

# SUNDAY *Plus*

4th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

## God, I love you!

Understanding prayer means understanding that one is speaking with God.

There are two poles, one very, very tiny and very, very weak: my soul. One immense and powerful: God. But here is the first paradox, the first surprise: that he who is so great should have wanted to speak to me, tiny as I am.

It is not I who wanted prayer. It is he who wanted it. It is not I who have looked for him. It is he who has looked for me first. My seeking him would have been in vain if before all time he had not sought me.

The hope on which my prayer rests is in the fact that it is he who wants it. And if I go to keep the appointment it is because he is already there waiting for me. If he

had remained in his silence and isolation, I'd have not been able to break mine... I've been speaking with God all my life; and I've only just begun!

There's another thing to say about prayer. It doesn't come from earth but from heaven. The cry which fills my breast and makes me exclaim "God, I love you!"... When I bow before his love, he is not slow to come; rather he has already come, for he loves me much more than I, poor creature, can ever love him.

And love shows itself in action... the soul must say with sincerity, "now I will arise and go to my Father."

Carlo Carretto, *Letters from the Desert*



Lord, let me follow you in all of life's ups and downs, joys and sorrows, successes and failures. Stay close to me at every moment of every day. ✚ Amen.

In whatever the Lord calls us to do, in both our daily lives and our journey of faith, there are times when we feel inadequate. [Jesus] tells us not to rely on our own abilities but on the mercy of the Lord who has chosen us, and to be certain that the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us all things.

Pope Leo XIV

## God calls

As Ignatius had a love for fiction, when he found himself out of danger, he asked for some romances to pass away the time. In that house there was no book of the kind. They gave him, instead, *The Life of Christ*, by Rudolf, the Carthusian, and another book called *The Flowers of the Saints*, both in Spanish. By frequent reading of these books, he began to get some love for spiritual things...

While perusing the life of Our Lord and the saints, he began to reflect, saying to himself, "What if I should do what St Francis did?" "What if I should like act like St Dominic?" He pondered over these things in his mind and kept continually proposing to himself serious and difficult things. He seemed to feel a certain readiness for doing them, with no other reason except this thought, "St Dominic did this; I, too, will do it." "Saint Francis did this; therefore, I will do it."

*Autobiography of St Ignatius of Loyola*

Feast of the week  
Thursday 30 April

Blessed Dr José Gregorio Hernandez

Exactly five years ago today, this Venezuelan doctor and bacteriologist was beatified.

Known as the "doctor of the poor", Blessed Gregorio treated the poor for free and frequently paid for their medicines with his own money. "Most of these people do not have resources," he told his aunt María Luisa, explaining why he kept a moneybag inside his medical bag wherein his patients could either deposit what they could afford or help themselves to funds for their daily needs. "I am not going to deny them the consultation, and I am not going to make them go through the pain of telling me that they have no money," he said. "God will help."

Blessed Gregorio was accidentally hit by a car and died of head injuries as he left a pharmacy after collecting a poor woman's medicines.

The day before the beatification, Pope Francis said that he had never met a Venezuelan "who, halfway through the conversation, did not finally say to me: 'When will Gregorio be beatified?'"

## READINGS

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

Monday:  
Acts 11:1-18  
John 10:11-18

Tuesday:  
Acts 11:19-26  
John 10:22-30

Wednesday:  
Acts 12:24 - 13:5  
John 12:44-50

Thursday:  
Acts 13:13-25  
John 13:16-20

Friday:  
Genesis 1:26b - 2:3  
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday:  
Acts 13:44-52  
John 14:7-14

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

# 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, 26th April 2026**

**Parish Mass Book Page 262**

## THS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

<b>Monday</b>	<b>27th April:</b> Easter Weekday (w).
9:30am	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>28th April:</b> Easter Weekday (w) St Peter Channel.
9:00am:	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>29th April:</b> Easter Weekday (w) St Catherine of Sienna.
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>30th April:</b> Easter Weekday (w) St Pius V.
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass:
8:45am	Mass Holy Family College
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1st May:</b> Easter Weekday (w) St Joseph the Worker.
9:00am	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30am	Mass ( Y1 of SJS will be joining us for Mass)
12:45pm	<b>Funeral Service Karen Sammon RIP</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2nd May:</b> Easter Weekday (w) St Athanasius
10:00am	Morning Mass:
10:30am.	Adoration and Confessions.
6:00pm:	First Mass of Sunday:
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd May:</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter
9:30am	Mass
11:00am	Mass

### 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

### Readers & Eucharistic Ministers 2nd /3rd May:

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

**Thank you** for your generosity. Last Weekend: £241.00 (Gift Aid) £336.20 (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 February Winners:** Nora Horan, Jean McGuinness, Stephen Haywood & David Sumner. Winners **Envelopes are ready for collection 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 Argyle St, Agincourt St, Broadfield St, New York St, High St, Crown Rd, Mill St.

For The sick and the housebound members of our parish.

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

For Frank and Clara Taylor, Frank and Clara Taylor, Mary Martin, Annie Fielding, Margaret Dodd, Sister Assumpta, Dorothy Stott, Joseph Brennan, Patrick McNally, Patricia Reviles and all we remember at this time.

**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.

**Change of Mass time:** Starting from May 2026, the parish Thursday Mass will now be in the **evening 6:00pm**. This is to enable Fr Ebuka celebrate masses for the HFC and OLSP schools in the morning.

**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):** When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened”. There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world . For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

S	R	E	N	N	I	S	L	E	T	BLIND	SPAT	PASTE
S	E	D	E	V	O	U	T	H	S	SPITTLE	SIGHT	RESTORED
P	E	I	R	T	R	O	H	R	T	PROPHET	PARENTS	DISCIPLES
I	S	L	A	S	A	R	G	E	N	SINNERS	DEVOUT	BELIEVE
T	E	H	P	O	R	P	I	S	E			
T	A	S	P	I	A	A	S	T	R			
L	H	G	I	S	C	O	P	O	A			
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E	V	E	I	L	E	B	I	E	S			
E	D	N	I	L	B	L	N	D	I			