

SUNDAY PLUS

Hungry for what?



By Krista Nelson

We hear today that Jesus "was hungry". But only for food. He was "full of the Holy Spirit" – in contrast to us most of the time. We are fortunate to live in a time and place where food is readily available (for most) – too available perhaps. We can fill the slightest craving 24/7.

We are so used to being full that even the thought of giving up snacking fills us with dread. We throw around phrases like "I'm starving" when it's only been three hours since breakfast – when perhaps it's been three months since we last spent some time in prayer. We are often too full (from food, entertainment, shopping, social media) to recognise the emptiness we might have in our spiritual lives.

Of course, Lent is a time for us to think about people who are actually "starving" – whether from food, peace, or knowledge of God. But if we aren't full of the Holy Spirit, we can't give and attend to their needs in the same way.

Lent is a time for us to "fill up" any voids in our spiritual life – something I strive to do every year. But then Easter comes and it's "Wait. What? But I meant to..."

Perhaps, like me, you need this little reminder to make the most of Lent and fill up on all the Church has to offer. But don't just "get full" – overindulge! Go "pig out," so come Easter Sunday, you're ready to rejoice with a full, bursting-at-the-seams heart.

Krista Nelson is a mum of four, catechist and editor.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope The volunteer

Volunteer work. It is one of the most beautiful things because each person, with his or her own freedom, chooses to make this journey, which is an outward-bound journey, going out with an outstretched hand, a journey outwards to be concerned about others. Action has to be taken. I could stay at home, seated, calm, watching television or doing other things... No, I make this effort to go out. Volunteer work is the effort of going out to help others. It is like this. There is no desk volunteering and there is no television volunteer work. No. Volunteer work is always outward-bound, an open heart, an outstretched hand, the legs ready to go. Going out to encounter and going out to give... And it is an investment of your time that makes the lives of other people fruitful. Continue along this path of volunteering.

Pope Francis

Lord Jesus, so many people today are hungry for love and are thirsting for peace and security. Make me a messenger of your love and help me to build peace wherever it is in short supply.  Amen.

Beyond the material

By Paul Higginson

In the wilderness Jesus is tempted in the same ways that we are. He gets hungry and is tempted to turn stones into loaves. Like all temptations, this appears at first glance to be rather beneficial (we rarely consider doing something which appears harmful to us!). This bread, however, represents not just fine food and wine but money, houses, cars – material possessions that we believe will satisfy our

inner hunger. But Jesus recognises these are false gods, saying, "You must worship the Lord your God and serve him alone." So often we profess to serve God whilst pursuing material success. As Thomas Merton said: "People may spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall." Jesus shows us how it's done, choosing the narrow path and a "success" that the world (with all its riches and kingdoms) can never give...

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

We produce enough food for all people, but many go without their daily bread. This constitutes a real scandal, a crime that violates basic human rights.

Pope Francis

Today: Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13
Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday: Esther 4:17m, 17b-17q, 17x-17z; Matthew 7:7-12
Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36

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



Parish Priest, Father Joseph Gee
Parish Sister, Sr Dolores

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8th Sunday of Ordinary Time & 1st Sunday of Lent

2nd March to 15th March 2025

Mass Times and 'offered for' dedications Two weeks commencing 2nd March 2025

Sunday 2nd	Saturday 1st March	4pm StM – Sick & Infirm Clergy 11am StM - Parish
Monday 3rd	Mass	9.30am StM – Barry Hall
	Funeral Service	10.30 StM – Irene Harrop
Tuesday 4th	No Mass	
Wednesday 5th	Mass	9.30am StM - Pat Healy
Ash Wednesday	Mass	6.30PM StM – Philip Mark Simpson
Thursday 6th	Exposition	6pm – StM
	Mass	6.30pm StM – Carolyn Hughes
Friday 7th	Mass	9.30am StM - Machailo Buriak, Gussepe, Geovanna, Joan & Maria Drago
Saturday 8th	Mass	4pm StM – Parish
Sunday 9th	Mass	11am StM - Tom Lally
Monday 10th	Mass	9.30am StM - Forgotten Souls
Tuesday 11th	No Mass	
Wednesday 12th	Mass	9.30am StM -
Thursday 13th	Funeral Service	12.45 – StM – Sarah Teresa Smith
	Exposition	6pm – StM
	Mass	6.30pm StM
Friday 14th	Mass	9.30am StM -
Saturday 15th	Mass	4pm StM

Mass Offerings -

John Healy (LD); Hilda Kavanagh (A); Tom Lally (LD) x 2; Forgotten Souls x 2; Pat Healy; Derek Griffin (A); Winifred Appleton (A); Machailo Buriak; Gussepe Drago; Geovanna Drago; Joan Drago; Maira Drago; Philip Simpson (RIP); Carolyn Hughes (RIP)

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

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 Service is on Monday 3rd March at 10.30am at St Mary's.

Sarah Teresa Smith. Our Prayers and condolences go to her family. Her Funeral Service is on Thursday 13th March at 12.45pm at St Mary's.

May they rest in peace.

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

Gardening at St John Fisher Church

Access to the garden at St John Fisher church, will be available from 11am to 1pm on Tuesday 11th March 2025, for anyone who wishes to come along and help themselves to the plants.



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

New Parish Administrator. As from Wednesday 12th March, the Parish Office will have a new Administrator, who is Pat Plunket, Pat will be working Wednesday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm and part of her role will be to distribute the Parish Newsletter, which will be going back to a weekly basis from Week Commencing 24th March. **Welcome to Pat.**

Donation £1282. A Donation of £1282 has been received by the Parish which was made up of;

£685 from the sales of Books, Cards and Bric-a-brac at St John Fisher's Church before and after Mass.

£597 from the sale of Teas and Coffee at St John Fisher, after Mass.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this donation.

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 2nd March 2025	
The Sanctuary	Tom Lally RIP
Sacred Heart	Carolyn Hughes RIP
Our Lady	Carolyn Hughes RIP

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 of 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 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>

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Divine Office Week IV • Year C

2 March 2025

SUNDAY PLUS

A good heart

Accepting the real

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

The scene was market day in the city of Athens. Everyone was busy trying to find that elusive commodity called a bargain, and they were not averse to using their tongues and elbows to aid them in the task. In one corner of the market, however, there was a strange quiet: someone whom most people admired and respected walked among the crowd. He was a famous man, who had condescended to patronise the marketplace. People moved aside to let him have his walkabout. He wasn't a film or television star – the time was still BC. He was an orator renowned for his eloquence and patronage of lost causes.

There was something very odd about his appearance. Despite being a rich man, he wore tattered clothes; he dressed in rags with diligence and care. He was clearly pleased at the theatrical impression he was making on the onlookers, until a voice in the crowd hailed him: "Antisthenes, Antisthenes, I can see your pride through the holes in your cloak." For once, the great orator had nothing to say.

If hypocrisy tries to make a profession out of deceit, humility is a matter of honouring the truth about ourselves. Humility is an acceptance of



reality, an unfussy recognition of what is true. In today's Gospel Jesus names as hypocrites those who notice faults in others but who are blind to their own shortcomings. In his teaching Jesus touches on an important subject in all personal relationships: how self-criticism is an essential part of genuine relations with other people.

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

Remind me, Lord, that you are the door to peace and hope.
Remind me that you are near. Open my eyes to the hope that
you place in the people and the world around me. Let me
channel hope to others. Amen.

Good attracts good

By Natalie Claveria

I always say to my children, good attracts good. We cannot help being drawn to those people who raise us up, listen to our woes, share our achievements and also our sadnesses. I try to encourage them to see the good in all people. Yes, of course, there are those we do not always gel with, or perhaps we do not agree with their values. However, when dealing with tricky characters, we can still stay true to the good in us. Sometimes being "good" to someone who we find particularly challenging

or difficult can be a test of our patience and resolve, but, in my experience, when we present goodness in its purest form it is very hard for it not to be reflected back to us. I remember a passage from a song in the musical *Bugsy Malone*, "You give a little love, and it all comes back to you. You know you are going to be remembered for the things you say and do!"

In addition to being a busy mum and active in her parish, Natalie Claveria is also the Head of Sales, Distribution & Customer Experience for Redemptorist Publications.

All it takes is one good
person to restore hope.
Pope Francis

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope The Papal Bull

We all know the saying "signed, sealed and delivered". It means that a document is official, finished and has been sent to its intended recipients. The expression effectively dates back at least 2,800 years.

When monarchs signed a super-important document demanding the immediate obedience of their subjects, the wax imprint of their unique, personal seal guaranteed its authenticity. Monarchs and popes went to enormous lengths – and still do – to safeguard their "Great Seal" because a text written "under the Great Seal" is never issued lightly and is an official instruction which comes from them personally as monarch or pope.

The Church uses the word "Bull" for such documents, the word "Bull" coming from the Latin word "bulla" (seal) – hence "Papal Bull".

A Papal Bull announces a Jubilee Year on the feast of the Ascension the previous year. It includes the Jubilee's starting and finishing dates, but also many practical details to be organised and implemented.

Today:
Sirach 27:4-7
1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Luke 6:39-45

Monday:
Sirach 17:20-29
Mark 10:17-27

Tuesday:
Sirach 35:1-15
Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday:
Joel 2:12-18
2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday:
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Luke 9:22-25

Friday:
Isaiah 58:1-9a
Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday:
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Luke 5:27-32

Next Sunday:
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

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