

Follow him

SUNDAY *Plus*

26 APRIL 2026

4th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

God, I love you!

Understanding prayer means understanding that one is speaking with God.

There are two poles, one very, very tiny and very, very weak: my soul. One immense and powerful: God. But here is the first paradox, the first surprise: that he who is so great should have wanted to speak to me, tiny as I am.

It is not I who wanted prayer. It is he who wanted it. It is not I who have looked for him. It is he who has looked for me first. My seeking him would have been in vain if before all time he had not sought me.

The hope on which my prayer rests is in the fact that it is he who wants it. And if I go to keep the appointment it is because he is already there waiting for me. If he

had remained in his silence and isolation, I'd have not been able to break mine... I've been speaking with God all my life; and I've only just begun!

There's another thing to say about prayer. It doesn't come from earth but from heaven. The cry which fills my breast and makes me exclaim "God, I love you!"... When I bow before his love, he is not slow to come; rather he has already come, for he loves me much more than I, poor creature, can ever love him.

And love shows itself in action... the soul must say with sincerity, "now I will arise and go to my Father."

Carlo Carretto, *Letters from the Desert*



Lord, let me follow you in all of life's ups and downs, joys and sorrows, successes and failures. Stay close to me at every moment of every day.  Amen.

In whatever the Lord calls us to do, in both our daily lives and our journey of faith, there are times when we feel inadequate. [Jesus] tells us not to rely on our own abilities but on the mercy of the Lord who has chosen us, and to be certain that the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us all things.

Pope Leo XIV

God calls

As Ignatius had a love for fiction, when he found himself out of danger, he asked for some romances to pass away the time. In that house there was no book of the kind. They gave him, instead, *The Life of Christ*, by Rudolf, the Carthusian, and another book called *The Flowers of the Saints*, both in Spanish. By frequent reading of these books, he began to get some love for spiritual things...

While perusing the life of Our Lord and the saints, he began to reflect, saying to himself, "What if I should do what St Francis did?" "What if I should like act like St Dominic?" He pondered over these things in his mind and kept continually proposing to himself serious and difficult things. He seemed to feel a certain readiness for doing them, with no other reason except this thought, "St Dominic did this; I, too, will do it" "Saint Francis did this; therefore, I will do it."

Autobiography of St Ignatius of Loyola

Feast of the week
Thursday 30 April

Blessed Dr José Gregorio Hernandez

Exactly five years ago today, this Venezuelan doctor and bacteriologist was beatified.

Known as the "doctor of the poor", Blessed Gregorio treated the poor for free and frequently paid for their medicines with his own money. "Most of these people do not have resources," he told his aunt María Luisa, explaining why he kept a moneybag inside his medical bag wherein his patients could either deposit what they could afford or help themselves to funds for their daily needs. "I am not going to deny them the consultation, and I am not going to make them go through the pain of telling me that they have no money," he said. "God will help."

Blessed Gregorio was accidentally hit by a car and died of head injuries as he left a pharmacy after collecting a poor woman's medicines.

The day before the beatification, Pope Francis said that he had never met a Venezuelan "who, halfway through the conversation, did not finally say to me: 'When will Gregorio be beatified?'"

READINGS

Today:
Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

Monday:
Acts 11:1-18
John 10:11-18

Tuesday:
Acts 11:19-26
John 10:22-30

Wednesday:
Acts 12:24 - 13:5
John 12:44-50

Thursday:
Acts 13:13-25
John 13:16-20

Friday:
Genesis 1:26b - 2:3
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday:
Acts 13:44-52
John 14:7-14

Next Sunday:
Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12



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

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4th Sunday of Easter
26th April 2026

The Word This Week

This Sunday is traditionally called 'Good Shepherd Sunday', because of the Gospel references to Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is also the day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood. On this Sunday we hear one of the great 'I am' statements of Jesus from Saint John's Gospel today 'I am the gate of the sheepfold'. Through Jesus we enter into life and safety, and we 'go through Jesus, the gate' by baptism. This image is implied in all today's readings: the people listening to Peter find this gateway and enter through it: Peter writes to remind us that we have come back to the Good Shepherd, who heals us by his wounds.



Mass Times 26th April 2026		
Sunday 26th April	Vigil - Saturday 25th Sunday Morning	4pm - Noel Ward (LD) 11am - Parish
Monday 27th	Requiem Mass	10.30am— Tony Moss
Tuesday 28th	No Mass	
Wednesday 29th	Requiem Mass	10.30am – Noel Ward (LD)
Thursday 30th	Exposition Mass	6pm 6.30pm— Noel Ward (LD)
Friday 1st	Mass	9.30am— Shiela Lake
Saturday 2nd Sunday 3rd	Vigil Mass	4pm— Parish 11am – Sick & Infirm Clergy
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Shelia Lakes (A)

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 26th April 2026	
The Sanctuary	Sister Dolores
Sacred Heart	Anthony Scanlon
Our Lady	Thank for Recovery

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 6th May; 11th June

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **Tony Moss**, our prayers and condolence go to his family and friends. Tony’s Requiem Mass will be on Monday 27th April at 10.30am. May he rest in peace.

The death has occurred of **Graham (Noel) Ward**, Our Prayers and condolence go to his family and Friends. Noel’s Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 29th April at 10.30am. May he rest in peace



Sister Colette

The death has occurred of Sister Colette. Sister was in the Order of the Presentation Sisters which is the same Order as Sister Dolores and she lived in Audenshaw. Many people from our Parish will know Sister Colette because she was the Chaplin at Tameside hospital for many years. Please could you remember Sister Colette in your prayers.

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.

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 started on Sunday 12th April.**

Faith in Action—Lourdes Fundraising Raffle

The Faith in Action group will be selling tickets to raise 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—£50 towards a meal at the Dane Bank Pub.

A Man for All Seasons

We have chance for some tickets to see A Man for All Seasons at The Lowry Theatre on Saturday 7th November at 2pm. Ticket price is £38.00. Anyone who would like to place a Register of Interest in this event (this does not guarantee you a ticket) Please put your name on the list at the back of church.

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; 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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H	T	E	E	F	I	L	F	H	E
S	A	F	H	C	E	F	E	S	T
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SHEEPFOLD THIEF BRIGAND
SHEPHERD FLOCK GATEKEEPER
STRANGER PARABLE PASTURE
STEAL KILL LIFE

