

The Catholic Parish of
St. John Henry Newman
"Heart Speaks to Heart!"

Parish Priest: Fr. Kieren Mullarkey
kieren.mullarkey@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
The Presbytery, 5 Roseneath Road, Urmston, M41 5AX
Phone: (0161) 7482328
Deacon: Rev. John Walsh

Parish Admin: Amanda.Craven@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Mrs. Amanda Craven
Parish Centre: (0161) 747 9173 (bookings - bar - via SDC)
sjhnpc@sdc-trading.co.uk
SVP : 07495251598

St John Henry Newman, Urmston

If you would like to make a donation to the Parish please scan the above QR code.



CHRISTMAS - Psalter 1



Dear Parishioners,

"But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round - apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that … "

I love this quote from the first few pages of the Christmas Carol. Before we are introduced to Ghosts and even Tiny Tim we are reminded that our celebration of Christmas comes from the One who gives the season its name: **CHRIST**.

It is easy to forget (and so many do) that Christmas celebrates the fact that God enters into His creation, our world, as a specific human being and at a specific time. God chooses to dwell amongst us, not as an unknown stranger, but as Jesus the Christ. Every other facet of our Christmas celebration only has meaning because of this miracle.

As we celebrate this miracle and unwrap the divine gift that we have been given during this festive season, you and I are invited to fix our eyes on Jesus and come to know God with us.

Perhaps the words of the Prophet Isaiah, put to music by Handel may remind us who that child truly is:

"Unto us a child is born
Unto us a Son is given
Unto us a Son is given
For unto us a child is born …
And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor
The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father
The Prince of Peace"

As we fix our eyes on the face of God, born in Bethlehem, may our gaze never fall from His face.

May God Bless you all this Christmas time.

Fr. Kieren





PARISH WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Times may change due to Weddings & Funerals

Wed 5.00pm 8.00pm	24 SM EM	CHRISTMAS EVE "BELL" Mass Mass
Thu 9.30am 11.00am	25 EM SM	CHRISTMAS DAY Mass Mass
Fri Noon	26 SM	St STEPHEN (Feast) Mass
Sat 11.00am 5.30pm	27 EM SM	St. JOHN THE EVANGELIST (Feast) Mass Vigil Mass
Sun 9.30am 11.30am	28 EM SM	HOLY FAMILY Mass Mass
Tue 10.00am	30 SM	Requiem Mass - Kath Murphy
Wed 10.00am	31 SM	Requiem Mass - Kathleen Greer
Thu Noon	01 EM	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Mass
Fri 9.30am	02 SM	Ss. Basil & Gregory Mass
Sat 10.00am 11.00am 5.00pm 5.30pm	03 EM EM SM SM	Adoration and Confession Mass Confession Vigil Mass
Sun 9.30am 11.30am	04 EM SM	2nd Sunday of Christmas Mass Mass

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2025 - 2026

Dates for Catechesis & Celebrations

Catechesis/Celebrations
Parent meetings are marked in **GREEN**

22nd January 6.30pm	**Parish Centre**
24th January 9.30am	Parish Centre
25th January 9.45am	Jubilee Room
5th February 6.30pm	**Parish Centre**
7th February 9.30am	Parish Centre
8th February 9.45am	Jubilee Room
24th Feb 6.30pm	**1st CONFESSION SM**
25th Feb 6.30pm	**1st CONFESSION SM**
7th/8th March	**Lenten Mass**
19th March 6.30pm	**Parish Centre**
21st March 9.30am	Parish Centre
22nd March 9.45am	Jubilee Room
16th April 6.30pm	**Parish Centre**
18th April 9.30am	Parish Centre
19th April 9.45am	Jubilee Room

HOLY COMMUNION MASSES 2026

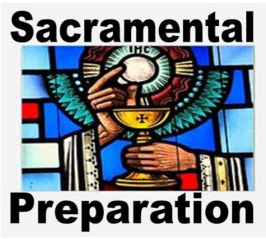
OLOR 1st HC Mass 25th April NOON (SM)

SM 1st HC Mass 9th May NOON (SM)

EM 1st HC Mass 16th May NOON (SM)

For children in non-Parochial Schools please choose either 9th or 16th May for 1st Holy Communion Mass.





5 CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. The word 'Christmas' comes from old English, the Mass of Christ or Christ's Mass. Even the word 'holiday' is derived from the phrase 'Holy Day'.

2. St. Nicholas inspired the modern tradition of stocking-hanging. Bishop Nicholas, the 4th Century Bishop Myra (modern day Turkey), was well-known for his generosity to those in need and his love for children. St. Nick IS Santa Claus. There are many stories of Bishop Nicholas tossing coins through windows into the homes of people in need. Legend says that some coins bounced into the stockings a family had drying by the fireplace. This became the basis of the modern custom of hanging stockings by the mantle for Santa to fill. Santa Claus" is the English corruption of the Norwegian "Sinter (Saint) Cholas (Nicholas)."

3. The use of holly at Christmas reflects the Passion. The holly bush used for wreaths is a thorny bush, which symbolizes the crown of thorns Jesus wore during His Passion. The red berries of the holly represent the drops of His blood.

4. Bethlehem in English means "House of Bread" From Bethlehem the Bread of Life come to us, and remains with us in the Eucharist.

5. The stable where Jesus was born was actually a cave. Because of the terrain and natural conditions of the area, the ancient peoples of Israel had primarily stone buildings, and used natural caves as much as possible. You can still visit the cave of Christ's birth if you visit the Holy Land. It is a major Shrine and tourist attraction.





LATELY DEAD
Requiescat in pace

Patrick Lawlor, Wilf Knight, Tina Welch, Alan Walsh, Margaret Kent, Kathleen Greer

GENERAL INTENTION

A special intention, in thanksgiving, a successful operation, speedy recovery, Fr DQ (Anniversary of Ordination), in thanksgiving for Fred's 90th birthday, Mary Murphy, Mary Byrnne, Michael Carr, Ted Carr, Pat Sheehy, the Sheehy family, Maurice and Tess Mulcahy, the Mulcahy family, James & Mary Sheehy, Tom & Patricia Kennedy

ANNIVERSARY

John Greening, Tony Robinson, Maureen & Patrick Walkin, Martin Cassidy, Joan O'Connor, Bernard Bickmore, Peter Caine, Vera Gormley, Geoff Fitton

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

John Gibbons, Maureen Boylan, Jenny Marks, Emma Coulson, Maureen Whalley, Marian Kerrigan, Mary Tunstall, Angela Considine, Anne Smyth, Little Rhia Brooke, Gerry Smyth, Bridie McLaughlin, Sian McManamon, Bernard Walker, Mark Daly, Leo Turnbull, Anne Turnbull, Tom Parry, Mary Doolan, Michael Rice, Margaret Barker, Paul Hales, Josie Fitton, Krystyna Bzdega, Bron Bzdega

The Angelus Prayer

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary ...
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done to me according to thy word.
Hail Mary. . .
V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary. . .
V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Dates for Catechesis 2026

1. Thurs. 8th January** (6.30pm). 2. Thurs. 12th Feb (6.30pm)
3. Thurs. 26th March (6.30pm)
Please return completed forms to Fr K before Christmas.

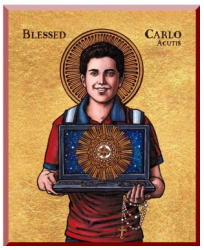


The date for the celebration of Confirmation has now been confirmed as Sunday 28th June 2026 (2pm) at St Monica's Church

Please return completed registration Forms before Christmas
** note change of date.

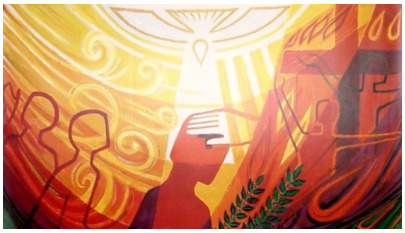
CRIB OFFERING during the Christmas season there will be an opportunity to support the Christian community in the Holy Land. If you would like to support our brothers and sisters in Christ please place your donation in the basket at the crib.

ADVICE AS WEATHER GETS COLDER and energy bills rise If you or someone in your wider parish community is in need of support around rising energy bills, Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, has a free energy advice service that can help. You can find details on their website on how to arrange a free session with their energy advice service team, and lots of other information: www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport



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. 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.

Safeguarding Survey – Public Call for Information The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) are completing a safeguarding inspection within the Diocese of Salford, and would like to hear the views of as many people as possible regarding their arrangements for safeguarding. Responses will be collected anonymously unless you choose to provide your contact information, and the survey will close at 11:45pm on Friday 16th January 2026. To submit your response, please scan the QR code:



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION a FINAL reminder for parishioners in Yr 8. If you would like to join the programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation please complete the form (available at the back of both churches) and return it to Fr. K. Details of the programme are in the Parish Newsletter.

POTENTIAL PARISH SISTER as many of you know the Parish has been asked to consider employing a Parish Sister. Very soon some sisters belonging to "The Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima" will be joining our diocese. In principle I have agreed to welcome one of the sisters to help in the Parish. However, this is not set in stone and there are a lot of logistical problems to solve. I will keep you informed as I receive more news.

CONTEMPLATING A PARISH PILGRIMAGE I've been approached by a number of parishioners asking me … "where are we going next?" I wasn't actually planning anything this year, but I've been asked to consider bringing a parish group to Krakow. If you are interested (it will depend on numbers), come and let me know and I will begin looking into it. Fr K

SYCAMORE led by Deacon John will continue in the New Year. Please check future newsletter for updates. The first session will be held on 12th January 2026!

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you on behalf of myself and Deacon John. Thank you for the many gifts and cards, but special thanks to all the parishioners (musician's, altar servers, readers, eucharistic ministers, catechists, children's liturgy co-ordinators, flower arrangers, cleaners, sacristans, piety stall) those visible and all who volunteer unseen in the background of Parish Life. THANK YOU for all that you do, you are never invisible!

Bishop John's message for Caritas: Bee-ing there this Christmas Demand for our diocesan charity Caritas Salford's services is greater than ever as more and more people in our diocese experience poverty, homelessness and discrimination. If you haven't seen their Bee There Advent appeal yet, which asks if you are able to help support people locally, you can read more at www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere Bishop John has recorded a special message to tell us more about why it's so important, especially at this time of year: www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-christmas-25/

Advice as energy bills continue to rise If you or those in your wider parish community are in need of support with rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. Their energy advice service team can support with free sessions and drop-ins in your area. You can find out more by visiting www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport

GOOD NEWS Our Parish Prayer Group meeting is changing from Tuesday evening to Tuesday afternoon 1– 3pm. Everyone welcome.

APF Red Mission Boxes If you have a mission box that needs to be emptied, leave them in the boxes provided. St Monica's box will be in the entrance porch of the church. English Martyrs box will be in the porch of the **Presbytery**. Once your box has been emptied, they will be left in either church, ready for you to collect.

'Neurodiversity and Our Faith' Research The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. Your experiences will help them to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to complete the short surveys, please visit: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/

Laudato Si' Centre Volunteer Call-out: Retired Educators The Diocese of Salford's Environment Team is inviting retired education staff to volunteer at the Laudato Si' Centre to assist with their successful programme of school visits. Volunteers would be supporting sessions with children from nursery age to Year 11 with activities including arts and crafts, games, and foraging: laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

THE PARISH SICK LIST will be deleted and renewed for the New Year. If you would like loved ones to be placed on the new prayer list please email Fr. Kieren directly with their information. Permission must be sought and given by the sick person for their name to be published.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – Starting primary school September 2026 If you live in the Parish of St John Henry Newman (and beyond) and your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, they are eligible to start school from 1st September 2026. Please check the website of each school and read the Admissions Policy and note the supplementary documentation that must be produced (Baptism Certificate). The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2026. www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/schools/school-admissions/Primary/primary-school-admissions.aspx

A	B	Y	M	E	L	C	H	I	O	R	R	E
B	D	E	L	B	A	T	S	L	A	A	E	S
S	I	V	D	L	E	O	N	Z	T	R	H	N
A	S	R	E	J	O	S	A	S	T	E	R	E
N	G	G	C	N	O	H	O	S	P	E	T	C
T	N	Y	O	M	T	S	A	H	G	I	J	N
A	I	B	R	L	Y	M	E	N	T	E	R	I
C	K	A	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	A	C	K
L	A	B	T	S	D	M	R	U	H	T	O	N
A	B	R	I	G	H	O	S	H	O	L	Y	A
U	M	R	O	O	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R
S	H	E	N	L	E	S	N	I	T	A	R	F
C	R	I	S	D	S	Y	R	A	M	I	N	G

CHRISTMAS TREE
DECORATIONS
HOLLY
REINDEER
TINSEL
MANGER
BABY
JOSEPH
JESUS
SHEPHERD
KINGS
STAR
STABLE
SANTA CLAUS

ADVENT
CAROLS
ANGEL
CRIB
HOLY
NOEL
MARY
BALTHAZAR
MELCHIOR
CASPAR
GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH





"That night in Bethlehem…God's stooping down became real in a way previously inconceivable… he himself comes down as a child to the lowly stable, the symbol of all humanity's neediness and forsakenness… The Creator who holds all things in his hands, on whom we all depend, makes himself small and in need of human love."

Pope Benedict XVI



TRAFFORD NORTH FOOD BANK Please place any of the above items in the grey bin at the back of church (English Martyrs). To donate directly Co-op Bank a/c 65855834 Sort code: 089299.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

"Parents are obliged to see to it that infants are baptised within the first weeks after birth" (867)

In order for your baby/child to be baptised, if you are not already practising your Catholic faith, then you must begin to **attend Sunday Mass for a minimum of at least 6 weeks** before a baptism date can be discussed.

- If you live outside the Parish, but this Parish is your place of *regular* worship, no permission is needed.
- If you live outside the Parish and don't regularly attend Mass, permission from your Parish Priest is needed.
- After a date for baptism has been set, a meeting with Fr. Kieren or Deacon John must be arranged (by you).
- If your child is aged 7 or over they are treated as an adult and must follow an adapted RCIA programme.

To read the full diocesan policy:
https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Forming-young-people-for-life-Policy-Nov-2016.pdf

GETTING MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In order to get married in the Catholic Church 6 months notice must be given, please contact Fr. Kieren for further information.

If you are a Catholic and have attempted marriage outside the Church and would like to consider a convalidation please speak to Fr. Kieren or Deacon John.

"And that is what marriage is! Hand in hand, always and for the rest of your lives". Pope Francis

Congratulations to all who shared the sacrament of marriage in 2025, Marie & Andrew, Rebecca & David, Shannon & Connor, Natalie & Jamie, Ella & Ben, Roisin & James, Rose & Martin, Natalie & Joseph, Lorna & Jonathan, Rebekah & Peter.



Please keep in your prayers those who will soon begin preparation to celebrate the sacrament in 2026.

OUR CATHOLIC PARISH AND DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

English Martyrs
Wycliffe Road, Urmston.
Head teacher: Mrs J Dunn (acting)
(0161) 748 7257

Our Lady of the Rosary
Davyhulme Road, Urmston.
Head teacher: Mrs Hannah Groves
(0161)748 4626

St. Monica's
Woodsend Road South, Flixton
Head teacher: Mr. Mark Doherty
(0161) 748 3353

SECONDARY SCHOOL

St. Antony's Catholic High School
Bradfield Road, Urmston
Head teacher: Mr. A. Campbell
(0161) 911 8001

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY CARE If you have a relative or friend who is an inpatient and would like a Catholic Chaplain to visit them for pastoral support please contact the Chaplaincy Office on 0161 276 8792. The Chaplains no longer have access to patient details - a chaplain must be requested by a member of the family to minister to a sick relative.