



St. Bernard's Parish Newsletter



The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time.

4th February 2024.

Clergy: Mgr. Michael J Kujacz RD, Fr. Benjamin Garba and Rev. Luke Bradbury

Contact

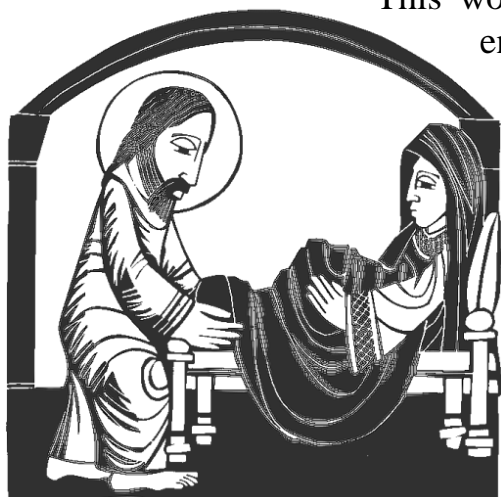
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February – Month of the Passion of The Lord



This world, as we know, is a fragile and fallible place, in which we encounter hunger, disease, sickness and death. Jesus proclaims, by his actions of healing, that there is another world, the Kingdom of God, which will be free from all such anxieties and afflictions. The story of Paradise and the Garden of Eden painted a picture of a world which was perfect, and free from all problems. Jesus came into the world precisely to offer us a return to Eden, if we follow him. Each of his miracles is also, in some sense, a parable or teaching, pointing out to us something of the lost happiness and perfection which he is restoring. This vision of Paradise is not Utopian or delusory, not just a vain hope to comfort us with, but the true manifestation of God's love for us. Jesus could not cure every

disease or sickness in the world then: but his miracles of healing are a sign that one day, when the Kingdom comes, sickness and disease will be wiped away for ever.

Let us pray for the people of the parish of St. Margaret Mary, New Moston, for Fr. Andrew Starkie, their parish priest, and Deacon Stephen O'Connor. We pray for the Presentation Sisters, for the Manchester Ordinariate Mission and for their parish primary school.

Pope Francis Tweet: "The evil spirit wants to "enslave our soul" and uses many "chains": dependencies, trends, consumerism, hedonism. Jesus came to free us: let us invoke Him! May we never make a compromise with evil, but follow the One who gave His life for us."

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS for February: For the Terminally ill. Let us pray that thie sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

For the Sick and Housebound: God our Father, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick and elderly sisters and brothers. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We remember especially those receiving Holy Communion today. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CARITAS SUNDAY thank you for your support last Sunday, we were able to send off £260. To find out more about the work of Caritas Salford and how you can get involved, please visit <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/caritas-sunday/>.

Unwanted Christmas gifts can be placed in the box in the church porch. We will recycle to raise funds for the parish heating bills. Thank you .



Saint of the week: 11 February: Our Lady of Lourdes; In 1858 the Immaculate Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous near Lourdes in France, in the grotto of Massabielle. Through the poor child, Mary called sinners to penance, and thereby there arose in the Church a marvellous spirit of prayer and charity, especially in helping the poor and the sick.



FRIDAY 12th APRIL PARISH HALL. Starts at 7.30pm. This event is very popular so if you are interested in entering a team (max 6 per team) please act quickly by telephoning Barry or Bernadette on 07780 956066

2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee: This Advent, Pope Francis invites people across the world to embark on a Year of Prayer in preparation for the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Over the coming weeks and months, the Diocese of Salford will be sharing a range of resources and ideas to help us journey together through this Year of Prayer. To find out more head to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/>

Walsingham 3rd to 5th May joining the diocesan pilgrimage on the Saturday. If you have booked the deposit is now due £75 per person. We have 2 twin en-suite rooms available sorry no singles available. Contact Ann Tipper or Tony Kirstein.

Our next "Come and See" meeting for those enquiring about a vocation to the priesthood will be taking place on Saturday 17th February at St Winifred's, Heaton Mersey. Our next session will welcome a guest speaker and include a period of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer, before the chance to discuss the vocation to the priesthood over a meal. These events are specifically for anyone interested in finding out more about a vocation to the priesthood. If you know of anyone who may be discerning a vocation or would like to find out more, please invite them personally, and then direct them to Fr Michael Deas (michael.deas@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) or Fr Mark Paver (mark.paver@dioceseofsalford.org.uk), who will be able share further details.

Welcoming people with dementia - Free Training from Caritas Salford: Caritas Diocese of Salford will be holding a free training session - Welcoming people with dementia - on 23 February from 2.30pm to 4pm. The training, which will take place at St Patrick's Church, Club Room, Livesey Street, Manchester, M4 5HF, will be facilitated by Caroline Harrington and will look at understanding how dementia impacts, living well with dementia, removing stigma associated with dementia, and how to support families too. The session will be delivered in spoken English with British Sign Language interpretation. For more information or to book a free place, visit <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/event/dementiatraining/>

Stay with us Lord on our Journey

MRI Hospital Chaplain + Christies number 0161 276 4247; Wythenshawe 0161 291 2297

Last week's collection total £623 Thank you

Groups now open: - **Monday** - Young At Heart 11.30am to 1.30pm

Tuesday - Toddler's Group 9.30am to 11.30am. Places are available for parents/ carer and toddler(s). Please contact Anne Cummins 07305 392612.

Thursday - Drop Inn 10.00am to 1.30pm

Sacrament of Marriage: 6 months' notice must be given, please see Father to make arrangements.



PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR BAPTISMS by introducing yourselves to Father after Sunday Mass, when details can be taken and our team can begin the process to organise this wonderful Sacrament for your child.

SAFEGUARDING; Our parish community is committed to Safeguarding to ensure the well being of all members of our community. All volunteers over the age of 18 must have a DBS check every 3years. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is Christine Robinson and she is very happy to assist you in completing any paperwork required. She usually attends the 10.00 Sunday Mass if you wish to speak to her or can be contacted by email at - christine.robinson.safeguarding@outlook.com

BURNAGE FOOD BANK; opening times are: Tuesday 12.30pm-2.30pm St Nicholas Church Hall, Kingsway, Burnage M19 1PL and Friday 3pm-5pm St Bernard's Church Hall, Burnage Lane, M19 1DR. www.burnagefoodbank.org.uk or tel: 07936698546.

Service of Blessing for Engaged Couples; On Saturday 17th February, there will be a Service of Blessing for Engaged Couples, led by Bishop John. The service will take place at 2pm at St Patrick's church, Collyhurst. Contact Clergy for an invite.

Salford Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Centenary Year Fundraiser - The Mercy Brothers Join us for a family-friendly night of musical entertainment with the fabulous 'Mercy Brothers' band on Friday 9th February, 8pm (doors 7.30pm), at The Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road West, Chortlon-cum-Hardy, Manchester, M21 7SX. The band is made up of members of the clergy from around the diocese. Tickets are priced at £15 (over 16s) and free for under 16s. Money raised will go to the Centenary Pilgrimage Fund and in support of our sick pilgrims and medical team. To book please visit www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/fundraising or phone the pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209.

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