



**Our Lady of Hope
Salford**

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St Luke, Swinton Park Rd, Irlams o'th' Height, Salford M6 7WR
Ss Peter and Paul, Park Road, Pendleton, Salford M6 8JR
Parish Priest: Canon Michael Cooke (*Vicar General*)
Assistant Priest: Father Emmanuel Chukwujekwu HFFBY
Tel: 0161 736 2696 **Email:** priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk
Parish Website: www.ourladyofhope.org.uk

Newsletter – 17 December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday
Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent – <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> – <i>Special Collection for Salford Loaves and Fishes</i> Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & 11am Carol Service at SL 6pm (with Eccles Borough Band)
Monday – Advent Weekday or St Damascus I No Mass today
Tuesday – Advent Weekday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at SL 6pm Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm
Wednesday – Advent Weekday Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am
Thursday – Advent Weekday or St Peter Canisius Whole School Mass at SL Church 9.30am Rosary at SsPP 6pm; Mass at SsPP 6.30pm
Friday – Advent Weekday Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am
Saturday – Advent Weekday or St John of Kanty Mass at SsPP 12noon Reconciliation 12.30-1pm at SsPP; 5.45-6.15pm at SL
Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve – <i>Special Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i> Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & 11am Christmas Masses at SL & live-streamed 5pm and Mon 9.30am Christmas Masses at SsPP at 7pm and Mon 11am
Live-stream: www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/

Prayers Requested
Lately Dead: Alan Taylor, Bob Sullivan, Rachel Dargon, Jean Deery, Janet Lavin, Jean Briffa, John Coffey
Anniversaries: Anthony Johnson
Masses Received: Jean Deery (LD), Sarah Horton (BM), Janet Lavin (LD), Jean Briffa (LD), Anthony Johnson (A), Olly Hill (85th BM), John Coffey (LD)
Diocesan Prayer Cycle: We pray for the people of the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St John Bosco with Fr Clement Kafor and Fr Emmanuel Ugwuoke, of the Vincentian Fathers. We pray for the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, for the Xaverian Missionaries and for the parish primary schools.

Reflections for This Week

So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as a witness to speak for the light, by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the anointed one (Messiah in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat – Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: God has called you, and he will not fail you. This is why, on this Gaudete Sunday, we, as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

Marriage Matters: *We have been anointed by God:* A TV programme poses the question: 'Who do you think you are?' When John, baptising in the desert, was asked this question, to paraphrase he replied: "I am a voice, drawing attention to something greater than you can see or hear." Our marriages are like this! We are a 'sign' radiating God's love for all His people.

Think Vocations: Gaudete Sunday is an opportunity to rejoice in the midst of our Advent season. Our lives as Christians should be marked by rejoicing – and we will naturally be more joyful if we have discovered and are living out the calling of God.

2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee

This Advent, Pope Francis invites people across the world to embark on a Year of Prayer in preparation for the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Over the coming weeks and months, the Diocese of Salford will be sharing a range of resources and ideas to help us journey together through this Year of Prayer. To find out more, head to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/>



Parish Notices

Salford Loaves and Fishes: This weekend we have our annual Christmas appeal as part of the ongoing parish support for this local charity which helps vulnerable people near to us.

Parish Carol Service: This will take place at St Luke's Church on Sunday 17 December at 6pm, supported by Eccles Borough Band. All are welcome.

Christmas Masses: There will be two Masses on Christmas Eve (5pm at SL & 7pm at SsPP) and two Masses on Christmas morning (9.30am at SL & 11am at SsPP).

Christmas Card: The Churches on the Height have produced the usual card giving times of Christmas services at the churches in the area. The front of the card has been designed by a pupil at St Luke's School. Please take some cards and share them with friends and neighbours to encourage them to attend church this Christmas.


CAFOD World Gifts: Catalogues for these are now available at the back of each of our churches. You may wish to make use of these gifts as an alternative to traditional Christmas presents. You can also see the range of CAFOD world gift ideas by visiting: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/World-Gifts>

Almanacs: The new Diocesan Almanac for 2024 is now on sale at the back of each church (at £3.50).

CAFOD: There are prayer cards at the back of church, together with leaflets about leaving a legacy to CAFOD in your will (and detail of a free will-writing offer)

Wrap Up UK: The Worsley Rotary Club have written to thank everyone for the great response to the recent Winter Coat Collection. Across the area, 1840 coats were collected and, via carefully selected local charities, these have gone to men, women and children who otherwise would have struggled to keep warm this winter.

S	E	Y	H	A	J	I	L	E	A	JOHN	WITNESS	LIGHT
E	L	W	N	O	H	I	L	S	T	LEVITES	ELIJAH	PROPHET
S	E	N	H	A	G	R	E	I	S	ISAIAH	PHARISEES	BAPTISE
S	V	N	A	H	H	E	W	T	S	WATER	BETHANY	JORDAN
T	I	O	T	R	S	T	O	P	E			
S	T	J	C	I	E	A	E	A	N			
E	E	T	R	E	S	W	E	B	T			
I	S	A	I	A	H	A	S	E	I			
R	H	T	J	O	R	D	A	N	W			
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	I	H	A			



Diocesan Notices

'The Big Listen': Over the Christmas period we often have the opportunity to engage with members of our parish, family and friends who may no longer practice their Faith or attend Mass. If the opportunity arises, you may wish to ask them informally about their hopes and concerns and about what they sense the role of the Catholic Church is in this time and place. As we come together in our Diocesan Synod to ask what God is asking of His Church in our diocese, this is a group of people who we can listen to and who we should ask to join us on our journey. Do you want to help shape the future of our diocese? Would you like to help us better understand what God is asking of our Church? We want to hear from you as we continue with The Big Listen for our diocesan Synod. You can share your thoughts with us online by visiting:

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/

CAFOD Crisis In the Holy Land: As the conflict continues, we are now also asking all parishes to do what they can to support our Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal. We also invite your parish to join us in calling for a lasting peace by writing to the Foreign Secretary. Thank you to the over 6,500 supporters and volunteers who already have. All information on the above, including signing the petition, and how to donate, can be accessed via the CAFOD website <https://action.cafod.org.uk> We join with the Bishops Conference in praying that *'... Christ the Prince of Peace will guide all devastated by this conflict into the ways of truth, reconciliation, and respectful co-existence'*.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham: The Diocese of Salford is now accepting bookings for our 2024 pilgrimage to Walsingham (4 May). If you would like to join next year's pilgrimage, bring along a group, or help as a volunteer, please fill out a booking form, available at:

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-2024>.

You can get in touch by calling 0161 817 2214 or emailing walsingham@pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham: Salford Youth and Young Adults Ministry is delighted to once again offer a dedicated youth pilgrimage to Walsingham, aimed for students in Years 7,8 and 9. This pilgrimage runs alongside the main diocesan pilgrimage and will leave on Friday 3 May and return on Saturday 4 May 2024. For further details please contact:

youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Financially Supporting Our Parish

Contactless: The Dona machines (card or mobile phone)

Bank Details: TSDT Our Lady of Hope 50317403 20 55 34

Cheques: Payable to Our Lady of Hope

Diocese of Salford Registered Charity 250037

Next Week's Newsletter: Margaret Haydock

Please send notices before Wednesday

Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk