



Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

St Joseph's Presbytery, Mary St, OL10 1EG. 01706 369777

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Served by the
Missionary
Society of St Paul

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The Third Sunday of Lent Year A, 8th March 2026

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THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Monday 9th March: Weekday of Lent.

9.30am:

Tuesday 10th March: Weekday of Lent.

9am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Wednesday 11th March: Weekday of Lent.

PLEASE, NO ADORATION

10am: Funeral Mass for Ann Fish

Thursday 12th March: Weekday of Lent.

9am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Friday 13th March: Weekday of Lent.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

6pm: Stations of the Cross in the Church

Saturday 14th March: Weekday of Lent.

10am Morning Mass:

10.30am. Adoration and Confessions.

6pm: First Mass of Sunday:

Sunday 15th March: The Second Sunday of Lent

9.30 am Mass

11.00 am Mass

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

7th/8th March: Readers: 6pm J. Sherry, 9.30am: S. Skinner,

11am: D. Doyle. Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: B. Doyle, 9.30am: D. Sharrock, 11am C. Shore.

14th /15th March: Readers: 6pm P. Sherry, 9.30am: M. Schofield, 11am: P. Greenall. Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: J. Matthews, 9.30am: S. Skinner, 11am S. Fitzsimons.

Thank you for your generosity. Last Weekend: £403.92 (Gift Aid) £378.91 (Loose Change) & CAFOD £38.59.

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 January Winners: E.G. Flynn, Nora Horan, Hazel Sharrock & Graham Lynn. Winners Envelopes are available in Sacristy.

Unclaimed 200 Club Winnings: S. Lloyd, & M. Basford. Please pick up Winnings from the sacristy.

Junior Choir: There will be Junior Choir practice in the parish meeting room on Monday the 9th and the 23rd at 3.40pm.

This week we pray for the people of the parish of St. Clare, Blackley, for Fr Jeremiah Budau, OFM Conv, and the Franciscan community. We pray for their parish primary school and Our Lady's High School, for the Good Shepherd Sisters and for the chaplaincy to the Romanian community.

MEETINGS: The Parish Children Choir will be having their practice on Monday the 9th and 23rd of March

The Parish Priest will be meeting with the Parish Finance committee on Tuesday the 10th of March 2026. Time 12: 00.

The Parish Priest will be meeting with the Parish Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist on Tuesday the 10th of March 2026. Time 7: 00.

The Parish Priest will be meeting with the Parish Lectors on Monday the 9th of March 2026. Time 12: 00.

Let us pray for those who live and work on Wolsey St, Chestnut Gardens, Denton St, Lytham Dr, Hollyoak Gardens & Smyrna St.

For The sick and the housebound members of our parish.

For Kathleen Lewis, Michael Melody, Ann Fish, Rita Matthews, and all who have died recently.

For Harold, Alan & Paul Stanly, Hugh McCormick, Josephine Pearson, Arthur Hartley, Tommy O' Dowd, Richard Potts, Frank and Clara Taylor, and all we remember at this time.

Ann Fish RIP: Funeral Mass for Rita will be held here at Our Lady and St Joseph on Wednesday 11th March at 10am. Please keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

Manchester Chinese Catholic Community (MCCC): MCCC would like to invite you to their monthly Mass. This takes place on the second Sunday of the month at 2PM and is held in Salford's temporary Cathedral on Great George Street, M3 6EH.

Youth pilgrimage to Lindisfarne: Following on from the success of last years pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, we 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. The Hub offers a welcoming space for young adults to deepen their faith, build authentic friendships, and grow together through prayer, formation, and social gatherings. If you would like more information, please reach out to Mikey hub.president@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk and Edward hub.chair@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Exploring our Lenten Gospels: Each Tuesday during our Lenten period, a series of reflections will be given online by various speakers, exploring the meaning of our Lenten Gospels and their implications for our lives today. The series will continue on Tuesday 3 March with Sr Maureen Murphy reflecting on The Woman at the Well, 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 WORD OF THE WEEK: 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

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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

SAMARITAN	SYCHAR	JACOB
JOSEPH	WELL	WOMAN
WATER	DRINK	JEW
BUCKET	CATTLE	HUSBAND

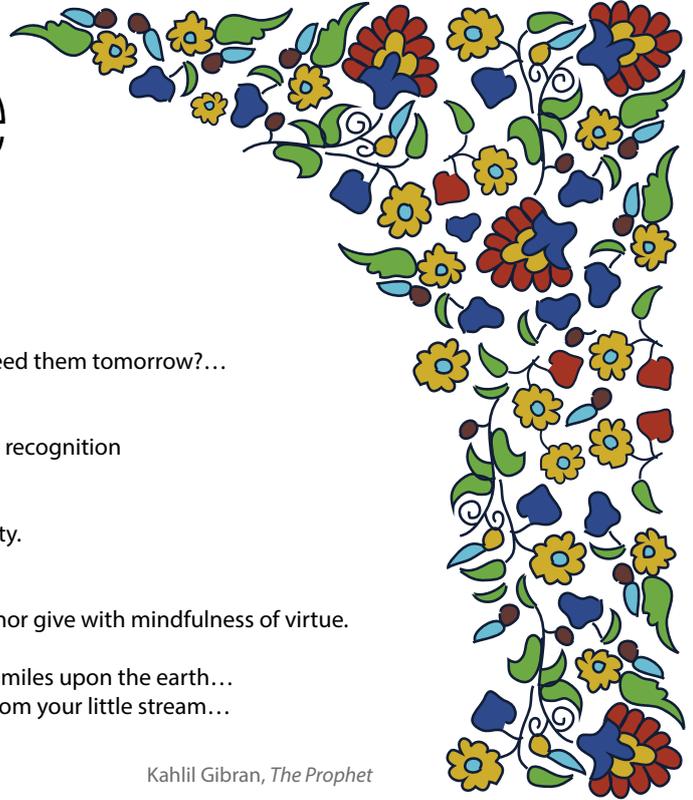


SUNDAY *Plus*

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

England & Wales: **Bible Sunday**

Believe in life



Then said a rich man, Speak to us of Giving.
And he answered:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?...

And what is fear of need but need itself?

Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, the thirst that is unquenchable?

There are those who give little of the much which they have – and they give it for recognition
and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue.

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes. He smiles upon the earth...

And he who has deserved to drink from the ocean of life deserves to fill his cup from your little stream...

See first that you yourself deserve to be a giver, and an instrument of giving.

Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

Dearest Jesus, living water, refresh my soul
and fill me with new life and love.  Amen.

Don't give up

I cannot pretend to understand God, but this is what I see: people who have moved from seeming success to seeming success seldom understand success at all, except a very limited version of their own. People who fail to do it right, by even their own definition of right, are those who often break through to enlightenment and compassion... It is God's greatest surprise and God's constant disguise, but you

only know it to be true by going through it and coming out the other side yourself. You cannot know it by just going to church, reading scriptures or listening to someone else talk about it, even if you agree with them... The surrender of faith does not happen in one moment but is an extended journey, a trust walk, a gradual letting go, unlearning and handing over. No-one does it on the first or even second try.

Richard Rohr OFM,
Breathing Under Water

Our prayer embraces all those peoples suffering because of war. Let us implore courage and perseverance for those engaged in dialogue and in the sincere search for peace.

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week
Thursday 12 March

Blessed Rutilio Grande
García SJ (1928-1977)

The Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, might not have become a martyr for social justice and a saint had it not been for the influence and assassination of his close friend Fr Rutilio Grande García SJ. Rutilio Grande's death transformed Romero from a quiet, bookish, predictable archbishop into someone who was also a voice for the voiceless, impoverished, oppressed people of El Salvador.

Grande worked for social transformation through the creation of Basic Christian Communities, which led people to come together to share and live the Gospel – but in criticising the unjust political system, he made enemies of the authorities.

A death squad ambushed Grande's vehicle. He was shot twelve times. An elderly man who tried to shield the priest was also killed, as was a sixteen-year-old boy.

At the funeral, Romero declared, "The true reason for [Grande's] death was his prophetic and pastoral efforts to raise the consciousness of the people throughout his parish."

READINGS

Today:
Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

Monday:
2 Kings 5:1-15
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday:
Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Matthew 18:21-35
Scotland: St John
Ogilvie (Feast):
Isaiah 50:5-9
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
John 12:24-26

Wednesday:
Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday:
Jeremiah 7:23-28
Luke 11:14-23

Friday:
Hosea 14:2-10
Mark 12:28-34
Scotland: St John
Ogilvie (Feast):
Isaiah 50:5-9; 2
Corinthians 1:3-7
John 12:24-26

Saturday:
Hosea 5:15 – 6:6
Luke 18:9-14

Next Sunday:
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7,
10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41