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
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

Parish Admin: Amanda.Craven@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Mrs. Amanda Craven
Parish Centre: (0161) 747 9173 (bookings - bar - via SDC)
sjhnpc@sdc-trading.co.uk
SVP : 07495251598

St John Henry Newman, Urmston

If you would like to make a donation to the Parish please scan the above QR code.

1st Sunday of Advent - 30th November

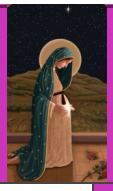
Dear Parishioners,

"It's beginning to look like Advent all around Urmston ...!"

Sadly that's not true and instead it seems to me that we have jumped 4 weeks ahead, we don't want to wait for the big day, we want to celebrate now! Contrary to popular opinion I'm no Scrooge, and I love the lights and decorations and I'm itching to decorate (I think I will wait until 6th December), but aren't we jumping the gun a little, after all even the Advent calendars that have actually little to do with Advent only start tomorrow (a day late!). The season of Advent is the season of waiting, awaking and anticipation, it is the season of the "not quite yet but soon". It is the season that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Incarnation ... God who comes to us again.

As the late Pope Benedict XVI once wrote: *Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child ...*

In Advent let us awaken to the coming of Jesus, a coming that will shock and surprise us, a coming that has already been fulfilled and yet we await to be fulfilled again. He comes to us like a thief, let us not welcome Him unaware!



PARISH WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Times may change due to Weddings & Funerals

Mon NOON	1 EM	NUPTIAL MASS Rebecca & David
Tue 9.30am	2 EM	Mass
Wed 9.30am	3 SM	St. Francis Xavier School Mass
Thu 9.30am 6.30pm	4 OL PC	School Mass Parent Catechesis
Fri 9.30am 1.00pm	5 SM EM	Mass NUPTIAL MASS Rebekah & Peter
Sat 9,30am 11.00am 5.00pm 5.30pm	6 PC EM SM SM	Catechesis Saturday Cohort Mass Confession Vigil Mass
Sun 9.15am 9.30am 11.30am 1.30pm	7 JR EM SM EM	2nd Sunday of Advent Catechesis Sunday Cohort Mass Mass Baptism

Dates to help you celebrate: Advent continues until 24th December, the Christmas season ONLY begins on the evening of 24th December and ends on 11th January. Traditionally the decorations stay up until 6th January (The Epiphany)!

God Bless you all in this Advent Season! *Fr. Kieren*

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2025 - 2026

Dates for Catechesis & Celebrations

Catechesis/Celebrations
Parent meetings are marked in **GREEN**

Thurs 4th Dec 6.30pm **Parish Centre**

Sat 6th December 9.30am Parish Centre
Sun 7th December 9.45am Jubilee Room

13/14th December **Bambino Mass**

22nd January 6.30pm **Parish Centre**

24th January 9.30am Parish Centre
25th January 9.45am Jubilee Room

5th February 6.30pm **Parish Centre**

7th February 9.30am Parish Centre
8th February 9.45am Jubilee Room

24th Feb 6.30pm 1st CONFESSION SM
25th Feb 6.30pm 1st CONFESSION SM

7th/8th March **Lenten Mass**

19th March 6.30pm **Parish Centre**

21st March 9.30am Parish Centre
22nd March 9.45am Jubilee Room

16th April 6.30pm **Parish Centre**

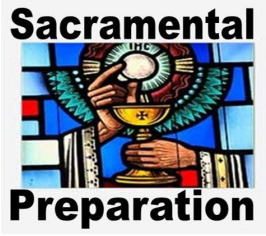
18th April 9.30am Parish Centre
19th April 9.45am Jubilee Room

OLOR 1st HC Mass 25th April NOON (SM)

SM 1st HC Mass 9th May NOON (SM)

EM 1st HC Mass 16th May NOON (SM)

For children in non-Parochial Schools please choose either 9th or 16th May for 1st Holy Communion Mass.



SYCAMORE with Deacon John (7:00pm -9:00pm) in the Jubilee Room @ St Monica's.

Monday 1st December
Monday 15th December

NB: Dates for 2026 will be published in the newsletter before Christmas 2025.

Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance.

The 'vigilance' means the necessity, the necessity of an industrious, living 'wait'. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up ...

For salvation is nearer to now than when we first believed."

St John Henry Newman

Did you know? In Germany and Austria, Catholics celebrate St. Barbara's feast day in a special way. On December 4th a small cherry branch is cut and put into a vase in a warm room. The branch typically blooms right around Christmas, and if the blossoms arrive on December 25, it's considered good luck! This tradition aligns perfectly with Advent, the season of anticipation for the birth of Jesus. It serves as a symbolic reminder of the hopeful expectation and joyous blooming that accompanies his arrival.

Lately Dead
Requiescat in pace
Mary Carroll, Patrick Lawlor, Ged Watkin, Paddy Brady, Joan Walsh

Intention
A special intention, in thanksgiving, a successful operation, speedy recovery, Margaret Martin, Barbara Flynn, Winnie Clarke, Patrick Sara & Ciara Sullivan-Hayes, Bernie Gretta & family

Anniversaries Masses
Wilma Farnworth, Kieran Halliwell, Bob Riah, Sheila O'Dowd, Stuart Mooney, Alice & Bert Fordham, Kathleen Flanagan, Alice Parker

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
John Gibbons, Maureen Boylan, Jenny Marks, Emma Coulson, Maureen Whalley, Marian Kerrigan, Mary Tunstall, Angela Considine, Andrew Roche, Anne Smyth, Little Rhia Brooke, Gerry Smyth, Bridie McLaughlin, Sian McManamon, Bernard Walker, Mark Daly, Leo Turnbull, Anne Turnbull, Jo Orford, Tom Parry, Mary Doolan, Michael Rice, Margaret Barker, Paul Hales, Josie Fitton, Alan Walsh, Krystyna Bzdega, Bron Bzdega

During the Season of Advent we will begin weekday Mass (excluding Funerals and Weddings by praying the Angelus. The Prayer is a wonderful reflection on the Incarnation, if you don't know it already why not give it a go?

The Angelus Prayer

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary ...
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done to me according to thy word.
Hail Mary. . .
V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary. . .
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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Dates for Catechesis 2026

1. Thurs. 8th January** (6.30pm). 2. Thurs. 12th Feb (6.30pm)
3. Thurs. 26th March (6.30pm)
Please return completed forms to Fr K before Christmas.

The date for the celebration of Confirmation has now been confirmed as Sunday 28th June 2026 (2pm) at St Monica's Church

Please return completed registration Forms before Christmas
** note change of date.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & TREES Every year our teams of Flower arrangers (aren't they wonderful) strive to make the churches beautiful during the season the Incarnation. If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of trees etc please enclose it in an envelope marked FLOWERS and place it in the offertory baskets or pass on to Fr. Kieren via the Presbytery.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2 will be on 5th December, 12pm at St. Monica's Primary School - please come and support.

IMPACT GROUP "The kids from Impact! will be running a stall at the 2nd Christmas Fair at St Monica's Primary School on 5th December. If you would like to donate any new or pre-loved toys please leave them at the back of either church.

ADVICE AS WEATHER GETS COLDER and energy bills rise If you or someone in your wider parish community is in need of support around rising energy bills, Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, has a free energy advice service that can help. You can find details on their website on how to arrange a free session with their energy advice service team, and lots of other information: www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport

THE CHILDREN AND STAFF OF ST MONICA'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL Would like to invite slightly older members of our Parish family to a Christmas Party on **THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER** 9.30AM - 11.00AM at St Monica's Primary School. If you are interested **PLEASE RSVP BY 5 DECEMBER TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE 0161 748 3353**

THURSDAY CLUB 60+ There will be no meetings in the Parish Centre until 18th December. On December 4th we are going to Blackpool for a fish and chip supper and viewing the Illuminations, 2.30pm start. The meeting on December 18th will be our Christmas Party and will be the last meeting until the New Year.

Advent Talks: Reflecting on Dilexi Te we are pleased to be joined once again by Sr Joan Kerley and Maria Kidd for a series of talks reflecting on Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te. Join us every Tuesday between 25th November and 16th December. The venue for this year's talks will be Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church Hall, M38 0DL, and will take place from 10:30am - 12:30pm. joankfmsj@gmail.com or phone 07934 816796 to register your interest.

Christmas Eve Bell Mass This year we would like to once again have some of the children from our parish on the altar at the Christmas Eve Mass to celebrate the Nativity. If you think your child would like to take part, please type the URL below into your browser or scan the QR below and complete the form. Please complete the form by Monday 15th December. Children must be able to sit unattended on the altar, and due to the size of the costumes, we can only invite children up to Year 3 to take part. All other children are invited to come to Mass dressed in a Nativity costume and stay sat with their families. The Children's Church Team https://forms.office.com/r/Gq7Za0FYh3

OLOR Primary School - PFA Christmas Markets You are warmly invited to join us for the PFA Christmas Markets at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School on Friday 12th December, from 3:10pm to 5:00pm. Come along for a festive afternoon filled with stalls, handmade gifts, treats, raffles, tombola's and plenty of Christmas cheer. It's a lovely opportunity to support our school community and pick up some seasonal delights. We look forward to celebrating with you!

BIG CLEAN BEFORE CHRISTMAS HELP required with the cleaning of St Monica's church, on Friday 5th December. Time 10am after mass. Any amount of time appreciated. Thank you

GOOD NEWS Our Parish Prayer Group meeting is changing from Tuesday evening to Tuesday afternoon 1- 3pm.from 18th Nova. Everyone welcome.

APF Red Mission Boxes If you have a mission box that needs to be emptied, leave them in the boxes provided. St Monica's box will be in the entrance porch of the church. English Martyrs box will be in the porch of the **Presbytery**. Once your box has been emptied, they will be left in either church, ready for you to collect.

'Neurodiversity and Our Faith' Research The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. Your experiences will help them to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to complete the short surveys, please visit: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/

Caritas Salford Advent Appeal Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, has released its 2025 Advent appeal to shine the spotlight on the true meaning of Christmas. To watch their latest animation and to find out more about how to help local people who are facing acute crisis this Christmas, please visit: https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/bee-there-2025/

Sustainable Wreath Making Workshops at Laudato Si' Centre If you are interested in learning how to make your own Advent decorations using sustainable materials, The workshops are taking place on the below dates: Friday 5th December from 10:00am - 12:00pm
Please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for pricing, further information, and to book your place!

Laudato Si' Centre Volunteer Call-out: Retired Educators The Diocese of Salford's Environment Team is inviting retired education staff to volunteer at the Laudato Si' Centre to assist with their successful programme of school visits. Volunteers would be supporting sessions with children from nursery age to Year 11 with activities including arts and crafts, games, and foraging. email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - Starting primary school September 2026 If you live in the Parish of St John Henry Newman (and beyond) and your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, they are eligible to start school from 1st September 2026. Please check the website of each school and read the Admissions Policy and note the supplementary documentation that must be produced (Baptism Certificate). The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2026. www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/schools/school-admissions/Primary/primary-school-admissions.aspx

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 2025) will be invited 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 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 (Sept 2025) 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 cooperation of the Head teacher and Head of RE*.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

As a Parish, 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 your Catholic 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 (by you).
- If your child is aged 7 or over they are treated as an adult and must follow an adapted RCIA programme.

To read the full diocesan policy:
https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Forming-young-people-for-life-Policy-Nov-2016.pdf

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FLOOD EATING DRINKING
WIVES HUSBANDS ARK
FIELDS WOMEN MILLSTONE
AWAKE BURGLAR READY

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

Please scan the QR code to learn more.

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 Marie & Andrew, Rebecca & David, Shannon & Connor, Natalie & Jamie, Ella & Ben, Roisin & James, Rose & Martin, Natalie & Joseph, Lorna & Jonathan, Rebekah & Peter as they prepare to celebrate the sacrament together in 2025!

OUR CATHOLIC PARISH AND DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

English Martyrs
Wycliffe Road, Urmston.
Head teacher: Mrs J Dunn (acting)
(0161) 748 7257

Our Lady of the Rosary
Davyhulme Road, Urmston.
Head teacher: Mrs Hannah Groves
(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

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY CARE 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. The Chaplains no longer have access to patient details - a chaplain must be requested by a member of the family to minister to a sick relative.