

"But who do you say that I am?"

SUNDAY *Plus*

23 AUGUST 2026

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year A

God, you are *my* God!

I should like to speak with you, my God, and yet what else can I speak of but you? Indeed, could anything at all exist which had not been present with you from all eternity, which didn't have its true home and most intimate explanation in your mind and heart? Isn't everything I ever say really a statement about you?

On the other hand, if I try, shyly and hesitantly to speak to you about yourself, you will still be hearing about me. For what could

I say about you except that you are my God, the God of my beginning and end, God of my joy and my need, God of my life?...

But what am I really saying, when I call you my God, the God of my life? That you are the meaning of my life? The goal of my wanderings? The consecration of my actions? The judgement of my sins? The bitterness of my bitter hours and my most secret joy? My strength, which turns my own strength into weakness?...

What else is there that I can tell you about yourself, except that you are the one without whom I cannot exist, the eternal God from whom alone I, a creature of time, can draw the strength to live, the Infinity who gives meaning to my finiteness?... I am the one who belongs, not to himself, but to you. I know no more than this about myself, nor about you, O God of my life.

Karl Rahner SJ, *Encounters with Silence*



What great need there is to promote an encounter with God, whose tender love values and loves the story of every person! It is not a matter of giving hasty answers to difficult questions, but of drawing close to people, listening to them, and trying to understand together with them how to face their difficulties.

Pope Leo XIV

The choice is yours...

Miriam had two mirrors. She polished one daily and hid the other in the attic. The polished mirror showed every wrinkle, freckle and change. The other, which was cracked and dusty, Miriam used when she wished to appear younger and prettier.

One day, a passing traveller asked, "Tell me, how do you know who you are?" She showed him the polished mirror. "This shows

me my truth," she said. "It does not flatter, but it does not lie." Then she revealed its companion: "This shows me what I wish to be – but only in shadows."

The traveller smiled. "Then you always have two choices: to greet yourself as you are, or to chase an image that is unreal."

That night, Miriam discarded the cracked mirror and, in future, used only the honest mirror. Although it revealed her ageing, it also showed her growing wisdom and kindness, her laughter lines and smiles.

Lord, it's so easy to see my reflection in the mirror and to miss the true loveliness you have placed in my heart. Teach me to find myself in you.  Amen.

Feast of the week Friday 24 August St Augustine (354-430)

St Augustine of Hippo stands as one of the most profound theologians in Christian history. Born in Roman North Africa, he journeyed from youthful restlessness to deep conversion, guided by the prayers of his mother, St Monica. Baptised by St Ambrose in Milan, Augustine became Bishop of Hippo and a towering figure in the Church. His writings – *Confessions* and *City of God* – explore grace, free will and the human longing for truth. He taught that our hearts are restless until they rest in God, a message that still resonates today. Augustine's theology shaped Western Christianity, and his pastoral care reflected deep compassion and intellectual rigour. His feast invites us to think about how grace can transform our life and on the importance of looking for God's – not worldly – wisdom. St Augustine reminds us that no soul is beyond redemption, and that God's mercy can turn even wandering hearts into vessels of holiness.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 22:15, 19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 18:13-20

Monday:
Apocalypse 21:9-14
John 1:45-51

Tuesday:
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3,
14-17
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday:
2 Thessalonians 3:6-
10, 16-18
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday:
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday:
1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday:
Jeremiah 1:17-19
Mark 8:17-29

Next Sunday:
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 18:21-27



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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 23rd August 2026

The Word This Week

There is a very simple theme to this Sunday's readings: it is the principle of authority in the community of the Church: we are introduced to the idea that God gives authority to someone in the first reading, where Shebna is dismissed by God and replaced. This is a prelude to the Gospel story of Peter being given authority: not because he is powerful or wise in the world's sense, but because he was able to profess his faith in the one sent by the Father. This is the principle of all authority in the Church: it is to spring only from God and our faith in God, professed by our way of life and rooted only in Christ, for 'to him all authority, in heaven and on earth, has been given.'



Mass Times 23rd August 2026		
Sunday 23rd August	Vigil - Saturday 22nd	4pm - Margaret McGlen (90th Birthday)
	Sunday Morning	11am - Parish
Monday 24th	Funeral Service	11am—Lydia Caldwell
Tuesday 25th	No Mass	
Wednesday 26th	No Mass	
Thursday 27th	No Mass	
Friday 28th	No Mass	
Saturday 29th	Vigil Mass	4pm— Parish
Sunday 30th		11am - Cath Lenihan (BM)
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Jim Farricker (LD); Tom Lally (RIP)

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

Please pray for the intentions this week. Seven Day Candles have been lit at St Mary’s at these altars. 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.

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,

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>

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

Cemetery Mass at St Mary's, Wardley

A Mass to remember loved ones who have died will be taking place at 11am on **Monday 31st August (Bank Holiday)** at St Mary’s Cemetery, Wardley. All are welcome to join as we come together in faith to remember our loved ones.

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.

Jubilee of Youth

Our Jubilee of Jubilee series continues this August by following the journey of young adults of our diocese who travelled to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee of Youth. From radio broadcasts, to video reflections, and written articles, this month’s resources invite you to journey with our young pilgrims as they learn more about discovering and sharing the hope of Christ throughout our pilgrimage of life. Begin reflecting with us today at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/calendar/>

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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