

New beginnings

# SUNDAY *Plus*

11 JANUARY 2026

The Baptism of the Lord **Divine Office Week I** Year A



## Invited by Jesus

Is there anywhere humanity is more alive than family life? Family life is a celebration of incarnation, God with us. Our physical, created reality is where God is present – and family life is all about that. Our bodies are God's gift and through them we give ourselves to each other – through sexuality, pregnancy, birth, nurturing, holding, bathing, hugging, carrying, tickling, cleaning cuts, changing nappies, playing football, preparing food, smelly feet and sports gear, teenage hormones, man flu, menopause, new life or old age.

We speak of body language and it is through this that we express what goes on in our hearts. Often the small gestures speak loudest: a kiss, a touch, a cup of tea, a meal cooked, a chore done, a story read. These moments in the day

to day are what nurture family life and mark us as family rather than house-sharers. Intimacy articulates the bond between us.

When faith and Gospel values shape our approach, we try to live simply, challenge injustice and share our resources with those in need. The challenge is to let the Gospel come to life in our lives: to incarnate it, put flesh on it. Our baptism invites us to be the body of Christ in the world... When we reach out beyond our own families in care and solidarity for anyone vulnerable or oppressed, we know that the Spirit of Jesus is acting through us. This is what the spirituality of family life is about – living active faith in the day to day.

*Bairbre Cahill, Family Spirituality*

May Mary, temple of the Spirit, help us to celebrate and welcome the wonders that the Lord works in us.  Amen.



### Say "Yes"

We foolishly suppose that prayer is about our own efforts, our longing for God, our attempts to love and praise and thank him. But all of this is only a consequence, a created response. Our prayer is God's work, God's creation. As you kneel there, sit there, walk about or whatever you do when you pray, you are saying "Yes" with your whole being to his will that you should be, that you should be you,

that you should be united to him. Your prayer is God's word of longing and loving in you, God's breathing of the Spirit in you, to make you want the union he wants. His desire is going through your heart to leap up to him and meet his desire again, like the desire of the writer who prayed to God to "send Wisdom"; yet it is truly your desire because he creates it as yours. His love is loving through your heart when you try to pray.

*Maria Boulding,  
The Coming of God*

Do not be afraid! Accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord.

Pope Leo

### St Lucy: seeing signs from God

By Sr Thérèse Garman OLP

After praying at St Agatha's shrine with Lucy, Lucy's mother was cured of a persistent illness and agreed to distribute their wealth among the poor people. The rich pagan whom she had wanted Lucy to marry against her mother's will was furious. Soldiers tried to take Lucy away forcibly. They could not move her, but her eyes were gouged out. She attributed her strength to the power of Jesus. Lucy means "light" and her witness over-came the spiritual darkness of her day and also helps us to rejoice in the light even in our darkest moments. At baptism, we were entrusted with the light of Christ. The vision of God's glory, revealed through Jesus, was so clear to Lucy that physical blindness did not obscure it. She embodies true vision, an example to us of spiritual understanding, focusing on Christ and his promises rather than the fleeting physical realities of this world.

*Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence and a treasured former member of the Redemptorist Publications editorial team*

### READINGS

Today:  
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Acts 10:34-38  
Matthew 3:13-17

Monday:  
1 Samuel 1:1-8  
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday:  
1 Samuel 1:9-20  
Mark 1:21-28

Scotland:  
St Kentigern (Feast)  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Matthew 28:16-20

Wednesday:  
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20  
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday:  
1 Samuel 4:1-11  
Mark 1:40-45

Friday:  
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22  
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday:  
1 Samuel  
9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1  
Mark 2:13-17

Next Sunday:  
Isaiah 62:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
John 2:1-11



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

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## The Baptism of the Lord 11th January 2026

### The Word This Week

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.





Mass Times 11th January 2026		
Sunday 11th	Vigil - Saturday10th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish 11am - Forgotten Souls
Monday 12th	No Mass	
Tuesday 13th	No Mass	
Wednesday 14th	No Mass	
Thursday 15th	Mass	6pm Exposition 6.30pm- Ernie Stokes
Friday 16th	Mass	9.30 - Mary Griffiths
Saturday 17th Sunday 18th	Vigil Mass	4pm- Parish 11am - Oscar
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- Mary Griffiths x 2 (LD); Oscar (Speedy Recovery); Ian John Stierl; Tom Lally x 2 (A); Bridget Lally (A); Martin Mitchell (A); Patrick Coriam (B/M); Forgotten Souls x 2; Ella Krool (LD); Mary Angela James (A); William Kavanagh (A); Patricia Reeves (A) Tommy (95th Birthday); Brunner Family; For successful surgery; Special intention;

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

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 11th January 2026	
The Sanctuary	Anthony Scanlon
Sacred Heart	
Our Lady	Lesley Sidebottom

**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

### What’s coming up in our parish

#### Scripture Course

Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:

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

**YOUTH GROUP— CALL TO LEAD NEXT MEETING WED 21st JANUARY 6.30pm — Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas collection £302 was raised**

#### Food Bank Donations

Please donate something for the food bank at this time of heavy demand. There is a box at the back of church.

#### Suggested items needed:

Tinned Vegetables; corned Beef; Curry; stew’ spaghetti; soup; etc

#### Other Items:

Long life milk; tea; coffee; sugar Jars of Pasta or Curry sauces; Rice; Savoury Rice; Noodles; Smash; Baked Beans’ Jam; Cordial; etc

Thank you for your continued support

#### Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have a red mission box 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 very much appreciate your support and generosity. Thank you, Paula & Dorothy



### Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford

In January 2026, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two Diocese of Salford churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration.

Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15.

The relics will be presented at St Mary’s Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick’s Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

#### Mass for Engaged Couples to be celebrated by Bishop John Arnold

On Saturday 14 February, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass for engaged couples across the diocese. The Mass provides couples with an opportunity to seek God’s blessing to guide and strengthen them during this time of preparation. Newly-married couples are also invited to receive a blessing in their first year of marriage. The Mass will take place at St Patrick’s Church in Collyhurst on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 1:30pm.

### 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. The dates are as follows: 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.



T	N	A	E	D	V	O	I	E	C
S	I	D	R	O	J	F	A	R	A
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G	O	J	I	V	E	M	O	O	M
T	O	H	E	R	E	J	E	J	E
E	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	D

JESUS	JORDAN	JOHN
BAPTISM	FITTING	DEMANDS
WATER	HEAVENS	SPIRIT
DOVE	VOICE	SON

