

SUNDAY PLUS

King of hearts

King of the universe

By Pope Francis

Only by entering into [Jesus'] embrace do we understand we come to realise that God went to this extreme, even to the paradox of the cross, in order to embrace every one of us, no matter how far distant we may be from him: he embraces our death, our pain, our poverty, our weakness. He embraced all of it. He became a slave so that each of us could

become a son. By his becoming a slave, he purchased our sonship. He let himself be insulted and derided, so that whenever we are brought low, we will never feel alone. He let himself be stripped of his garments, so that no one would ever feel stripped of his or her rightful dignity. He ascended the cross, so that God would be present in every crucified man or woman throughout history. This is our king, the king of the universe, for he journeyed to the furthest confines of our human

experience, entered into the black hole of hatred, the black hole of abandonment, in order to bring light to every life and to embrace all reality. My brothers and sisters, this is the king whom today we acclaim! His is not a kingship easy to understand. And the question we ought to be asking is this: Is this king of the universe also the king of my life? Do I believe in him? How can I celebrate him as the Lord of all creation unless he also becomes the Lord of my life?



[Jesus'] kingdom is liberating, there is nothing oppressive about it. He treats every disciple as a friend, not as a subject.

Pope Francis

Serious about truth

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

Kings are a rare breed. There used to be legions of them around the world occupying thrones of various importance, and the history that most of us learned at school was about the rise and fall of royal households.

In 1950 King Farouk of Egypt told a group of reporters that soon enough there would be only five kings left in the world: the king of hearts, the king of spades, the king of diamonds, the king of clubs and the king of England.

In today's Gospel Jesus points out to Pilate that his kingship is not in the realm of political struggle; his claim to be king, therefore, can hardly affect national security. Jesus' kingship is in the realm of witnessing to the truth – something that the Roman procurator is having great trouble doing. Pilate may be sincere in his concern for Jesus' safety, but he is not serious about the truth he has discovered.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

Feast of the week
Saturday 30 November

St Andrew, Apostle

When Christ our Lord to Andrew cried:
"Come, thou, and follow me,"
the fisher left his net beside the Sea of Galilee.
To teach the truth the Master taught,
to tread the path he trod
was all his will and thus he brought
unnumbered souls to God.

When Andrew's hour had come, and he
was doomed, like Christ to die,
he kissed his cross exultingly,
and this his noble cry:
"O noble cross! O precious wood!
I long have yearned for thee;
uplift me to my only good
who died on thee for me."

E.M. Barrett

Loving Lord, watch over, protect and bless all young people. Fill their lives with joy and hope and lead them in the ways of generosity, understanding and compassion. Amen.



Your New Sunday Missal is available from Redemptorist Publications Visit www.rpbooks.co.uk Code: 1979 ISBN: 9780852316436 Price: £19.95

Today: Daniel 7:13-14, Apocalypse 1:5-8, John 18:33-37
Monday: Apocalypse 14:1-5, Luke 21:1-4
Tuesday: Apocalypse 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11
Wednesday: Apocalypse 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19
Thursday: Apocalypse 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9, Luke 21:20-28
Friday: Apocalypse 20:1-4, 11-21, 2, Luke 21:29-33
Saturday: Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22
Next Sunday: Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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



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Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 24th November 2024



The Word This Week



Every time we complete the cycle of the liturgical year, there is a seamless blending into the new year: so, just as this week we hear of the King who is to come, next week, we begin a New Year and the Season of Advent by more meditation on the end of time, and the One who is to come again, as he once came among us. This feast affirms that Christ is King, that he is Judge, that he is Ruler of the kings of the earth. By his own words we know that this is true, as he stands before Pilate and says, "Yes, I am a king." But his kingship is different: it is not of the same kind as earthly kings, whose empires fade and pass away. His kingship is eternal, and holy until the end of time. Through his love for us, we share in this sovereignty - this holiness - as priests and kings who "serve his God and Father". We end our year in simple, awe-filled praise of the One who is, who was, and who is to come - the Almighty. Alleluia! Amen!

Saints celebrated this week

24 November: Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac & Companions

The 117 Vietnamese martyrs. Between 1820 and 1862 these 117 martyrs were killed in a brutal persecution. Andrew was a parish priest; the group includes eight bishops, fifty priests and fifty-nine laymen and women.

25 November: Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Tradition tells us that she was a noble lady, learned in science and oratory, who came to Christianity after receiving a vision. When she was 18 years old she offered to debate with the pagan philosophers, who were convinced by her arguments; the Emperor ordered her execution, and she was beheaded.

30 November: Saint Andrew

Born at Bethsaida (Galilee), Andrew was a fisherman and perhaps a disciple of John the Baptist. He introduced his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus and became one of the first for follow Christ. He is mentioned a number of times in the gospels, for example, in introducing some Gentiles to Christ. Widely venerated since ancient times, he is remembered as one of the twelve who bore witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. He became recognised as patron saint of Scotland because, according to legend, some of his bones were brought there and buried in the place that now bears his name.

Mass Times and 'offered for' dedications W/C 24th November 2024		
Sunday 24th	Saturday 23rd	4pm SJF - <i>Derek Griffin</i> 9.30am SJF - <i>Parish & Holy Souls</i> 11am StM - <i>Patrick Delaney</i>
Monday 25th	Mass	9.30am StM - <i>Angela Howard</i>
Tuesday 26th	No Mass	
Wednesday 27th	Mass	9.30am StM - <i>Thomas Beirne</i>
Thursday 28th	No Mass	
Friday 29th	Funeral	10am - Terence O'Neill
Saturday 30th	Mass	4pm SJF
Sunday 1st Dec	Mass	9.30am SJF 11am StM
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

 **Please support our Fair today!** 

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

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!



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

FIA Sung, Strung, Supper - Thank you!    

Thank you to all who supported the event in any way. The children raised cash to fund their parish activities going forward.

Mass Offerings - Frank Byrne (A); Veronica Byrne (B'day Mem); Johanna Hassall (RIP); Edward Blake (RIP); Rose Egan (A)

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.)



Altar Prayer Candles W/C 24th November 2024	
The Sanctuary	Holy Souls
Sacred Heart	Holy Souls
Our Lady	Thanksgiving for Prayer Answered

Recent deaths in our Parish
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.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Elsie Aldridge**
Our condolences go to her family and friends. May she rest in peace

Sacrament of Reconciliation in Advent - Wed 11th December 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Please note the date - Two local priests will join me at St Mary's Church to help prepare us for the celebration of Christ's birth.

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	H	T	U	R	T	N	W	I	N	KING
E	M	W	O	K	I	E	J	I	O	PILATE
I	E	O	N	I	J	T	S	E	T	JEW
R	J	R	D	N	H	S	E	P	F	PRIESTS
P	O	L	I	G	E	I	I	L	E	KINGDOM
B	E	D	U	N	N	L	H	C	I	WORLD
J	W	O	T	B	A	I	I	E	H	FOUGHT
E	F	I	P	T	E	O	K	I	C	BORN
S	W	S	E	L	V	A	T	R	E	WITNESS
E	E	S	T	S	E	I	R	P	S	TRUTH
										LISTEN
										VOICE



Jesus, Word of God, Enlighten our lives so that we may bring the light of love and hope into the world. Amen.

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

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

Laudato Si' Centre - Advent Wreath Workshop
Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team on **Friday 6 December** for the return of its Advent Wreath Workshop, where you will have the opportunity to learn how to create your own wreath from natural materials under the guidance of our skilled team. Find out more and book at <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/wreath-workshop>

Diocesan Mass for Young Adults Our Diocesan Mass for Young Adults returns to St Augustine's in Manchester next month with a festive feel! Join us at **5.30pm on Sunday 8 December** as we gather together for Mass before enjoying some seasonal treats and the return of our series of talks exploring the Catholic faith. All are welcome!

Carol Services The Diocese of Salford is delighted to announce the return of its Salford Schools Singing Programme (SSP) Carol Services, which will take place in churches across the diocese this December. For a full list of dates and locations for our services, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ssp-carol-services-24/>

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

Job Vacancies—Find out more and apply at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies>