

Bring us bread – and roses

SUNDAY *Plus*

19 JULY 2026

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

Divine Mercy Sunday

They didn't walk alone

Liverpool at the time had a population of about 210,000. But 1847 saw the Irish potato famine at its height, and some 300,000 people in this single year paid the sixpence fare to flee to Liverpool. There, those that stayed – some 60,000 to 80,000 – found themselves living in appalling poverty, in overcrowded and insanitary courts, alleys and cellars. Epidemics of fever, cholera, and dysentery ran rampant...

The number of orphans skyrocketed, and homeless children were everywhere, with some 23,000 running wild along Liverpool docks... "Nobody's Children", who, as [Fr James Nugent] said: "roam unheeded about those crowded thoroughfares and along those five miles of docks, desolate and homeless wanderers, without a heart to love them or a hand to guide them. They prowl about that busy city, the keen and cunning succeeding by various devices to live, whilst others suffer all the hardships of hunger and absolute want."

"In the long cold winter nights, when the snow lies thick upon the ground, and the stormy winter's blast makes comfortable luxury draw close to the fireside, the birds of the air have their resting places,

and the very dogs their warm kennels, but these poor little ones huddle together under railway arches, in empty boxes, over bakers' ovens; in fact, anywhere to get a little heat and protection from the frosty and nipping night air. How many die of actual starvation and are buried in the paupers' heap without a mourner to follow their coffin, or a single tear shed over their grave?"

For children, the streets became "the schools of crime". Yet Fr Nugent saw not only potential criminals in the making, but "genius and talent running to waste in the gutters"... opening "Ragged Schools", of which some thirty-two existed by 1853. They provided shelter, food and clothing, and endeavoured to find work for the children. Since the children still had to fend for themselves at night, the next step was the creation of night shelters and refuges, which later added the teaching of trades...

Such work could not be accomplished by one man alone, and Fr Nugent was able to enlist the help not only of other clergy but concerned lay people and various associations – not all of which were Catholic. Fr Nugent welcomed the help

of all charitable people.

As noted by Canon Bennett, "To enlist the aid of enlightened Protestantism in Liverpool for the salvation of the child was Fr Nugent's greatest service to the Church in Liverpool, if not the whole of England. It broke down barriers, scotched prejudice where it did not make it hang its head in shame, created a more tolerant atmosphere, and... brought about the recognition of the social work performed by the priests of the town, and its influence on the character of the Catholic citizens."

Andrew Seddon,
This England, 5 August 2020



Fr James Nugent, Wikipedia

Feast of the week
Wednesday 22 July

St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene, a devoted follower of Jesus, is celebrated as the Apostle to the Apostles for her profound witness to Christ's resurrection. Originating from Magdala near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus healed her by apparently casting out seven demons, symbolising her deep spiritual restoration. Mary became a steadfast disciple, supporting Jesus' ministry and remaining with him through his passion. She stood at the foot of the cross when others fled, and on Easter morning, she was the first to encounter the risen Christ. Her experience in the garden, where Jesus called her by name, marks a pivotal moment of recognition and mission. Though often misidentified as a repentant sinner, modern scholarship distinguishes her as a woman of courage, faith and leadership. She invites us to embrace healing and proclaim hope. Her faithfulness to Jesus even in sorrow and uncertainty, exemplifies a woman's ability to support someone she loves, regardless of the personal cost.

Pope Leo XIV

Lord Jesus, teach me to listen, love and rest in your presence, but let me not forget the needs of the people around me.  Amen.

I encourage you to remain committed and present: present within history as a leaven of unity, communion and fraternity.



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

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 19th July 2026

The Word This Week

There is no room in a good field for weeds and rubbish: so in the Kingdom of Heaven, there is no room for 'all things that provoke offences, and all who do evil'. They must be got rid of, for the sake of the good wheat, for the sake of the good subjects of the kingdom. But this weeding out will not take place until harvest time - in case one piece of good wheat is destroyed with the weeds. This shows the mercy of God: everyone has chance after chance to prove that they are wheat, not dandelion; there are no quick judgements in the kingdom of heaven, and things are never as black and white as we think. Only at the end of time will evil stand out clearly, so that it can be disposed of, and only the Son of Man can judge.



Mass Times 19th July 2026		
Sunday 19th July	Vigil - Saturday 12th Sunday Morning	4pm - Ashley Carter Lawlor (LD) 11am - Parish
Monday 20th	No Mass	School Mass at St John Fisher school
Tuesday 21st	No Mass	
Wednesday 22nd	Funeral Service	11am— Funeral Service for Bernard Coates
Thursday 23rd	Exposition Mass	6.pm 6.30pm—John Lally
Friday 24th	Mass	9.30— Margaret Salmon (LD)
Saturday 25th Sunday 26th	Vigil Mass	4pm— Parish 11am – Paul Dean
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Thanksgiving for Margaret McGlen (90th Birthday); Cath Lenihan (BM); Mary Winifred Anning (Freda) (LD); Steve Potts (LD)

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 19th July 2026	
The Sanctuary	
Sacred Heart	Paul Lowe, 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.



Mass Intentions.

Any Mass intentions received from now til the end of August, will be forwarded to Fr Laurence Gambella, to be said on behalf of the Parish. Due to holidays and limited Masses in the Parish, all Masses have now been allocated up to the end of August.

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.

Love knitting, crocheting, sewing or making?

Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, is looking for creative parishioners who might be able to help them raise funds to help support people in our parish communities who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. They’re looking for people who can either make items to sell in aid of the charity, or groups of people from our parishes who can be paired with local schools to help knit hats and scarves for pupils to wear in their Big Sleep Out fundraisers. If you can help, please get in touch with the team at fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk or call 0161 817 2250.

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.

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.



Join the Catholic Medical Association

Whether you are a doctor, nurse, student, or allied professional – if you are a Catholic in healthcare, join us to grow in fellowship, prayer and formation together.

For more information & upcoming events, visit: <https://catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk>

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PARABLE
SEED
FIELD
ENEMY
DARNEL
WHEAT
SPROUTED
SERVANTS
WEED
BUNDLES
BURNT
BARN