

Love changes everything

SUNDAY *Plus*

30 AUGUST 2026

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year A



We are afraid to listen to the reasoning of the heart because it embraces pure reason and commonsense rationality and leads them out beyond their own limits to the totally new and unexpected. Reason itself cautions prudence: stay as you are, keep to the beaten track, hold on, risk nothing; what you have may be all there is. It tells us we are secure, yet we are not content, and we have no peace. Our security is one of self-imposed imprisonment. Locked up in a cage, at least you know where you are. The irony is that isolated in this way, we do not know who we are, nor can we recognise the rich depths within us. And ignorance is the best greed-breeding ground for fear. How can we be content and at

peace when what is deepest in us, our true self, is denied the union it is yearning for with the rest of creation? There can be no union unless we go out towards others, and that means we have to pull down the barriers we have built around ourselves. The heart, not pure reason, whispers that love is the greatest power for good in the universe. Love opens up the mystery at the heart of everything. The heart knows too that love is vulnerable, it leaves itself open to ridicule and rejection, but it can never be conquered. The heart says: let go and risk everything. In the moment of surrender the self and the cosmos become one.

Eric Doyle OFM, *St Francis and the Song of Brotherhood*

Jesus, Lord, may I follow you with the courage I need to carry my cross and walk in love alongside you, especially when love demands effort and self-sacrifice. Help me to find my true life in you.  Amen.

Force or persuasion?

The Wind and the Sun argued which was the stronger of the two. They agreed that whichever soonest made a traveller take off his cloak should be accounted the more powerful.

The Wind began and blew with all his might, a blast, cold and fierce, but the stronger he blew, the closer the traveller wrapped his cloak around him, and the tighter he grasped it with his hands.

Then broke out the Sun. With his welcome beams he dispersed the vapour and the cold; the traveller felt the genial warmth, and as the Sun shone brighter and brighter, he sat down, overcome with the heat, and cast his cloak on the ground.

Thus, the Sun was declared the conqueror, and it has ever been deemed that persuasion is better than force; and that the sunshine of a kind and gentle manner will sooner lay open a poor man's heart than all the threatening and force of blustering authority.

Aesop, Fables

May we always praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week
Thursday 3 September

St Gregory the Great (c. 540-604)

St Gregory the Great was a towering figure in Church history: pope, monk, theologian, and servant of poor people. Born into Roman nobility, he renounced wealth to embrace monastic life, transforming his family home into a monastery. As pope from 590, Gregory led with humility and vision, calling himself "servant of the servants of God". He reformed Church administration, cared for those who were sick and hungry during plague and famine, and sent missionaries to England, including St Augustine of Canterbury. His writings, especially *Pastoral Care* and *Dialogues*, shaped Christian spirituality for centuries. Gregory also influenced liturgical worship, with Gregorian chant bearing his name. His feast invites us to lead with compassion, serve with integrity, and seek holiness in daily life. St Gregory reminds us that true greatness lies not in power, but in love poured out for others.

READINGS

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

Monday:
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday:
1 Corinthians 2:10-16
Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday:
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday:
1 Corinthians 3:18-23
Luke 5:1-11

Friday:
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Luke 5:33-39

Saturday:
1 Corinthians 4:6-15
Luke 6:1-5

Next Sunday:
Ezekiel 33:7-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20



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

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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 30th August 2026

The Word This Week

A quick glance at last week's Gospel reveals the interesting development of the story: last week, we heard Peter proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah, and being given authority as a result. This week, Peter gets it wrong: he is rebuked by the Lord because he does not understand who the Messiah is. The Messiah is the one who will give everything for his people - even his own life. To be a follower of Jesus demands an understanding and acceptance of this fact, and a willingness to take up the cross as Jesus did. Our introduction to this is the prophet Jeremiah - also persecuted for doing and saying what was right. Have a look at the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, where this twinning of Jeremiah and prophecy of persecution also appears.



Mass Times 30th August 2026		
Sunday 30th August	Vigil - Saturday 22nd Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Cath Lenihan (BM)
Monday 31st	No Mass	
Tuesday 1st September	No Mass	
Wednesday 2nd	No Mass	
Thursday 3rd	No Mass	
Friday 4th	No Mass	
Saturday 5th Sunday 6th	Vigil Mass	4pm- Parish 11am - Nora Ladley (LD)
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Yvonne Moss (LD); Nora Ladley (LD); John-Kwok Kwong Kwan (A); Teresa-Lai Wah Ho Kwan (A); Jack Howley (A);

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

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **Kathleen Williams**. Our prayers and condolences go to her family and friends. Many parishioners will remember Kathleen as she taught at St Marys school for a number of years. Kathleen’s funeral will be held on Friday 4th September at 10.30am at Holy Spirit Church, Leigh Ave, Marple SK6 6DF . May she rest in peace.

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,

Food Bank Donations

Demand is high at our local food bank at the moment. Especially with the 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

Ecological Rosary at the Laudato Si’ Centre

Join us at the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si’ Centre on Wednesday 3rd September as we gather together to pray the Rosary with ecological reflections. This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others in prayer and to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

Email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more and to register.

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 for Social Justice Event (with free transport offer)

The Caritas Social Action Network will be hosting a Jubilee of Social Justice for all those interested in Catholic social action. The event takes place on Saturday 20 September from 12noon at Liverpool Met Cathedral and will include Mass with Most Rev. Malcolm McMahon OP Emeritus Archbishop of Liverpool, followed by light lunch, a social action exhibition, and reflections from leaders in Catholic Social Action. Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford is providing a free coach for those from our diocese who are interested in attending. Find out more or book a place by visiting their website: www.caritassalford.org.uk/SocialJusticeJubilee

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.



S	E	T	G	E	L	D	E	R	S
E	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	R	A
B	I	B	O	W	D	N	I	W	T
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R	E	T	Y	U	N	R	A	L	S
C	L	A	N	G	H	T	L	S	U
S	W	C	E	T	A	S	O	D	F
M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	F
B	S	E	I	R	C	S	D	L	E
E	D	E	S	T	I	N	E	D	R

DESTINED	JERUSALEM	ELDERS
SCRIBES	SATAN	OBSTACLE
RENOUCE	CROSS	LIFE
WORLD	GLORY	ANGELS