



# Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

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**The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 18th January 2026**

Served by the  
Missionary  
Society of St Paul

**Entrance Antiphon:** All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to your name, O Most High.

**Comm. Antiphon:** You have prepared a table for me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

## THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

**Monday 19th Jan.:** Weekday.

9.30am Morning Mass

**Tuesday 20th Jan.:** Weekday.

9am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

**Wednesday 21st Jan.:** Weekday..

9am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

**Thursday 22nd Jan.:** Weekday

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

10.30am: OLSP Yr 6 Class Mass

**Friday 23rd Jan.:** Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

**Saturday 24th Jan.:** Weekday..

10am Morning Mass:

10.30am. Adoration and Confessions.

6pm: First Mass of Sunday:

**Sunday 25th Jan.: The third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9.30 am Mass & 11.00 am Mass:

### Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

**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.

**25th/26th Jan.:** Readers: 6pm J. Matthews, 9.30am: S. Skinner, 11am: D. Doyle. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: B. Doyle 9.30am: L. Mather & 11am C. Shore.

**Thank you** for your generosity. **Last Weekend:** £434.03 (Gift Aid) £346.27 (Loose Change) & CAFOD £28.20.

**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. Lloyd, 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.

**Parish Clergy Moves:** Fr Augustine Franklin, MSP has been assigned to the diocese of Dunkeld, Scotland. Will be taking up his new assignment on the 6th of March. Fr John Okeme, MSP has also been reassigned to the Diocese of Wrexham, North Wales he will leaving for his new assignment on the 20th of February. The incoming parish priest will be announced in due time.

**This week we pray** for the people of the parish of St. Cuthbert's parish, Withington, and for Fr. Micheal Deas, their parish priest. Let us pray for their parish primary school and for the Chaplaincy to the Christie Hospital.

**Let us pray for** those who live and work on Pym St, Cromwell St, Cobden St, Osborne St & Buxton St.

**For** The sick of our Parish.

For John Goggins, 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 Fr Joseph Duggan, Veronica Maguire, Mary Jacques, Gilberto Miranda, Trudi Scholes, Catherine Johnston, Antonio, Maria & Matilde Da Silva, Frank and Clara Taylor 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** 606 The Son of God, who came down "from heaven, not to do (his) own will, but the will of him who sent (him)", said on coming into the world, "Lo, I have come to do your will, O God." "and by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." From the first moment of his Incarnation the Son embraces the Father's plan of divine salvation in his redemptive mission: "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work." The sacrifice of Jesus "for the sins of the whole world" expresses his loving communion with the Father. "The Father loves me, because I lay down my life", said the Lord, "(for) I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father."

607 The desire to embrace his Father's plan of redeeming love inspired Jesus' whole life, for his redemptive passion was the very reason for his Incarnation. and so he asked, "and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this From the cross, just before "It is finished", he said, "I thirst." "The Lamb who takes away the sin of the world"

**THE WORD OF THE WEEK:** There is no break between Christmas and Ordinary Time – one flows almost seamlessly into the other through the Baptism of Jesus. We ended our Christmas Season thinking about the "revelation" of the Son of God – people realising who this "Jesus of Nazareth" actually was – and this continues today, as we interject a passage from Saint John before we begin our weekly reading through Saint Matthew's Gospel. New Year is about beginnings, and as we return to the beginning of Our Lord's public ministry there is a sense of something exciting about to happen – even though we know the story, we dive into it once more, like returning to a favourite novel or film. So it is with joy that we stand in the country of the river Jordan, and recognise Jesus of Nazareth as the Chosen One of God, who offers himself to do God's work.

E	N	S	O	H	C	V	A	E	H
N	L	A	M	D	B	E	N	L	E
B	E	S	O	S	M	A	L	O	N
S	A	V	P	Y	A	S	T	E	O
S	R	P	A	I	L	R	S	I	N
E	S	A	T	E	R	O	S	L	W
N	I	B	I	I	H	I	H	A	E
T	L	T	S	C	S	O	T	R	I
I	I	N	E	I	Y	E	V	O	D
W	E	S	N	L	R	A	T	A	W

LAMB  
SIN  
ISRAEL  
WATER  
SPIRIT  
HEAVEN  
DOVE  
BAPTISE  
HOLY  
WITNESS  
CHOSEN  
ONE





Baptism of Christ. Chapel of the Convent of the Holy Trinity in Lomnica. Vranov, Slovakia. Adam Jan Figel / Shutterstock.com.

Listening is what allows us to enter into true dialogue.

Pope Leo

## Looking for God

And if you would know God,  
be not therefore a solver of riddles.  
Rather look about you and  
you shall see him playing with your children.  
And look into space;  
you shall see him walking in the cloud, outstretching  
his arms in the lightning and descending in rain.  
You shall see him smiling in flowers,  
then rising and waving his hands in trees.

Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

May the cross of Christ also guide us on our daily journey towards full unity, in harmony with one another and with all creation. Amen.

# A new start

One of the most frequently travelled roads between Jerusalem and Galilee ran through this region [of the River Jordan]. Near where it crossed the river, at a place called Bethabara, John began to preach from a natural pulpit among the rocks overlooking the grove of sycamores that sheltered his listeners from the burning sun of midday pouring down upon John's own unprotected head...

As word of John's fiery preaching in the wilderness began to spread, more and more people stopped on the way to and from Jerusalem to hear him. There had not been a real prophet in Israel for hundreds of years...

Bethabara could hardly be called a town. Actually, it was little more than a customs station where the traveller from Jerusalem passed from the area

ruled by the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate, into the region presided over by Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea. A small post of frontier guards was stationed at the fords, more to keep order than to disturb the travellers, who could move freely from any part of the Roman Empire to another so long as they paid the necessary tolls.

John understood that baptism was not, in Jesus' case, an act of repentance, an acknowledgement of sin and a washing away of all uncleanness, as it had been with the others he had baptised. Instead, this was Jesus' way of publicly announcing his subservience to the will of his Father and his willingness from thenceforward to do only God's purpose.

Frank G. Slaughter, *The Crown and the Cross: the life of Christ*

## Saints

### St Mary Magdalene: betrayal, repentance, forgiveness

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

We first meet Mary in Luke 8:1-3, having been freed from evil spirits. It is not said, but it is strongly suggested, that Jesus freed her. She abandoned her former life and accompanied Jesus. Mary was there at the crucifixion; present also when his body was placed in the tomb. She was the first to meet the risen Lord and to announce this good news. Hers is a story of transformation, demonstrating that Jesus can change our lives, freeing us from old ways and leading us into his new way, involving evangelisation: Mary joyfully told others that Jesus was risen because she had met him. That message is given to us to share also. Through us, Jesus still reaches out to people who are marginalised, including them in his circle of friends and giving them a place on his mission team. Mary reminds us of the great privilege we have been given, which is to tell others about our encounter with the risen Lord and the difference he is making in our lives.

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 62:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
John 2:1-11

Monday:  
1 Samuel 15:16-23  
Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday:  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday:  
1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51  
Mark 3:1-6

Thursday:  
1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7  
Mark 3:7-12

Friday:  
1 Samuel 24:3-21  
Mark 3:13-19

Saturday:  
2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27  
Mark 3:20-21

Next Sunday:  
Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3  
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17  
Matthew 4:12-23

