

SUNDAY PLUS

New opportunities

By Michael George

Education Day, celebrated this weekend, is a day of prayer and celebration for all those in the world of education. Most formal education takes place in community contexts: in schools, nurseries, colleges and universities. In each of these places, learning takes place alongside one's peers. Education has a living social dimension, practised every minute of every day.

Being part of a community, whether an educating community or otherwise, requires certain things. Selflessness is important, thinking of the good of the whole community, not just of oneself. Personal honesty, reliability and a sense of commitment matter.

Being able to listen is another important prerequisite. If we do not listen, how do we know the ideas of others? If we do not listen, how do we know the needs of others? How can we build an inclusive community?

A strong community is also one that is led by consistent and unchanging values, but which does not stand still. An outstanding school only remains outstanding by remaining faithful to its values whilst continuing to evaluate, improve and make – and make the most of – new opportunities. Successful communities allow and encourage themselves to be refreshed and re-energised.

Today's Gospel reminds us that strength is found in community and that the strongest community is the community gathered around Christ at its centre. Christ never changes. In this Christ-centred community, members are gathered to listen to Christ and to invite Christ to listen to them, with sure confidence that without fail, he will.



Michael George has served Catholic primary schools as a teacher and headteacher for more than twenty years.

Help us, Lord, to be witnesses of life and hope. May we never close a door to students who need hope and faith in the future.  Amen.

Open their hearts

By Paul Higginson

On Education Sunday Jesus' words in today's Gospel remind us that in our schools, where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Education is about opening minds to possibilities. But as we get older, we often close our minds and hearts, afraid of change or renewal. But following Christ is a constant invitation to be open to the Spirit. As Jesus says at the Last Supper, "The

Holy Spirit... will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you". What is it that we need to be reminded of? Are we open to the possibility of learning new things, of changing our behaviour, putting into loving daily practice the teachings of Christ?

"Lifelong learning" means we are never too old to learn new things and make life-changes – let us resolve to allow the Spirit to be our guide and teacher in the week ahead.

Paul Higginson is a retired teacher, and author of *Doing Christianity: How religion is about what you do, not what you believe.*

Feast of the week
Thursday 14 September

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

"Today, the Church suggests a dialogue with this mystery of the cross, with this God who made himself to be sin, out of love for me. Each one of us can say, 'out of love for me'... How do I carry the cross? – as a reminder? When I make the sign of the cross, am I aware of what I am doing? How do I wear the cross? – only as a symbol of belonging to a religious group? How do I wear the cross? – as an ornament, a piece of gold jewellery with many precious stones? Or, have I learned to carry it on my shoulders, where it hurts?"

Pope Francis

I think first of families, called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. They are also the privileged milieu for transmitting the faith, beginning with those first simple gestures of devotion which mothers teach their children.

Pope Francis

Today: Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:16-20
Monday: Colossians 1:24-2:8, Luke 6:8-11
Tuesday: Colossians 2:6-16, Luke 6:12-19
Wednesday: Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26
Thursday: Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17
Friday: Hebrews 6:7-9, John 19:26-27 or Luke 2:33-35
Saturday: 1 Timothy 1:16-17, Luke 6:43-49
Next Sunday: Ecclesiastes 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35

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23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - 10th September 2023

The Word This Week

*If he listens to you, you have won
back your brother.*



No man is an island... How true this is for those who follow Christ: each of us has responsibilities towards each other, based on our debt of mutual love. When we see wickedness and wrongdoing, then because of our privileged position of following the Lord Jesus, we have a duty to speak out. This will not always be easy - remember the prophet Jeremiah last week - but this was the mission of the Lord Jesus himself, and as his followers, it is our mission too. As with everything, love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Saints Days Celebrated this week

10 September - Saint Ambrose Barlow:

born in 1585 at the still-standing Barlow Hall in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Ambrose became a Benedictine after his studies at Douai and Valladolid, before returning to Manchester to work for the many Catholics of this region. He was particularly famed for his preaching and love of the poor, walking long distances in order to fulfil his ministry. He was imprisoned at least four times, before his final arrest and execution at Lancaster in 1641. His skull is preserved at Wardley Hall, and his jaw-bone at Saint Ambrose, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

13 September - Saint John Chrysostom:

John was given the name Chrysostom (Golden Mouth) because of his excellent preaching, and the many exhortations and catecheses he produced; he was born in Antioch in 349 and after a glowing career as priest was made Bishop of Constantinople in 397. Here, because of his preaching and care for justice he faced opposition from the Imperial court (mainly the Empress Eudoxia) and was twice exiled. He died in exile in 407.

16 September - Saints Cornelius and Cyprian:

both men lived in a time of great turbulence in the Church: they were at the forefront of the debate on reconciling those who had denied the faith under persecution. Together Cornelius and Cyprian struck a middle course and guided the Church onward by their writing and preaching. Cornelius died in exile in 253; Cyprian was martyred in 258.

Mass Time W/C 10th September 2023		
Sunday 10th	Vigil (9th Sept)	<i>Saint Ambrose Barlow</i> 4pm SJF - Sick & Infirm Clergy 9.30am SJF - Parish 11am StM - Pat Healy
Monday 11th	Mass	9.30am - STM - L Higgins (Spec Int)
Tuesday 12th	Mass	9.30am - SJF - Tom Flemming
Wednesday 13th	Mass	<i>Saint John Chrysostom</i> 9.30am - STM - Jacobo Santos
Thursday 14th	Mass	9.30am - Jack Howley
Friday 15th		No Mass
Saturday 16th	Vigil Mass	<i>Saints Cornelius and Cyprian</i> 4pm - SJF
Sunday 17th	Mass	9.30am SJF 11am StM
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Enrolment for Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2023/24

All Baptised Catholic children aged 7 or over, in our parish or its primary schools are eligible to enrol on the Sacramental Programme for 2023-24. Initial meetings are: **5.30pm on MONDAY 18th September** at St John Fisher School.
6.30pm on TUESDAY 19th September at St Mary's Church Hall.



St Mary's Haughton Green Food Bank - Urgent Appeal!

As you know we collect non-perishable food all year round for our local food bank. The summer months have really depleted their stocks and they are appealing for more donations. If you are able to help then please leave items at the back of church and we'll ensure they are delivered. They are desperate for:-



Strong Carrier Bags	Long Life Milk	Cordial	Instant Noodles
Savoury Rice	Rice Pudding	Tinned Fruit	Toiletries and Sanitary Products
Tinned meals - curry, chilli, stew & bolognese			

If you prefer to make a cash donation, please put it in an envelope clearly marked 'Food Bank' and place in the collection basket.

Thank you to all who have given cash and food last week. It was very much appreciated when delivered.

Mass Offerings

May & Frank Mulholland (60th Wedding Anniversary); Wyn Clarke (B'day Mem); Anne Higgins (B'day Mem)

(Please note - you must always obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 10 September

The Sanctuary	D Dakin, Anniversary
Sacred Heart	Kathleen - Special Intention
Our Lady	George Joseph Lennox

Robert Lawlor RIP.

The death has occurred of Robert
Our prayers and condolences go to his family.
May he rest in peace.



Sponsored Walk

Parishioner, Louise Enderby is going to walk 160 miles in 13 days to raise money for 3 charities close to her heart – the Alzheimer's Society, Francis House Children's Hospice and The Christie Charitable Trust for research into Ewing Sarcoma (a cancer that particularly affects teenagers and those in their early 20s).

If you would like to sponsor Louise you can go to <https://sponsorme.charitiestrust.org/event/cdf18991-a5ce-4bbf-b30a-88cc947cb7f0>

Or you can add your name to the list at the back of church:

Saint John Fisher's – Anne Fox will help you

St Mary's - Liz Markland will help you

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have a Red Mission Box, please bring them in to be emptied. The Mill Hill Fathers rely on the money raised from these boxes to finance their missionary work overseas and very much appreciate your support and generosity. Thank you



Can you find all the words based on this weeks Gospel?

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



BROTHER
WRONG
EVIDENCE
WITNESSES
SUSTAIN
COMMUNITY
PAGAN
BIND
TWO
EARTH
AGREE
NAME

Thank you!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who do so much in the parish and particularly those who

have cleaned both churches in the last two weeks. We really need to establish a regular cleaning rota, especially for the halls and toilets, so if you can help please e mail or phone the office so that we can get your details and safely recruit you.



A Prayer for Children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion.

You can say this prayer in your heart:

*Jesus, I know that you love me.
Prepare my heart so that I can receive you soon!*

Salford Diocese Information

Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham - Saturday 23rd September 2023, 3pm

St Patrick's Church, Livesey Street, Collyhurst, M4 4FA

A special celebration Mass will be taking place on 23rd September. The Rosary 2.30pm, before Mass begins at 3pm. Opportunity for confession. Everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments after Mass.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Save the date! - Saturday 4th May 2024

To register your interest, please email walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Caritas Diocese of Salford's Big Sleep Out - Friday 13th October The annual Caritas Big Sleep Out is back!

This autumn, people across the diocese are being challenged to sleep out under the stars for one night only to raise funds and awareness of people experiencing homelessness in our diocese. Find out more and register at <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/big-sleep-out-2023/>

Knights of St Columba National Relics Tour - Saint Andrew, Saint Margaret, Saint Columba

An exciting opportunity to pray before the relics of three inspiring saints is heading to our diocese this month. The Knights of St Columba are proud to be accompanying the sacred relics of Saints Andrew, Margaret, and Columba on a tour of churches across the country, including a number of parishes in our diocese.

Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass in honour of the visit at St Mary's, Horwich, at **7pm on Monday 11th September**. Find out more about the tour and where you can join in prayer at <https://ksc.org.uk/national-relics-tour-2023-september/>

Season of Creation please visit <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news>

"Love for a Lifetime" - Marriage Preparation 2023 and 2024.

Further information & dates <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/marriage/>

Job Vacancies

Safeguarding Administrator Part-time, 12-month fixed-term contract 28 hours per week, with some flexible working required: Cathedral Centre, Salford <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

Communications Assistant Full time, 12-month fixed-term contract

35 hours per week - normally worked weekdays though will include one Sunday per month

Cathedral Centre, Salford For more info <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>