

Open your heart

SUNDAY *Plus*

3 AUGUST 2025

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year C

God of my Life

Only in love can I find you, my God.
In love the gates of my soul spring open,
allowing me to breathe a new air of freedom
and forget my own petty self.
In love my whole being streams forth
out of the rigid confines of narrowness and anxious self-assertion,
which makes me a prisoner of my own poverty and emptiness.

In love all the powers of my soul flow out toward you,
wanting never more to return,
but to lose themselves completely in you,
since by your love you are the inmost centre of my heart,
closer to me than I am to myself.

But when I love you,
when I manage to break out of the narrow circle of self
and leave behind the restless agony of unanswered questions,
when my blinded eyes no longer look merely from afar
and from the outside upon your unapproachable brightness,
and much more when you yourself, O Incomprehensible One,
have become through love the inmost centre of my life,
then I can bury myself entirely in you, O mysterious God,
and with myself, all my questions.

Karl Rahner SJ

Help me, Lord, to see with your eyes, to love with your
love and to speak with your gentleness.  Amen.

Beyond material gains

Recently I came across a photograph I took some years ago. The photograph is of some paper on which a child had written, "I love school. It is the best." Sadly, I cannot recall the child who wrote it, though judging by the handwriting, he or she was five or six years of age.

In seven words the child communicated that what he or she valued was an experience. He or she valued the opportunity to learn, to be amongst friends and to be in a safe and loving environment. It was that experience and the relationships

within it that brought happiness. I regularly tell children that as well as teaching them, the adults in the school learn from them. How much we can learn from that young child: happiness is rooted not in what we own but in how we spend our time and who we spend it with.

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for twenty-five years, as a teacher, headteacher and chaplain.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee for everyone

As we celebrate the Jubilee of Hope, we remember that the Jubilee Year continues the ancient practice of Judaism as a time of joy, freedom, rest and social justice. Slaves were to be freed. Fields would lie fallow – and anybody whose poverty forced them to sell their land to provide for their family, would regain it. The Jubilee was for everyone and all property was returned to its original family.

As Rabbi Levi Avtzon wrote, "In the Land of Israel, where each tribe was allotted its province and each family its estate, 'the land may not be sold forever, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.'"

So, if a person became destitute and was forced to sell his estate, the 'sale' was in fact only a long-term lease until the next Jubilee year, at which time it reverted to the owner."



READINGS

Today:
Ecclesiastes 1:2;
2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

Monday:
Numbers 11:4b-15
Matthew 14:13-21

Tuesday:
Numbers 12:1-13
Matthew 14:22-36

Wednesday:
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Peter 1:16-19
Luke 9:28b-36

Thursday:
Numbers 20:1-13
Matthew 16:13-23

Friday:
Deuteronomy 4:32-40
Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday:
Deuteronomy 6:4-13
Matthew 17:14-20

Next Sunday:
Wisdom 18:6-9
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Luke 12:32-48



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

Parish Priest, Father Joseph Gee

Parish Sister, Sr Dolores

Office: St Mary's Presbytery, Duke Street, Denton, Manchester M34 2AN.

Tel: 0161 336 2358

Email: rcdenton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Website www.stmaryandstjohnfisherparish.co.uk

Registered Charity no: 250037

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 3rd August 2025

The Word This Week

Today we contemplate a great truth about our life: you can't take it with you. The old phrase "There are no pockets in a shroud" is what we confront today, in the preaching of both Ecclesiastes and the Lord Jesus. What Jesus makes us think about, however, is not just this truth, but the consequences of it: if we are not to build up treasure here on earth, what are we to do? The answer is simple: by our way of living we "make ourselves rich in the sight of God"!



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

PREACHER

ABUNDANCE

BARNs

BIGGER

CROPS

JUDGE

KNOWLEDGE

LIE

POSSESSIONS

TREASURE

VANITY

WISDOM

Mass Times 3rd August		
Sunday 3rd	Vigil - Saturday 12th Sunday Morning	4pm - Sick and infirm Clergy 11am - Parish
Monday 4th	No Mass	
Tuesday 5th	No Mass	
Wednesday 6th	No Mass	
Thursday 7th	No Mass	
Friday 8th	Mass	9.30—Eric Meade
Saturday 9th Sunday 10th	Vigil Mass	4pm-- Parish 11am —Alan Appleton
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings

Georgina Kerwin (A); Alan Wallace; Ernest Jones (A); Tom Lally (RIP); Forgotten Souls; Bridget Hourihan (A); John Collins (LD); Paul Riley (LD) Arthur Lancake (LD)

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

Polite Reminder—DO NOT EAT FOOD IN CHURCH

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

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 3rd August 2025



The Sanctuary	
Sacred Heart	
Our Lady	Anthony Scanlon for a successful operation and recovery

Altar Prayer Candles

Our Seven Day Candles can be lit next to the Sanctuary, Our Lady's Altar and The Sacred Heart Statue at St Mary's. 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. This is another way for your special intentions to be remembered and prayed for in the Parish.



Mass Intentions.

Due to the limited number off Masses in August, in the parish, we will be sending the majority of Mass Intentions to Fr Laurence Gambella, to say in his parish on our behalf.

Cancellations;

Please note that Scripture Course on Thursday 7th August and the Film Night on Wednesday 13th August, have both been cancelled, and both these events will be re arranged for a later date.

Collection basket and envelopes

Could we please ask people NOT to put Foreign coins or notes in the collection basket or offertory envelopes. The post office and bank will not accept them. Thank you.

Enrolment for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
2025/26

This September **all Baptised Catholic children** aged 7 or over, in our parish or its Primary schools will be eligible to enrol on the Sacramental Programme for 2025-26, which will prepare them for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Parents/Guardians of Children attending St John Fisher are invited to attend an initial meeting at 5.30pm on THURSDAY 11th September in St John Fisher School.

Parents/Guardians of Children in St Mary's are invited to a meeting at 6.30pm on WEDNESDAY10th September in St Mary's church hall.

If your child does not attend a Parish Catholic Primary school,
please come to the meeting at

St Mary's Church Hall on WEDNESDAY 10th September at 6.30pm.

If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office.

Southern Cemetery Mass

The Diocese of Salford is delighted to announce the return of its Cemetery Mass at Southern Cemetery- the first since before the pandemic - providing a wonderful opportunity to come together in faith and remember our loved ones who have gone before us. Join us at 12 noon on Monday 25 August outside the Roman Catholic Chapel in the cemetery. Seating will not be provided, so please bring a chair if you require one. In the event of poor weather, Mass will be celebrated in St Ambrose Church.

Becoming Confident Catechists - An Introduction to the Ministry of Catechists

A new course for catechists is set to take place at St Patrick's in Collyhurst. Aimed at beginner and experienced catechists alike, this course seeks to cover the basics of catechist training with an added emphasis on accessibility. It is suitable for catechists or prospective catechists working with baptism parents, First Communion parents and children, confirmation candidates, RCIA catechists, and more.

The course consists of six sessions, taking place between 7pm and 9pm every Wednesday, beginning on Wednesday 3 September. It will be presented by Canon Paul Daly and Dr Minna Moffatt-Feltman, Accessibility Coordinator for Caritas Salford.

If you have any catechists or prospective catechists who might be interested in joining these sessions, please email paul.daly@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for more detailed information and to register..

Outdoor Mass for Season of Creation

This September welcomes back the Season of Creation - a month-long campaign that invites us to reflect on our call to be loving stewards of God's creation. We invite you to join us in beginning this time of reflection with an outdoor Mass in the beautiful grounds of the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre. Mass takes place on Monday 1 September at 9.30am. Email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more or to register.