

Bloom where you're planted

SUNDAY *Plus*

12 JULY 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week III** Year A



As yet, we seem incapable of recognising that the destruction of nature does not affect everyone in the same way. When justice and peace are trampled underfoot, those who are most hurt are the poor, the marginalised and the excluded. The suffering of indigenous communities is emblematic in this regard.

That is not all. Nature itself is reduced at times to a bargaining chip, a commodity to be bartered for economic or political gain. As a result, God's creation turns into a battleground for the control of vital resources. We see this in agricultural areas and forests peppered with landmines, "scorched earth" policies, conflicts over water sources, and the unequal distribution of raw materials, which penalises the poorer nations and undermines social stability itself...

Environmental justice... is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice – social, economic and human. For believers it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed...

By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope. It may well take years for this plant to bear its first fruits, years that, for their part, involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love, especially if that love mirrors the Lord's own self-sacrificing Love.

Leo XIV, Message for the Tenth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 2025

Loving Lord, sow your Word in my heart. May I be good soil, bearing fruit in faith. Bless all who sail the seas – guide, protect, and nourish them with your love.  Amen.

On Sea Sunday...



Loving God, we thank you for the gift of the sea and for all who work upon it.

Bless the seafarers who sail far from home, bringing us the goods and resources we need each day. Grant them safe passage through calm and storm, strength in times of loneliness and hope when the journey feels long.

Bless the chaplains, ship visitors, and volunteers of Stella Maris, who offer welcome, comfort, and care to those in need. May their kindness be a beacon of your love in every port.

On this Sea Sunday, we remember the families waiting on distant shores. Hold them in your peace until they are reunited. Amen.

Jesus lived and prayed around the Sea of Galilee. That is where he called his first disciples in the setting of their daily lives and work.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week Sunday 12 July

St John Jones (1530-1592)

St John Jones, born around 1530 in Clynog Fawr, Wales, was a Franciscan priest and one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. Amid fierce persecution under Queen Elizabeth I, Jones ministered to Catholics in London and the countryside, offering sacraments in secret. Arrested in 1596 by notorious and sadistically cruel priest-hunter Richard Topcliffe, he endured brutal torture and two years of imprisonment. Despite his intense suffering, he remained steadfast in faith, encouraging fellow prisoners like John Rigby, who also became a martyr. On 12 July 1598, Jones was executed at St Thomas' Waterings, Southwark: hanged, drawn and quartered for the "crime" of being a Catholic priest. Before his death, he preached to the gathered crowd, affirming his loyalty to God and the Church. Canonised in 1970 by Pope Paul VI, his courage and compassion continue to inspire those who seek justice, mercy and unwavering spiritual conviction.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

Monday:
Isaiah 1:10-17
Matthew 10:34 – 11:1

Tuesday:
Isaiah 7:1-9
Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday:
Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16
Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday:
Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
Matthew 11:28-30

Friday:
Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday:
Micah 2:1-5
Matthew 12:14-21

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23



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

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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 12th July 2026

The Word This Week

The Gospel today is the beginning of a new section in Matthew, called 'The Parabolic Discourse' - a section of parables Jesus tells the crowd, which we will read over the next three weeks. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning: we can easily remember the story, and gradually the true meaning becomes clearer and clearer. Today is a famous example: the Parable of the Sower. In itself it is a story that would easily be understood by Jesus's audience - people who lived in an agricultural economy. Jesus uses their understanding to make an important teaching about the message he has brought: it is like a seed that is thrown out and received in different ways - the ideal is when the seed finds good soil, and produces a crop that can be seen and harvested: so the ideal listener to the word is one who allows it to lodge in the heart, but also produces a visible result. What is the harvest we should yield, when we have heard the word?



Mass Times 12th July 2026		
Sunday 12th July	Vigil - Saturday 12th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Trudy Mitchell (A)
Monday 13th	Mass	9.30 – Marie Brennan
Tuesday 14th	No Mass	
Wednesday 15th	No Mass	
Thursday 16th	No Mass in the Parish Today	
Friday 17th	Mass	9.30-Forgotten Souls
Saturday 18th Sunday 19th	Vigil Mass	4pm– Ashley Carter Lawlor (LD) 11am – Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Bernard Coates (RIP); Margaret Salmon (LD); Paul Dean x 2 (RIP); Eric Meade (A); Tom Lally RIP); Alan Vann (BM); Alan Appleton, Derek Griffin & Wilfred Appleton (Fathers day Memories);

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 12th July 2026	
The Sanctuary	Clive Page RIP
Sacred Heart	Lil Orme, Special Intentions
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

Parish Sacramental Programme 2026/2027

If you would like your child to be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion through the Parish Sacramental Programme, commencing September 2026, there will be a meeting for all parents whose children are

- **Baptised Roman Catholics (evidence of Baptism will be required)**
- **Aged 7 or above**

On Thursday 17th September 2026 at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Parish Hall,

Book on the history of the Diocese of Salford presented to Pope Leo

Monsignor John Allen has harnessed his love of the geography and history of our diocese, by penning a special book which is being sold in aid of our diocesan charity Caritas Salford. The book, A Poplar History of the Diocese of Salford, was presented to Pope Leo recently, and you can read about it, or get a copy for yourself or someone else, on the Caritas Salford website: www.caritassalford.org.uk/pope-leo-book

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **Bernard Coates**. Our prayers and condolences go to his family and friends. Bernard’s Funeral Service is at 11am on Wednesday 22nd July. May he rest in peace.

The death has occurred of **Stephen Potts**. Our prayers and condolences go to his family and friends. Stephen’s Requiem Mass will be held on Monday 27th July 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.

Help end Child Poverty in our Parishes

Child poverty is increasing in our area, with latest statistics from the government showing almost one in three children are growing up in poverty. Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford supports local families facing crisis and is asking us to join them in taking action to help. There are lots of different ways you and your parish can get involved. Please visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/endchildpoverty to find out more.

Lost Property:

We have recently found an item of Jewellery after one of the weekend Masses, if you have lost something, please contact the parish office, with a description of your lost Item. We would like to return this to the rightful owner

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.

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	E	S	D	R	I	B	R	F	S
E	S	D	E	E	S	O	E	E	E
A	R	C	K	E	O	L	W	L	E
S	A	S	O	S	L	I	O	A	S
R	E	D	H	R	T	I	S	K	E
P	S	W	C	H	C	H	O	E	D
R	O	O	E	S	T	H	K	S	S
S	N	R	O	H	T	R	E	I	I
E	E	C	C	T	R	E	A	D	B
D	S	T	O	O	R	T	A	E	R

LAKESIDE	CROWDS	SOWER
SEEDS	BIRDS	SOIL
EARTH	SCORCHED	ROOTS
WITHERED	THORNS	CROP

