

Praise God!

5 JULY 2026

SUNDAY Plus

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year A

Don't be discouraged

I have always noticed that when I compared myself to the saints, there is between them and me, the same difference that exists between a mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds and the obscure grain of sand trampled underfoot by the passers-by. Instead of becoming discouraged, I said to myself: God cannot inspire unrealisable desires. I can, then, in spite of my littleness, aspire to holiness... and so I must bear with myself, such as I am, with all my imperfections. But I want to seek out a means of going to heaven by a little way, a way that is very straight, very short, and totally new.

We are living now in an age of inventions, and we no longer have to take the trouble of climbing

stairs, for, in the homes of the rich, an elevator has replaced these very successfully. I wanted to find an elevator which would raise me to Jesus for I am too small to climb the rough stairway of perfection. I searched, then, in the scriptures for some sign of this elevator, the object of my desires, and I read these words coming from the mouth of Eternal Wisdom: "Whoever is a little one, let him come to me". And so, I succeeded. I felt I had found what I was looking for... The elevator which must raise me to heaven is your arms, oh Jesus! and for this... I had to remain little and become this more and more.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, *Story of a Soul*



St Augustine says to us that if we want the world to be a better place, we have to begin with ourselves, we have to begin with our own lives, our own hearts.

Pope Leo XIV

Jesus is the bridge

When you're weary, feeling small,
When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all.
I'm on your side. Oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found,
Like a bridge over troubled water,
I will lay me down.
Like a bridge over troubled water,
I will lay me down.

Simon and Garfunkel, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*



Gentle Saviour, when I feel weary and burdened,
teach me your humility and grace. May I rest in
your love, finding peace in your closeness. Amen.

Feast of the week
Monday 6 July

St Maria Goretti
(1890-1902)

St Maria Goretti was a young Italian martyr celebrated for her purity, forgiveness, and deep faith. Born in 1890 to a poor farming family living in Corinaldo, Italy, she was prayerful and hardworking, helping to care for her siblings after her father's death when Maria was nine. A teenage neighbour, Alessandro Serenelli, attacked and tried to rape eleven-year-old Maria. She resisted, crying out that it was a sin, and was stabbed multiple times. As she lay dying in the hospital, Maria forgave her attacker, expressing her hope that he would repent and one day join her in heaven. Alessandro later experienced a profound conversion while in prison, eventually testifying to her holiness. Pope Pius XII canonised Maria in 1950, thereby making her one of the youngest saints in the Catholic Church. She is the patron saint of purity, youth and forgiveness, and her powerful example continues to inspire people of all ages today.

READINGS

Today:
Zechariah 9:9-10
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

Monday:
Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22
Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday:
Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13
Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday:
Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday:
Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9
Matthew 10:7-15

Friday:
Hosea 14:2-10
Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday:
Isaiah 6:1-8
Matthew 10:24-33

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23



The Catholic Parish of
St Mary & St John Fisher,
Denton

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Registered Charity no: 250037

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 5th July 2026

The Word This Week

Today's Gospel in an answer to a very simple question: who is this Jesus we follow? What is he like? He tells us himself: he is gentle, and humble of heart. There is a simplicity about this Gospel which speaks very clearly to tired hearts. Indeed, it is often the case that we overlook the simplicity of the Gospel message - which is why it is valuable to be as children, constantly wondering and marvelling at the beauty and fascination of Jesus. How much God must love us: the message of salvation is so easy to receive, the promise is so welcome. This is a Sunday to wallow in the wonder of a God who is 'kind and full of compassion.'



Mass Times 5th July 2026		
Sunday 5th July	Vigil - Saturday 4th Sunday Morning	4pm - 80th Birthday 11am - Parish
Monday 6th	Mass	9.30- Sr Catherine (Diamond Jubilee)
Tuesday 7th	No Mass	
Wednesday 8th	Mass	9.30- Christine Stephenson (A)
Thursday 9th	Exposition Mass	6pm 6.30pm- Peggy Keating (A)
Friday 10th	Mass	9.30- Tom Lally (RIP)
Saturday 11th Sunday 12th	Vigil Mass	4pm- Parish 11am - Trudy Mitchell (A)
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Frank Mulholland (A); May Mulholland (A); Peggy Keating (A); Christine Stephenson (A); Marie Brennan (LD); Tom Lally (RIP); John Sr Lally (RIP); Forgotten Souls; Bernadette Regan (LD); Stephen Potts (LD) Bernard Coates (LD)

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 5th July 2026	
The Sanctuary	Anthony Scanlon
Sacred Heart	Sister Dolores
Our Lady	Lucia Mamauag

Fancy a Walk?
Caritas Salford is organising a 6-mile scenic, circular sponsored hike in Lancashire, along the delightful Downham Trail. Taking place on 5 September, the walk is an undulating route with the potential for expansive views from the summit of Beacon Fell.

Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/LancsWalk for more information or to register for your free place.

Book on the history of the Diocese of Salford presented to Pope Leo

Monsignor John Allen has harnessed his love of the geography and history of our diocese, by penning a special book which is being sold in aid of our diocesan charity Caritas Salford. The book, A Poplar History of the Diocese of Salford, was presented to Pope Leo recently, and you can read about it, or get a copy for yourself or someone else, on the Caritas Salford website: www.caritassalford.org.uk/pope-leo-book

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioner who have **Red Mission Boxes** please bring them in to be emptied. The Mill Hill Fathers rely on the money raised from these boxes to finance their missionary work overseas and appreciate your support and generosity. The red boxes are emptied every quarter— March, June, September and December.

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

Pastoral Visits to Hospitals and Care Homes.

If you have a relative or friend who has been taken into hospital or has moved into a Care home, and requires a visit from a Catholic Priest/Chaplin for Pastoral support, please ask the Nursing staff to contact the local Hospital Catholic Chaplin or Parish Priest in that area.

For Care home visits, this would have to be carried out by the Parish Priest local to the home itself and may be outside of our parish boundaries. Homes that are in Stockport; Dukinfield and Hyde, are located in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, and unfortunately Priests from our Diocese have no authorisation in these areas.

Lost Property:

We have recently found an item of Jewellery after one of the weekend Masses, if you have lost something, please contact the parish office, with a description of your lost item. We would like to return this to the rightful owner

Help end Child Poverty in our Parishes

Child poverty is increasing in our area, with latest statistics from the government showing almost one in three children are growing up in poverty. Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford supports local families facing crisis and is asking us to join them in taking action to help. There are lots of different ways you and your parish can get involved. Please visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/endchildpoverty to find out more.

New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, **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.

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.



E	R	R	E	V	E	L	C	E	D	BLESS	EARTH	CLEVER
S	S	E	L	B	L	U	H	E	E	ENTRUSTED	LABOUR	YOKE
A	T	E	D	A	B	E	T	R	S	GENTLE	HUMBLE	HEART
G	A	S	B	L	M	S	T	E	A	REST	BURDEN	LIGHT
A	E	O	E	H	U	T	K	B	E			
S	U	N	E	R	H	O	U	E	L			
R	N	A	T	G	Y	R	H	R	P			
E	R	N	I	L	D	E	A	S	Y			
T	E	L	H	E	E	A	R	T	H			
S	T	E	N	T	R	U	T	S	D			