

Changed by God

SUNDAY *Plus*

1 MARCH 2026

2nd Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week II** Year A

Transformed by God



I was surprised that I found myself beginning to pray daily. I could not get down on my knees, but I could pray while I was walking. If I got down on my knees, I thought, "Do I really believe? To whom am I praying?" A terrible doubt came over me, and a sense of shame, and I wondered if I was praying because I was lonely, because I was unhappy.

But when I walked to the village for the mail, I found myself praying again holding in my pocket the rosary that Mary Gordon gave me in New Orleans some years before. Maybe I did not say it correctly but I kept on saying it because it made me happy...

I reasoned with myself, "I am praying because I am happy, not because I

am unhappy. I did not turn to God in unhappiness, in grief, in despair – to get consolation, to get something from him."

And encouraged that I was praying because I wanted to thank him, I went on praying. No matter how dull the day, how long the walk seemed, if I felt sluggish at the beginning of the walk, the words I had been saying insinuated themselves into my heart before I had finished, so that on the trip back I neither prayed nor thought but was filled with exultation...

It is so hard to say how this delight in prayer grew on me... I began to go to Mass regularly on Sunday mornings.

Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness

Today, and every day, let us ask the Lord to open our hearts to his saving word and its power to transform and enrich our lives and the world in which we live.

Pope Leo XIV

In God's love

Today's Gospel passage tells us that Jesus did not face the knowledge of his forthcoming violent death alone. That lonely knowledge could paralyse anyone. The story of the transfiguration tells us that Jesus is enabled to make that journey to Jerusalem in the declared love of the Father. The direction which Jesus has to follow will cost him his life.

In our own journeys we can face difficult decisions more surely in the knowledge that we are loved and supported. When we hear our name called in love we can face our road to Jerusalem. The power of that love funds us to face the future, just as its absence makes the future a loveless landscape. It is that love that we celebrate; it helps us to travel hopefully; it enables us to keep on striving until we can rest at last in the love that knows our name best.

Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R., Praying the Rosary

Jesus, Lord of my life, I can ask for nothing more than to see and believe that my life lies in you, in the kingdom of my Lord.  Amen.

Dan Schutte


Feast of the week
Sunday 1 March

St David of Wales
(500-589)

The birth of St David's is the stuff of legends! To summarise: it was apparently foretold to St Patrick (born nearby) a century before David was born on a Pembrokeshire cliff, during a storm, to a mother (Non) who later became a nun and eventually canonised herself. Both David's parents were descended from Welsh royalty and some of his supporters also claim that he was King Arthur's nephew.

What is certain is that, as an adult, David became a monk and eventually Archbishop of Wales, founding twelve monasteries, including Menevia (St David's) and Glastonbury. The communities led prayerful, hospitable, very austere lives, for instance pulling the plough themselves rather than using animals.

David's last words were: "Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me."

In 1120, Pope Callistus II canonised David who, shortly afterwards, was declared the patron saint of Wales.

READINGS

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

Monday:
Daniel 9:4-10
Luke 6:36-38
E&W: St David
(Solemnity in Wales;
Feast in England);
Philippians 3:8-14
Matthew 5:13-16

Tuesday:
Isaiah 1:10, 16-20
Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday:
Jeremiah 18:18-20
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday:
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Luke 16:19-31

Friday:
Genesis 37:3-4,
12-13, 17-28
Matthew 21:33-43,
45-46

Saturday:
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:
Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42



The Catholic Parish of
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2nd Sunday of Lent
1st March 2026

The Word This Week

Lent is a Season of preparation for the whole Paschal Triduum – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday: not just a time to reflect on the Cross. Often our Lenten devotions can focus exclusively on the Cross, and the idea of Baptism can be lost. This is why the Church invites us to join the disciples in looking beyond the cross this Sunday: we see the glory of Easter, the glory of the resurrection and the glory of the baptised. We see all this in the Transfiguration: we are invited to recognise who Jesus is. It is the glorified Jesus, whom we will celebrate at Easter, who calls us to journey through Lent, just as God called Abram to journey far from his home. So the readings lead to us acknowledge that Lent is a very special 'calling', to follow the Lord of glory to the renewal of baptismal purity.



Mass Times 1st March 2026		
Sunday 1st March	Vigil - Saturday 28th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Sick and infirm Clergy
Monday 2nd	No Mass	
Tuesday 3rd	No Mass	
Wednesday 4th	No Mass	
Thursday 5th	No Mass And Exposition	
Friday 6th	No Mass	
Saturday 7th	Vigil Mass	4pm— Joe Moore
Sunday 8th March		11am – Parish & Pauline Healey
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Successful Operation and Speedy recovery for Sr Dolores

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

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.

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.

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 Thursday 12 March; 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

SCRIPTURE COURSE.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation Lent Services

On Wednesday 11th March, our children on the Sacramental Programme will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6.30pm. There will be an opportunity for anyone else who would like to take part in this Sacrament after 7.15pm.

This will also be available on Tuesday 24th March at 7pm at St. Joseph’s Reddish and on Thursday 26th March at 7pm at Holy Family Dane Bank.

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **Roger Place**. Our prayers and condolence go to his family and friends. Roger’s funeral service will be held on Friday 13th March at 1.30pm. May he rest in peace.

The death has occurred of **Raymond O’Kelly**, Our Prayers and condolence go to his family and friends, his Requiem Mass will be on Friday 20th March at 1pm, May he rest in Peace.

The death has occurred of **Bernard Hourihane**, our prayers and condolence go to his family and friends, his Requiem Mass will be on Monday 23rd March at 10am. May he rest in peace.



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.

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.

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: 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.



P	E	R	T	E	T	E	P	I	N
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P	O	O	O	S	U	M	T	H	M
J	L	M	M	O	E	M	O	S	S
C	A	S	E	S	S	E	O	M	E

JESUS
JOHN
SUN
TENTS

PETER
MOUNTAIN
MOSES
CLOUD

JAMES
FACE
ELIJAH
SHADOW