

SUNDAY PLUS

Give hope

Creating worth in people

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

In listening today to Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, Jesus does not ask his disciples to fall in love with their enemies – that would be wholly unrealistic. The followers of Jesus are challenged to be determined about their enemy's welfare, to be stubbornly gracious and to refuse to pay back violence with violence. Hatred can be defeated only by love; injury can be healed only by forgiveness; evil can be controlled only by goodness. That may not reflect conventional wisdom, but it is Jesus'

wisdom in action. It was also David's response to King Saul's aggression.

In his own life Jesus had to work hard at honouring his own ethic. That process was not a painless or bloodless affair: it cost Jesus everything. He offered love first, even though he knew that the return would never measure up to what was offered; he never bargained love for love; he never became involved in stocktaking returns. Above all, he made a habit of confusing his enemies with love.

Jesus expects us, his followers, to share the gifts we have received. Love is offered because someone somewhere is shuffling through a loveless life. Mercy is given because someone somewhere is cloistered in his or her wrongdoing. These are gifts which create worth in another person; they build temples in wasteland; they introduce people to the forgotten geography of paradise; they stop the contagion of meanness.

Love creates its own reality, its own force for goodness. It enables us, time after time, to refuse, like King David, to put a spear through the heart of our enemies.

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



You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works.

Pope Francis

Mercy that gives hope

By James Gallogly

Like David, it is very easy to be blind to the plight of others, to judge and lack mercy. We do not see the baggage they carry. We take for granted that others have had a stable family background, a satisfactory education and experience good health. However, the lived experience of our neighbours can be eye-opening and heartbreaking. Mercy is the very least thing they deserve, yet this is often far from the case.

Our prisons are full of people who are easily dismissed and for whom there has been no mercy. No account has been given to their acute childhood experiences. Thankfully there are several enlightened companies who are merciful employers. They take the concept of rehabilitation seriously and "do to others as they would have them do to you."

This mercy is life-changing, providing purpose, valuable employment and personal fulfilment where once they did not exist.

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

Jubilee 2025

Jubilee of Deacons

To be ready to serve, we need a healthy heart: a heart healed by God, one which knows forgiveness and is neither closed nor hardened. We would do well each day to pray trustingly for this, asking to be healed by Jesus, to grow more like him who "no longer calls us servants but friends". Dear deacons, this is a grace you can implore daily in prayer. You can offer the Lord your work, your little inconveniences, your weariness and your hopes in an authentic prayer that brings your life to the Lord and the Lord to your life. When you serve at the table of the Eucharist, there you will find the presence of Jesus, who gives himself to you so that you can give yourselves to others.

In this way, available in life, meek of heart and in constant dialogue with Jesus, you will not be afraid to be servants of Christ, and to encounter and caress the flesh of the Lord in the poor of our time.

Pope Francis, Jubilee of Deacons, 2016

Dearest Jesus, teach me to be generous. Teach me to be merciful and compassionate like you. Amen.

Today: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ecclesiasticus 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29
 Monday: Ecclesiasticus 2:1-13; Mark 9:30-37
 Tuesday: Ecclesiasticus 4:12-22; Mark 9:38-40
 Wednesday: Ecclesiasticus 5:1-8; Mark 10:1-12
 Thursday: Ecclesiasticus 6:5-17; Matthew 5:13-16
 Friday: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
 Saturday: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
 Next Sunday: Luke 6:27-38

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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.comWebsite: www.stmaryandstjohnfisherparish.co.uk

6th & 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

16th February to 1st March 2025

Mass Times and 'offered for' dedications

Two weeks commencing 16th February 2025

	Saturday 15th	4pm StM –Parish 11am StM - Angelo Cuomo Coppola
Sunday 16th		
Monday 17th	Mass	9.30am StM– John Conole
Tuesday 18th	No Mass	
Wednesday 19th	Mass	9.30am StM - William Kavanagh
Thursday 20th	Exposition	6pm—StM
	Mass	6.30pm StM–Graham Lancake
Friday 21st	Mass	9.30am StM - Pam Slater
Saturday 22nd	Mass	4pm StM—Forgotten Souls
Sunday 23rd	Mass	11am StM - Parish
Monday 24th	Mass	9.30am StM - Family Better Health
Tuesday 25th	No Mass	
Wednesday 26th	Mass	9.30am StM - William Kavanagh
Thursday 27th	Exposition	6pm—StM
	Mass	6.30pm StM Graham Lancake
Friday 28th	Mass	9.30am StM - Patricia Reeves
Saturday 1st March	Mass	4pm StM

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 16th February 2025

The Sanctuary	
Sacred Heart	Ellen Mary Crowley (LD)
Our Lady	Ellen Mary Crowley (LD)

Mass Offerings -

Francis Higgins (A); Tom Lally (LD) x 2; Bill Crowther (A); Patrick Coriam (B'day Mem); Forgotten Souls x 2; Joan Wynnne (B'day Ann); Mark Lord ; Ian John Stierl; Paul Redmond; Dr Joan Hill (LD); Partick Smith (A); Catherine Teresa Smith (special Intention); Hilda Kavanagh (A); John Sutton (RIP); Frank Byrne (B'day M); Thomas Roche (LD)

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

All our Masses until the end of February have now been allocated.. Any Mass Intentions that are received until the start of March, will

Recent deaths in our Parish

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Irene Harrop

Our condolences go to her family and friends. Her Funeral details will follow shortly. May she rest in peace.



Sacrament of Reconciliation - 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Vigil Mass; 4pm St Mary's, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank

Sunday Morning; 9am St Joseph's, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary's, Denton

Eucharistic Ministers. There is a 6:30pm meeting on Wednesday 19th February at St Mary's Church Hall for all our current readers and Eucharist Ministers in the parish. This will be to arrange the rotas for up coming masses.



Faith in Action (FIA) Programme

The next meeting for our young people, is on Wednesday 26th February 2025, from 6.30pm. All welcome



Mercy Brothers Join us for a family-friendly night of musical entertainment with clergy band, The Mercy Brothers. The concert will raise funds for our Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund, which supports our sick pilgrims and medical team. The concert will take place on Friday 21 February at Hough End Centre, Chorlton. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £20 (free for under 16s) and includes a hot supper. Book now: www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/fundraising or phone the pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209.

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LOVE
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SLAPS
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ROBS
RETURN
PARDON
ENEMIES

CONDEMN
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SINNERS
RECEIVE



Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee in our Diocese. Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church.

There are a few copies of our guide to **Celebrating The Jubilee of Hope** booklet at the back church. Please only take one if you can't access the website copy on the diocesan website www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/jubilee-booklet

[Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Booklet](#)



Salford Diocese Information

Pilgrims of Hope: Lenten Talks The Diocese of Salford is holding a series of talks this Lent that explores themes of journeying and pilgrimage through the lens of the Jubilee. Each week, the talks will focus on a different person from the Bible to help us better understand how the journey we are called to make this Holy Week year is rooted in scripture. The weekly talks begin on Tuesday 4 March at 11am at Wardley Hall. Contact Sr Joan Kerley on joankfmsj@gmail.com or call 0161 971 7842 to find out more.

'Understanding our Everyday Beliefs' Retreat A three-day Lenten retreat is taking place at the Loreto Spirituality Centre In Llandudno in March to help people reflect on our relationship with God and to gain a deeper understanding of our faith. The course explores three core topics: Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church and will take place between Wednesday 12 March and Saturday 15 March 2025. Further information is available at www.loretocentre.org.uk

Are you aged between 18 and 35 or know someone who is? Our diocesan charity Caritas Diocese of Salford is looking for young adult volunteers to join their governance committee as co-opted members to help shape the charity in the coming months and years. Find out more about how you can help tackle poverty, homelessness, disadvantage, and displacement in our parish communities at www.caritassalford.org.uk/youngadultboard

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Bookings are now being taken for the 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This year's pilgrimage will take place between 31st July and 6th August. For more information on how to book as a pilgrim or register as a volunteer, please visit <https://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk>

Pilgrim's Passport Create new family traditions this Jubilee year by picking up our family-friendly guide to Jubilee churches in the Diocese of Salford. With fast facts, thought-provoking questions, and different activities, our Pilgrim's Passport is the ideal companion to help families pray and journey together this Jubilee Year. Find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/pilgrims-passport/> or visit one of our Designated Churches to begin.

Jubilee Resources Want to learn more about our Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee? Want to find out how we're observing the Holy Year in our diocese? The Diocese of Salford's website has a range of information to accompany you this Jubilee Year, with information on our Designated Churches, upcoming pilgrimages, and a range of different resources. Explore more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025>

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Divine Office Week II • Year C

16 February 2025

SUNDAY PLUS

Searching for hope

The promise of comedy

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

The best commentary on Jesus' Sermon on the Plain that we hear in today's Gospel is Jesus' own life. Jesus did not live his life as if he was blessed by God; he lived out his life in the constant awareness that God did indeed bless him. In the course of that life he experienced poverty: not only the poverty of deprivation, but the poverty of standing alone against the crowds. He experienced hunger: not just the hunger that can be answered by bread, but the hunger that can be satisfied only by doing what is right. He had reason to weep and mourn, not only at the loss of a dear friend but at the lost opportunities of his own people. He was no stranger to being held up as a clown for the amusement of all; he knew the experience of rejection, betrayal and abandonment.

The Beatitudes are not prescriptions for becoming poor or hungry or mournful or afflicted. The promise is that God handles all these things, lifting his people out of them. That is the Good News. God is not committed to keeping his people at the level of being hurt and wounded – if that were true the Beatitude would read, "Blessed are you who weep, for you shall weep even more." The vision of the God of the Beatitudes is the vision of a generous God, one who reverses the tragedy. "Blessed are you who weep" is the tragedy; "for you shall laugh" is the comedy. And it is the comedy, not the tragedy, which is the promise.

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Left out?

By Linda Jones

It feels bad to be left on the sidelines. When the team gets picked, there is always someone who is first choice and someone who is left until last. But it's not just in sport that people are left out. Sometimes, because of poverty, you get left behind. It feels terrible if you can't afford to buy decent food for your children. Or maybe you are someone who is left out because you are discriminated against - facing daily racism and prejudice. Jesus calls us all to work to include people, not to exclude them. We are to build communities of hope where no one is left out. On Racial Justice Sunday the Church reminds us that racism is a sin. All of us have dignity because we are made in the image and likeness of God. All of us are welcome. All of us are loved.

Linda Jones is Head of the CAFOD Theology Programme and a regular contributor to Redemptorist Publications.

Lord of hope, give your hope to those who are searching for it. Be their light in the darkness and a reason for joy. Amen.

Human dignity is the same for all human beings: when I trample on the dignity of another, I am trampling on my own.

Pope Francis

Jubilee 2025

16-18 February: Jubilee of Artists

We can speak of artistic creation in terms of three "movements". A first movement has to do with the senses, which are struck with wonder and amazement. This initial, outer movement then leads to others, more profound.

A second movement touches the depths of our heart and soul. A composition of colours, words or sounds has the power to evoke within us memories, images and emotions...

Yet artistic creation does not stop here. There is a third movement, in which the perception and contemplation

of beauty generates a sense of hope that can light up our world. The outer and inner movements merge and in turn affect our way of relating to those all around us. They generate empathy, the ability to understand others, with whom we have so much in common. We sense a bond with them, a bond no longer vague, but real and shared...

Dear artists, in a special way you are "guardians of beauty in our world"... Today, as always, we celebrate that beauty with hearts full of hope.

Pope Francis

Today: Jeremiah 17:5-8 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 Luke 6:17, 20-26	Monday: Genesis 4:1-15, 25 Mark 8:11-13	Tuesday: Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 Mark 8:14-21	Wednesday: Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22 Mark 8:22-26	Thursday: Genesis 9:1-13 Mark 8:27-33	Friday: Genesis 11:1-9 Mark 8:34 - 9:1	Saturday: 1 Peter 5:1-4 Matthew 16:13-19	Next Sunday: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 Luke 6:27-35
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