

The real thirst

SUNDAY *Plus*

8 MARCH 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week III** Year A

England & Wales: Bible Sunday

Believe in life

Then said a rich man, Speak to us of Giving.

And he answered:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?...

And what is fear of need but need itself?

Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable?

There are those who give little of the much which they have – and they give it for recognition

and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue.

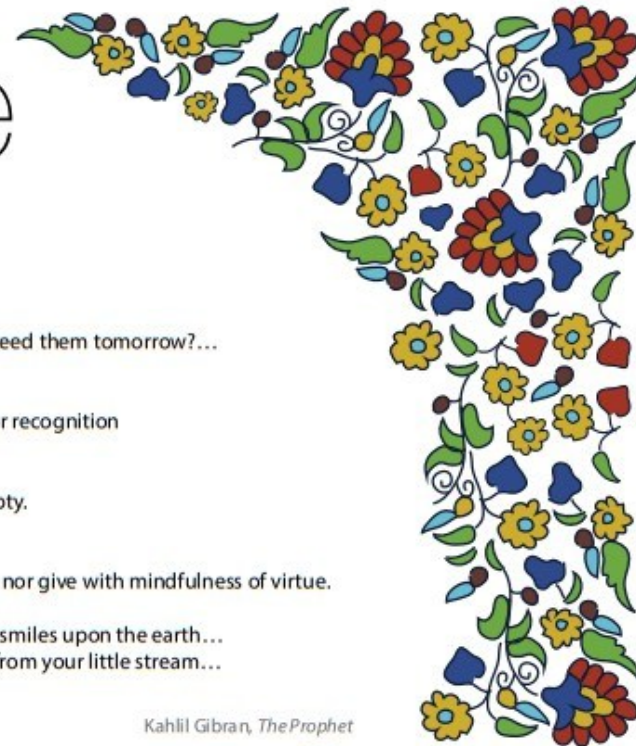
They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes. He smiles upon the earth...

And he who has deserved to drink from the ocean of life deserves to fill his cup from your little stream...

See first that you yourself deserve to be a giver, and an instrument of giving.

Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*



Dearest Jesus, living water, refresh my soul
and fill me with new life and love.  Amen.

Don't give up

I cannot pretend to understand God, but this is what I see: people who have moved from seeming success to seeming success seldom understand success at all, except a very limited version of their own. People who fail to do it right, by even their own definition of right, are those who often break through to enlightenment and compassion... It is God's greatest surprise and God's constant disguise, but you

only know it to be true by going through it and coming out the other side yourself. You cannot know it by just going to church, reading scriptures or listening to someone else talk about it, even if you agree with them... The surrender of faith does not happen in one moment but is an extended journey, a trust walk, a gradual letting go, unlearning and handing over. No-one does it on the first or even second try.

Richard Rohr OFM,
Breathing Under Water

Our prayer embraces all those peoples suffering because of war. Let us implore courage and perseverance for those engaged in dialogue and in the sincere search for peace.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week
Thursday 12 March

Blessed Rutilio Grande
García SJ (1928-1977)

The Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, might not have become a martyr for social justice and a saint had it not been for the influence and assassination of his close friend Fr Rutilio Grande García SJ. Rutilio Grande's death transformed Romero from a quiet, bookish, predictable archbishop into someone who was also a voice for the voiceless, impoverished, oppressed people of El Salvador.

Grande worked for social transformation through the creation of Basic Christian Communities, which led people to come together to share and live the Gospel – but in criticising the unjust political system, he made enemies of the authorities.

A death squad ambushed Grande's vehicle. He was shot twelve times. An elderly man who tried to shield the priest was also killed, as was a sixteen-year-old boy.

At the funeral, Romero declared, "The true reason for [Grande's] death was his prophetic and pastoral efforts to raise the consciousness of the people throughout his parish."

READINGS

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

Monday:
2 Kings 5:1-15
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday:
Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Matthew 18:21-35
Scotland: St John
Ogilvie (Feast):
Isaiah 50:5-9
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
John 12:24-26

Wednesday:
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday:
Jeremiah 7:23-28
Luke 11:14-23

Friday:
Hosea 14:2-10
Mark 12:28-34
Scotland: St John
Ogilvie (Feast):
Isaiah 50:5-9; 2
Corinthians 1:3-7
John 12:24-26

Saturday:
Hosea 5:15 – 6:6
Luke 18:9-14

Next Sunday:
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7,
10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



The Catholic Parish of
St Mary & St John Fisher,
Denton

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3rd Sunday of Lent
8th March 2026

The Word This Week

The Gospel of the third Sunday is the remarkable conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well, the theme is water - which gives life, which cleanses, which is so necessary. This reading forms part of the catechesis given before Baptism at Easter: the candidates who would go into the water are invited to reflect on what that means. But more necessary than the water which gives life is the water which gives eternal life - the water of baptism, the water flowing from Jesus' side on the cross. Even if your Church does not have any candidates preparing for Baptism, we will all renew our baptismal promises at Easter: we should take this opportunity to reflect on what baptism has given us, and what God has done for us in this gift.



Mass Times 8th March 2026		
Sunday 8th March	Vigil - Saturday 7th Sunday Morning	4pm - Joe Moore 11am - Parish & Pauline Healey
Monday 9th	Mass	9.30— Joe Moore
Tuesday 10th	No Mass	
Wednesday 11th	Mass	9.30— Ann Sophia Baguley (LD)
Thursday 12th	Mass	6pm Exposition 6.30pm—Mark Johnson 7pm-Scripture course
Friday 13th	Mass	9.30 - Hilda Kavanagh (A)
Saturday 14th Sunday 15th	Vigil Mass	4pm—Parish 11am – Derek Griffin
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :-
Sr Dolores; Special Intention; Tom Lally;

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 8th March 2026	
The Sanctuary	Thanksgiving for prayers answered
Sacred Heart	Sr Dolores
Our Lady	Anthony Scanlon

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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.

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have red mission boxes 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 appreciate your support and generosity. Thank you, Paula & Dorothy



Mass Offerings.

All Masses up to the end of March, have now been allocated. Any Masses received from now to the end of March, will be sent to Fr Laurence Gambella to be offer on behalf of our Parish

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of Roger Place. Our prayers and condolences 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 condolences go to his family and friends. Raymond’s Requiem mass will be on Friday 20th March at 1pm.

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



Faith In Action Quiz Night

Thankyou to everyone who supported this event last Friday. Everyone enjoyed themselves and £200 was raised for our Faith In Action group.

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.



E	L	T	H	U	S	B	A	D	N
S	E	L	L	E	W	O	M	A	N
W	Y	L	E	B	L	E	T	H	E
A	E	C	W	O	I	I	J	P	T
T	E	A	H	C	R	N	Y	E	E
E	L	T	T	A	C	H	K	S	S
R	R	H	M	J	R	C	N	O	O
D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I	J	J
I	S	Y	C	B	S	A	R	A	O
D	E	T	K	C	U	B	D	C	B

SAMARITAN	SYCHAR	JACOB
JOSEPH	WELL	WOMAN
WATER	DRINK	JEW
BUCKET	CATTLE	HUSBAND

