 March. The Stations will be followed with time for private prayer and opportunities for confession, before Mass begins at 5.30pm. A relaxed social afterwards!

Make a change to change a life

By remembering Caritas Salford 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. Find out more about how you can get involved or make a donation now: www.caritassalford.org.uk/SJP

The Parish of St Peter and St Thomas More, Middleton, served by The Missionaries of The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Parochial Administrator | Fr Boniface Ambe MSSCC | Assistant Priest | Fr Churchill Emeghara MSSCC | Hospital Chaplain | Fr Damian Esene
Community House, 102 Mainway, Alkrington | 643 3847 | St Peter's, Taylor St, Middleton | 643 2168

Parish Administrator | Elizabeth Ramsay | Office opening | Monday to Friday 0930-1430 | Parish office | sp.stm.parihoffice@gmail.com
www.missionofsacredhearts.org | stpeter-stthomasmore.church