



The Catholic Parish of  
**St. John Henry Newman**  
"Heart Speaks to Heart!"



**Parish Priest:** Fr. Kieren Mullarkey  
kieren.mullarkey@dioceseofsalford.org.uk  
**The Presbytery, 5 Roseneath Road, Urmston, M41 5AX**

**Phone:** (0161) 7482328

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. David Quiligotti

**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. John Walsh

**Parish Admin:** Amanda Craven: Wed - Fri (9.30am - 3.30pm).  
Amanda.Craven@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

**Safeguarding Rep:** Mrs. Amanda Craven as above

**Parish Centre:** Mrs. Filippa Martin (0161) 747 9173

**SVP Helpline:** 07495251598



St John Henry Newman, Urmston  
If you would like to make a donation to the Parish please scan the above QR code.

## 3rd Sunday of Advent - GAUDETE - 17th December 2023



Dear Parish family,

During the Parent Catechesis last week, I was telling the mums and dads of a recent festive movie that I had watched on my day off.

It starred Eddie Murphy and was called *Candy Cane Lane*, let me put it this way it is definitely not Elf or even The Christmas Chronicles!

Within the film there is a brief discussion regarding the meaning of Christmas, needless and yet sadly to say, it settles on the commercial and secular "Happy Holiday's" model of this holy season, and yet there is a brief moment an opportunity even, when the Murphy's character suggests pondering the religious (the real) meaning of the season, only for the naughty elf to exclaim "Jesus Christ ... No!" I was left wondering if the director realised just how offensive those words really are?

The irony of Gaudete Sunday, especially when confronted with false and distorted understanding of this time of year, is that today is our opportunity to declare, and declare with faith and confidence: "Jesus Christ ... YES!"

It is our opportunity to put Jesus back at the heart - not just of this time of year, He is not just for Advent and Christmas - but at the heart of everything that we do and everything that we are.

During this weekend, the children will take home a Bambino, not only so that they may begin to create their own nativities, but to remind that and their families that Jesus lies at the heart. So that as we gaze upon Jesus we may understand as Pope Francis puts it: "the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness."

God Bless you during this Advent season

**Fr. Kieren**

| <b>MASS TIMES</b>                             |                            |  |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| Sat<br>5.00pm<br>5.30pm                       | 16<br>SM<br>SM             | Confession<br>Vigil Mass   |
| Sun<br>9.30am<br>11.30am                      | 17<br>EM<br>SM             | Mass<br>Mass   |
| Tue<br>9.30am                                 | 19<br>EM                   | O Radix Iesse (Root of Jesse)<br>Whole School Mass                       |
| Wed<br>10.00am                                | 20<br>SM                   | O Clavis David (Key of David)<br>Requiem Mass<br>Christine Mayo          |
| Thurs<br>9.30am                               | 21                         | O Oriens (Rising Sun)<br>Mass at OLOR Primary<br>Whole School            |
| Fri<br>9.30am                                 | 22<br>SM                   | O Rex (King)<br>Mass   |
| Sat<br>10.00am<br>11.00am<br>5.00pm<br>5.30pm | 23<br>EM<br>EM<br>SM<br>SM | O Emmanuel<br>Adoration & Confession<br>Mass<br>Confession<br>Vigil Mass |
| Sun<br>9.30am                                 | 24<br>EM                   | <b>4 ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY</b><br>Mass                                 |
| 5.00pm<br>8.00pm                              | SM<br>EM                   | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>First Mass of Christmas<br>Mass                  |

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY CARE** at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Saint Mary's, Manchester Children's Hospital, Manchester Eye Hospital, Trafford General and The Christie, Salford Royal or Wythenshawe. If you have a relative or friend who is an inpatient and would like a Catholic Chaplain to visit them for pastoral support please contact the Chaplaincy Office on 0161 276 8792. If you have a loved one in Wythenshawe Hospital (Shrewsbury Diocese), please request a chaplain via the nurses station.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

23rd/24th December

**4th Sunday of Advent**

5.30pm SM  
9.30am EM

24th December

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

5.00pm SM  
this Mass is traditionally aimed at younger parishioners and can be very busy and noisy!  
8.00pm EM

25th December

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.30am EM  
11.00am SM



### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

**Catechesis 2: Parish Centre:**

*After experimenting with Saturdays for Catechesis, I've decided it would be best to return to 3 shorter evening sessions. The new dates will be confirmed in the New Year.*

All candidates must attend ALL catechesis and regularly attend Sunday Mass.

**The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place with Bishop John on 12th June (7pm) St. Hugh of Lincoln church.**



### Diocese of Salford Synod 2023-2025 Prayer

Loving Father,

Be with us as we seek new ways of being your people in our Diocese.

May each new day bring us closer to your Son Jesus, as we follow his teaching and become disciples of love.

As we continue our Synodal journey, draw us closer to each other.

May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us. Open our hearts, as we listen to each other and reach out in love to your people. Stay with us, Lord, on our journey. Amen

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pray for us  
St. Joseph, Pray for us**

### MASSES RECEIVED

**Lately Dead**

*Requiescat in pace*

Anne Herbert, Christine Mayo,

**Intention**

a special intention, in thanksgiving, wedding anniversary, Paddy & Marie Brady, Tommy Fitzgerald

**Anniversaries Masses**

Geoff Fitton, Vera Gormley, Martin Cassidy, Patrick Smyth, Elizabeth Smyth, Peter Caine, Bernard Bickmore



### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

John Gibbons, Grace McNulty, Geoff Martin, Carol Grimsley, Maureen Boylan, Michael Rice, Esther Froggatt, Jenny Marks, Emma Coulson, Maureen Whalley, Kathleen Connors, Pam Clark, Marian Kerrigan, Mary Tunstall, Patrick Rogan, Angela Consideine, Sheila Clegg, Andrew Roche, Joe Parker, Bernadette Reed

*(Please ensure that you have permission of the individual/family for their names to be published in the newsletter)*

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

**2023 - 2024**

Dates for Programme

*Childrens meetings, begin at 9.30am - pick up 11.00am. All children have been placed in either a Saturday or Sunday group, your child only has to attend their relevant catechesis and not both days!*

20th January - Parish Centre

21st January - Jubilee Room

**Parents meeting will begin at 6.30pm in the Parish centre**

1st February

**BAMBINO MASS - 3rd Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday**

*The children will receive a small statue of the Baby Jesus, so that they may set up a crib/nativity scene at home.*



**16th/17th December**

**attendance at either 5.30pm or 11.30am Masses**





**VACANCY AT OLOR** as many of you know Miss Molloy will be retiring as Head teacher of Our Lady of the Rosary primary School at the end of the summer term 2024. If you are looking for job there is an advert you might be interested in looking at: [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/)



**READERS AT MASS** could you help, the Parish is looking for new readers (young and old) who would like to volunteer to lead the Liturgy of the Word during Sunday Mass (especially the not exclusively 5.30pm & 11.30am Masses). If you are interested and would like to volunteer, please email Fr. K, with your details and which Mass you generally attend. Thank you.



**CHILDRENS LITURGY** as a Parish we are fortunate to have a wonderful team of volunteers who lead the children's liturgy at ALL the weekend Masses. In the New Year, we are hoping to recruit some more willing helpers to join the rota (especially for the 9.30am Mass). If you are interested please email Fr. K

**MANY THANKS** for all within and without the Parish who supported and organised the Christmas Fayre last weekend. £1736.36 was raised.

**A GENTLE REMINDER** Amanda is a wonderful asset to the Parish. However she only works during the office hours as advertised on the front of the newsletter. As she works elsewhere at the beginning of the week please could you refrain from phoning her outside office hours. Of course you can continue to send emails but they will not (unless sent to me) be responded to until Wednesday.

**Caritas Diocese of Salford Advent Appeal** Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, has launched its Advent appeal for 2023, including a very special animation film voiced by local children. You can view the short animation and find out more about how you can make a donation to the appeal, or take action to help people in your parish who are experiencing crisis this Christmas, by visiting the Caritas Salford website: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere)

**PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS** if you are a EMHC or a reader and would like to help at the Christmas Masses can I ask you to contact the EMHC and Reading ministry coordinator's. Fr. K

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** If you would like to make a donation to help decorate the churches for Christmas - don't the flower teams do a great job - please place your donation in an envelope marked "CHURCH FLOWERS" and place in the collection basket or alternatively post into English Martyrs' Presbytery.

**Your travel to church** As the Diocese of Salford works to reach its goal of being net zero by 2038, we're looking to find out more about the travel patterns of people across the diocese. Our diocesan environment team has put together a short survey to find out more about how people travel to and from church and would be very grateful for your response. The survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/skCHYCKnBzhDrvbn9>.

**2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee** This Advent, Pope Francis invites people across the world to embark on a Year of Prayer in preparation for the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Over the coming weeks and months, the Diocese of Salford will be sharing a range of resources and ideas to help us journey together through this Year of Prayer. Head to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/> to find out more.

**SVP** The next meeting of the SVP will be held on Monday 18th December at 6.30 pm at the Jubilee Room at St Monica's.

**NEWSLETTER** Please note that the deadline for all newsletter items for next weeks (Christmas Edition) Parish newsletter is WENESDAY MORNING.

**ECT Primary Pool 2024** Are you looking for a career in teaching? Do you know someone who is training for a career in primary education? ECT (Early Career Teachers) due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in Summer 2024 are being invited to apply for recommendation for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2024. Email [education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) to find out more and apply.



### Discover more about our Diocesan Synod

Over the coming weeks and months, the Diocese of Salford is carrying out the first key stage of our diocesan synod. But what is a synod? And what does it mean for our diocese and the future of the Church in Greater Manchester and Lancashire? Scan the QR code to find out more:



**SOME OF OUR YOUNGER PARISHIONERS** Liam Stewart, James Hess, Francis Ansa Awusu and his friends at school are going to doing a sponsored "virtual cycle" from Urmston to Theodore's house in Ukraine and on to Sami's (Heba's son) grandparents house in Hebron valley in Palestine, to raise money for aid and warm clothes. It's over 2400 miles!!! You can donate via: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Liam-Stewart-helpingthoseinneed?utm\\_term=mvPXNPPyZ](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Liam-Stewart-helpingthoseinneed?utm_term=mvPXNPPyZ) or you can donate some miles. If you cycle, monitor your mileage and let us know. You can donate your miles to help us reach our goal quicker!

**Use of Mobile Telephones in Confessionals** Following discussion at the Bishops' Conference, we have been advised that, due to the sacred nature of the confessional, clergy and penitents are requested not to have active mobile phones with them in the confessional.

**Bishop's Fund** Crises can happen to anyone and we believe that everyone deserves a helping hand during these difficult periods. The Caritas Bishop's Fund plays a crucial role in providing support to families and individuals who are experiencing challenges or crises within our diocese. These difficulties may arise from various circumstances such as illness, unemployment, the ending of the Universal Credit £20 uplift, job insecurity, and the increasing costs of energy and food. Recognising the pressing need for assistance in these situations, the fund has been established to offer immediate support to those in need. If you feel that you might qualify please visit [www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/bishops-fund/](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/bishops-fund/)

**PRAYER GROUP** will take a short break over the Christmas Season and return on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024** For Reception places all applications must be submitted by 15 January 2024. Parents can apply for up to 5 schools, ranked in order of preference. It is important when applying for Catholic Schools that you read the Admission Policy and if Catholic provide a copy of your child's baptism certificate to each of the chosen schools. You can apply online: [www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/schools/school-admissions/Primary/primary-school-admissions.aspx](http://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/schools/school-admissions/Primary/primary-school-admissions.aspx). Paper applications forms are available on request from the Trafford's School Admissions Team. **Proof of Baptism is requested by all Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Salford.**



## THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION



### EUCHARIST (HOLY COMMUNION)

*The Eucharist is the source and summit of all Christian life, the Eucharist is not a thing or a holy object, the Eucharist is the gift of God Himself given and shared with us.*

All parent's of children who will be entering Yr 3 (in September 2024) will be invited from the beginning of May 2024 to enrol their children on the Sacramental Programme.

All children must be baptised in the Catholic Church and families **WILL** be expected, to do what all Catholic families should already be doing, that is attend Sunday Mass.



**CONFIRMATION** at the end of Yr6 children will be invited to register their interest in joining the programme in Yr8.

All details will be published in the newsletter and a notice will be sent to our local Diocesan Catholic Secondary School (St. Antony's) and those schools that are in the Diocese of Shrewsbury (BTH, St. Ambrose & Loreto).

Registering an interest is **not** joining the programme, and as the child enters Yr8 (2024) they will have to make the commitment to participate on the programme and complete the sacraments of initiation.

Please note that although information is sent to High Schools outside the Diocese of Salford and the non-Catholic schools in the area, distribution of information is **dependant upon the co-operation of the Head teacher and Head of RE.**

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. **Be it done unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

### Let Us Pray

Pour forth, we beseech Thee O Lord,  
Thy grace into our hearts;  
that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ,  
Thy Son, was made known  
by the message of an angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross be brought  
to the glory of his Resurrection  
through the same Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



**GETTING MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** In order to get married in the Catholic Church 6 months notice must be given, please contact Fr. Kieren for further information.

*"And that is what marriage is! Hand in hand, always and for the rest of your lives".*

Pope Francis

Please pray for *Hannah & Daniel, and Sophie & William, Gemma & Simon, Rachael & Juan, Katherine & Richard, Leanne & Joe, Charlotte & Kieran* as they prepare to celebrate the sacrament together.

**STRETFORD FOOD BANK** Please place any of the above items in the grey bin at the back of church (English Martyrs). To donate directly Stretford Food bank Co-op Bank a/c 65855834 Sort code: 089299.

### VOCATIONS - DIOCESE OF SALFORD

If you feel called to the Diocesan Priesthood please contact Fr. Kieren or contact the Diocesan Vocation Director directly Fr. Mark Paver: mark.paver@dioceseofsalford.org.uk



### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Code of Canon Law states:

*"Parents are obliged to see to it that infants are baptised within the first weeks after birth"*  
(867)

**As a Parish within the Diocese of Salford we follow the Diocesan Baptism Policy.**

In order for your baby/child (under the age of 7) to be baptised, ) if you are not already practising their faith, then you must begin to attend Sunday Mass for a minimum of at least **6 weeks** before a baptism date can be discussed.

- ◆ If you live outside the Parish, but this Parish is your place of *regular* worship, no permission is needed.
- ◆ If you live outside the Parish and don't regularly attend Mass, permission from your Parish Priest is needed.
- ◆ After a date for baptism has been set, a meeting with Fr. Kieren or Deacon John must be arranged.
- ◆ If your child is over 7 they are treated as an adult and must follow an adapted RCIA programme.



### OUR CATHOLIC PARISH AND DIOCESAN SCHOOLS DIOCESE OF SALFORD



#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

##### English Martyrs

Wycliffe Road, Urmston.  
Head teacher: Mrs Alison McGlade  
(0161) 748 7257

##### Our Lady of the Rosary

Davyhulme Road, Urmston.  
Head teacher: Miss S. Molloy  
(0161)748 4626

##### St. Monica's

Woodsend Road South, Flixton  
Head teacher: Mr. Mark Doherty  
(0161) 748 3353

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL

##### St. Antony's Catholic High School

Bradfield Road, Urmston  
Head teacher: Mr. A. Campbell  
(0161) 911 8001

