

Look where you're going

SUNDAY *Plus*

22 MARCH 2026

5th Sunday of Lent **Divine Office Week** | Year A

With shouts of glee the children filled the boat. The soldiers ferried them rapidly to the other side. They returned and more of the children piled in. On the third journey the soldier helped the foreign woman into the boat with the last group of children. His platoon had gathered around to help. As the boat moved away from the bank, he called his men to attention and gravely saluted. He called, "Good luck, foreigner!"...

He turned to walk back along the bank to his platoon... It was curious about that foreigner. If this had been close to a large city or a settlement, he could have understood it but wandering across a battlefield escorting an army of ragged Chinese children: that was, indeed, very curious.

They found a village two or three miles from the bank of the Yellow River and the people were hospitable to them. Although many hundreds of refugees had passed through, they still found food to spare for the children...

It was just as well, thought Gladys wearily, that they [the

To rescue the children

children] didn't worry about where the next meal was coming from.

They stayed in the village only long enough to finish the food and then moved on... They spent that night in the fields and went on again next morning to the town of Mien Chu. It, too, had been badly bombed, but an old woman directed her to a refugee organisation. She found it in the old temple; there were cauldrons of steaming food; they were made welcome.

Alan Burgess, The Inn of the Sixth Happiness

Image: Gladys Aylward with some of the children before they crossed the mountains to Sian © wikipedia.com



Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. Give eternal rest to the people whom I've known and loved and who have gone home to you.  Amen.

New directions

To save his friend Lazarus from dying of his sickness would have been miracle enough, but Jesus needed to go further...

It can also have, for us, a personal meaning... All too quickly can we think that there is nothing much we can do: "I'm just like that." We may want to be better but feel a change of life is simply beyond us. Remember Lazarus was dead,

decaying, buried. Yet Jesus could call him forth into a newness of life at will. Never think that our own will alone can make significant changes. Habits and weaknesses bind us fast. But the whole point of being a Christian is that it is not on ourselves that we rely. It is God who wills goodness for us and God who will achieve it in us. All we have to do is ask and, like the dead Lazarus, let God make everything different.

Sr Wendy, The Art of Faith

Let us pray that we can grow in humanity, so that our relationships may be truer and richer in compassion. Let us ask the Heart of Jesus for the grace increasingly to have the same feelings as him.

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Pope Leo XIV



READINGS

Today:
Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Monday:
Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62
John 8:1-11

Tuesday:
Numbers 21:4-9
John 8:21-30

Wednesday:
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Thursday:
Genesis 17:3-9
John 8:51-59

Friday:
Jeremiah 20:10-13
John 10:31-42

Saturday:
Ezekiel 37:21-28
John 11:45-56

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66

Feast of the week Wednesday 25 March Annunciation of the Lord Annunciation carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow,
with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

"For know, a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify
God's holy name."
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould



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

Parish Priest, Father Joseph Gee

Parish Sister, Sr Dolores

Office: St Mary's Presbytery, Duke Street, Denton, Manchester M34 2AN.

Tel: 0161 336 2358

Email: rcdenton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Website www.stmaryandstjohnfisherparish.co.uk

Registered Charity no: 250037

5th Sunday of Lent
22nd March 2026

The Word This Week

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith that the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds - what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.



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Mass Times 22nd March 2026		
Sunday 22nd March	Vigil - Saturday 21st Sunday Morning	4pm - Joan Berry (A) 11am - Parish
Monday 23rd	Mass	10am—Requiem Mass Bernard Hourihane
Tuesday 24th	Mass	10.30am-Requiem Mass Catherine Mannion
Wednesday 25th	Mass	9.30am –John McDonald (LD)
Thursday 26th	Mass	6pm—Wendy Ladley 7pm- Reconciliation Holy Family
Friday 27th	Mass	9.30am—Frank Byrne
Saturday 28th Sunday 29th March	Vigil Mass	4pm— Parish & Special Intention 11am – Sick & Infirm Clergy
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Laurance Byrne (A); Patrick Byrne (A); Thanksgiving; Irene Griffin, Florence Appleton and Ellen Palmer (Mother’s day Memories); Tom Lally; Forgotten Souls; Mary Stokes (Birthday memories); Repose of the soul of Debbie Greenwood (nee Griffiths) Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)	
Altar Prayer Candles W/C 22nd March 2026	
The Sanctuary	Sister Dolores
Sacred Heart	
Our Lady	Joan Berry

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

Recent deaths in our Parish

The following deaths have occurred in the Parish, our prayers and condolences go to their families and friends at this time.

Bernard Hourihane

Bernard’s Requiem Mass will be on Monday 23rd March at 10am.

Catherine Mary Mannion

Catherine’s Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 24th March at 10.30am and will be celebrated by Fr Eamonn Macahy

May they rest in peace.

Faith in Action—Lourdes Fundraising Raffle

The Faith in Action group will be selling tickets to fraise funds for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Tickets are available after the Sunday Masses, or from the Parish Office.

Tickets are £5 per strip of £2 for an individual ticket.

1st Prize—2 Tickets for Manchester City v Brentford, on Saturday 9th May.

2nd Prize—Legal Will, Curtesy of Mr John Galvin

3rd Prize—£30 voucher for a meal at the Dane Bank Pub.

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 very much appreciate your support and generosity.

Thank you, Paula & Dorothy

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.

Scripture Course

The next meeting will be Wednesday 1st April (Holy Week) at 6.30pm. At the meeting we will be showing a film on The Holy Sepulchre and Calvary.

CONFIRMATION

There will be two classes for our confirmation candidates. These will be on 18th and 25th April from 9.30am until 2.30pm.

New Offertory Envelopes

Please collect your envelopes for the new financial year from the back of church. You should search for your name and address, as envelope numbers change each year. If you are unable to find your box please contact the office. **The New envelopes start on Sunday 12th April.** Please use your current envelopes until this date.

Church Cleaning.

If you can spare an hour or so on **Wednesday 1st April**, to help clean the church in preparation for the Easter Celebrations. Please come to church at **10am** and speak to Christine Batty.

Many hands make light work.

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; 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.



A	M	A	R	T	A	H	R	A	M
S	I	T	E	E	F	A	L	B	A
R	S	E	Y	A	H	A	E	L	B
E	Y	U	A	T	Z	T	N	M	Y
T	R	O	R	A	H	E	O	S	T
S	A	A	P	A	R	T	T	R	E
I	M	A	N	Y	Z	U	S	U	B
S	U	Y	R	A	E	A	D	U	J
R	A	Z	A	L	A	Z	L	O	T
T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	E	R

LAZARUS

BETHANY

SISTERS

MARTHA

MARY

OINTMENT

FEET

BROTHER

JUDAEA

TOMB

STONE

PRAYER

