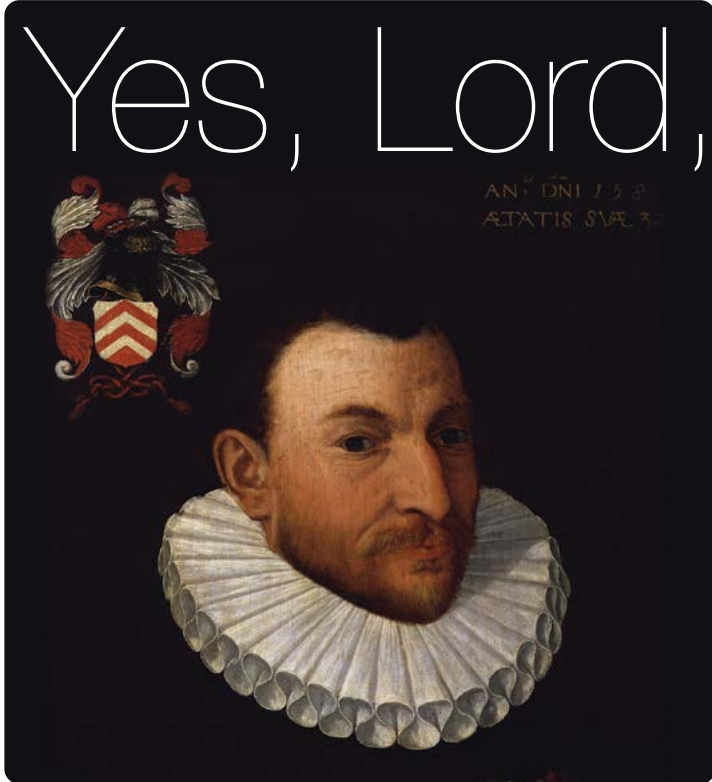


SUNDAY *Plus*

5th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Fr John Gerard SJ, Painter unknown

In our frailty, we discover that Christ himself is the Good Samaritan who heals our wounds and restores our hope.


Pope Leo XIV

Be not afraid

You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
And all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid:
I go before you always.
Come, follow me
And I will give you rest.

John Michael Talbot

Jesus, help me not to move into panic mode. Help me to take a deep breath and count to ten before I start to expect disasters which might never happen. Teach me to stay calm and trust in you.  Amen.

I believe

After a few months we had, by God's grace, everything so arranged that I was able to perform there all the tasks of a Jesuit priest, and provided only I could have stayed on in this prison, I should never have wanted to have my liberty again in England.

Though I was locked up, I looked on this change [from Poultry Compter] to the Clink as a translation from Purgatory to Paradise. I no longer heard obscene and bawdy songs, but, instead, I had Catholics praying in the next cell. They came to my door and comforted me, then they showed me how I could have freer dealings with them through a hole made in the wall, which they had covered over and concealed with a picture. Through this hole they handed me, the next day,

letters from some of my friends, and at the same time gave me paper, pen and ink, so that I could write back...

Through this same hole I also made my confession and received the Blessed Sacrament. But there was no need to carry on like this for long, for some Catholics in the prison contrived to make a key that would open my door. Then every morning before the warder came round, in fact before he was out of bed, they came and took me to another part of the prison, where I said Mass and gave the sacraments to the Catholics confined in that section. All of them had keys of their own doors.

John Gerard,
Autobiography of a Hunted Priest

Feast of the week Monday 4 May



The Martyrs of England and Wales

One of the treasures of the English College in Rome is an atlas, an old atlas. It is dated 1570, and it is beautiful. The English College opened just nine years later, so that atlas must have been bought to show the students where to go once they got back home.

These students had come to Rome for just one reason: to go back home, to return to England and Wales, where Queen Elizabeth I had banned seminaries and banned the Mass. At great risk to themselves, after years of preparation in Rome they would make their way back to England to bring the sacraments to Catholics up and down the land...

There were Benedictines, Carthusians, Franciscans and many other religious preparing to shepherd the Lord's flock on English soil. It is no exaggeration to say that, without the courage of these Tudor martyrs, there might have been no Catholic Church remaining in England today.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson

READINGS

Today:
Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

Monday:
Acts 14:5-18
John 14:21-26

Tuesday:
Acts 14:19-28
John 14:27-31

Wednesday:
Acts 15:1-6
John 15:1-8

Thursday:
Acts 15:7-21
John 15:9-11

Friday:
Acts 15:22-31
John 15:12-17

Saturday:
Acts 16:1-10
John 15:18-21

Next Sunday:
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

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

Website: www.catholicheywood.org.uk

Email: stjosephheywood@outlook.com, Tel: 01706 369777



Served by the
Missionary
Society of St Paul

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Third Sunday of Easter, Year A, 3rd May 2026

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THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Sunday	3rd May: Fifth Sunday of Easter
9:30am	Mass
11:00am	Mass
Monday	4th May: Easter Weekday (w) English Martyrs
10:00am	Mass
Tuesday	5th May: Easter Weekday (w)
9:00am:	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00am	Funeral Mass for Terence Lutteral
Wednesday	6th May: Easter Weekday (w)
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass
Thursday	7th May: Easter Weekday (w)
8:45am	Mass Holy Family College
9:30am	Mass Our Lady and St Paul School
5:00pm	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:00pm	Mass
Friday	8th May: Easter Weekday (w)
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass
Saturday	9th May: Easter Weekday (w)
10:00am	Mass:
10:30am.	Adoration and Confessions.
6:00pm:	First Mass of Sunday:
Sunday	10th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter
9:30am	Mass
11:00am	Mass

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers 25th/26th April:

Readers: 6pm B. Brown, 9.30am: P. Cunningham, 11am : G. Da Silva
Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: J. Matthews, 9.30am: D. Sharrock, 11am D. Tierney.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers 9th/10th May:

Readers: 6pm: G. Gibson, 9.30am: S. Shinner, 11am : D. Doyle
Eucharistic Minister: 6pm: D. Doyle, 9.30am: L. Mather, 11am: C. Shore.

Thank you for your generosity. Last Weekend: £479.08 (Gift Aid) £290.62 (Loose Change)

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 March Winners: Frances O'Donnel, Constance Hoyle, Pat Greenall & C. McFadden. Winners **Envelopes are ready for collection in the Sacristy.**

Unclaimed 200 Club Winnings: Nora Horan & David Sumner. 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.

First Holy Communion: The 2nd Sacrament of Reconciliation for the F.H.C. Children will be on Thursday May 7th at 6.30pm.

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. Who have picked and filled the confirmation form to kindly return it to the presbytery as soon before the end of the week.

Bereavement Group shall be meeting on Tuesday 5th May in the Parish meeting Room @ 7:00pm

Pope's April prayer intention: That everyone might have food From large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food .

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 Hamer St, South Ave, Argyle Ave, Argyle Crescent, Melton St, Melton Cl, Barker St, Jura Gr, Unity St, Unity Crescent.

For Szymon Rinke and all who celebrate their birthday in the month of May

For Fr Michael Johonnett and all the sick and the housebound members of our parish.

For Jennifer Taylor, Susan Tubano, Martin Makin, Teresa Logan, Terence Lutteral, Romulo Bautista, Michael Welsh and all who have died recently.

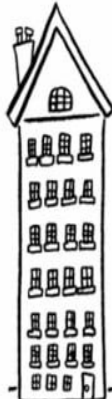
For Frank and Clara Taylor, Dorothy Stott, Joseph Brennan, Patrick McNally, Patricia Reviles Mary Martin, Annie Fielding, John Dean, Marion Hargreaves, Emma Grime, Michael Kierans, Bridget Flaherty, Richard Berry, Catherine Morrison and all we remember at this time.

Junior Choir Practice: The Parish Junior choir will be having their choir practice on Monday 11th May @ 3:40pm (we need more children to join the choir to enhance the two First Holy Communion celebrations.)

Family Visitation: As part of his getting to know the parishioners better, Fr Ebuka is set to start family home visitation. Please contact the parish office or see Fr Ebuka to arrange for your family visitation.

Sunday of Easter or of Divine Mercy (Year A) (Year A): We continue to explore the meaning of baptism, of membership of the Church, of living a life which has been immersed in the life and death of Jesus Christ: in other words, we continue our 'Mystagogy' - our training in the mystery of Baptism and the other Sacraments. We hear more about 'who Jesus is', with another 'I am' statement: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". We are baptised into his way, his truth and his life. We hear about the earliest community struggling with the life they are called to by baptism, and Peter again reminds us that baptism builds us into a 'spiritual house' with Jesus as our cornerstone. The mystery of the Church is clearly before us today: the Church is the community of those baptised in Christ, the pilgrim people walking with Christ (who has shown us the Father) to the place he has prepared for us. Today's reading can perhaps make us think a little about how we form part of this 'spiritual house', the Church, as we journey to the Father . For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

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HEARTS
TROUBLED
TRUST
ROOMS
HOUSE
TRUTH
BELIEVE
FATHER
LIVING
EVIDENCE
REASON
PERFORM