

With burning hearts

SUNDAY *Plus*

17 AUGUST 2025

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year C

Kind hearts

A few years ago, I was visiting Jesuit province in Latin America. I was invited, with some timidity, to celebrate Mass in a suburban slum, in a favela, the poorest in the region as they told me. There were around 100,000 people living there in the midst of mud since the town had been built along the side of a depression and became almost completely flooded whenever it rained. I readily accepted...

At the end [of Mass] a big fellow, whose fearful looks could have inspired fear, told me: "Come to my house. I have something to honour you." I remained uncertain, not knowing whether I should accept or not, but the priest who was accompanying me said: "Go with

him, Father; the people are very good". I went to his house, which was a half-falling shack. He made me sit down on a rickety chair. From where I was seated the sun could be seen as it was setting. The fellow said to me: "Señor, see how beautiful it is!" And we remained silent for some minutes. The sun disappeared. The man added: "I did not know how to thank you for all that you have done for us. I have nothing to give you, but I thought that you would like to see this sunset. It pleased you, didn't it? Good evening." He then gave me his hand. As I was leaving, I thought: "I have met very few hearts that are so kind."

Pedro Arrupe SJ, Essential Writings



Lord, I love you. Help me to love you more.  Amen.

The fire within

Jesus' love for us is inspiring when we take time to contemplate what he did for us on the cross. What is holding us back from truly following him? Are we losing faith, becoming weary and hindered by the demands of this world? Jeremiah did not give up and was rescued in his time of need. We are encouraged today to throw off whatever is holding us back from fixing our eyes on Jesus and just keep persevering. There are so many things that

can entangle us and prevent us from following faithfully but we know our Lord and Saviour is always there for us. If today, you are thinking of giving up, be encouraged that Jesus' love for you is the fire within to sustain you. The Holy Spirit is within you, so continue to share God's love with others, while remaining steadfast and running with faithful perseverance, looking only towards Jesus.

Actor, singer, writer and journalist Stephanie Pena, plays the part of Mary Magdalene in the Wintershall production of The Passion of Jesus (<https://youtu.be/xTGvpz9DM-w>)

The Church is young, she needs your generosity, your joy, your will to build a different world, imbued with the values of fraternity, peace and reconciliation.

Pope Francis



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

A Medieval Jubilee

Proclaiming a Jubilee can be complicated. The Black Death, between 1347-1351 killed as many as fifty million people across Europe, perhaps half of the continent's fourteenth-century population. In 1349, Rome was caught by the devastating 6.7 magnitude earthquakes which, over two days, caused widespread damage to towns, cities and infrastructure like Roman aqueducts and bridges.

Yet, in 1345, Clement VI had declared a Holy Year for the year 1350.

England and France were then fighting the Hundred Years War. Both Edward III of England and John II of France knew that their knights and military leaders could afford the pilgrimage and would want to travel. However, their absence would leave England and France vulnerable to invasion by each other. England also feared incursions from Scotland.

Eventually, Clement persuaded the two kings to sign a truce to ensure the safety of pilgrims travelling to Rome.

Despite the difficulties, more than 1.5 million pilgrims eventually went to Rome for the Jubilee celebrations.

READINGS

Today:
Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

Monday:
Judges 2:11-19
Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday:
Judges 6:11-24a
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday:
Judges 9:6-15
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday:
Judges 11:29-39a
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday:
Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday:
Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11;
4:13-17
Matthew 23:1-12

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30



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

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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 17 August 2025

The Word This Week

When we consider the Christian life, we often think in positive terms: peace, light, joy, goodness, life. And yet, as the Scriptures remind us today, that Christian life must be lived in the midst of a world which is filled with more negative terms: division, distress, cruelty and death. The words of the Gospel may appear shocking to us: Jesus says that he comes to bring "division, not peace", and this seems totally contrary to the message of the Gospel! And yet, Jesus is not announcing his desire – of course he wants peace, not division – but showing his understanding of the world in which we live. He is inviting us to weigh up the cost of the Kingdom, a cost he was willing to embrace: as the second reading tells us: "... Jesus, for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, endured the cross..." Whatever weighs us down, let us endure and persevere, so that the fire of God's love may blaze over the whole earth!



GOD JEREMIAH BAPTISED CLOUD DIVIDED DIVISION

FIRE KING MUD PEACE THRONE WITNESSES

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

Mass Times 17th August		
Sunday 17th	Vigil - Saturday 12th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Thomas Fleming (20th Anniversary)
Monday 18th	No Mass	
Tuesday 19th	No Mass	
Wednesday 20th	No Mass	
Thursday 21st	Requiem Mass	1.30pm—Kath Dovey
Friday 22nd	No Mass	
Saturday 23rd Sunday 24th	Vigil Mass	4pm- 11am –Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Recent deaths in our Parish

The deaths have occurred of Kath Dovey, Our prayers and condolences go to her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 21st August at 1.30pm at St Mary's. May she rest in peace. Father Peter Hapgood-Strickland will be celebrating the Requiem Mass



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

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

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 Offerings

Albert Jeffries (A); Tom Lally (RIP); Ashley Butterworth (LD); Kath Dovey (LD); Margaret Burns (LD) ; Vincent Cahill (LD); John Nono (LD)

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending

Mass Intentions.

All the August Masses have now been allocated, we will now forward any intentions to Fr Laurence Gambella, to be said on our behalf. We will start allocating Masses again from the 1st September.

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 WEDNESDAY 10th 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.

Available items



Bureau, W 54cm; L 122cm; H 106cm; Fully open 92cm



Desk, W 61cm; L107cm; H77cm

If anyone can make use of either of the above items, please contact the parish office during office hours, or email rcdenton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk All we ask is donation to the parish, in return.

New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6



As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, from 22nd October 2025, **we will be offering a group for children in school years 4, 5 and 6.**

The group will take place monthly and be from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

Our Faith in Action young people will run it (though there will be adult supervision as well) and it will consist of liturgy alongside games and activities.

There is a maximum of 20 places and this will be on a first come first serve basis. The dates are as follows: 22/10/25; 19/11/25; 17/12/25; 21/01/26; 25/02/26; 18/03/26; 22/04/26; 20/05/26; 17/06/26

This is a lovely opportunity to allow our Faith in Action young people to develop their skills further as well as bringing the young of the Parish together.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like any further information please could you speak to Claire Cull after Sunday mass for a parental application form

The Post Confirmation programme—A Call to Lead for our older young people will take place on the same evenings 7.30pm to 8.30pm

What's coming up in your parish



September

Wednesday 10th September **Sacramental Programme**, first meeting St Mary's 6.30pm in Parish Hall

Thursday 11th September **Sacramental Programme**, First Meeting St John Fisher's 5.40pm in St John Fisher School

Wednesday 17th September **Faith in Action** Meeting.6.30pm to; 8.30pm in Parish Hall

October

Due to the success of last year, our Faith In Action group are holding another Strung Sung Supper. This will be held in St Mary's school hall on Friday 17th October at 7pm. Make a date in your diary! Tickets for this popular event will be on sale soon.