



Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

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Served by the
Missionary
Society of St Paul

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The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Year A, 11th January 2026

THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Monday 12th Jan.: Weekday.

9.30am Morning Mass

Tuesday 13th Jan.: Weekday.

9am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Wednesday 14th Jan.: Weekday..

9am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Thursday 15th Jan.: Weekday

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

Friday 16th Jan.: Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass: St Joseph's Y3 in Church

Saturday 17th Jan.: St Anthony, Abbot. (Mem.)

10am Morning Mass:

10.30am. Adoration and Confessions.

6pm: First Mass of Sunday:

Sunday 18th Jan.: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30 am Mass & 11.00 am Mass:

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

10th/11th Jan.: Readers: 6pm B. Brown, 9.30am: P. Cunningham, 11am: P. Greenall. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: J. Matthews 9.30am: D. Sharrock & 11am S. Fitzsimons.

17th/18th Jan.: Readers: 6pm S. Gibson, 9.30am: S. Jones, 11am: G. Da Silva. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: J. Matthews, 9.30am: S. Skinner, 11am D. Tierney.

Thank you for your generosity. **Last Weekend:** £318.72 (Gift Aid) £282.92 (Loose Change) & CAFOD £24.64.

200 Club If you would like to join it is only £5 a month which needs to be paid at the beginning of every month. The more members we have, the bigger the prize and more money going back into our church. Winners are on the Notice Boards.

Unclaimed 200 Club Winnings: S. Loyde, M. Basford and P. Djamalis. Please pick up Winnings from the sacristy.

Junior Choir: There will be **Junior Choir** practice in the parish meeting room on Mondays the 19th & 26th at 3.40pm, in preparation for Family Mass Sunday 1st of February.

Tea & Coffee after the 9.30 am Sunday Mass: We are hoping to introduce the opportunity of parishioners meeting and sharing in the parish meeting room over tea and coffee after the Sunday 9.30 am Mass. Please we also need volunteers to go on the rota.

This week we pray for the people of the parish of St. Joseph's parish, Reddish, for Fr. Damien Loudon, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

Let us pray for those who live and work on St. Andrews Dr, Burnside Cl, Goldcraft Cl, Goldbrook Cl & Penn St.

For The sick of our Parish.

For Paul O'Rourke, Vincent O'Brien, Frank Parry, Eileen Kershaw, Peggy McCarron, David Haworth, Robert Kierans, Donald Frazer, Jim Jackson and all who have died recently.

For Trudi Scholes, Catherine Johnston, Antonio, Maria & Matilde Da Silva, James & Veronica Maguire, Paul Skinner, David Pearson, Eric Fletcher, Nicholas, Dorothy, Kay, Nick, Dominic & James Doyle. Ethel & Peter McHugh, Josie Dermody, Ellen & Handel Holt, Brian Neary, Kenneth Bray, Nora Jones, Frank & Clara Taylor, deceased members of Jamieson & Barnes families and all we remember at this time.

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford: In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings

of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and *social media channels*.

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC

CHURCH 694 Water. the symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth: just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit. As "by one Spirit we were all baptized," so we are also "made to drink of one Spirit." Thus the Spirit is also personally the living water welling up from Christ crucified as its source and welling up in us to eternal life.

695 Anointing. the symbolism of anointing with oil also signifies the Holy Spirit, to the point of becoming a synonym for the Holy Spirit. In Christian initiation, anointing is the sacramental sign of Confirmation, called "chrismation" in the Churches of the East. Its full force can be grasped only in relation to the primary anointing accomplished by the Holy Spirit, that of Jesus. Christ (in Hebrew "messiah") means the one "anointed" by God's Spirit. There were several anointed ones of the Lord in the Old Covenant, pre-eminently King David But Jesus is God's Anointed in a unique way: the humanity the Son assumed was entirely anointed by the Holy Spirit. the Holy Spirit established him as "Christ." The Virgin Mary conceived Christ by the Holy Spirit who, through the angel, proclaimed him the Christ at his birth, and prompted Simeon to come to the temple to see the Christ of the Lord The Spirit filled Christ and the power of the Spirit went out from him in his acts of healing and of saving. Finally, it was the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Now, fully established as "Christ" in his humanity victorious over death, Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit abundantly until "the saints" constitute - in their union with the humanity of the Son of God - that perfect man "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ": "the whole Christ," in St. Augustine's expression.

THE WORD OF THE WEEK: It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

T	N	A	E	D	V	O	I	E	C	JESUS	JORDAN	JOHN
S	I	D	R	O	J	F	A	R	A	BAPTISM	FITTING	DEMANDS
U	D	R	O	J	I	R	N	T	S	WATER	HEAVENS	SPIRIT
E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	A	S	DOVE	VOICE	SON

S	C	S	T	P	D	T	A	W	D			
E	E	I	U	R	S	D	A	W	N			
J	N	N	O	S	O	T	N	H	A			
G	O	J	I	V	E	M	O	O	M			
T	O	H	E	R	E	J	E	J	E			
E	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	D			

SUNDAY *Plus*

The Baptism of the Lord **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Invited by Jesus




Is there anywhere humanity is more alive than family life? Family life is a celebration of incarnation, God with us. Our physical, created reality is where God is present – and family life is all about that. Our bodies are God's gift and through them we give ourselves to each other – through sexuality, pregnancy, birth, nurturing, holding, bathing, hugging, carrying, tickling, cleaning cuts, changing nappies, playing football, preparing food, smelly feet and sports gear, teenage hormones, man flu, menopause, new life or old age.

We speak of body language and it is through this that we express what goes on in our hearts. Often the small gestures speak loudest: a kiss, a touch, a cup of tea, a meal cooked, a chore done, a story read. These moments in the day

to day are what nurture family life and mark us as family rather than house-sharers. Intimacy articulates the bond between us.

When faith and Gospel values shape our approach, we try to live simply, challenge injustice and share our resources with those in need. The challenge is to let the Gospel come to life in our lives: to incarnate it, put flesh on it. Our baptism invites us to be the body of Christ in the world... When we reach out beyond our own families in care and solidarity for anyone vulnerable or oppressed, we know that the Spirit of Jesus is acting through us. This is what the spirituality of family life is about – living active faith in the day to day.

Bairbre Cahill, Family Spirituality

May Mary, temple of the Spirit, help us to celebrate and welcome the wonders that the Lord works in us.  Amen.

Say "Yes"

We foolishly suppose that prayer is about our own efforts, our longing for God, our attempts to love and praise and thank him. But all of this is only a consequence, a created response. Our prayer is God's work, God's creation. As you kneel there, sit there, walk about or whatever you do when you pray, you are saying "Yes" with your whole being to his will that you should be, that you should be you,

that you should be united to him. Your prayer is God's word of longing and loving in you, God's breathing of the Spirit in you, to make you want the union he wants. His desire is going through your heart to leap up to him and meet his desire again, like the desire of the writer who prayed to God to "send Wisdom"; yet it is truly your desire because he creates it as yours. His love is loving through your heart when you try to pray.

*Maria Boulding,
The Coming of God*

Do not be afraid! Accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord.

Pope Leo



Saints

St Lucy: seeing signs from God

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

After praying at St Agatha's shrine with Lucy, Lucy's mother was cured of a persistent illness and agreed to distribute their wealth among the poor people. The rich pagan whom she had wanted Lucy to marry against her mother's will was furious. Soldiers tried to take Lucy away forcibly. They could not move her, but her eyes were gouged out. She attributed her strength to the power of Jesus. Lucy means "light" and her witness over-came the spiritual darkness of her day and also helps us to rejoice in the light even in our darkest moments. At baptism, we were entrusted with the light of Christ. The vision of God's glory, revealed through Jesus, was so clear to Lucy that physical blindness did not obscure it. She embodies true vision, an example to us of spiritual understanding, focusing on Christ and his promises rather than the fleeting physical realities of this world.

Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence and a treasured former member of the Redemptorist Publications editorial team

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

Monday:
1 Samuel 1:1-8
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday:
1 Samuel 1:9-20
Mark 1:21-28

Scotland:
St Kentigern (Feast)
Isaiah 52:7-10
Matthew 28:16-20

Wednesday:
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday:
1 Samuel 4:1-11
Mark 1:40-45

Friday:
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday:
1 Samuel
9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1
Mark 2:13-17

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11