



With Jesus' help

It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him come up, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbrück. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there: the room full of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanching face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. "How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein," he said. "To think that, as you say, he has washed my sins away!"

His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.

I tried to smile. I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness...

And so, I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on his. When [Jesus] tells us to love our enemies he gives, along with the command, the love itself.

Corrie Ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*

Image: Corrie Ten Boom, www.clcpublications.com/authors/corrie-ten-boom/

Merciful God, soften our hearts. Teach us to forgive as you forgive: freely, fully, without condition. Heal wounds, restore peace, and renew our spirits. Amen.

First impressions

First impressions make a huge difference when you visit a school: your first sight of the students as you arrive, the reception area, the receptionist and then, after a few minutes of flicking through the press cuttings on the comfy chairs, the headteacher: "Good morning, welcome, great to see you." Within the first few seconds you form an impression of this person and if you sense energy,

enthusiasm and hope, embodied in a smile, good eye contact and a handshake, you feel you have met a leader who wants to be where they are, is not weighed down by expectation, and has the attributes to lead this school with confidence... The daily experience of headship is not knowing what's waiting for you when you walk in the door and knowing that most of what you will have to face is not covered in the manual.

Sr Judith Rossi SSMN,
How to Survive in Leadership in a Catholic School

Christian education does not only form professionals, but also people open to goodness, beauty and truth. Catholic schools, therefore, when they are faithful to their name, are places of inclusion, integral formation and human development.

Pope Leo XIV



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

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 13th September 2026

The Word This Week

Jesus tells a dramatic story in the Gospel, to make a very important point: the desperate need in our world for forgiveness and reconciliation. How many chances do we give each other? As many as seven? How often do we shut doors on people, even family and friends, saying "That's it; you've just gone too far this time: never again"? When Jesus says that we must forgive 'seventy-seven' times, he implies that we never stop forgiving, whatever happens. He doesn't just say this, however: even when they do the worst thing that could be done to him, nailing him to a cross, Jesus puts these words into practice: "Father, forgive them..." As his disciples, we must do likewise.



READINGS

Today:
Ecclesiasticus
27:30 - 28:7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Monday:
Numbers 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Tuesday:
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 19:25-27
or Luke 2:33-35

Wednesday:
1 Corinthians
12:31 - 13:13
Luke 7:31-35

Thursday:
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 7:36-50

Friday:
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 8:1-3

Saturday:
1 Corinthians
15:35-37, 42-49
Luke 8:4-15

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24, 27
Matthew 20:1-16

Feast of the week Monday 14 September

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross honours the cross as the instrument of our salvation. It commemorates two key events: the discovery of the True Cross by St Helena in the fourth century, and the recovery of the cross from the Persians in the seventh century.

But more than historical memory, this feast invites us to contemplate the mystery of the cross itself. In the cross, suffering is not meaningless - it becomes redemptive. In the cross, humiliation becomes glory. Christ's death on the cross transforms a symbol of shame into a sign of hope, mercy and victory. We are called to venerate the cross and to carry it: in our daily sacrifices, in our acts of love, in our perseverance through trials. To exalt the cross is to proclaim that love is stronger than death, and that God's mercy reaches even the darkest places.

Mass Times 13th September 2026		
Sunday 13th September	Vigil - Saturday 12th Sunday Morning	4pm - Anita Jamieson (LD) 11am - Parish
Monday 14th	Mass	9.30- For a Successful Operation
Tuesday 15th	No Mass	
Wednesday 16th	Mass Funeral Service	9.30 - Martin Coriam Mitchell 1pm- Mary Flavell
Thursday 17th	Mass Sacramental Programme meeting	6pm-Tom Lally (RIP) 6.30 - Parish Hall
Friday 18th	Mass	9.30am - Teresa-Lai Wah Ho Kwan
Saturday 19th Sunday 20th	Vigil Mass	4pm- Parish 11am - John Kwok Kwong Kwan
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings : Successful Operation; Anita Jamieson (LD); Ian John Stierl (A); Stan Slade (LD); Tom Lally (RIP); Patrick Coriam (RIP); John Francis Kerwin (A) Laurance Byrne (BM);

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 13th September 2026	
The Sanctuary	Margaret Vaudin
Sacred Heart	Anthony Scanlon
Our Lady	Shannon Harrison

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 Mary Flavell. Our condolences go to her family and friends. Mary’s funeral service will be held on Wednesday 16th September at 1pm. May she rest in peace.



Caritas Conference: Tackling poverty and injustice in the Diocese of Salford

Caritas Salford invites you to join them for a free day of learning and reflection on the social teaching of Pope Leo XIV. This conference will be held on Saturday 10 October from 11AM to 3.30PM. Guest speakers will be present with a free lunch provided. For more information and to book your place please www.caritassalford.org.uk/CaritasConference

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have red mission boxes please bring them in to be emptied. The Mill Hill Fathers rely on the money raised from these boxes to finance their missionary work overseas and very much appreciate your support and generosity. The red boxes are emptied every quarter - March, June , September and December.

Thank you, Paula & Dorothy



Help wanted.

Helpers would be greatly appreciated to give the church a clean **after 9.30 mass on Monday.**

Anyone interested in helping in the future please contact Liz Markland or the office. Men, women, youngsters all welcome.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pantasaph Monastery

We are pleased to announce our diocesan pilgrimage to the Pantasaph Monastery in North Wales for the Year of St Francis of Assisi, which takes place on Saturday 17 October 2026. The day coach will leave the 1st pick up point at 9am and will be returning at around 6pm.

The cost of the trip is £35pp, which includes the following:
Coach travel
Lunch
Tea/coffee
Donation to the monastery

For more information and to book your place, please contact the pilgrimage office by telephone on 0161 817 2209 or by email at walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Sunday 13th September

Please note that there will be no Children’s Liturgy at the 11am Mass on Sunday. Also we will not be serving tea and coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass. This is due to Denton carnival starting at 11am today

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.



Parish Newsletter

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please contact the Parish office with your email address. We will add you to our list.

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N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	I	E
I	A	R	V	R	E	S	S	N	B
M	S	R	E	R	U	T	R	O	T
P	I	D	Y	H	R	N	M	S	U
L	N	L	A	E	T	U	H	I	Y
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R	V	S	T	R	O	C	R	P	R
E	E	P	I	T	Y	C	A	B	O
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**BROTHER
SEVEN
ACCOUNTS
SERVANTS
CHILDREN
DEBT
DENARII
PRISON
DISTRESSED
PITY
TORTURERS
HEART**