

SUNDAY PLUS

Second chances

Rebuild lives

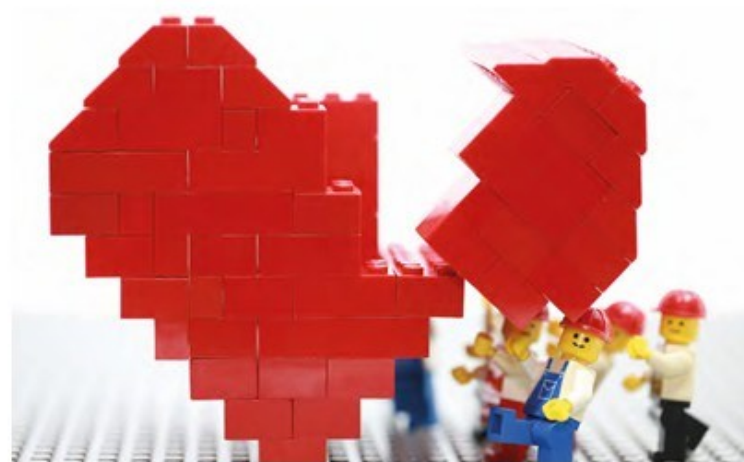
By James Gallogly

Prison lends itself to the opportunity to seek a second chance. Those who seize that opportunity can rebuild their lives and return to society to repair damage and offer a positive contribution. In most cases seeking such an opportunity requires a firm purpose of amendment and fruitful conditions for this to flourish.

Sadly, our prison system is currently anything but fertile ground. However, that does not stop the love of God if it is made welcome and embraced. Increasingly, our men are meeting God on the "holy ground" of our World Faith room where the Alpha group gathers. Here, the

spiritual food and drink St Paul explained to the Corinthians is shared in the programme and the witness of its outstanding volunteers. They "dig round and manure" the faith of men who recognise God's love and mercy for them.

In these lively encounters, fuelled by caffeine and better biscuits than usual, God's plan becomes a clearer path. He promises us that there is a way out of any trial and that we will be granted the strength to bear it. Our Alpha group is a reminder that this is not a solitary exercise. Second chances benefit from having someone to grant them, to remind us that there is a better way than the one to which



we have become a slave. We need someone to help us dig and nourish the growth. We need others to help guide us, forgive us, welcome us

into that new way which secures that second chance.

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

Lewis Tse / Shutterstock.com

This is how Jesus deals with each of us: he asks us to welcome him into the boat of our life, to begin again with him and set out on a new sea, that turns out to be full of surprises. Jesus' invitation gives new meaning to our existence.

Try again

By Natalie Claveria

None of us goes about our lives planning mistakes. However, on life's bumpy track, sometimes we stumble and find ourselves somewhat fallen. Our kind and wonderful God wants us to enjoy our life and make the most of every moment we have. He sees the good in us, even when we do not see it ourselves. Aren't we lucky to have that never-failing love and compassion and, most importantly, forgiveness. It is said that a mistake is only a mistake if we do not learn from it. Of course,

Jesus, Lord, on Palm Sunday the same people praised you who would condemn you to death only a few days later. Yet you didn't blame them. You forgave them and prayed for them. Help me to follow your example.  Amen.

Pope Francis

we do not plan to mess up, but if we do, God will forgive us. When I was out driving the other day, my son commented on a bright orange, old rusty Land Rover. He said, "Wow, Mum, look at that car, I bet that's been on some journeys!" I replied, "Yes, but far better for it to have been loved and used and on adventures, rather than sat idle, static, in pristine condition, never daring to venture anywhere." So, in this Jubilee year, let us each be a pilgrim of hope and keep journeying on the road of life, to become the best version of ourselves, as God intended.

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.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

28 March:
24 Hours for the Lord

"24 Hours for the Lord" is an annual worldwide event which Pope Francis began in 2014 and takes place on the Friday and Saturday before the fourth Sunday of Lent. It focuses on prayer and reconciliation, offering people the chance to receive the sacrament of reconciliation within the context of Eucharistic adoration. For this reason, a church in every diocese across the world keeps its doors open for the entire 24-hour period.

As Pope Francis said in 2024, "Let us not renounce God's forgiveness, the sacrament of reconciliation: it is not a practice of devotion, but rather the foundation of Christian existence; it is not a question of knowing how to say our sins well, but of recognising ourselves as sinners and throwing ourselves into the arms of the crucified Jesus to be set free; it is not a moralistic gesture, but the resurrection of the heart. The risen Lord resurrects us, all of us."

Today: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9	Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15b Luke 4:21-30	Tuesday: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10 Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38	Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9 Matthew 5:17-19	Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28 Luke 11:14-23	Friday: Hosea 14:2-10 Mark 12:28-34	Saturday: Hosea 5:15 - 6:6 Luke 18:9-14	Next Sunday: Joshua 5:9a-12 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
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The Catholic Parish of St Mary & St John Fisher, Denton



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Parish Sister, Sr Dolores

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2nd & 3rd Sunday of Lent

16th March to 29th March 2025



Mass Times and 'offered for' dedications Two weeks commencing 16th March 2025

Sunday 16th	Saturday 15th March	4pm StM – <i>Mary Patricia Murray</i> 11am StM – <i>Parish</i>
Monday 17th	No Mass	
Tuesday 18th	No Mass	
Wednesday 19th	No Mass	
Thursday 20th	No Exposition No Mass	
Friday 21st	No Mass	
Saturday 22nd	Mass	4pm StM – <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 23rd	Mass	11am StM – <i>Cath Lenihan</i>
Monday 24th	Mass	9.30am StM – <i>Tom Lally</i>
Tuesday 25th	No Mass	
Wednesday 26th	Mass	9.30am StM – <i>Forgotten Souls</i>
Thursday 27th	Exposition Mass	6pm – <i>StM</i> 6.30pm StM – <i>Patrick Byrne</i>
Friday 28th	Requiem Mass	12noon – <i>STM Mary Patricia Murray (Pat)</i>
Saturday 29th	Mass	4pm StM

Sacrament of Reconciliation - 30 minutes prior to the start of Sunday Masses

Mass Offerings - Tom Lally (LD) (Said 12/03);
Forgotten Souls (Said 13/3); Mary Patricia Murray (LD);
Sarah Teresa Smith (LD); Tom Lally; Forgotten Souls;
Adriana Robinson (LD); Catherine Kirkham (LD); John
Hardman (A); Anne Fleming (A); Hilda Plunkett (A);
Cath Lenihan (A); Patrick Byrne (B, day Mem & A);
Laurence Byrne (A); Birthday Wishes Val;
(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

Mary Patricia Murray (Pat). Our condolences go to her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass is on Friday 28th March at 12noon at St Mary's. May she rest in peace.

Catherine Kirkham Our condolences go to her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass is on Thursday 3rd April at 10.30am at St Mary's. May she rest in peace.

Adriana Robinson Our condolences go to her family and friends. Her funeral details will follow soon. May she 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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 16th March 2025	
The Sanctuary	Val
Sacred Heart	Val
Our Lady	Pat Healy

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.**

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have a red mission box please bring them in to be emptied. The Mill Hill Fathers rely on the money raised from these boxes to finance their missionary work overseas and very much appreciate your support and generosity. Thank you.



New Offertory Envelopes

Please collect envelopes for the new financial year from the back of church. You should search for your name and address, as envelope numbers change each year. If you are unable to find your box please contact the office.

The New envelopes start on **Sunday 6th April.**

If you are a tax payer and you wish to join the Gift Aid scheme please get a form from the back of church or the parish office. The Gift Aid scheme allows the parish to claim 25% tax relief from the Government on any donation that is made by a tax paying parishioner. If £1000 of offerings are Gift Aid eligible it will boost the offerings by £250!

If you prefer to set up a standing order for your offering on a weekly or monthly basis please contact the office for a mandate.

giftaid it

Baptism Preparation Baptisms are arranged following completion of the Baptism Preparation course. Please see Fr Joe after Mass, to discuss details and collect registration forms.



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.

Parish Family Quiz Night. Friday 28th March 2025.

Our Faith in Action group will be hosting a Family Quiz Night, in St Mary's Church Hall. Arrival 6.40pm to start at 7pm.

£2 entry per person, and tams can be made up of 4, 5 or 6 people. **Tickets sold after the Weekend Masses and also available from the Parish Office.**

Tea, Coffee, Juice and snacks are available. Please bring your own bottle.

There will be a raffle, and a prizes for the highest scoring team and the best team name. **Donations of Raffle prizes will be most welcomed**

Please support our group.



P	E	R	T	E	T	E	P	I	N
E	F	A	N	E	C	F	E	S	A
H	A	J	I	L	E	L	T	U	I
E	C	E	A	W	J	I	E	S	T
R	E	S	T	T	O	S	R	E	N
T	U	N	N	D	E	D	H	J	U
E	S	H	U	S	E	N	A	J	O
P	O	O	O	S	U	M	T	H	M
J	L	M	M	O	E	M	O	S	S
C	A	S	E	S	S	E	O	M	E

JESUS	PETER	JAMES
JOHN	MOUNTAIN	FACE
SUN	MOSES	ELIJAH
TENTS	CLOUD	SHADOW



E	L	T	H	U	S	B	A	D	N
S	E	L	L	E	W	O	M	A	N
W	Y	L	E	B	L	E	T	H	E
A	E	C	W	O	I	I	J	P	T
T	E	A	H	C	R	N	Y	E	E
E	L	T	T	A	C	H	K	S	S
R	R	H	M	J	R	C	N	O	O
D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I	J	J
I	S	Y	C	B	S	A	R	A	O
D	E	T	K	C	U	B	D	C	B

SAMARITAN	SYCHAR	JACOB
JOSEPH	WELL	WOMAN
WATER	DRINK	JEW
BUCKET	CATTLE	HUSBAND



SUNDAY PLUS

Fully awake



By Mary Bell

When something extraordinary happens, something outside our daily experience, we are startled and wonder if we can be awake or if we are dreaming. Even for us, in these times of virtual images, it is possible to question the reality of what we are seeing. But pity the poor apostles, witnessing Jesus's transformation in front of their eyes. No wonder Peter, in his usual rather impulsive fashion, blurts out the clumsy suggestion about setting up the tents!

Images can have a profound effect. Think how the pictures of starving children in Ethiopia led to the Live Aid concert of the 1980s. They were a wake-up call to the world to help those suffering the effects of famine. Consider the television news reports which bring us pictures of people trapped by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions or warfare – far more effective than mere verbal descriptions of these events in far-off lands where suffering can be alleviated if enough people are aware.

The i-cloud had not come to Galilee in their time but God's message was projected into the ether for the apostles to understand that this Jesus was his Son, the Chosen One who must be listened to. The experience was surely a great shock but unforgettable for Peter, James and John. And so, for us, the Gospel narrative of the Transfiguration is a wake-up call to acknowledge the true nature of Jesus; the reality of who he is: the evangelist's equivalent of a modern documentary disclosing the truth about the Son of God.

Following many years in the classroom, retired teacher and head of RE, Mary Bell now has time to enjoy the beauties of the natural world around her.



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee and justice

Let us open our eyes to our neighbour, especially to our brothers and sisters who are forgotten and excluded, to the "Lazarus" at our door. That is where the Church's magnifying glass is pointed. May the Lord free us from turning it towards ourselves. May he turn us away from the trappings that distract us, from interests and privileges, from attachment to power and glory, from being seduced by the spirit of the world... it is our responsibility to care for the true riches which are the poor... We are reminded of this by an ancient tradition according to which the Roman martyr Lawrence, before suffering a cruel martyrdom for the love of the Lord, distributed the goods of the community to the poor, whom he described as the true treasure of the Church. May the Lord grant that we may look without fear to what truly matters and turn our hearts to our true treasure.

Pope Francis

I am invited to listen to Jesus, and Jesus manifests himself, and by his transfiguration he invites us to gaze at him. And looking at Jesus purifies our eyes and prepares them for eternal life, for the vision of heaven.

Pope Francis

Prayer for transformation

Lord, in you I am transformed
And transformed still again.
When the discouraged cry for hope, make me hope.
When the hungry cry for bread, make me bread.
When the thirsty cry for water, make me water.
When the suffering cry for help, make me help.
When the sick cry for healing, make me healing.
When the bound cry for freedom, make me freedom.
When the outcasts cry for love, make me love.

Catholic Relief Services

Loving Lord, let me see you everywhere and in everyone I meet. Most of all, let me see you deep inside me so that I know you are always with me, wherever I am and whatever I'm doing. Amen.

Today: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Luke 9:28b-36	Monday: Daniel 9:4b-10 Luke 6:36-38	Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 Matthew 23:1-12	Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a	Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10 Luke 16:19-31	Friday: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46	Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	Next Sunday: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9
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