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.

CHRISTMAS 2024

Dear Parish family,

I think that we all have our own festive traditions.

For some it will be when we put up the tree, or going to Blackpool to see the illuminations, perhaps it is an annual visit to the markets in Manchester; and of course for others there may be deeper family, cultural and religious traditions that have become an intrinsic part of our celebrations.

It probably doesn't surprise you to know that I have my own traditions. When Advent starts the radio is tuned into Classic FM, my shoes are left out for St. Nicholas, the decks go up for Our Lady's feast day; and of course I read again the Christmas Carol.

Recently I've added a new tradition, and it is to reread the letter by Francis published at the home of the crib in 2019 *Admirabile signum* as I read his words, I am reminded that during this time of year, you and I are "*on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman.*" Christmas is an invitation for us to come to God who comes to us, or as Pope Francis puts it "*the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness.*" We are invited, not just at this time, but everyday to meet and encounter God who is with us.

In describing the creation of the first nativity scene, Pope Francis reminds us that it was placed before the altar, so that we the faithful would know, recognise and remember "*… the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist.*"

As we gather around the altar this Christmas, let us recognise the One who was lay in a manger, who was visited by shepherds and whom angels sang of His birth. Through the Mass, in the Eucharist He is still and will always be truly with us.

Let us never forget that when we gather around the altar and when Mass it celebrated, it literally is Christmas every day!

God Bless you during this Christmas season

Fr. Kieren

On behalf of myself, Fr. DQ, Deacon John and Tinker, can I thank you all for your generosity and kindness, for the cards and gifts we have received.

Many thanks, Fr. K

MASS TIMES

Sat	23	O Emmanuel
5.00pm	SM	Confession
5.30pm	SM	Vigil Mass
Sun	24	
9.30am	EM	Mass
		CHRISTMAS EVE
5.00pm	SM	Mass
8.00pm	EM	Mass
Mon	25	**CHRISTMAS DAY**
9.30am	EM	Mass
11.00am	SM	Mass
Tue	26	St. Stephen's Day
Wed	27	St. John the Evangelist
9.30am		Mass
Thu	28	**HOLY INNOCENTS**
9.30am	EM	Requiem Mass Eileen Collins
Fri	29	St. Thomas of Canterbury
10.00am	EM	Adoration & Confession
11.00am	EM	Mass
5.00pm	SM	Confession
5.30pm	SM	Vigil Mass
Sat	30	6th Day within the Christmas Octave
10.00am	EM	Confession & Adoration
11.00am	EM	Mass
5.00pm	SM	Confession
5.30pm	SM	Vigil Mass
Sun	31	**THE HOLY FAMILY**
9.30am	EM	Mass
11.30am	SM	Mass
Mon	01	**HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**
Noon	EM	Mass
Tue	02	Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
9.30am	EM	Mass
Wed	03	Christmas Weekday
9.30am	SM	Mass
Thurs	04	Christmas Weekday
9.30am	EM	Mass
Fri	05	Christmas Weekday
9.30am	SM	Mass
Sat	06	Christmas Weekday
10.00am	EM	Confession & Adoration
11.00am	EM	Mass
1.00pm	EM	Baptism
5.00pm	SM	Confession
5.30pm	SM	Vigil Mass
Sun	07	**The Epiphany of the Lord**
9.30am	EM	Mass
11.30am	SM	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.

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, Malachy McGettrick, Kathleen Ormerod, Seamus McDonagh

Intention

a special intention, in thanksgiving, wedding anniversary, Paddy & Marie Brady, Tommy Fitzgerald, Fr. David Q, Ethel McCarthy, Denis McCarthy, the McCarthy family, Bernard & Eileen Mallon, Alexander & Ruth McNee, Florence & John Farnworth, Anne Smyth

Anniversaries Masses

Geoff Fitton, Vera Gormley, Martin Cassidy, Patrick Smyth, Elizabeth Smyth, Peter Caine, Bernard Bickmore, Eileen Mallon, Eileen Flanagan, Paul Howard, John Greening, Sean Mortell, Jack & Ethel Large, Elizabeth Saugen

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 Considine, 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 - Saturday Cohort - Parish Centre
21st January - Sunday Cohort - Jubilee Room

3rd February - Saturday Cohort - Parish Centre
4th February - Sunday Cohort - Jubilee Room

20th & 22nd February Sacrament of Reconciliation - St. Monica's (6.30pm)

20th April - Saturday Cohort - Parish Centre
21st April - Sunday Cohort - Jubilee Room

Parents meeting will begin at 6.30pm in the Parish centre

1st February
21st March
18th April
2nd May

CRIB OFFERINGS during the season of Christmas there will be baskets near the cribs. If you can the Church invites you to help and support our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Please do give if you are able to.

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/

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 to all our wonderful Parish Elves (Altar Servers, EMHC, Readers, flower teams, church cleaners, leaders of the Parish outreach programmes SVP, over & nifty 50's, IMPACT group and of course the wonderful catechists) who contribute so much to the life of the Parish (often unseen) and who have helped prepare our Parish to celebrate Christmas. What would we do without you?

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 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.

Parish Family Groups (PFG) In February 2024 PFG will have been running for 12 months in the Parish. It has provided the opportunity for Parishioners to meet socially and establish new friendships across the generations. The groups meet once a month and organise their own low cost/no cost activities. To celebrate the 1st birthday all the groups will be coming together for a party. This could be the ideal opportunity for you to find out more about what happens. For more information contact ; Dawn Wilkinson 07760442432, de_wilk@hotmail.com

Liturgy of Blessing for Engaged Couples On Saturday 17th February, the Saturday nearest to St Valentine's Day, Bishop John invites those getting married in the churches of our Diocese, or who are being prepared in our parishes for marriages elsewhere, to come to a Liturgy of Blessing. In this celebration, we will seek God's blessing on them as they begin their married life. The Service will take place at St. Patrick's Church, Livesey St, Manchester at 2:30pm.

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 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? Maybe as family you would like to discuss the synod around the Christmas dinner table!

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/

Notice about scam email The Diocese of Salford has shared a warning about a scam email that has been circulated to some parishes in our diocese. The email comes from a "parish priest" Gmail account, features the parish priest's name in the display name, and asks the recipient to purchase gift cards of behalf of the priest. Please be aware that this is not a genuine email. If you come across any such email, please do not engage with it and simply delete it from your inbox. If you are ever unsure about an email from the parish, please call the parish office and we'd be happy to advise. Thank you.

Salford Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Centenary Year Fundraiser - The Mercy Brothers Join us for a family-friendly night of musical entertainment with the fabulous 'Mercy Brothers' band on Friday 9th February, 8pm (doors 7.30pm), at The Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road West, Chortlon-cum-Hardy, Manchester, M21 7SX. The band is made up of members of the clergy from around the diocese. Tickets are priced at £15 (over 16s) and free for under 16s. To book please visit www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/fundraising or phone the pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS 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. 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.**

NEWSLETTER all items for the newsletter must be sent to Fr. K (via email) before 9.00am Thursday

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 not 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.***

"The Virgin today brings into the world
the Eternal,
and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.
The angels and the shepherds praise him.
And the magi advance with the star.
For you are born to us.
Little Child, God Eternal."

Romanos the Melodist

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, Jessica & Simon, Rachael & Juan, Katherine & Richard, Leanne & Joe, Charlotte & Kieran* as they prepare to celebrate the sacrament together.

STRETFOOD 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