

Hope for mercy

SUNDAY *Plus*

12 OCTOBER 2025

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year C

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality | Prisons Week

(to 18 October)

Wholly acceptable



Looney is a fifteen-year-old from a gang located close to our office... And he has just been disgorged from one of the twenty-four probation camps in Los Angeles County. His sentence was a mere six months, but it was his first such detention...

He extricates a long envelope, squished in his side pocket, and proudly slaps it in front of me on my desk. "My grades," he announces, "from camp..." I say to him, "If you were my son, I'd be the proudest man alive..."

I look at this little guy and know that he has been returned to a situation largely unchanged. Parents are either absent at any given time or plagued by mental illness. Chaos and dysfunction are what will now surround him as before. His grandmother, a good

woman, whose task it is now to raise this kid, is not quite up to the task. I know that one month before this moment I buried Looney's best friend, killed in our streets for no reason at all.

I said to him, "I bet you're afraid to be out, aren't you?"... he folds his arms on the front of my desk and rests his sobbing head on his folded arms... "I just want to have a life."

I say to him, "I know you think you're in a deep, dark hole, you're in a tunnel. It's in the nature of tunnels that if you just keep walking, the light's gonna show up."

Recognising that we are wholly acceptable is God's own truth for us – waiting to be discovered.

Gregory Boyle SJ, *Tattoos on the Heart: the power of boundless compassion*

Lord God, I sometimes hope that people will see the hidden goodness in me and forgive me for my shortcomings. Help me to show a similar understanding and mercy towards others.  Amen.

A cry for help

By Mary Bell

Do you have a favourite charity? These days we are often accosted by earnest young people bearing clipboards asking us to sign up for regular donations to good causes. We feel guilty when we are unable to make such a commitment. How do we discriminate between those who have great need?

You may think leprosy is no longer a problem but LEPRO, the global charity that continues to work with sufferers from the

disease, says even if someone has the leprosy arrested by modern drugs they are often ostracised by their families, so great is the stigma.

But suffering doesn't have to be as dramatic as leprosy. There are people around us too proud or timid to ask for help: those who are poor, lonely, unemployed, bereaved: the list is endless.

Poor people are always with us, as Jesus said. The important thing is not to pass by on the other side of the road.

Following many years in the classroom, retired teacher and head of RE, Mary Bell now has time to enjoy the beauties of the natural world around her.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality Mother of Hope

Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely, she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon... At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her "fiat", never abandoning her hope and trust in God... In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope... the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust.

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025:24



I, too, appeal to the powerful of the world by repeating these ever-relevant words: never again war!

Pope Leo XIV

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**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 12th October 2025**

The Word This Week

There are many messages in today's Gospel: the power of God to heal, the compassion of Jesus for those in need, the fact that a despised foreigner (the Samaritan) is the only one who recognises what has been done, the role of faith and the importance of thanking God for gifts received. But because this Gospel is twinned with part of the story of Naaman the leper, the idea that the Church brings out most clearly is that of thanksgiving, or acknowledging what has been given to us. From an early age we are taught to say "Thank You" – to recognise that someone has gone out of their way to give us something or do something for us. Our thanks strengthens the relationship that binds us together, and it is the same with God. As we recognise the good things that come from God, so our faith is deepened and the bond of the Covenant in Christ Jesus is strengthened.

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BORDER
VILLAGES
TEN
LEPERS
MASTER
PRIESTS
CLEANSED
CURED
NINE
PRAISE
FOREIGNER
FAITH



www.stmaryandstjohnfisherparish.co.uk

Mass Times 12th October 2025		
Sunday 12th	Vigil - Saturday 11th Sunday Morning	4pm - Florence Appleton (A) 11am - Parish
Monday 13th	Mass	9.30 — Katherine Duchess of Kent (LD)
Tuesday 14th	No Mass 1st Holy Communion meeting (St. John Fisher children) Holy Communion meeting (St. Marys children)	3.30. St John Fisher school hall 6.30pm St Marys parish hall
Wednesday 15th	Mass Scripture Course	9.30—Tom Lally (RIP) 6.30pm –Parish hall
Thursday 16th	Exposition Mass	6pm 6.30pm-Forgotten Souls
Friday 17th	Mass Sung Strung Supper	9.30 — Sr Victoire (LD) 7.30. St Marys school hall
Saturday 18th Sunday 19th	Vigil Mass	4pm —Parish 11am – Mrs Sheila Muhally (LD)
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Scripture Course

Due to the interest in the Scripture course last year. We are putting on a new course which will start in October.

It will be held on a Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:

2025 15th October; 12th November; 3rd December

2026 28th January; 11th February; 4th March; 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

Vigil Mass; 4pm St Mary’s, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank

Sunday Morning; 9am St Joseph’s, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary’s, Denton

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 12th October 2025

The Sanctuary	Successful Operation for Val
Sacred Heart	
Our Lady	

Mass Offerings

Sr Victoire (LD); Mrs Sheila Muhally (LD); Tom Lally (RIP); Forgotten Souls; Successful Operation for Val; Tony Vann (LD); Florence Appleton (A); Peter & Cathy (for a special day);

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

Faith in Action Team Fundraiser—‘Sung, Strung, Supper’ Friday 17th October –7pm

Due to the success of the last event,

The Parish Faith in action group will be hosting another sing-a-long concert hosted at **St Mary's Primary School**. (£10 individual tickets each or £35 Family = 2 adults/2 children) Buy them from the Parish Office or after 11am Mass. **All are Welcome and we really need to support our young people who are organising this event!**

Thank you for donating raffle prizes! If you have anything you are able to donate it will be gratefully received. Please see Claire Cull or any of our Faith in Action young people after 11am Sunday Mass.

A pie supper, tea, coffee, soft drinks are included but please note it is BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE for any other drink.

CATHOLICISM - JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD AND DEEP INTO THE FAITH.

A once-monthly course that explores the rich beauty and truth of our Catholic faith. In a series of films, Bishop Robert Barron travels to many different locations showing how our faith is celebrated throughout the world.

9:00am - Refreshments - Course starts 9:30 - 11:00.

Saturday 25th October

Saturday 29th November

What’s coming up in our parish

Dates for the Diary:

October

Tuesday 14th October Sacramental Programme meeting (SJF Cohort) 3.30pm SJF School Hall

Tuesday 14th October Sacramental Programme meeting (StM Cohort) 6.30pm Parish Hall

Wednesday 15th October Scripture Course 6.30pm in Parish Hall

Friday 17th October Strung Sung Supper. 7pm, St Mary’s school Hall. **(tickets on after mass & weekday office hours)**

Wednesday 22nd October Faith in Action 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Parish Hall

Saturday 25th October Catholicism Course. 9am,

Diocese seeks volunteers for new survivor-led safeguarding panel

The Diocese of Salford is looking for volunteers to join a new safeguarding panel, which seeks to ensure the voice of survivors plays an integral role in how we safeguard against all forms of Church-based abuse, and how we continue to provide meaningful support and healing to those affected. Details of all panellists will be confidential and volunteers can choose to engage anonymously. To find out more or to enquire about becoming a volunteer panellists, please contact the diocesan Department for Safeguarding by emailing safeguarding@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or calling 0161 817 2206. Read more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/survivors-panel-announced/>

Parish Christmas Fair

Due to the lack of interest and volunteers, we will not be holding a Christmas Fair this year.

There is a Christmas Hamper on display at the back of church for which raffle tickets will be sold after each Mass. Your support for this will raise much needed money for Church Funds.

Thank you for your support.

Altar Server Training (For all NEW servers)

There will be an Altar Servers training session for ALL NEW Altar Servers, on **Saturday 25th October at 10.30am in the church. The training will take no longer than 2 hours**, and parents are welcome to attend.

Forms for any NEW server, should have been handed in to the Parish Office before this date.



New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, from 22nd October 2025, **we will be offering a group for children in school years 4, 5 and 6.**

The group will take place monthly and be from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

Our Faith in Action young people will run it (though there will be adult supervision as well) and it will consist of liturgy alongside games and activities.

There is a maximum of 20 places and this will be on a first come first serve basis. The dates are as follows: 22/10/25; 19/11/25; 17/12/25; 21/01/26; 25/02/26; 18/03/26; 22/04/26; 20/05/26; 17/06/26

This is a lovely opportunity to allow our Faith in Action young people to develop their skills further as well as bringing the young of the Parish together.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like any further information please could you speak to Claire Cull after Sunday mass for a parental application form.

The Post Confirmation programme—A Call to Lead for our older young people will take place on the same evenings 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Potential opportunity for setting up a twinning scheme with a Parish in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

We have an exciting opportunity to explore looking at how to develop links with a parish in the Latin Patriarchate. Bishop John is happy for us to explore the opportunity of links with another parish, if our parish wants to. If you have any objections to this please let me know in writing.

Also if you would like to be considered for part of any potential development team, please also let me know