

SUNDAY *Plus*

24 AUGUST 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year C

True love



The boy bit his cake, spat it out again and suddenly began to cry.

"Why are you crying?" asked the father.

"I am not hungry," said the boy. The father's smile became more marked than ever.

"You need not be hungry to eat a cake." ... "Throw it to those swans." ...

Meanwhile, the two little vagabonds had approached the cake at the same time as the swans. It was floating on the water. The smaller boy looked at the cake. The other looked at the retreating tradesmen...

When they were no longer in sight, the elder boy hurriedly lay down flat on his stomach on the rounding edge of the basin, and holding to it with his left hand, bending over the water till he all but fell in, he stretched

out his stick towards the cake with the other hand. The swans, seeing the enemy, hastened up; and as they hastened, their breasts produced an effect favourable to the little fisher. The water flowed back in front of the swans, and one of these gentle, concentric waves softly impelled the cake towards the boy's stick. When the swans reached it, the stick touched the cake. The lad gave a quick blow, startled the swans, seized the cake, and sprang up. The cake was soaked; but they were hungry and thirsty. The elder boy divided the cake into two parts – a large one and a small one – kept the small one for himself, and gave the larger piece to his brother, saying, "Shove that into your breadbasket."

Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

Dearest Jesus, it's very easy to be greedy and to want the best things for myself. Teach me to be generous.  Amen.

Will you say yes?

To be patient and wait our turn can be a hard lesson to learn, especially when we are going through a challenging season. I don't know about you but often in my daily activities God gives me uncomfortable opportunities to be patient. Never forget that even when things are hard, God is good; being disciplined by him will later produce a harvest. We must trust God in the pruning season. In his great love for us, he has given us free will. Personally,

I would rather be in God's will than out of it. Waiting on the Lord can be hard, but when we do, he renews our strength and in his beautiful timing we learn the fruitfulness of being patient. Come close to God, spend time with him, getting to know his word. God lovingly invites us to take the narrow door; will you say yes to the invitation?

Actor, singer, writer and journalist Stephanie Pena, uniquely amongst contributors to Redemptorist Publications, plays the part of Mary Magdalene in the Wintershall production of The Passion of Jesus (https://youtu.be/xTGvpz9DM-w).

If you in your family, in your neighbourhood start out with envy, with fights, there will be "war" in the end. Instead, if you start out with love, sharing love, forgiveness, there will be love and forgiveness for everyone.

Pope Francis



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee 1600

Pilgrims who climb the Scala Sancta in Rome, learn that crawling up the first two or three of the twenty-eight white marble steps is not particularly uncomfortable. The last few require huge willpower and determination! Yet every year, thousands of pilgrims tackle the staircase which, tradition says, Jesus climbed towards Pilate. St Helena apparently brought the Scala Sancta to Rome from the Praetorium in Jerusalem in AD 326.

During the Jubilee Year of 1600, Pope Clement VIII (the first Pope to drink coffee!) climbed the steps on his knees, served meals to pilgrims, and ate with twelve of the city's poor each day. Rome's Jewish community supplied five hundred blankets so that pilgrims could sleep more comfortably. As a sign of penitence, cardinals renounced their red regalia for the year. Despite the huge difficulties and dangers involved in making a pilgrimage, more than one million people travelled to Rome for the Jubilee.

READINGS

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

Monday:
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8-10
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday:
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday:
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday:
1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday:
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Mark 6:17-29

Saturday:
1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Next Sunday:
Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
Luke 14:1, 7-14



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Registered Charity no: 250037

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 24th August 2025

The Word This Week

It's probably a nightmare we all share - being locked out of the house, the sales, the big match, missing the train, the boat, the plane, whatever, and having to watch the crowds that have got inside, while we can do nothing. Complacency is what leaves us in this situation, and the Lord warns all who listen to him to be careful, taking nothing for granted, but making sure that we are (spiritually at least) like the people waiting with their sleeping bags and thermos flasks by the front door of the ticket office.



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

ABRAHAM
JACOB
DISCIPLES
GLORY
ISAAC
JERUSALEM
KINGDOM
LORD
PEACEFUL
PROPHETS
TEACHING
VILLAGES



Mass Times 24th August 2025		
Sunday 24th	Vigil - Saturday 23rd Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Sick and infirm clergy
Monday 25th	No Mass	
Tuesday 26th	No Mass	
Wednesday 27th	No Mass	
Thursday 28th	No Mass	
Friday 29th	No Mass	
Saturday 30th Sunday 31st	Vigil Mass	4pm- Forgotten Souls 11am -Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

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.

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

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

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

Mary Brannelly (A); Margaret Quinn (A); Vincent Cahill (LD); John Nono (LD); Kath Dovey (LD); Successful Surgery for Patricia; Tom Lally (RIP); Forgotten Souls

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

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.

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 a 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

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!

