

Listen to the Lord

SUNDAY *Plus*

22 FEBRUARY 2026

1st Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Good News from God

Jesus, we are told, came bringing "the Good News from God". He had extraordinarily good news for the people of his hometown of Nazareth and for all the people of Israel. But right from the start of his preaching and teaching he encountered opposition. His fellow citizens in Nazareth were perplexed by the sudden and unexpected emergence in Jesus of a wisdom and a power they never suspected. They thought they knew him well. He was one of themselves and he grew up with them. When he began to teach them in their synagogue they were amazed at his message and at his skills in delivering it and the miracles that were happening at his word... And they would not accept him.

The scribes and Pharisees, the religious elite of Israel, were not

prepared to listen to him either because they knew that he had not attended a rabbinic school nor sat at the feet of a great teacher of the Law like Nicodemus or Gamaliel, and therefore he had nothing to teach them. It was their right to teach him and his duty to learn from them and obey them...

But Jesus makes it very clear that God's ways are not our ways. God doesn't see the world as we see it. God has an eye for the unique value of each individual, even the one whom the scribes and Pharisees may reject as a renegade sinner...

There is joy in heaven, Jesus assures us, when we acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness... God never humiliates us.

James McManus C.Ss.R., Embraced by Mercy

Speak to my heart, Lord. Let me hear your voice. Guide me on my path through life. Bring me closer to you.  Amen.

A moment of mindfulness

This spiritual exercise will deepen your awareness of being in the presence of the God of mercy and show you how God has embraced you with his love and mercy.

- Centre yourself; sitting upright; breathing rhythmically; clearing your mind of all pre-occupations.
- Bring yourself to bodily stillness.
- Now calmly acknowledge that you are the prodigal in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).
- Experience the Father rushing to embrace you and welcome you.
- Be still for some time in the presence of the God of mercy and compassion and receive his love.
- Now focus again on your breathing as you relax in God's presence, and bring yourself gently back to the world.

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Let us ask our heavenly Father to assist us in living in service to one another, each according to his or her state of life, shepherds after his own heart, capable of helping one another to walk in love and truth.

Pope Leo



St Jude: emotions in times of despair

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

St Jude is a symbol of hope: the patron saint of desperate causes. Hope is remembering what God has already done in history and has promised to do in the future. Desperate people need to experience the light of Christ; to be helped from despair into hope, which is the willingness to persevere when our faith is shaky or absent; an openness to new possibilities. Can we keep hope alive in today's world where this capacity is challenged, by counteracting the belief that death or shattered dreams are the end? Christ's story did not end on the cross. That was a new beginning, when God's Spirit became more far-reaching. A terrible death began a new consciousness in humanity. Hope is the realisation that all of creation will be made new. We carry this hope to our broken world. May the power of Christ present in St Jude as he healed people and spread God's love, also be in us as we go out and spread the Gospel of hope.

Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence and a treasured former member of the Redemptorist Publications editorial team

READINGS

Today:
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Monday:
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday:
Jonah 3:1-10
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday:
Esther 4:17m,
17o-17q, 17x-17z
Matthew 7:7-12

Friday:
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday:
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Matthew 5:43-48

Next Sunday:
Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9



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1st Sunday of Lent
22nd February 2026

The Word This Week

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent – these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.



Mass Times 22nd February 2026		
Sunday 22nd February	Vigil - Saturday 31st Sunday Morning	4pm - Mary Patricia Murray 11am - Parish
Monday 23rd	Mass	9.30– Paddy Corbett (LD)
Tuesday 24th	No Mass	
Wednesday 25th	Requiem Mass	10am –Wendy Ladley Faith In Action group –6.30pm Parish Hall
Thursday 26th	Mass	6pm Exposition 6.30pm– Tom Lally
Friday 27th	Mass	9.30 - Patrick Smith Quiz Night 7pm—Parish Hall
Saturday 28th Sunday 1st March	Vigil Mass	4pm— Parish 11am – Sick and Infirm Clergy
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :-

Hilda Kavanagh (A); Tommy Fallon (A); Bernadette Casey (LD); Tom Laly (RIP); Ann (Good Health Test Results) Sister Dolores (A successful operation and speedy recovery);

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 22nd February 2026	
The Sanctuary	
Sacred Heart	
Our Lady	Anthony Scanlon

SCRIPTURE COURSE.

There will be no Scripture course on Wednesday 4th March. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12 March 7pm** in the Parish Hall.

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

Scripture Course

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

2026 **12 March (Thur 7pm)**, 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

Recent deaths in our Parish

The deaths have occurred of Wendy Ladley, Bernard Hourihan and Catherine Downey. Our prayers and condolences go to their family and friends. Wendy’s Requiem Mass will be held on 25th February at 10am. May she rest in peace.



Mass Intentions.

All the March 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 April.

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.

CONFIRMATION

If you have a child in year 8 (aged 12/13) or above, who is Baptised Catholic and made their First Holy Communion who would like to be Confirmed this year. Please take a letter and an application form from the back of church. Please return the form by Friday 6th March to the parish office.

Luncheon Club

Luncheon Club for February 26th, last Thursday of the month, at Victoria Park Community Centre, Market Street, Denton. This has been cancelled as the centre will be used as a Polling Station. However there will be a breakfast club on Friday 27th at the centre FREE.

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.



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**WILDERNESS
TEMPTED
DEVIL
FASTED
FORTY
HUNGRY
STONES
LOAVES
ANGELS
FOOT
SATAN
WORSHIP**

