

SUNDAY PLUS

Sow hope!

Hidden heroes

By James Gallogly

The hidden heroes within prison walls sow seeds of hope each day. Life inside the little village of the prison is as varied and complex as any small community. Every moment is rich in opportunities to respond to the needs of others and affect the lives of others.

Is your local community a model of peace and harmony among all people?

Does everyone have everyone else's best intentions at heart?

Those who bring peace, harmony and the best intentions to a prison environment are building a restorative and rehabilitative environment which heals wounds, changes lives and potentially saves others: wing staff making the time to really listen and respond; mental health nurses providing gentle, clinical support; teachers addressing the needs of those whom an education system has failed; drug workers walking patiently with those plagued by addiction... All care and nurture like any good gardener.

Chaplains also walk alongside people, supporting staff and inmates in a myriad of ways. As the fig tree needs good soil in which to flourish, so those in the prison community need an environment that provides support and sustenance. Through presence, patience, persistence and prayer, chaplains till the ground around them. It can be very poor soil.

James Gallogly is a Catholic lay chaplain in a UK prison.



Faithful God,
How boundlessly you bless.
How generously you give.
How completely you love.
How faithfully you provide.
How tenderly you understand.
How fully you forgive.
How endlessly you invite.
How willingly you welcome.
How lovingly you cherish.
How compassionately you shelter.
The fullness of your kindness
Expands beyond my expectations.

Source unknown

Lord of life, the poorest people in this world are those who don't know what it is like to give or to receive love. May they discover the richness of love.
✠ Amen.



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Feast of the week Sunday 23 November

Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro (1891-1927)

"If I meet any long-faced saints in heaven, I will cheer them up with a Mexican hat dance!"

Blessed Miguel Pro SJ joined the Jesuits in Mexico in 1911 and was ordained a priest on 31 August 1925. Known for his infectious humour, ingenuity and acting ability, Mexico's anti-clerical laws forced Miguel to practise his ministry secretly and in disguise – but so successfully that he was eventually arrested and sentenced to death by firing squad on 23 November 1927. Miguel refused the blindfold and addressed his executioners, saying, "May God

have mercy on you. May God bless you! Lord, you know I am innocent! With all my heart I forgive my enemies." He then raised his arms, making of himself a crucifix, and shouted out, "Viva Cristo Rey!" (Long live Christ the King!)

The government published many photographs of Miguel's death, hoping – but failing – to intimidate Catholics, who venerated them as relics.

40,000 people accompanied his funeral procession whilst another 20,000 waited at the cemetery.



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



Parish Priest, Father Joseph Gee

Parish Sister, Sr Dolores

Churches: St Mary's (Our Lady of Sorrows) - Duke St., Denton M34 2AN

St John Fisher - Mancunian Rd., Denton M34 7WS

Office: St Mary's Presbytery, Duke Street, Denton, Manchester M34 2AN.

Tel: 0161 336 2358

Email: rcdenton@outlook.com

Website: www.stmaryandstjohnfisherparish.co.uk



33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
17th November 2024



The Word This Week



As always at this time of year, we begin to contemplate the end of the world - a theme that carries us over next Sunday's feast (Christ the King) and so into Advent. Such a contemplation is not gloomy or morbid: throughout the ages (and especially in the early days) Christians have been utterly positive about the coming end of all things, because we know what will happen, and in fact we earnestly desire it to come: the phrase that gives this away is in the Gospel: "Then... he will send his angels to gather his chosen from the four winds." This gathering of God's children together will be a truly wonderful event, when we will all be completely enfolded in that love of God that we talk so much about.

Saints celebrated this week

18 November: Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul

From the twelfth century the dedications of the Vatican Basilica of Saint Peter and the Basilica of Saint Paul on the Via Ostiense have been kept on this day; it honours the memories of the two Princes of the Apostles.

21 November: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This day saw the dedication in 543 of the Church of Our Lady near to the Temple in Jerusalem: together with Christians of the East we celebrate that dedication of herself which Mary made to God from her very childhood.

22 November: Saint Cecilia

The "Passion of Saint Cecilia" was written in the 5th century and tells that she suffered martyrdom with her husband and brother in the second century. Cecilia is patron saint of music and musicians.

23 November: Saint Clement I

Clement was the third Pope after Saint Peter, at about the end of the third century. He wrote a letter to the Christians of Corinth to preserve peace among them.

23 November: Saint Columban

Born in Ireland in the middle of the sixth century. He embraced the monastic life and went to France where he founded a number of monasteries that he ruled with strict discipline. He was sentenced to exile, and went to Italy. Renowned for his example of the Christian and religious life, he died in the year 615.

A Church that sows hope is young: a prophetic Church that, by her presence, says to the broken-hearted and the outcast of the world, "Take heart, the Lord is near. For you too, summer is being born in the depths of winter. From your pain, hope can arise". Brothers and sisters, let us bring this outlook of hope to our world.

Pope Francis

Today: Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32
Monday: Apocalypse 1:1-4; 2:1-5
Luke 18:35-43
Tuesday: Apocalypse 3:1-6, 14-22
Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday: Apocalypse 4:1-11
Luke 19:11-28
Thursday: Apocalypse 5:1-10
Luke 19:41-44
Friday: Apocalypse 10:8-11
Luke 19:45-48
Saturday: Apocalypse 11:4-12
Luke 20:27-40
Next Sunday: Daniel 7:13-14
Apocalypse 1:5-8
John 18:33-37

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Mass Times and ‘offered for’ dedications W/C 17th November 2024		
Sunday 17th	Saturday 16th	4pm SJF - <i>Alice Gaskin</i> 9.30am SJF - <i>Michael Meaney</i> 11am StM - <i>Parish & Holy Souls</i>
Monday 18th	No Mass	
Tuesday 19th	No Mass	
Wednesday 20th	Mass	9.30am StM - <i>Johnny Gaskin</i>
Thursday 21st	Funeral	10am StM - <i>Johanna Hassall</i>
Friday 22nd	Funeral	11.30am StM - <i>Mary Ryan</i>
Saturday 23rd	Mass	4pm SJF
Sunday 24th	Mass	9.30am SJF 11am StM
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Please note there is no 4pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 16th November

Parish Christmas Fair - St John Fisher School -Sunday 24th November, at 12noon
Please support our biggest fundraiser of the year by attending the Fair next weekend. All welcome!

Come and see Father Christmas , buy cakes, win prizes and catch up with friends!

On **Saturday 23rd**, help is needed to take the boxes of goods from SJF Church up to SJF School. We will be **meeting at Church at 9am** to take goods to school and set up the stalls. Many hands needed!

CAKE SALE Bakers - we need you! Please drop fresh items off at SJF school on Saturday morning (23/11) or Sunday morning. Shop bought items with a best before date after 24/11 can be sent in any time. Thank you!

FIA Sung, Strung, Supper - 8th November
Thank you to all who have supported the event with ticket purchases, donations and raffle prizes.

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 are posted on our website (plus a few copies in church). Please read in readiness for the meeting.

Wednesday 27th November -Themes 3&4
Time - 7– 8 pm Venue - St Mary’s Parish Hall

Mass Offerings - Frank Byrne (A); Veronica Byrne (B’day Mem); Johanna Hassall (RIP)

December Mass Offerings
We are now allocating Masses in December, so please send any requests in soon.
Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)



Sanctuary Candles *There are no candle dedications this week.*

Recent deaths in our Parish
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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Terence O’Neill**
Our condolences go to his family and friends. His funeral details will take place at **St Mary’s - 29 November at 10am**
May he rest in peace.

Christmas Gifts that make a difference
We have CARITAS and CAFOD Christmas gift booklets at the back of both churches. These alternative gift ideas could make a real difference to families in poverty locally and overseas.
[Will you 'Bee There' this Christmas? | Caritas Salford](#)
[CAFOD World Gifts](#)



Take Action to Oppose Assisted Suicide **Have you contacted your MP yet?**
All Catholics need to unite in prayer and action in opposition to a new Bill on assisted suicide. Please use the link below to access an online tool to **contact your MP** to voice your opposition to the bill, or you can write to MP Andrew Gwynne -
Town Hall, Market Street, Denton 34 2AP or House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
gwynnea@parliament.uk
[Ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law](#)
More information at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide> **Please act before 2nd Bill Reading 29th November**



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

S	A	T	S	D	N	I	W	I	B	DISTRESS
T	T	R	D	L	E	G	E	R	Y	DAYS
R	E	A	A	E	E	N	I	R	O	MOON
A	Y	S	R	S	U	G	O	F	L	STARS
S	A	T	K	S	H	L	N	I	G	BRIGHTNESS
G	D	O	E	T	G	A	N	A	M	ANGELS
I	I	S	N	O	O	M	K	L	O	WINDS
W	F	E	E	I	R	T	H	E	N	WORLD
T	S	E	D	L	R	O	W	O	N	FIG
S	S	E	R	T	S	I	D	L	O	TREE
										TWIGS
										SUN



Generous, loving God, help us to sit with Jesus, watching ourselves as Jesus watched the crowds. Help us to notice where our actions do not follow our values. Inspire us to be more like the widow, giving from our heart and recognising our dependence on you, our loving Father. Amen.

Faith in Action (FIA) Programme [\(Monthly Meeting Wed 20th Nov 6.30pm StM Hall\)](#)
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

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/>

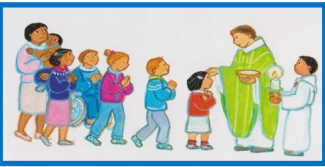
Becoming Pilgrims of Hope: Advent Talks A series of talks exploring the theme of hope is set to begin this Advent as we embark on the 2025 Year of Jubilee. Join Sr Joan Kerley, FMSJ, and Maria Kidd as they unpick our Advent readings to explore some of the themes that are central to the concept of Jubilee. The talks will take place on **29 November, 6 and 13 December** between 10am and 12.30pm at Wardley Hall. Find out more and register <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/advent-hope-talk-1>

Caritas is buzzing about new launch... Please watch the short animation and new campaign for Advent from Caritas Salford? They are asking people to make a real difference this Christmas by buying a virtual gift for someone in need. Find out more, donate, or take part in the appeal in another way: www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere

Quarant'ore at St Mary's, the Hidden Gem Join the Parish for a special time of prayer - 40 hours of Adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It begins with Holy Mass at **8am on Friday 22nd November** and ends with 12 noon Mass for the Feast of Christ the King (Sunday 24th), followed by a short Blessed Sacrament Procession and Solemn Benediction. Call 0161 834 3547 for more details.

Concert for Mary's Meals An evening of joyful music to raise funds for a fantastic charity! St Bede’s College will be hosting a wonderful concert featuring The Sacred Heart Choir on **Saturday 23 November**, from 6.30pm. All proceeds will help the charity Mary’s Meals serve nutritious school meals to children around the world experiencing poverty. Tickets and info at <https://tinyurl.com/concertmarysmeals>

Salford Cathedral Christmas Fayre Saturday 30 November from 1pm Festive fun, taking place in the Assembly Room and Cloister. Tombolas, gift stalls, food, drink, and music from our wonderful choir. All are welcome!



Thank you to the families now bringing their children to the Sacramental Programme. Please show this little prayer to them.
[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!

