

SUNDAY *Plus*

3rd Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week III** Year A

Staying with them



Greg's visits with each kid are short, mostly a touching of bases. He gives this one a message from a girlfriend. He asks that one when his court date is and how his case is coming. He brings to a third a bag of personals – shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste.

"I always give priority to the kids who have no-one," says Greg. "About half the kids here have no-one, no family member who will bring them personals. So, I bring them what they need."

Watching him it becomes obvious why visiting kids in juvenile facilities has long been one of the building blocks of Greg's strategy. When a kid is locked up, he is at his most vulnerable, so the priest has a better shot at turning him around. "They always cry when they're locked up," says Greg...

If kids are incarcerated in facilities that are too far away to visit regularly, Greg writes to them, sending packets of personals through the mail as needed. He gets an average of forty letters a month and answers every one. The kids guard these letters as treasured objects, quoting passages to each other, and back to Greg months later when they are free.

Greg also goes to court or writes letters on kids' behalf when he believes in their cause. All these things – combined with helping them locate jobs, getting them into school, running interference with the bureaucracy, if need be, visiting them in the hospital when they've been shot – give him leverage. "Juice," as the kids call it. Influence.

Celeste Fremon, *Father Greg & the Homeboys: the extraordinary journey of Father Greg Boyle and his work with the Latino gangs of East L.A.*

It is our faith that gives us strength. It is our faith that enables us to see the light of Jesus Christ in our lives and to understand how important it is to live our faith.


Pope Leo XIV

I am with you

Be still and know I am with you.
be still, I am the Lord.
I will not leave you orphans.
I leave with you my world. Be one.

You fear the light may be fading,
you fear to lose your way.
Be still, and know I am near you.
I'll lead you to the day and the sun.

Ann Scott

Lord God, help me to bring your life and love to everyone I meet. Give me the courage to look for you even in the most difficult places.  Amen.

Feast of the week
Thursday 23 April

St George (d. 303)

Dragons were in rather short supply when St George was an officer in Rome's elite Praetorian Guard. Contrary to popular belief, it's highly unlikely that he ever met a dragon and even less likely that he fought and killed one. In fact, the story of his battle with a dragon post-dates George by about five hundred years.

Much of George's life is unknown. He lived and died during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian, who was responsible for the deaths of an uncounted number of early Christians, many after extreme brutality. Diocletian decreed that everybody in the Empire must sacrifice to pagan deities. George refused. His position in the Praetorian Guard meant an inevitable death sentence: Diocletian couldn't be seen to pardon a member of his own bodyguard!

As a Roman citizen, George – like St Paul – was beheaded, on 23 April 303. Unforeseen by Diocletian, his own wife, the Empress Alexandra, witnessed the execution, became a Christian and was herself martyred.



READINGS

Today:
Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

Monday:
Acts 6:8-15
John 6:22-29

Tuesday:
Acts 7:51 – 8:1
John 6:30-35

Wednesday:
Acts 8:1-8
John 6:35-40

Thursday:
Acts 8:26-40
John 6:44-51
England: St George
(Solemnity):
Apocalypse 12:10-12
John 15:18-21 or 15:1-8

Friday:
Acts 9:1-20
John 6:52-59

Saturday:
1 Peter 5:5-14
Mark 16:15-20

Next Sunday:
Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

St Joseph's Presbytery,
Mary St, OL10 1EG.

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Served by the
Missionary
Society of St Paul

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Third Sunday of Easter, Year A, 19th April 2026

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THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Monday	20th April: Easter Weekday (w).
9:30am	No Mass
Tuesday	21st April: Easter Monday (w).
9:00am:	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass
Wednesday	22nd April: Easter Weekday (w) St Anselm.
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass
11:00am	Funeral Service Martin Makin RIP
Thursday	23rd April: St George (Solemnity).
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass:
Friday	24th April: Easter Weekday (w) St Fidelis.
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00am	Funeral Mass Teresa Logan RIP
Saturday	25th April: Easter Weekday (w) St Mark
10:00am	Morning Mass:
10:30am.	Adoration and Confessions.
6:00pm:	First Mass of Sunday:
Sunday	26th April: Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:30am	Mass
11:00am	Mass

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers 17th/18th April:

Readers: 6pm J. Sherry, 9.30am: S. Skinner, 11am: D. Doyle.
Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: JB. Doyle, 9.30am: L. Mather, 11am C. Shore

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers 25th/26th April:

Readers: 6pm: P. Sherry, 9.30am: M. Schofield, 11am : P. Greenall
Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: J. Matthews, 9.30am: H. Sharrock, 11am: S. Fitzsimmons

Thank you for your generosity. Last Weekend: £352.85 (Gift Aid) £270.14 (Loose Change)

Easter Raffle Winners. Hamper: O'Neil (Pink Ticket 941-945),
Kettle: L Richardson (Pink 511-515), **Crystal:** Ethan Duffy (Yellow 796-800).

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.

200 Club February Winners: Nora Horan, Jean McGuinness, Stephen Haywood & David Sumner. Winners Envelopes are available in the Sacristy.

Unclaimed 200 Club Winnings: M. Basford . Please pick up Winnings from the sacristy.

Gift Aid Boxes: Do remember to pick up your new gift aid box and form.

Coffee and Tea: Please join us for Tea and Coffee served every Sunday after 9:30 Mass.

Pope's April prayer intention: 'For priests in crisis' Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

This Week we Pray:

For the parishioners of Christ the King, Newton Heath, for Fr. Derek McCartney, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

For those who live and work on Pasture Cl, Regent St, Ker-shaw St, Victoria Way, Pillsworth Rd, Margaret St, South St.

For The sick and the housebound members of our parish.

For Karen Sammon, Susan Tubano, Martin Makin, Teresa Logan, Terence Lutteral, Ann Hesketh, Romulo Bautista and all who have died recently.

For Frank and Clara Taylor, Margaret Stowell, John McGowan, Patricia Paskin, Kathleen and Charles Rhodes, Clyde Oxtan, Eamonn Beirne, Robert Kenny, Teresa Logan and all we remember at this time.

Junior Parish Choir: will be having their practice on Monday April 20th 3:40pm in Parish Meeting Room, New members welcome.

First Holy Communion: The last session for the F.H.C. Children with their Catechists will be on the Weekend of **25th/26th of April**. This is to prepare them for the 2nd Sacrament of Reconciliation which will be on Thursday **May 7th at 6.30pm**. (Please note change of date)

Confirmation 2026: For young people in year 8 and above who have done their First Communion and have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation, especially those in non Catholic Schools. Please pick and fill the confirmation form and return to the presbytery as soon as possible.

Sunday of Easter or of Divine Mercy (Year A) (Year A): The Gospel of the third Sunday is the remarkable conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well, the theme is water - which gives life, which cleanses, which is so necessary. This reading forms part of the catechesis given before Baptism at Easter: the candidates who would go into the water are invited to reflect on what that means. But more necessary than the water which gives life is the water which gives eternal life - the water of baptism, the water flowing from Jesus' side on the cross. Even if your Church does not have any candidates preparing for Baptism, we will all renew our baptismal promises at Easter: we should take this opportunity to reflect on what baptism has given us, and what God has done for us in this gift . For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

From the Catechism (CCC 733 - 736). "God is Love" and love is his first gift, containing all others. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Because we are dead or at least wounded through sin, the first effect of the gift of love is the forgiveness of our sins. The communion of the Holy Spirit in the Church restores to the baptized the divine likeness lost through sin.

E	L	T	H	U	S	B	A	D	N	SAMARITAN	SYCHAR	JACOB
S	E	L	L	E	W	O	M	A	N	JOSEPH	WELL	WOMAN
W	Y	L	E	B	L	E	T	H	E	WATER	DRINK	JEW
A	E	C	W	O	I	I	J	P	T	BUCKET	CATTLE	HUSBAND
T	E	A	H	C	R	N	Y	E	E			
E	L	T	T	A	C	H	K	S	S			
R	R	H	M	J	R	C	N	O	O			
D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I	J	J			
I	S	Y	C	B	S	A	R	A	O			
D	E	T	K	C	U	B	D	C	B			