

Not less than everything

SUNDAY *Plus*

26 JULY 2026

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year A

World Day of Prayer for
Grandparents & the Elderly

God is thrillingly present



Most of us could draw up a list of experiences which have led us to believe vividly in the presence of God. Everyone would have his own personal testimony, though it is well to remember that in the last analysis these experiences are incommunicable. My own list would consist in grand experiences like the sight of the Alps one winter's morning from an aeroplane, 20,000 feet up – silent and fast, majestically independent of humanity; but also in the sight of tiny delicate things like a newborn baby's fingernails. Both the huge, panoramic exposure and the immensely delicate "workmanship" of the fingernail thrill me with God's presence.

God is even more thrillingly present in human relationships, and, like most people, my list of positive experiences of God would chiefly consist in the experiences I have been given of human trust and friendship. Inevitably we take love's existence for granted, but it is, in fact, an almost miraculous experience. This ability to enter into someone else's life and become an accepted partner there, coupled with the ability to let the other person enter into our life and share our inner life with us – all this seems to be something divine, because it seems to come from a different centre from the rest of life on this planet. Love can totally transform a life from the inside while the external circumstances remain the same. There is a presence of God in that, one which it is not difficult to recognise and adore.

John Dalrymple, *Costing Not Less Than Everything*: notes on holiness today

Our affection for our loved ones – for the wife or husband with whom we have spent so much of our lives, for our children, for our grandchildren who brighten our days – does not fade when our strength wanes.

Pope Leo XIV

Becoming a grandmother

What was your first response [to the birth of your first grandchild] and how did you feel at that first meeting? You probably, like so many grandmothers, felt a renewed sense of wonder and overwhelming love and peace at the reality of the birth. That moment marks a deep change in you, as well as your newborn grandchild. There are now three generations instead of two, and you have shifted to a new

place in the family tree. As your status changes from mother to grandmotherhood, you are presented with a whole new set of challenges, unique to your individual circumstances... Therefore, go easy on yourself. Recognise the enormity of what has happened and its impact on you, then give this new experience time to settle into your heart, your daily life and your faith life. Above all, pray – and keep praying – for God's guidance over the coming days, weeks, months and years.

Catherine Wiley,
Being a Catholic Grandmother

Lord of hidden treasure, bless our elders, the keepers of wisdom and faith. May we cherish our grandparents and the lasting richness they have brought into our lives.  Amen.

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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 26th July 2026

The Word This Week

What a gift it is, to be able to recognise the true value of things, and choose those which will last forever and bring us true happiness! Solomon, renowned for wisdom, is able to make the right choices when offered the chance to have anything he wants. What would we choose? The parable in the Gospel tells us that, in a sense, the choice is already before us: we can see the kingdom of heaven waiting for us: it is of greater value than anything else, and so all our hearts should be set on it. Nothing should stand in our way.



www.stmaryandstjohnfisherparish.co.uk

Mass Times 26th July 2026		
Sunday 26th July	Vigil - Saturday 26th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Paul Dean (RIP)
Monday 27th	Requiem Mass	10am – Stephen Potts
Tuesday 28th	No Mass	
Wednesday 29th	Mass	9.30 - Eric Meade
Thursday 30th	No Mass	
Friday 31st	No Mass	
Saturday 1st August Sunday 2nd	Vigil Mass	4pm – Sick & Infirm Clergy 11am – Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Tom Lally (RIP); Forgotten Souls; Ernest Jones (A, 30th July); Margaret Salmon x 2 (LD); Anthony (Tony) Moran (recent operation and recovery)

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 26th July 2026	
The Sanctuary	Special Intention
Sacred Heart	Tom Lally (RIP)
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,

Recent deaths in our Parish

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.

The death has occurred of **Kevin Tippetts**. Our prayers and condolences go to his family and friends. Kevin’s Requiem Mass will be held on Monday 10th August at 10.30am. May he rest in peace



Mass Intentions.

Any Mass intentions received from now until 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.

A Man for all Seasons

For all those who have put their names down for a Ticket for “A Man for all Seasons”, payment needs to be sent into the Parish Office by **Friday 7th August**. Please put your name and number of tickets you have ordered, on an envelope, with the payment inside and put it through the door of the Presbytery. **Ticket price is £38.**

Thank you.

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.

Food Bank Donations

Demand is high at our local food bank at the moment. Especially with the start of school holidays, Some families are struggling, if you are able to donate a little to the Food banks, this will go a long way to ease the pressure on some families day to day lives. There is a box at the back of church.

Suggested items needed:

Tinned Vegetables; corned Beef; Curry; stew’ spaghetti; soup; Long life milk; tea; coffee; sugar Jars of Pasta or Curry sauces; Rice; Savoury Rice; Noodles; Smash; Jam; Cordial; Dried food; cereal; etc

Thank you for your continued support

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>

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.



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TREASURE
MERCHANT
HAUL
ANGELS

FIELD
PEARL
FISHERMEN
FURNACE

HAPPY
DRAGNET
BASKET
SCRIBE

