The Catholic Parish of St. John Henry Newman

"Heart Speaks to Heart!"

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sjhnpc@sdc-trading.co.uk
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St John Henry Newman, Urmston

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

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

The law is an ass! I sometimes feel that this is true.

I hold true that there are many laws that exists in the UK that are unjust, immoral and ethically wrong, and yet although as a Catholics we are encouraged to obey the law of the land, we must also raise our voices and object to laws that we know through the truth of our faith are wrong. This is not being subversive but is rather an obligation of our faith. .We find in history many examples where the voice of faith has challenged and eventually overcome laws that are sinful and wrong (e.g. slavery). Remember to use your voice!

Jesus certainly doesn't believe that the law is an ass. But of course the law Jesus speaks of, comes from Him - it comes from God. A law given to us so that we may grow closer to the lawgiver.

The Gospel today is not about unlawful laws, but rather the abuse of laws that are inherently good. The guardians the law are instead of exercising hat is lawful are enforcing their interpretation upon the people in and in doing so the simplicity of the law is becoming complicated and a burden upon the people. Instead of setting them free and lifting the load, the people find themselves being weighed down and unable to grow closer to the Divine. That is why Jesus states: "*I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven*".

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Times may change

Psalter 2

FEBRUARY - Month of the Holy Family

Tue 9.30am	17 EM	Mass — Shrove Tuesday
Wed	18	**Ash Wednesday** — A day of Fasting and Abstinence
9.30am	SM	Mass
Noon	EM	Service with Ashes
6.30pm	EM	Mass
Thu 9.30am	19 EM	Mass
Fri	20	
9.30am	SM	Mass
2.00pm	AC	Funeral service. Anne Rooney
Sat	21	
10.00am	EM	Confession & Adoration
11.00am	EM	Mass
1.00pm	SM	Baptism
5.00pm	SM	Confession
5.30pm	SM	Vigil Mass
Sun	22	**1st Sunday of Lent**
9.30am	EM	Mass
11.30am	SM	Mass
1.00pm	SM	Baptism

As we approach the great season of Lent let us heed the words of Jesus, let us embrace His love in our hearts and let us all grow closer to Him.

Fr. Kieren

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2025 – 2026

Catechesis/Celebrations

Parent meetings are marked in GREEN

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

HOLY COMMUNION MASSES 2026

All First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated at St Monica's Church at 12 Noon.

OLOR	First HC Mass 25th April
SM	First HC Mass 9th May
EM	First HC Mass 16th May

For children in non-Parochial Schools please choose any of the above dates for the celebration of Holy Communion and let Fr. K know.

LENTEN DEANERY MASS TIMES

All Masses at 7.00pm

THURSDAY 19th February

Our Lady & St John, High Lane, Chorlton Cum Hardy, M21 9EE

Preacher: Fr Croos SJ.

THURSDAY 26th February

St Josephs, Portland Crescent, Longsight, M13 OBU

Preacher: Fr Ged Murphy.

THURSDAY 5th March

St Ann, 1043 Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32.8L

Preacher: Fr Moses Agada.

THURSDAY 12th March

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Alphonsus.

Raby Street, Moss Side, Manchester M16 7JQ.

Preacher: Fr Ekpunobi.

Mass Intentions

LATELY DEAD

Requiescat in pace

Anthony O'Connor, Anne Smyth, Betty Riley, Larry Smith, Irving Pattinson

GENERAL INTENTION

A special intention, in thanksgiving, a successful operation, speedy recovery, for prayers answered, John & Eileen McNee

ANNIVERSARY

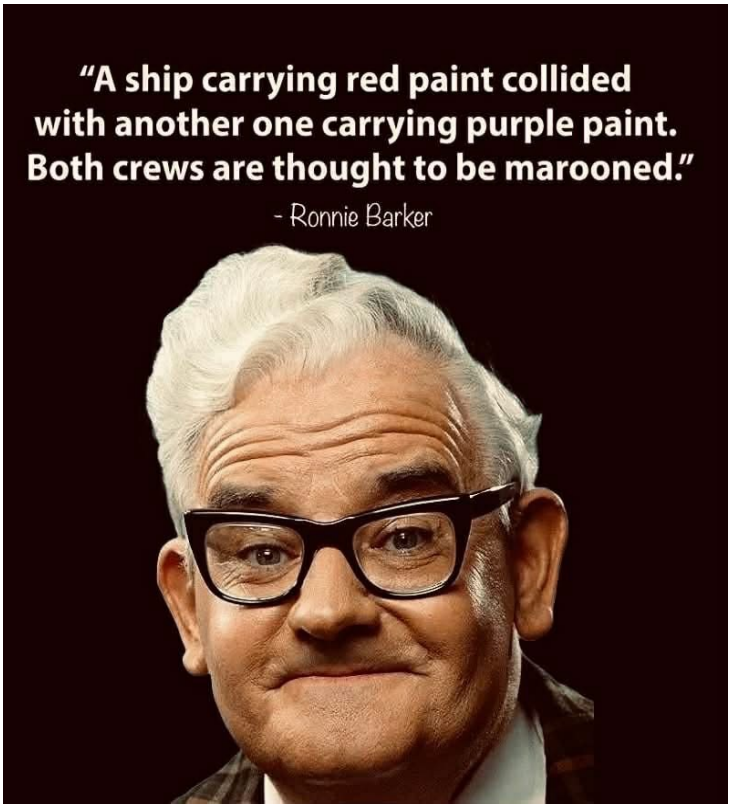
Charles Doherty, Anne McGrory, David Devine, Mary & John Evans, Jane Moran, Kevin Flannagn

Mass Intentions are published in the newsletter as they are received and not when they are said.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Margaret Barker, Paul Hales, Josie Fitton, Leo Turnbull, Anne Turnbull, John Piercy, Tom Parry, John Gibbons, Emma Coulson, Maureen Whalley, Gerry Smyth, Kystyna Bzdega, Bron Bzdega

Names can only be added to the sick list with permission of the **individual**



How can we keep our hope alive today?

Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP

Timothy Radcliffe is an English Dominican priest, theologian, and preacher, who served as Master of the Dominican Order from 1992-2001, and advised Pope Francis on social justice and synodality. He was made a cardinal in December 2024.

Tuesday 17th February 6pm

Holy Name Church · 339 Oxford Road · Manchester M13 9PG

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Dates for Catechesis 2026 - in the Parish Centre

3. Thurs. 26th March (6.30pm)

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

COULD YOU BECOME THE PARISH CARITAS VOLENTEER (REP)? Learn more about Caritas Salford and how to become a Parish Volunteer by visiting www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer or by emailing volunteer@caritas.org.uk or call 016181172250

SVP APPEAL The SVP are appealing for adult woollen hats and gloves for the homeless in central Manchester. If anyone has any spare around please leave them in the boxes at the back of church.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY due to half term there will be no children's liturgy for the next 2 weekends.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS for the season of Lent are now available, please make £1.50 donation if you can .

SYCAMORE COURSE will continue with Deacon John in the Jubilee Room on the following dates: 23/02, 9/03 and 23/03.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION TIES have now arrived. They will be available after each Sunday Mass and Parent Catechesis. They cost £5 each.

THE CHEEKY CUPBOARD We (Cheeky Cherubs) are setting up a food/toy bank in Urmston called The Cheeky Cupboard. We are urgently asking for donations of: Non-perishable food items, New or gently used toys for children. Any donation, big or small, will help us support local families during a difficult time. Donation to Cheeky cherubs community learning centre , Unit 1 Victoria Parade Urmston , M41 9AQ. Between 9 and 3 Monday to Saturday. Thank you for helping us care for our community — your support means everything. For more information contact Susan Wilkinson 0161 971 6692.

Online Gospel Readings During Lent During the Lenten period, there will be a series of gospel readings taking place every Tuesday and delivered online by various speakers including Fr Michael Deas, with the final reading to be given by Bishop John Arnold ahead of Palm Sunday. For more information, please visit the diocesan website: https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/

World Day of Prayer 6th March 5:00pm St John Henry Newman Parish are hosting this year's WDP at St Monica's Church. Prepared by the Christian Women of Nigeria, the theme is 'Come unto me...I will give you rest.' If you've not been to a service before, in the words of one of the hymns, 'All are welcome'.

Annual Reunion Mass for St Joseph's RC Technical High School A reunion Mass is being offered for Alumni, Staff and their families. If you went to St Joseph's, this Mass is for you to come and celebrate your part In Manchester's history from 1871-1985. Mass will be held at St Bernard's RC Church, Burnage Lane M19 1DR, followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Saturday, 21 March 2026 11 am Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12 Noon Mass for Feast of St Joseph

PARISH PILGRIMAGE : 5 day (4 nights) Half Board (£775 sharing/£915 single) with visits to Czestochowa, Auschwitz and Lagiewniki, price includes English speaking guide. Dates 12th October - 16th October. If you are interested (it will depend on numbers - min 20), let me know and I will begin looking into it. Fr K

Caritas Salford Call for Volunteers Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, is looking for parish volunteers to help with a range of activities. These are flexible roles that can be tailored in line with your availability, skills or interests. You can find out more at: www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/in-your-parish/

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY if you would like to support this event there are envelopes at the back of both churches. You can either send your donation directly to CAFOD or you can return to me via offertory baskets and I will forward it.

Exploring God's Creation within Catholic Theology Dr Finlay Malcolm from the University of Manchester will be delivering an interactive teaching session exploring how creation and the environment are integral to Catholic faith and theology. The session will involve theological and environmental teaching, spiritual reflection, and discussion of how we can be part of God's work, through the Church, in redeeming God's creation. The event will take place on 25 February 2026, 7-9pm, at Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Church in Bury. Refreshments will be provided. www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/exploring-gods-creation-within-catholic-theology/

Lenten Talks: School of Prayer During Lent, a series of talks and prayerful reflections will be taking place every Tuesday from 10:30AM to 12:30PM, led by Mgr Paul Smith, Sr Joan Kerley and Maria Kidd. These will be held at Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church, Little Hulton, from 17th February to 24 March, and light refreshments will be served. For more information https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lenten-talks-school-of-prayer/

Permanent Diaconate 'Come and See' Event Could you be called to serve the church as a Permanent Deacon? If you are a Catholic man interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Salford, please come along to our 'Come and See' event. This is a chance to discuss and learn more about the ministry. This event takes place from 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday 7 March at St Mary's Church, Hall Burnley, BB10 4AU. For more information about the Diaconate, please email diaconate@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or visit www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/vocations/permanent-diaconate/

RECEIVING & PREPARING FOR THE FULLNESS OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION

EUCHARIST (1st 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 2026) will be invited to enrol their child 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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Parishioners from Year 8 (upwards) are invited to join this programme. 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 & Lore-

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)

In order for your baby/child 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/

C	A	P	U	R	P	O	S	E	Y
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M	C	R	N	L	V	B	O	A	G
P	E	P	O	I	L	O	T	F	N
L	S	O	R	K	T	L	S	O	A
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ABOLISH COMPLETE PURPOSE
KINGDOM HEAVEN VIRTUE
ANCESTORS KILL ANGRY
ALTAR THRONE FOOTSTOOL

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

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. If you are a Catholic and have attempted marriage outside the Church and would like to consider a convalidation please speak to Fr. Kieren or Deacon John.

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

Please keep in your prayers those who will soon begin preparation to celebrate the sacrament in 2026.

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

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.