

Light for life

SUNDAY *Plus*

8 FEBRUARY 2026

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Day for Victims of Trafficking



I am thinking of the African Josephine Bakhita, canonised by Pope John Paul II. She was born around 1869 (she herself did not know the precise date) in Darfur in Sudan. At the age of nine, she was kidnapped by slave-traders, beaten till she bled, and sold five times in the slave-markets of Sudan. Eventually she found herself working as a slave for the mother and the wife of a general, and there she was flogged every day till she bled; as a result of this she bore 144 scars throughout her life. Finally, in 1882, she was bought by an Italian merchant for the Italian consul Callisto Legnani, who returned to Italy... Here, after the terrifying "masters" who had owned her up to that point, Bakhita came to know a totally different kind

of "master"... Up to that time she had known only masters who despised and maltreated her, or at best considered her a useful slave. Now, however, she heard that there is a [master] above all masters, the Lord of all lords, and that this Lord is good, goodness in person. She came to know that this Lord even knew her, that he had created her – that he actually loved her... Now she had "hope" – no longer simply the modest hope of finding masters who would be less cruel... "I am awaited by this Love. And so, my life is good." Through the knowledge of this hope, she was "redeemed", no longer a slave, but a free child of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, 2007, Spe Salvi, 3

Lord, fill my heart with your goodness.
Dwell in me and let me know your peace.
Enter into the dark places of my life –
there let there be light
that I may overflow with your love
and reflect your forgiveness
bringing forth the fruits of love and joy and peace.
Amen.

When you fall in love

If you fall in love then it's impossible to separate life and breath from prayer. Prayer is simply union with God. Prayer does not need words. When people are in love, they look at each other, look into each other's eyes... Neither of them talks... Such is the life of prayer with God. You enter into God and God enters into you, and the union is constant...

God's love is insatiable. He wants us to go into the depths of his heart. But his heart is fathomless. Our defencelessness means to do his will... It means to forgive all enemies, great or small. It means to be his reflection. To forgive everyone who in the smallest way upset or hurt us is to be a reflection of his loving heart. So to be defenceless and to forgive is to be free.

Catherine de Hueck Doherty, Poustinia

We want to be a synodal Church, a Church that moves forward, a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close above all to those who are suffering.

Pope Leo



Saints

St Martin de Porres: the embracer

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

Martin was the son of a black, freed woman and a Spanish grandee. In childhood, he experienced prejudice as local Indians were discriminated against and his father, ashamed of Martin's dark complexion, abandoned him. He recognised the need for social justice and by God's grace was able to bear the perceived inadequacy of his origins. Martin embodied a mix of races and heritages and saw beyond differences. He was a bridge-builder reaching out in compassion into another person's world to bring healing and unity. He healed a high-ranking Spanish official, thus showing the powerful the folly of division, oppression and hatred – all obstacles to receiving God's healing grace. He treated everyone regardless of their colour, race or status, including slaves brought from Africa. As a Dominican, he tended those forgotten, disenfranchised, maligned and overlooked by society. He begged for alms to feed one hundred and sixty poor people daily. Today, we are called to shun prejudice and embrace the humility and social justice modelled by Martin.

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



READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

Monday:
1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13
Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday:
1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30
Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday:
1 Kings 10:1-10
Mark 7:14-23

Thursday:
1 Kings 11:4-13
Mark 7:24-30

Friday:
1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19
Mark 7:31-37

Saturday:
1 Kings 12:26-32;
13:33-34
Mark 8:1-10

Next Sunday:
Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37



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Registered Charity no: 250037

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8th February 2026

The Word This Week

While the world may seem to be very indifferent to Christianity most of the time, it can be very critical of Christians who do not seem to be following the most basic tenet of their faith – to be a people of "good deeds", as Jesus teaches in today's portion of the Sermon on the Mount. While we may sometimes feel indignant about the world's criticism of our faults, we have to remember that we are in a vital relationship with "the world" – we are to be its light. This means that we should welcome the world's gaze and scrutiny of our actions and beliefs and we should, in a sense, be accountable to the world for the way we live. We should never be salt that loses its taste. This openness to the gaze of all is not for our own glory, however: it is so that others may find what we have found – their way to the Father.



Mass Times 8th February 2026		
Sunday 8th February	Vigil - Saturday 31st Sunday Morning	4pm - Mary Patricia Murray 11am - Parish
Monday 9th	Mass	9.30- William Kavanagh
Tuesday 10th	No Mass	
Wednesday 11th	Mass	9.30- Ella Krool Scripture Couse 6.30 .Parish Hall
Thursday 12th	Mass	6pm Exposition 6.30pm- Tom Lally
Friday 13th	Mass	9.30 - Agnes Richmond
Saturday 14th Sunday 15th	Vigil Mass	4pm- Parish 11am - Mary Patricia Murray
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :-

Ann Sophia Baguley (LD); Mark Johnson; Hilda Kavanagh (A); Joan Berry (A); Derek Griffin (A); Wilfred Appleton (A); Gabriella Mezzduone (90th Birthday); Tom Lally; Forgotten Souls; Wendy Ladley (LD)

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

Mass Offerings.

We only have a few Masses left in March for intentions. Once all the March Masses have been allocated, we will be sending any other Mass offerings to Fr Laurence Gambella, to offer on behalf of 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 11th February; 4th March; 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

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 on 19th February at 10am. May she rest in peace.

The death has occurred of Thomas Cassin. Our prayers and condolences go to his family and friends. Thomas’s funeral service will be held on 11th February at 12.30pm. May he rest in peace.

The death has occurred of Wendy Ladley. Our condolences go to her family and friends. Wendy’s funeral arrangements are to be confirmed may she rest in peace

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

Mass times for Ash Wednesday 18th February 2026 will be

9.30am and 6.30pm.

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 8th February 2026	
The Sanctuary	Clive Neill & Jessica Neill
Sacred Heart	Antonio Baccay
Our Lady	Parishioners of St Fisher Church unable to attend Mass



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

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 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.

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: 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.

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SALT
EARTH
TASTELESS
NOTHING
TRAMPLED
CITY
LIGHT
UNDERFOOT
HILLTOP
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SHINES
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PRAISE