The Catholic Parish of St. John Henry Newman

"Heart Speaks to Heart!"

Parish Priest: Fr. Kieren Mullarkey
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The Presbytery, 5 Roseneath Road, Urmston, M41 5AX
Phone: (0161) 7482328
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh
Parish Admin: Amanda.Craven@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
The Parish Office is staffed Wednesday - Friday only

Safeguarding Rep: Amanda Craven/Geraldine Sherliker
Parish Centre: (0611) 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.

4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

"*At the cross her station keeping,*
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last".

So begins one of my favourite hymns for the season of Lent (and throughout the year) the *Stabat Mater*. Mothering Sunday, has evolved into the secular "Mother's Day", and yet originally it was about our mother or even Our Lady, it began as a tradition of returning "home" to your other church or Parish.

I suppose if the modern world can hijack Mothering Sunday, then so can I! I wish to do so by focusing on Mary as the Mother of God. Mary is not her Son's best mate. Mary is His mother and although mention of Mary is rare in the Gospels, one always - especially during Lent - gets the sense and impression that she is still present, just in the background, just out of sight.

Isn't that what "mothering" is?

Enabling your child to step out of your shadow, allowing them to become who they are, and who God created them to be, whilst remaining part of their own distinct story. Our Lady certainly does this with Jesus.

As He takes centre stage, she stays in the wings, never separating herself from Him and never drawing our attention from Him. Let us thank all those who "mother" us today and perhaps as Lent continues we unite ourselves with her, who could not be separated from Him.

"Christ above in torment hangs, She beneath beholds the pangs. Of her dying, glorious Son."

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Times may change

Psalter 3

MARCH - Month of St Joseph

Tue	17	St Patrick - Feast
9.30am	EM	Mass
Wed	18	
9.30am	SM	Mass
Thu	19	**St. Joseph - Solemnity**
		Patron of the Diocese of Salford
9.30am	EM	Mass
6.30pm	PC	Parent Catechesis
Fri	20	
7.30am	EM	Mass
9.30am	SM	Mass
3.00pm	EM	Stations
Sat	21	
9.30am	PC	Catechesis - Saturday Cohort
11.00am	EM	Mass
1.00pm	SM	Baptism
5.00pm	SM	Confession
5.30pm	SM	Vigil Mass
Sun	22	**5th Sunday of Lent**
9.15am	JR	Catechesis - Sunday Cohort
9.30am	EM	Mass
11.30am	SM	Mass
1.00pm	SM	Baptism

EASTER CARDS & GIFTS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION are available from the Parish Piety stalls ... come and have a look.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2025 - 2026

Catechesis/Celebrations

Parent meetings are marked in **GREEN**

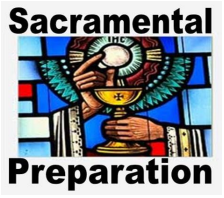
19th March 6.30pm	**Parish Centre**
21st March 9.30am	Parish Centre
22nd March 9.45am	Jubilee Room
16th April 6.30pm	**Parish Centre**
18th April 9.30am	Parish Centre
19th April 9.45am	Jubilee Room

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.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Jubilee room serves as a central hub for various parish focused groups and activities for all parishioners to become involved. (Details below)

MONDAY-Mothers prayers (10-11am)

-SVP each month (6:30-8pm)

-Sycamore every 2 weeks (7-9pm)

TUESDAY-Toddler group (9:30-11)

-prayer group (1-3pm)

-Homework club (4:30-7pm)

(The Secondary school age)

WEDNESDAY-Impact group (7-8:30pm)

SATURDAY-Children's church 5:30pm

SUNDAY-Children's church 11:30am

Tea/coffee served after mass

Family parish group activities. (Bee good friends) 2-4pm every 4 weeks details on notice board.

Mass Intentions

LATELY DEAD

Requiescat in pace

Esther Regan, Larry Smith, Anthony O'Connor

GENERAL INTENTION

A special intention, in thanksgiving, a successful operation, speedy recovery, for prayers answered, Pamela Rhodes, Tony Dixon, Bernie O'Sullivan, Dolores O'Sullivan, the Massey family

ANNIVERSARY

Michael and Anne Hanlon, Bill Lee, Kathleen Cremin

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, Gerry Smyth, Kystyna Bzdega, Bron Bzdega, Kath & Peter Hughes, Emma Coulson, Kathleen and Peter Hughes

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

HOLY WEEK & THE TRIDUUM

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (29th March) and so begins the important time of the year for every Catholic. Of this week the Triduum - the 3 days - is the most important, a singular liturgy incorporating 3 days through which we are drawn into the Paschal mystery.

The first part of this celebration is the Mass of the Lord's Supper where we celebrate the beginning of the sacraments of Eucharist and Holy Orders. The second part is the Passion of Good Friday where we reflect in silence on the reality of divine love. Finally we come to the Easter Vigil where we rejoice in the Resurrection and welcome new members into the Church, celebrating that through our Baptism we have been made coheirs to eternal life.

THE SOLEMN TRIDUUM

2nd April **Maundy Thursday**	Mass of the Lord's Supper (English Martyrs' Church) 7.00pm With watching until 10.00pm (concluding with Compline)
3rd April **Good Friday**	Stations of the Cross (St Monica's Church) 10.00am THE PASSION (St Monica's Church) 3.00pm
4th April **Holy Saturday**	Easter Vigil (English Martyrs' Church) 7.00pm Please take a candle and gather around the Easter Fire.

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

READERS FOR HOLY WEEK & THE TRIDUUM can all readers of the rota please check in with Lizz and Ann - Marie to confirm their availability during this holy time. Many thanks.

THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at the beginning of the Triduum we gather to celebrate the origin of the Eucharist and the Priesthood. If you would like to have your feet washed during this Mass please speak to Fr. K .

Caritas Salford - Pray, Fast, Give This Lent, visit Caritas Salford's website for a range of free resources and information for your parish community as you pray, fast and give this Lent: www.caritassalford.org.uk/Lent

EASTER SUNDAY - EASTER EGG HUNT we have a wonderful Easter Egg Tradition on Easter Sunday following the 11.30am Mass at St Monica's (Eggs are available after all Masses at Easter). If you would like to make a donation of small eggs (crème Egg size). Please could you leave that at the back of both churches.

EASTER FLOWERS If you would like to make a donation towards the flowers at Easter please place it in an envelope (marked flowers) and place it in the collection basket or hand to Fr. K.

STICKY FINGERS can I remind you not to leave any items of value in English Martyrs' Church. Please visit the Presbytery Office to purchase Mass Cards out of Mass times. Sadly there is a individual who visits the Church on a daily basis and fills his boots with anything not secure.

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

Youth pilgrimage to Lindisfarne the Diocese are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22 May – Sunday 24 May 2026. The cost is £120 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Young Adults Hub The diocesan Youth Team are delighted to share news of the Young Adults Hub, created especially for those aged 18–35 across the Diocese of Salford.
Mikey hub.president@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk and Edward hub.chair@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

This Lent, Will You Make a Change to Change a Life? By remembering our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, during Lent, your actions, donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people experiencing homelessness, poverty and discrimination in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/Lent now for ways you can help.

ALTAR SERVERS ARE YOU READY? Can you check in with Fr. K for you availability over the Sacred Triduum**.** Please note below the dates for practises:
Holy Thursday: practice Wednesday 01 April 7.30pm English Martyrs Church
Good Friday: practice Friday 03 April 9.00am St Monica's Church
Holy Saturday: practice Saturday 04 April 9.00am English Martyrs Church.

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), I now need to finalise numbers to see if the pilgrimage is feasible. If you would like to go please email me your full name.

FOR THOSE NOT IN IMPACT - Lourdes - Diocesan Youth Group Are you a young person looking to take part in a pilgrimage this year? Do you want to make new friends, build community and grow in your faith? Why not join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. It's simple to sign up and you can join a new "group" led by the Diocesan Youth Department. The pilgrimage and travel dates are 29th July to 6th August. The cost is £695 and this includes coach travel and full board hotel accommodation (Astoria Hotel). Young people can join in 3 age groups 13-15 (aspiring volunteers), 16-17 and 18+. If you are interested, email youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for details of how to register.

Called to Love A retreat for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social, as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded others! Runs from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May, with the option of staying Friday night. www.christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/

Exploring our Lenten Gospels The series will continue on Tuesday 17 March with Sr Joan Kerley reflecting on The raising of Lazarus and will close with Bishop John reflecting on the Palm Sunday readings. For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/

The SVP would like to thank everyone who supported the appeal for hats and gloves for the homeless. The response was tremendous. Could you please keep in your prayers all of the volunteers who through a charity call Two Brews take out 80 hot meals every night into Central Manchester for the homeless.

RECEIVING & PREPARING FOR THE FULLNESS OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 - letters and newsletter invitations will be sent out before Easter 2026. The programme is open to all baptised children resident in the Parish including those outside the Parochial schools.

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 & Loreto).

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/

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BLIND SPAT PASTE
SPITTLE SIGHT RESTORED
PROPHET PARENTS DISCIPLES
SINNERS DEVOUT BELIEVE

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
(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.