

A heart that hears

SUNDAY *Plus*

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year A

2 AUGUST 2026

Hearts that listened



The great mystery of the Incarnation, which meant that God became man that humanity might become God, was the joy that made us want to kiss the earth in worship, because his feet once trod that same earth... he was born in a stable, that he did not come to be a temporal king as he worked with his hands, spent the first years of his life in exile, and the rest of his early manhood in a crude carpenter shop in Nazareth... He trod the roads in his public life, and the first men he called were fishermen, small owners of boats and nets. He was familiar with the migrant worker and the proletariat, and some of his parables dealt with them. He spoke of the living wage, not equal pay for equal work, in the parable of those who came at the

first and the eleventh hour.

He died between two thieves because he would not be made an earthly king. He lived in an occupied country for thirty years without starting an underground movement or trying to get out from under a foreign power... And he directed his sublime words to the poorest of the poor, to the people who thronged the towns and followed after John the Baptist, who hung around, sick and poverty-stricken at the doors of rich men...

We did not feel that Christ meant we should remain silent in the face of injustice and accept it even though he said, "The poor you shall always have with you."

Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness

Dear brothers and sisters, how we look at others is what counts, because it shows what is in our hearts. We can look and walk by, or we can look and be moved with compassion.

Pope Leo XIV

Being faithful

Being faithful is not never losing one's way, never fighting, never falling. It is always getting up and going on again. It is wanting to follow to the end the route that you have decided on and mapped out together. It is trusting each other, beyond the darkness and shadows. It is supporting one another, beyond the falls and bruises. It is having faith in the total power of God's love, beyond human love itself.

Michel Quoist, The Breath of Love

Compassionate Jesus, you feed those who are hungry and heal those who are broken. There are so many people who are hungry for love and broken by suffering. Comfort and strengthen them.  Amen.

Feast of the week Wednesday 5 August

Our Lady of Africa

Our Lady of Africa is a cherished title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, venerated especially in the Basilica of Notre-Dame d'Afrique in Algiers. Represented as a Black Madonna, she embodies maternal compassion and solidarity with the peoples of Africa. The devotion began in the mid-nineteenth century, when missionaries sought Mary's intercession for peace, healing and unity across the continent. Her statue, crowned in 1876, bears the inscription, "Our Lady of Africa, pray for us and for the Muslims" – a powerful call to interreligious harmony. She is Patroness of Africa, a symbol of hope amid suffering, and a spiritual refuge for all who seek mercy. Her feast invites us to entrust our prayers to her maternal care, especially for justice, reconciliation, and the flourishing of faith communities. May Our Lady of Africa continue to guide the Church in its mission of love and peace.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 55:1-3
Romans 8:35, 37-39
Matthew 14:13-21

Monday:
Jeremiah 28:1-17
Matthew 14:22-36

Tuesday:
Jeremiah 30:1-2,
12-15, 18-22
Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday:
Jeremiah 31:1-7
Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday:
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Peter 1:16-19
Luke 9:28-36

Friday:
Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday:
Habakkuk 1:12 – 2:4
Matthew 17:14-20

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 55:1-3
Romans 8:35, 37-39
Matthew 14:13-21



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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 2nd August 2026

The Word This Week

Divine providence is a wonderful thing: God is so generous with his creation (it is human greed that denies some their rightful share). The Kingdom of God is the time and place when this vision will be fully realised, when all who wish may 'come to the water', when all who are hungry may 'eat as much as they want', when what is left over is still enough for all the twelve tribes of Israel. Our contemplation of the kingdom of God, through the parables and miracles of Jesus, should stir us up to build this kingdom here and now. The miracle of Divine providence is allowed to work when human greed and selfishness give way to the power of the Spirit working within us, and we share all we have with those in need. Our hearts are set on the kingdom of God, where there is corn and wine and milk in abundance.



Mass Times 2nd August 2026		
Sunday 2nd August	Vigil - Saturday 26th Sunday Morning	4pm - Sick & Infirm Clergy 11am Parish
Monday 3rd	No Mass	
Tuesday 4th	No Mass	
Wednesday 5th	No Mass	
Thursday 6th	Exposition Mass	6pm 630pm-Paul Dean
Friday 7th	Mass	9.30am –Wilfred Appleton
Saturday 8th Sunday 9th	Vigil Mass	4pm– Tom Lally 11am – Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Stephen Potts (LD); Georgina Kerwin (A); Tom Lally (RIP); Michael Lally (RIP)

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

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.

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 **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.

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>

Lourdes at Home

The 92nd Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop John, will take place from Thursday 30 July - Wednesday 5 August. If you are not able to join us in Lourdes, please be assured of our prayers for all in the diocese during our time on pilgrimage.

You can still participate in our celebrations of Mass via 'Lourdes at Home'. This year we will be live-streaming extra Masses in the programme so that those not with us in person can still join in our Masses and processions. All live streaming links, liturgy sheets and the programme for the week can be found on the 'Lourdes at Home' page of our website - www.salfordlourdes.co.uk. We hope you can join us

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

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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V	G	N	I	S	S	E	L	B	O
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E	I	M	U	C	H	W	A	G	H
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ASHORE

SICK

VILLAGES

FIVE

LOAVES

FISH

BLESSING

SCRAPS

TWELVE

BASKETS

NUMBERED

THOUSAND