

Signs of hope

SUNDAY *Plus*

1 FEBRUARY 2026

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

Racial Justice Day

A martyr for justice

By 2004, she had lived in Brazil for nearly four decades, helping small farmers in the Amazon to resist the encroachments of wealthy landowners and working to safeguard the rainforests against slash and burn agriculture. She had earned a reputation over the years as a fearless and determined advocate and had recently been recognised with a couple of humanitarian awards. But it was her first time on Brazilian national television.

Dorothy Stang, aged seventy-three, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur, arrived at the TV studio

to participate in a televised panel discussion about deforestation in the Amazon and the oppression of peasant farmers. She showed up wearing a shirt that had the slogan "Death of the forest is death of us all" stencilled on it... "I have lived in the Amazon for twenty years," she said. "I know who has land documents that are forged and those that are real... and the forgers outweigh the legitimate ones." Then she reached into the cloth bag she always carried, and read out a long list of the offending ranchers as well as the crooked cops

they had in their pockets...

Less than a year later, Sr Dorothy was dead, shot down on the orders of furious ranchers who feared her advocacy of both the farmers they sought to dispossess and the rain forest they hoped to exploit... "I know they want to kill me," she wrote a friend, "but I will not go away. My place is here alongside these people who are constantly humiliated by others who consider themselves powerful."

Kerry S. Walters, Profiles in Christian Courage: extraordinary inspiration for everyday life

We have to know how to listen - not to judge, not to shut doors as if we hold all the truth and no one else has anything to offer. From this posture of humility will come greater clarity about where the Lord is calling us.

Pope Leo

Setting an example

Venerable Satoko Kitahara (1929-1958) was a Japanese convert who was told of a group of children who picked through garbage to earn a living. Shocked at their situation, the young aristocrat invited some of them to come to her parents' home occasionally for piano lessons and tutoring. Before long, Satoko realised that this... wasn't enough. "I had thought I was a great Christian because I condescended to dole out some free time, helping children with their homework!... It hit me now. There was only one way to help those ragpicker children: become a ragpicker like them!" So she did, eventually leaving her comfortable home to live among the poorest of the poor... she just listened to the tug of her conscience telling her that to love, she had to live among those she loved. She died at twenty-eight, the hero of a community she had served merely by being present to them.

Meg Hunter-Kilmer, Aletheia

Lord of life, may I be a messenger of hope.  Amen.

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st February 2026

The Word This Week

Last week we heard Saint Matthew describing the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry. This week Saint Matthew begins the most important summary of the proclamation of the kingdom of God – what we refer to as the "Sermon on the Mount." This great collection of Jesus' teachings begins with the Beatitudes – the Charter of the Kingdom. It is essential to understand these, if we are to understand what we will read in Saint Matthew during the rest of this year: the key, as underlined by the First Reading, is that the values of this world are not the values of the Kingdom of God – the Kingdom will see things turned upside down: happiness and blessing belong to those whom this world would ignore or mistreat. If we truly wish to live out the Gospel, we would do well to reflect on the virtues laid out in this familiar passage.



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Mass Times 1st February 2026		
Sunday 1st February	Vigil - Saturday 31st Sunday Morning	4pm - Sick & Infirm Clergy 11am - Parish & Wayne Russell Davies
Monday 2nd	Mass	9.30– 95th Birthday Tommy
Tuesday 3rd	No Mass	
Wednesday 4th	Mass	9.30– The Brunner family
Thursday 5th	Mass	6pm Exposition 6.30pm– For successful surgery
Friday 6th	Mass	9.30 - Special Intention
Saturday 7th Sunday 8th	Vigil Mass	4pm— Mary Patricia Murray (A) 11am – Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

Mass times for Ash Wednesday **18th February 2026** will be 9.30am and 6.30pm.

Mass Offerings :- Wayne Russell Davies (A); Samuel Maman (A); Pauline Healey; Joe Moore x3; Marie Spiller, Tony Spiller & Bernard Spiller (B'day A); Tom Lally; Sarah Kilgannon (LD);

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 1st February 2026	
The Sanctuary	Anthony Scanlon
Sacred Heart	Clive Neill & Jessica Neill
Our Lady	Tom Lally

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

What’s coming up in our parish

Dates for the Diary:

Scripture Course

Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:

2026_ 11th February; 4th March; 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

Faith In Action- Parish Quiz Night

Friday 27th February, 7pm Parish Hall, doors open at 6.30pm.

Teams of 4—£8

Teams of 5—£10

Teams of 6 = £12

Tickets on Sale after Mass or from Parish Office

CATHOLICISM COURSE continues—

THIS Saturday 31st Jan 9.30am

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **Sarah Kilgannon**. Our prayers and condolences go to her family and friends. Sarah’s Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday 19th February at 10am. May she rest in peace.

The Death has occurred of **Thomas Cassin**. Our Prayers and Condolence go to his family and friends. Thomas’s, funeral service will be on 11th February at 12.30pm. May he rest in peace

DBS Clinic (Safeguarding)

There will be a Safeguarding clinic on **Sunday 8th March from 12 noon** in the Parish Hall. This is for all volunteers who attended the last clinic (3 years ago) and are still in active ministers in the Parish. You will need to bring 3 forms of ID . If you are unsure of what ID to bring, please contact the parish office.

Pastoral Visits to Hospitals and Care Homes.

If you have a relative or friend who has been taken into hospital or has moved into a Care home, and requires a visit from a Catholic Priest/Chaplin for Pastoral support, please ask the Nursing staff to contact the local Hospital Catholic Chaplin or Parish Priest in that area.

For Care home visits, this would have to be carried out by the Parish Priest local to the home itself and may be outside of our parish boundaries. Homes that are in Stockport; Dukinfield and Hyde, are located in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, and unfortunately Priests from our Diocese have no authorisation in these areas.

Mass for Engaged Couples to be celebrated by Bishop John Arnold

On Saturday 14 February, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass for engaged couples across the diocese. The Mass provides couples with an opportunity to seek God's blessing to guide and strengthen them during this time of preparation. Newly -married couples are also invited to receive a blessing in their first year of marriage. The Mass will take place at St Patrick’s Church in Collyhurst on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 1:30pm.

Talk from Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP

On 17 February, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP will be giving a talk as part of a series of guest lectures from Manchester Universities Catholic Chaplaincy. The theme will be 'How we can keep our hope alive today.'

The talk will begin at 6PM at the Catholic Chaplaincy Church of the Holy Name, 339 Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PG. British Sign Language interpretation will be available.

New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, **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: 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.

S	P	I	R	Y	P	A	H	A	E
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N	N	E	P	E	C	A	C	I	H
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HAPPY
HEAVEN
MOURN
PURE

POOR
GENTLE
HUNGER
HEART

SPIRIT
EARTH
MERCIFUL
REWARD