



**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](mailto:priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk)  
**Parish Website:** [www.ourladyofhope.org.uk](http://www.ourladyofhope.org.uk)

<b>Newsletter – 3 December 2023</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>Sunday</b> – First Sunday of Advent (Year B) – <i>United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons</i> Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & 11am
<b>Monday</b> – Advent Weekday No Mass today
<b>Tuesday</b> – Advent Weekday Ecumenical Schools' Carol Service at SL 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at SL 6pm Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b> – Advent Weekday or St Nicholas Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am Requiem Mass for Peter Carroll at SsPP 12noon
<b>Thursday</b> – St Ambrose Rosary at SsPP 6pm; Mass at SsPP 6.30pm
<b>Friday</b> – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity) Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am
<b>Saturday</b> – Advent Weekday or St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzi Mass at SsPP 12noon Reconciliation 12.30-1pm at SsPP; 5.45-6.15pm at SL
<b>Sunday</b> – Second Sunday of Advent Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & 11am
<b>Live-stream:</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/">www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/</a>

<b>Prayers Requested</b>
<b>Sick:</b> Mike Gilbert and all who are sick.
<b>Lately Dead:</b> Peter Carroll, Eugene Rice, Fr Vincent Naylor, Suzanne Stern Gillet, Bernard McDevitt, Emmanuel Osuagwu Jnr, Alan Taylor, Bob Sullivan
<b>Anniversaries:</b> Mike Hogan
<b>Masses Received:</b> Jenny Allen, Alan Taylor (LD), Bob Sullivan (LD), Mike Hogan (A), Deceased members of the Thorpe family, Alan Roberts (BM), Special Intention to Our Lady, Eugene & May Rice, The Heneghan family, The Bennett family, Gabrielle Jones (S), Louise Lindsay (S)
<b>Diocesan Prayer Cycle:</b> Following the visit of the Papal Nuncio, we pray for the whole Diocese of Salford, that we may be faithful to our mission, in communion with Pope Francis and the Church throughout the world.



<b>Reflections for This Week</b>
Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: “Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!” is the cry, of a people who need God. “The master is coming” is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless, we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord’s coming, we must remember that it might be today!
<b>Marriage Matters: <i>Thanking God for each other:</i></b> “Stay awake for you never know when the time will come...!” Today’s Gospel reminds us to remember that our lives together will not go on for ever. It is therefore so important to thank God every day for the wonderful gift that we are to each other, indeed one of the greatest gifts that the Father has given us.
<b>Think Vocations:</b> It might seem a little daunting to know that we all have a vocation. But this is simply to say that God has a plan for each one of us. That is what a vocation is - a call from God, to become the saint that he wants us to be. As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, we can resolve to discover that vocation or, if we know it already, to live it to the full.

<b>Happy New Year!</b>
With the First Sunday of Advent, we enter into a new year in the life of the Church and we begin again the whole cycle of reflecting on what it means that God came into our world. We are not just preparing for Christmas but making sure that the whole of our life is a preparation for when Christ will come again to call us into the fullness of life in the eternal kingdom of heaven.

<b>Disabled Persons</b>
3 December is the International Day of Disabled Persons. A United Nations day it might be, but it's also a very good opportunity for us to look at how we value people with disabilities in our church communities. In a special Catholic News podcast, Cristina Gangemi, a highly experienced disability advisor who has long worked to make the Church a more inclusive, valuing and understanding place, talks about the day but also discusses the wider issues. You can listen to the podcast at: <a href="https://www.cbcew.org.uk/valuability-a-better-way-of-looking-at-people-with-disabilities/">https://www.cbcew.org.uk/valuability-a-better-way-of-looking-at-people-with-disabilities/</a>

### Parish Notices

**Funerals:** There is a Requiem Mass for Peter Carroll on Wednesday at Ss Peter and Paul at 12noon. May he rest in peace.

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

**At-Mass Survey:** Thank you to all who participated in the survey at the Masses last weekend. I understand that there were some strong views expressed about this (particularly at the 11am Mass) and I can assure you that those views have been conveyed to the people conducting the survey. They form part of the valuable feedback which will help determine whether (and, if so, how) this fundraising campaign goes ahead. *Fr Michael*

**500 Club:** Congratulations to our November winners: Jane Smith (54) £142; Catherine Ball (52) £71; Michael Ruane (233) £71

**Elvis Night:** Thank you to all who attended or helped in any way. The evening was a great success with £519 raised for parish funds.

**Sweet Jars:** A big thank you to everyone who filled and decorated the jars for the Christmas Fair.

**UCM News:** The next meeting of Ss Peter and Paul's UCM Foundation is next Thursday (7 December) after the 6.30pm Mass. All ladies of the parish are welcome to join us.

**Annual Mass and Blessing of the Sick:** St Luke's Church on Saturday 16 December at 12noon. All parishioners are welcome. There will be a party for the housebound and older members of our parish in the parish centre after the Mass. There is a list at the back of the church for older person's name and contact details.

### Diocesan Notices

**Young Adults Mass:** Young adults from across the diocese are invited to join us on Sunday 10 December for our final Young Adults Mass of 2023! Mass begins at 5.30pm at St Augustine's, Manchester, with opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation between 4.45pm and 5.15pm. Join us after as we kickstart the festive season with a fun-filled social complete with Christmassy food and drink!

**Advent Retreat Series:** The Parish of The Sacred Heart and St Francis of Assisi in Gorton is set to host a series of evening retreats this Advent. Taking place at The Sacred Heart Church, Levenshulme Road, the retreats will begin with Mass, include opportunities for prayer and worship, as well as welcoming a guest speaker each week. Find out more at:

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/advent-retreat-series-2023/>

**Schools Singing Programme:** Schools across the diocese are set to present a wonderful series of festive carol services as part of the Schools Singing Programme. Services will be taking place over the coming weeks in parishes right across the diocese. To find a carol service near you, head to:

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/school-singing-programme-carol-services/>

### Advent and Christmas

**Musical Advent Calendar:** As always, we are inviting you all to take part in our Musical Advent Calendar for what will be our 4th year. How to join in - just video yourself (maybe with family and friends too) singing, playing or reciting your Christmas pieces. This is for all ages to join in. You can send by email/file share to [music@ourladyofhope.org.uk](mailto:music@ourladyofhope.org.uk). More details linked on our website and Facebook.

**Walk With Me:** The booklets for Advent are now available – free of charge. Do please take one for your household and use it to help your prayer during this season of preparation for Christmas.

**Three Schools Carol Service:** This annual event brings together pupils from St John's, St Luke's and Summerville and takes place in St Luke's Church at 10.30am on Tuesday. All are welcome to come along.

**School Nativity Carol Service:** In St Luke's Church (2pm-3pm) on Wednesday 13 & Thursday 14 December. All welcome.

**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.

**Carol Singing at Aldi:** Saturday 16 December (11am-1pm). All are welcome to come and join in. Collecting for Christian Aid.

**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>

**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).



### 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:

Please send notices before Wednesday

Email: [newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk)