

Diocesan Notices

Lenten School of Prayer: This takes place on the Tuesdays of Lent (10.30am-12.30pm) at Our Lady and the Lancashire Martyrs, Little Hulton (M28 0DL) with the overall theme Our Lenten Call. This week's session on 24 March is entitled *God Calls us to Embrace the Cross*. Please contact Sr Joan Kerley (joanfmsj@gmail.com or 07934 816796) to reserve a place.

Stations of the Cross: A moving, ecological journey through the Stations of the Cross at the Laudato Si' Centre Woodland. Experience a reflective journey through the Stations, contemplating the Passion of Christ in the midst of nature. Each station will have an ecological link and quotes from Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical. This event takes place on Friday 27 March from 10AM to 11AM. For more information please contact laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Exploring our Lenten Gospels: Each Tuesday during our Lenten period, a series of reflections will be given online by various speakers, exploring the meaning of our Lenten Gospels and their implications for our lives today. The series will conclude on Tuesday 24 March with Bishop John reflecting on the Palm Sunday readings. For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

Thank You from Caritas: Thank you to everyone who has supported our diocesan charity Caritas Salford in recent months and that is doing so during Lent as we pray, fast and give. The demand for their services has continued to increase and all of your prayers, kindness and generosity make a huge difference to the lives of people in our parish communities. Find out how your support has helped, and see some special thank you messages at: www.caritassalford.org/thankyou

This Lent, Will You Make a Change to Change a Life?: Whether you're making a change to your diet, fasting, amending your behaviour or adapting your thoughts and focus...as you pray, fast and give this Lent, the change you're making could also help change lives in your parish. By remembering our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, during Lent, your actions, donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people experiencing homelessness, poverty and discrimination in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/Lent now for ways you can help. Thank you.



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 Paul Chisnall

Tel: 0161 736 2696 Email: priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk

Parish Website: www.ourladyofhope.org.uk

NEWSLETTER 22 MARCH 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am

Masses at SsPP Sun 8.00am & 11am

Monday – Lent Weekday or St Turibius of Mongrovejo

No Mass today

Tuesday – Lent Weekday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at SL 6pm

Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm

Wednesday – The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)

Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Deanery Station Mass at St Joseph's, Irlam 7.30pm

Thursday – Lent Weekday

Rosary at SsPP 6pm; Mass at SsPP 6.30pm

Friday – Lent Weekday

Stations of the Cross at SL 9am

Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Saturday – Lent Weekday

Day Retreat for Parish at SsPP 10am to 3.30pm

Mass at SsPP 12noon (Followed by Lenten Soup Lunch)

Reconciliation 12.30-1pm at SsPP; 5.45-6.15pm at SL

Clocks go forward one hour at 2am Sunday

Sunday - Palm Sunday

Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am

Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & 11am

Live-stream: www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/

Next Week's Newsletter:

Could you please send notices before Wednesday

Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk

Financially Supporting Our Parish

Contactless: The Dona machines (card or mobile phone)

Bank Details: TSDDT Our Lady of Hope

50317403 20 55 34

Cheques: Payable to Our Lady of Hope
Diocese of Salford Registered Charity 250037

Reflections

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way, our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds – what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

Marriage Matters: *The Lord will lead us back together:* Ezekiel's words apply to us when we are going through tough times in our relationship, when intimacy, physical or otherwise, seems impossible. At such times, Jesus weeps for us as He did for Lazarus. He will bring us back together if we ask Him and are willing to be vulnerable enough to explore together the changes we need to make.

Think Vocation: Martha and Mary have strong faith in the Resurrection and Jesus builds on their faith at a very difficult time for them, by raising their recently deceased brother Lazarus from the dead. Let us pray for all those who are involved in working with the bereaved within the Church. May their faith in the resurrection bring comfort and hope to those who feel the pain of the separation that death causes.

Prayers Requested

Sick: All who are sick (at home or in hospital)

Latently Dead: Rita Armstrong, Sheila Williams, Brian Nolan, Martina O'Brien, Marjorie Rice, Beryl Crabtree, Jessie Collins, Pat Bentham, Martin O'Reilly, Michael Jordan

Anniversaries: Joan McKenzie, Alison O'Connor, Oliver Hill, John Sheader, Martin Murray, Kitty Basha, Kevin Hazeldine

Masses Received: Sylvia, Martina O'Brien (LD), Maureen Brannan (BM), Joan McKenzie (A), Alison O'Connor (A), Brian Nolan (LD), Sheila Williams (LD), Oliver Hill (A), Rita Armstrong (LD), Jocelyn Gamotin (B), John Sheader (A), Martin Murray (A), Kitty Basha (A), Kevin Hazeldine (2nd A), Maria Collins, Pat McGrath (B)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: This week we pray for the parish of St. Dunstan and St. John Vianney, Moston, and for Fr. Job Zirra Stephen, their priest, together with their parish primary school and St. Matthew's High School. We pray for the residents of St. Mary's Care Home and for the repose of the souls of all buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Parish Notices

Bingo Night. Thank you to all who helped to set up, provided prizes or attended on Friday evening. It's safe to say everyone had a good time and £345 was raised for Parish Funds. Well done all! **Next Bingo Night 10th April, 7pm, Parish Centre.**

Music for a Spring Afternoon: In aid of Parish funds. 2-4pm on Sunday 19 April in the Parish Centre. Bar open! Tea & coffee available. Tickets will be available at the back of both churches from 28 March or ring Joan Sweeney on 07787 526972. All welcome!

Monton Voices Spring Concert: In aid of Salford Loaves & Fishes - 7pm, Friday 17 April at SsPP. Tickets are £5, available on Event Bright or pay at the door. Refreshments available. Charity raffle on the night. All welcome.

International Mass – Sunday 26 April (St Luke's): Join us as we celebrate the rich diversity of our parish community at this Mass. If you can help represent your country in our prayers and singing, we would love to hear from you. Speak to Joan Sweeney or Paul Ashton or email communications@ourladyofhope.org.uk

All Hallows R.C. High School: Many thanks to Fr. Paul who kindly came into school on St. Patrick's day to celebrate Mass in our chapel with a wonderful homily about trusting in God. The G.I.F.T. group created Trinity Shamrocks looking at faith, hope and love. Y9 pupils enjoyed a World of Work day to help with their future aspirations and our pupils excelled in performing a Spring Spectacular performance in school on Wednesday evening.

Lent

Day Retreat at SsPP: A day retreat for Lent is taking place on **Saturday 28th March 2026 - 10am to 3.30pm.** The retreat is aimed at helping parishioners reflect on our relationship with God and to gain a deeper understanding of our faith. There will be talks, praise, worship and adoration. Lunch will be provided and tea & coffee available.

Deanery Station Masses: There will be five Masses at various churches across the deanery at 7.30pm on the Wednesday evenings of Lent (with Reconciliation available from 7pm). The final Mass will be on 25 March at St Joseph's, Irlam.

Ecumenical Lent Course & Lunch: Organised by the Churches on the Height, these will take place on the Thursdays of Lent (12.30-2pm) using a resource entitled *The Final Week*. This week's lunch is on 26 March at St John's Church Hall, Bolton Road, Pendlebury, M27 8XX.

Stations of the Cross: These will take place at St Luke's at 9am each Friday of Lent.

Join us for a Lenten Soup Lunch: We are inviting you to share a simple yet nourishing soup lunch, after the 12noon Mass at SsPP. The meal is free, but we encourage donations, which this week will be in aid of parish funds. All welcome!