

SUNDAY PLUS

Love matters

No greater commandment

By Sr Janet Fearn FMDM



A group of Jewish prisoners in Auschwitz knew they were about to die and asked if God had rejected his Covenant with his Chosen People and left them to the Nazis. Unable to reach a clear verdict, the prisoners decided to charge God with abandonment and put him on trial. One man, a former judge, presided, whilst others acted as God's prosecutor, defence and the jury. The trial lasted throughout the night.

God was found guilty as charged. Just as the trial concluded, prison guards forced open the door and herded the men towards the gas chamber. Although they had just declared God guilty of abandonment, each realised that he had nowhere else to turn. Unprompted, they covered their bare heads with a hand and started to pray aloud the great Jewish prayer, the *Shema*. Thus, they died.

Many years later, the screenwriter Frank Cottrell Boyce retold their story in his magnificent television drama, *God on Trial*.

In today's Gospel, Jesus repeats the *Shema*. We can imagine his listeners standing in prayerful silence, perhaps pulling their shawls over their heads, rocking backwards and forwards in God's presence even in the marketplace. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love

the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Certainly, this was – and is – the greatest commandment. As Jesus recited the second most important, there was also unanimity. "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus added, "There is no commandment greater than these."

Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

Each one of us can become a living, different and original "translation", not a repetition but a living, different and original "translation" of the one Word of love that God gives us.

Pope Francis

Love in the here and now

By Paul Higginson

How do we go about loving God with all our heart and soul? The Church Fathers tell us to start with God's Creation. Pick up a pebble perhaps, or gaze at a flower or tree, and admire its shape, colour and beauty. Contemplate a bird outside or perhaps a pet and understand with gratitude what it is adding to your world. Then move to other people, with all

their faults and failings, yes – but brothers and sisters, all with the Christ light within. We love God by loving what's there in the here and now: where else would God be found? We can see God in certain holy places or "easy to love" people, or we can see him everywhere and in everyone. At first you might just catch small glimpses of God but keep looking and listening: try loving what's right in front of you today and see where this takes you.

Paul Higginson is a retired teacher and author of Doing Christianity: how religion is about what you do, not what you believe. Columba Books, Dublin, 2023.

Feast of the week Wednesday 6 November St Leonard (d. AD 559)

How many visitors to St Leonards-on-Sea – or residents, for that matter – realise that the town was originally dedicated to the patron saint of prisoners (including political prisoners and prisoners of war), women in labour, farmers and horses?

According to tradition, St Leonard, a former courtier of King Clovis I, King of the Franks, was converted to Christianity and became a monk. In return for Leonard's prayers and

the safe birth of a son, Clovis promised that he would pardon every prisoner whom the monk visited – giving rise to the legend that shackles fell from prisoners as soon as he appeared on the scene and to his patronage of women in labour.

St Leonard, although he was certainly known in England during Saxon times, became increasingly popular following the Norman Conquest, especially during Medieval times. As a result, several sites around the country were dedicated to him and, centuries later, still bear his name today.

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Lord of my life, be the Lord of my love. Amen.

Today: Deuteronomy 6:2-6 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 12:28-34
Monday: Philippians 2:1-4 Luke 14:12-14
Tuesday: Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 14:15-24
Wednesday: Philippians 2:12-18 Luke 14:25-33
Thursday: Philippians 3:3-8 Luke 15:1-10
Friday: Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 16:1-8
Saturday: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17 John 2:13-22
Next Sunday: 1 Kings 17:10-16 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

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The Catholic Parish of St Mary & St John Fisher, Denton



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31st Sunday of Ordinary Time 3rd November 2024

The Word This Week



Every priest, and indeed every Catholic, can sometimes find themselves in the position of being asked, "This religion of yours – what's it all about, really, when you come down to it?" Our temptation might be to go on at length, which is when we should remember this Gospel. Jesus, asked a very similar question, pins our faith down to two very simple things – love of God and love of neighbour – which together make up the foundation for everything else in our religion. The very simplicity of these two commandments is a gift, so that we can try to live them out each day of our lives. The first commandment, which is also that given by Moses in the first reading, is actually a prayer that our Jewish brothers and sisters still recite every single day. Jesus, our perfect High Priest, gives us these two commandments to be written in our heads and our hearts, to remember each day, so that we may conduct ourselves in the paths of the Kingdom of God.

Saints celebrated this week

3 November: Saint Martin de Porres was born in Lima in 1579. At the age of twelve he became apprentice to a barber-surgeon; this served him well when, at the age of 15, he joined the Dominicans. He took charge of the dispensary, and worked long and hard for the sick and poor, always with great humility and kindness. He was a friend of Saint Rose of Lima (August 23). Martin died in 1639, and was canonised in 1962, being proclaimed patron of interracial justice.

3 November: Saint Winefride: Very little is known for certain about the life of Winefride, except that she lived in the 6th or 7th century near Treffynon (Holywell) in Clwyd. According to one version of her life, she was beheaded by a prince whose advances she refused, and springs of water sprang up at the place of her martyrdom. She was, however, restored to life by her uncle, Saint Beuno, and lived the rest of her days as a nun. Her well at Holywell, has remained a place of healing and pilgrimage through penal times to the present day.

4 November: Saint Charles Borromeo Born in 1538; after obtaining a doctorate in civil and canon law he was created a cardinal by his uncle, Pope Pius IV, and was chosen to be Bishop of Milan. He became a true shepherd of his flock, and frequently visited his diocese, called synods, made wise regulations for the good of souls, and worked for the good of Christian morality. While in Milan, he would greet and bless the English martyrs returning from Rome to the Mission. He died in 1584.

7 November: Saint Willibrord Born in Yorkshire in 658, he died in 739. After ordination he set out in 690 to evangelise Frisia. He was ordained bishop in 695, and founded the see of Utrecht. He preached the Gospel in North Germany and Denmark and founded dioceses and monasteries in the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Mass Times and ‘offered for’ dedications W/C 3rd November 2024		
Sunday 3rd	Saturday 2nd	4pm SJF - <i>Holy Souls List</i> 9.30am SJF - <i>Parish</i> 11am StM - <i>Pasquale Paldino</i>
Monday 4th	Mass	9.30am StM - <i>Niamh Scanlon</i>
Tuesday 5th	No Mass	
Wednesday 6th	Mass	9.30 StM - <i>Irene Miller</i>
Thursday 7th	Mass	9.30am SJF - <i>Irene Miller</i>
Friday 8th	Mass	9.30am StM - <i>Christine Jamieson</i>
Saturday 9th	Mass	4pm SJF -
Sunday 10th	Mass	9.30am SJF 11am StM
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Fr Denis Maher - RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Denis. He will be received into church at **St Paul’s, Hyde** on **Wednesday 6th November at 7pm**. His funeral Mass will take place on **Thursday 7th November at 11.30am**.



Remembrance Mass - Saturday 2nd Nov 10.30am

All are welcome to our special Mass on the feast of the Holy Souls, for those in our Parish who have died in the last 12 months and all who we wish to remember in the month of November. **St Mary’s at 10.30am**

November Remembrance List -

Envelopes are at the back of each church to list those loved ones you wish to be remembered in the month of November.



Parish Christmas Fair - St John Fisher School

Sunday 24th November, at 12noon *Another date for you diary...*

Thank you for your donations so far! The day before the fair, help will be needed to take all the boxes of goods from SJF Church up to SJF School. We will be **meeting at Church at 9am on Saturday 23rd Nov** to take goods to school and set up the stalls.

Please let the Paula and Bob or the office know if you can help. Many hands needed! Thank you!



Diocesan Synod - Exploration Meetings

Thank you to those who came to the first meeting discussing ‘Nurturing Faith for Tomorrow’s World’ and ‘Building Connections’. The next meeting discusses

- **Enabling Access**
- **Fostering Christ-like Care**

Summary leaflets for themes 3 & 4 will be posted shortly on the diocese website. Please put the next date in your diary. **Wednesday 27th November—Themes 3&4**
Time - 7– 8 pm Venue - St Mary’s Parish Hall

Mass Offerings - Niamh Scanlon (B’d day Mem); Pasquale Paldino (A); Patrick Coriam RIP (Mass 27/10); Forgot Souls (Mass 30/10); Irene Miller x 2 (LD); Christine Jamieson (LD); Patrick Delaney (BM); Johnny Gaskin (LD); Alice Gaskin (LD); Anne Shevlin (A); Thomas Beirne (A); Michael Meaney (LD); Derek Griffin (BM) (

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 3rd November 2024	
The Sanctuary	Niamh Scanlon—Birthday memory
Sacred Heart	Antonio Baccay
Our Lady	Niamh Scanlon—Birthday Memory
Please remember the above intentions in your prayers this week.	

Recent deaths in our Parish

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Michael John Meaney**
Our condolences go to his family and friends. His funeral took place on **31 October**.
May he rest in peace.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Johanna Hassall**
Our condolences go to her family and friends. Her funeral will take place at **St Mary’s - 21 November at 10am**
May she rest in peace.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Mary Ryan**
Our condolences go to her family and friends. Her funeral will take place at **St Mary’s - 22 November at 11.30am**
May she rest in peace.

Introduction to the New Testament –7th Nov

This week the session looks at the Gospels. (Canonical & Kerygma)
St Mary’s Church Hall - 6.30pm All Welcome!

Faith in Action Team Fundraiser - ‘Sung, Strung, Supper’

This Friday 8th November –7pm
Tickets need to be bought quickly for our Parish sing-a-long concert hosted at **St Mary’s Primary School**. (£8.50 each or £30 2 adults/2 children)
Buy them from the Parish Office or St Mary’s School Office or after 11am Mass. **All are welcome and we really need to support our young people who are organising this event! .Thank you for donating raffle prizes!** If you have anything you are able to donate it will be gratefully received. Please see Claire Cull or any of our Faith in Action young people after 11am Sunday mass.



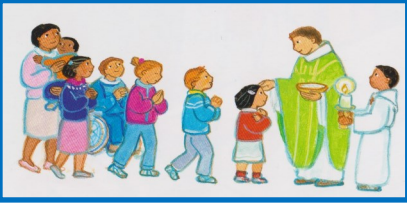
Can you find all the words in today’s Gospel?



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

SACRIFICE
SCRIBES
ISRAEL
HOLOCAUST
KINGDOM
LORD
LOVE
HEART
NEIGHBOUR
SOUL
MIND
SECOND
TRUE





A Prayer for Children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion.
Jesus, I know that you love me. Prepare my heart so that I can receive you soon!

A Prayer for Children to say in their heart after Holy Communion.
Thank you, Jesus. I love you. I entrust to you everyone I carry in my heart. Keep us always in your love.

Faith in Action (FIA) Programme

Participants looking to complete their FIA award need to demonstrate that they are contributing to the Parish in various ways (Parish Hours). Support for activities at **St Mary’s** is provided at an FIA meeting for **silver and gold participants every 2nd Sunday** of the month and **all FIA participants every 3rd Sunday** of the month at the end of 11:00am Mass.. A meeting for **all participants who attend Mass at St John Fisher** is scheduled to take place **after 4pm Mass on the Saturday** for the first Sunday of the month. Current meetings at St Mary’s are for the organisation, preparation and participation in the FIA children’s led Mass which takes place on the 4th (or last) Sunday of every month.



Salford Diocese Information

Take Action to Oppose Assisted Suicide

Catholics across England and Wales are being called to unite in prayer and action in opposition to a new Bill on assisted suicide. The Catholic Bishops Conference has pulled together a range of resources with more information, a pastoral letter from Cardinal Nichols, and a link to an online tool to **contact your MP** to voice your opposition to the bill. More at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide>

Masses for Vocations

The Diocese of Salford’s Vocation Team will be holding two Masses for Vocations this November. The first takes place on **Wed 13 November, 7pm**, at **Our Lady of the Assumption** in Langley. The second will take place on **Thurs 21st November, 7pm**, at **St Thomas of Canterbury Church**, in Bolton. All welcome.

Remembering our loved ones - A Moment of Prayer

The Laudato Si’ Centre is inviting people to remember loved ones in a special way. Names will be hung in the centre’s willow dome, where visitors will be asked to pray for those people and their families during the month of November. They will also be remembered in a special prayer service on **29th November**. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered in this way, or would like to join the prayer service, please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

New Lectionary Resources

With the new edition of the Lectionary for Mass coming into use on the First Sunday of Advent, the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has signposted us to some useful resources introducing the new edition, what changes have been made, and why. Find out more at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary/>

Synod Theme Gathering for Young Adults

Young adults across the Diocese of Salford are invited to join us to take part in the next important stage of our Diocesan Synod. This November, our Young Adults Synod Members will be leading a special theme gathering to further discern and discuss the themes to have emerged from last year’s Big Listen Exercise and to submit proposals for each of the themes. The meeting will take place after our next monthly **Mass for Young Adults, which begins at 5.30pm** on **Sunday 10th November** at St Augustine’s Church, Manchester. All are very welcome to attend

A Memorial Mass

to remember loved ones who have died in The Manchester Foundation Trust Hospitals and The Christie will be taking place on **Wednesday 13th November. The Holy Name** in Manchester at 6pm, where we will begin by praying the Rosary before **Mass at 7pm**. All are welcome to come and remember the dead and pray for their eternal rest.

Thank you from Caritas Salford

As we head towards the end of the year, our diocesan charity Caritas Salford would like to share a message of thanks to everyone who has supported their work so far this year. To find out more about how your generosity has impacted those in our diocesan community, head to <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/your-stories/>