

# SUNDAY PLUS

Do not be afraid

## Be brave!

By Michael George

**A**t this time one year ago, Pope Francis celebrated the first World Children's Day. 50,000 children gathered with the Pope in Rome to pray and to talk.

One participant, Lucy, from Australia, asked Pope Francis, "Are you happy to spend time with us children? Why?" Pope Francis replied, "I am truly happy. I am happy because you are joyful, because you have the joy of hope in the future. Keep going, be brave, and continue to be joyful."

At school we sometimes say that a smile is contagious. When you give somebody a smile it is likely that they will smile back. We also talk about "being radiators".

When we are positive and happy it warms others and contributes to others also feeling more positive and happier. The joy of the children radiated to warm and hearten Pope Francis and others.

Pope Francis remarked on the children's hope for the future and encouraged them to "be brave". Fear is often associated with the unknown. When we don't know what the future holds our inclination may be to fear the worst, rather than hope for the best. In contrast, when the future path is clear and well-lit we may embark upon it with confidence and hope.

In today's Gospel, Jesus, like Pope Francis, urges "do not be afraid". Jesus removes fear of the unknown. Jesus gives a certain promise of what the present and the future hold – the peace of God, and the well-lit path to the joy of eternal life.

*Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for 25 years, as teacher, headteacher and chaplain.*

### Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

24-25 May: Jubilee of Children



All of you, girls and boys, are a source of joy for your parents and your families, but also for our human family and for the Church, in which each of us is like a link in a great chain stretching from the past to the future and covering the whole earth. That is why I encourage you to pay attention to the stories of grown-ups: your moms and dads, your grandparents and great-grandparents. And not to forget all those other children and young people who are already battling illness and hardship, in hospital or at home, and those who even now are being cruelly robbed of their childhood. I think of children who are victims of war and violence, those experiencing hunger and thirst, those living on the streets, those forced to be soldiers or to flee as

refugees, separated from their parents, those prevented from going to school, and those who fall prey to criminal gangs, drugs or other forms of slavery and abuse. Let us listen to their voices...

When we are all together, everything is different! Think of your friends, and how great it is to spend time with them: at home, at school, in the parish and the playground, everywhere. Playing, singing, discovering new things, having fun, everyone being together and excluding no one. Friendship is wonderful and it grows only in this way: through sharing and forgiving, with patience, courage, creativity and imagination, without fear and without prejudice.

*Pope Francis*

Don't be afraid to ask God for forgiveness. He never tires of forgiving us. God is pure mercy.

*Pope Francis*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, who was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
✠ Amen.

**Today:** Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29  
**Monday:** Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a  
**Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11  
**Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15  
**Thursday:** Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Luke 24:46-53  
**Friday:** Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23  
**Saturday:** Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-56  
**Next Sunday:** Acts 7:55-60; Revelation 22:12-14, 16, 17, 20; John 17:20-26

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Registered Charity no: 250037

**6th Sunday of Easter Sunday  
25th May 2025**

### The Word This Week

As Eastertide unfolds, we feel the power and influence of the Spirit growing. This is the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, and the Spirit who brings the Church to birth at Pentecost. As we journey towards Pentecost - the climax of the Easter Season - we should be considering the presence of the Spirit in the Church today: the reconciler of disputes, the solver of problems, true inspiration for the family of God on our journey to the New Jerusalem! From this side, Pentecost is about promise: the Lord at the Last Supper promises that He and the Father will be "at home" with all who keep his words - and it is the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who will remind us of these and all his words. We believe that all Scripture is "inspired" - the word of the Spirit - so as we listen or proclaim this Sunday let us look for the fulfilment of the promise made by the Lord.

**Ascension** is not just a feast that happens to fall in Eastertide: it is an integral part of the Easter mystery. Remember the Lord's words at the Last Supper: "I am going to prepare a place for, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me." The resurrection presumes the Lord's return to the Father. This is therefore a feast of hope: our hope in the Lord's return, as he went. Our hope that he will take us with him, when our bodies are raised as his was. Our hope that we will take our place in heaven, where he sits on the Father's right.

**Congratulations to all the children of our parish who will be making their First Holy Communion this weekend**



| Mass Times 25th May                            |                                          |                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 25th May                                | Vigil - Saturday 24th May                | 4pm - Tom Lally                                 |
|                                                | Sunday Morning                           | 11am - Parish                                   |
| Monday 26th May                                | Mass 9.30                                | Joan & Bill Hogan (BM)                          |
| Tuesday 27th May                               | No Mass                                  |                                                 |
| Wednesday 28th May                             | Mass 9.30                                | Joan & Bill Hogan (BM)                          |
| Thursday 29th May<br>The Ascension Of the Lord | Mass 9.30<br>6pm Exposition<br>Mass 6.30 | Len Scanlon (BM)<br><br>Tom Lally               |
| Friday 30th May                                | Mass 9.30                                | Forgotten Souls                                 |
| Saturday 31st May                              | Vigil Mass 4pm                           | Sick and infirm clergy                          |
| Sunday 1st June                                | Mass 11am                                | Parish                                          |
| Saturday & Sunday                              | Sacrament of Reconciliation              | Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass |

### RAFFLE

Thankyou to everyone who supported the raffle to raise funds for Olivia Kelly who wants to volunteer in a school in Cambodia. £708 was raised in the three cluster churches and there is also a bake sale on Sunday 25th after the 11am mass.

Prizes can be collected from the back of Church

The winners of the raffle prizes are:

**Mrs Redfern** - orange 366-370 Hamper  
**Ken** - orange 421-425 chocs/giftware  
**Mr Ward** - pink 36-40 wine  
**Maria Morin** - green 71-75 boots set  
**Terry** - orange 476-480 giftware

**Green 5** - Paula Ellis chocolate  
**Orange 526** - Liz Rourke wine  
**Green 206** - Josie Hand giftware  
**Orange 576** - Christine Batty wine

**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

### Holy Day of Obligation

Ascension Thursday 29th May

Masses 9.30am and 6.30pm

### Polite Reminder

We love our families coming to Mass but please can we ask families with toddlers to refrain from eating snacks during Mass. (Sadly we don’t have regular cleaning at present). We have some children's Missals to help them follow the Mass. Thank you

### Mass Offerings

Tom Lally (LD) Forgotten Souls

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass

| Altar Prayer Candles W/C 25th May 2025 |                                   |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The Sanctuary                          |                                   |
| Sacred Heart                           | Guidance with a difficult problem |
| Our Lady                               | Thanks for a successful operation |

Please pray for the above intentions this week. Seven Day Candles have been lit at St Mary’s at these altars. To dedicate a candle for your own intentions please pick up a green form at the back of church and return in an envelope with your donation.

### 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, Paula & Dorothy



### Email Address.

We are in the process of bringing in a new Parish Email address, **rcdenton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk**. This is a more secure address and will start to be rolled out over the next few weeks





### What's coming up in your Parish

#### May

28th WED- 6.30pm Scripture course

#### June

4th & 5th WED/THUR 7pm Film Night – Peter & Paul (3hrs – 1.5 each night)

12th THUR – 7pm Scripture Course

18th WED – 6.30pm Faith in Action Meeting (1)

19th THU – 7pm Faith in Action Meeting (2)

#### July

3rd THUR – 7pm Scripture Course

9th WED – 7pm Film Night – Remember the Titans (PG) 2hrs

#### August

7th THUR - 7pm Scripture Course

13th WED – 7pm Film Night – Seabiscuit (PG) 2hr

**Please note,** All Mass Intentions that are being received are currently being passed to Fr Laurence to be said on our behalf, as we have no available Masses until June

### GIFT AID - Boost your offering!

If you are on the Gift Aid scheme and you have not completed a Gift Aid donation form in the **last 12 Months**, could you please contact the Parish Office and request a form.. The Diocese are introducing a new system for this new Tax Year which enables the Parishes to claim their Gift Aid donation back from the government, on a quarterly basis, rather than annually. For this new system, we are required to upload an **up to date** Gift Aid donation form for every parishioner who has been signed up onto the Gift Aid Donation scheme, If you require a form, or you are not sure when you last completed a form, please speak to the Parish Office.

### Salford Diocese Information

#### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell

Join us for a prayerful pilgrimage this summer as we visit Our Lady's shrine at Ladyewell. Situated on the doorstep of our diocese, this day pilgrimage presents a wonderful opportunity to take up the Jubilee call to pilgrimage without travelling too far away from home. The pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 28th June. For more information and to register, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ladyewell-pilgrimage-2025>

#### Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

Young pilgrims in Years 7, 8, and 9 are invited to join the Diocese of Salford's Youth Ministry Team for a faith-filled pilgrimage to The Holy Island of Lindisfarne. The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop John Arnold and will take place between 20-22 June. To find out more, please email [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) or call 0161 817 2214.

#### Mercy in the Holy Year

The Diocese of Salford has produced a number of resources to help us learn more about the theme of mercy and reconciliation in the Jubilee Year, including an FAQ sheet on Plenary Indulgences. To find out more, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/plenary-indulgences>

Parish Administrator - Parish of Our Lady & St Joseph, Heywood

**Appointment Type:** Part- time/Permanent

**Working Hours:** 10 hours per week (Work pattern to be agreed with Parish Priest)

**Location:** : St. Joseph’s Presbytery, Mary Street, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 1EG

**Salary:** £13.23 per hour, 25 holidays, plus statutory bank holidays and 5 Diocesan closure days (Pro-rata for part-time)

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

