



# The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul, Norden

Diocese of Salford

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## SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER [A] "Good Shepherd" Sunday**

### At Saint Vincent's This Week ...

*The Fourth Week of Easter (Psalter Week 4)*

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

**Easter Weekday**

📖 Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18

9.30 a.m. **Word & Communion**

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Saint Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr** [Optional Memorial]

📖 Acts 11:19-26; John 10:23-30

9.30 a.m. **MASS**

10.30 p.m. **"Coffee, Cake & Chat" at Norden Methodist Church**

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Martyr, Patron of Europe** [Feast]

📖 1 John 1:5 - 2:2; Matthew 11:25-30

9.30 a.m. **MASS**

#### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

**Saint Pius the Fifth, Pope** [Optional Memorial]

📖 Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20

9.30 a.m. **Funeral MASS of Francis Barker**

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

🐟 Day of Abstinence

**Saint Joseph the Worker** [Optional Memorial]

📖 Genesis 1:25 - 2:3; Matthew 13:54-58

6.30 p.m. **First Friday MASS**

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church** [Memorial]

📖 Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14

11.00 a.m. **MASS for Peace**

6.00 p.m. **Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)**

*The Crowning of the Statue of our Lady will take place at the end of all Sunday Masses*

6.30 p.m. **First MASS of Sunday**

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)**

📖 Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

9.00 a.m. **MASS Refreshments after Mass**

11.00 a.m. **MASS Refreshments after Mass**

### Welcome to Saint Vincent's

**If you are a visitor to Saint Vincent's this weekend, please feel welcome! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Here is some information to help you feel at home.**

**Parking:** please try to give priority to places nearest Church for people with restricted mobility. Thank you.

**Hard of Hearing?** There is an Induction Loop System installed in this Church: if you wear a hearing aid, please turn it to the 'T' setting

**Refreshments after Mass:** Everyone is very welcome to stay behind after Sunday morning Masses and share a cuppa! Tea and Coffee are served in the Parish Centre on the opposite side of the carpark after 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Sunday Masses.

**Toilets:** The toilet is located near the side entrance: children should not go out of Church unaccompanied. Please use the disinfectant wipes to clean all surfaces after every use—dispose of them in the bin but do not flush them down the toilet. Thank you.

**Saint Vincent's Parish Centre:** The Parish Centre is available for parish use and outside bookings. Please contact Robert Allen on **0758 320 7810** for all enquiries.

### The Word This Week

**This Sunday is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday", because of the Gospel references to Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is also the day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood. On this Sunday we hear one of the great "I am" statements of Jesus from Saint John's Gospel today: 'I am the gate of the sheep.' Through Jesus we enter into life and safety, and we "go through Jesus, the gate" by baptism. This image is implied in all today's readings: the people listening to Peter find this gateway and enter through it: Peter writes to remind us that we have come back to the Good Shepherd, who heals us by his wounds.**

## In our prayers ...

### Masses & Prayer Requests

Recently Deceased: Francis Barker, Peter Appleby, John Diffley, Fionn O'Reilly, Andrew Kershaw.

Anniversaries: Joe Thompson, Joseph Astley, Winifred Culshaw.

### National Cycle of Prayer

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

This week we pray for the parish of the Holy Cross and Saint Helen, Ashton-under-Lyne, and for Father Jude Lemeh, and Father Joachin Nwaorgi, of the Vincentian Fathers, together with the Missionary Sisters of Saint Michael the Archangel. We pray for the chaplaincy to Tameside General Hospital, for the parish primary schools and for Saint Damian's Science College.

**Holy Father's Intention (April): For priests in crisis:** Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

## News and Notes

### Pope Francis' Anniversary

I only realised when I was at Mass in Rome on Tuesday morning that it was the first anniversary of the death of Pope Francis. A special Mass was held in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore (where Pope Francis is buried) on Tuesday evening, and a special message from Pope Leo (on his pastoral journey in Africa) was read, in which he said: *"Death is not a wall, but a door that opens out onto the Mercy that Pope Francis tirelessly proclaimed. The Lord called him to Himself on 21<sup>st</sup> April last year, in the heart of the Easter light. He concluded his earthly pilgrimage in the embrace of the Risen Christ, in that "joy of the Gospel" that inspired one of his most incisive Apostolic Exhortations. He was the Successor of Peter and Shepherd of the universal Church at a time that marked, and continues to mark, an epochal change—a change of which he was fully aware, offering all of us a courageous witness that represents a significant legacy for the Church. His teaching was lived as a missionary disciple as he liked to say. He remained a disciple of the Lord, faithful to his Baptism and to his consecration in the episcopal ministry, to the very end. He was also a missionary, proclaiming the Gospel of mercy "to everyone, everyone, everyone", as he often said. The good that came from his witness as a caring Shepherd touched the hearts of so many people, even to the ends of the earth, thanks also to his apostolic pilgrimages and especially to that final "journey" of his illness and his death. In harmony with his predecessors, he took up the legacy of the Second Vatican Council and urged the Church to be open to mission, a guardian of the world's hope, passionate about proclaiming that*

*Gospel which is capable of giving every life fulfilment and happiness. We still hear his exhortations, expressed in eloquent words, to make the Good News more accessible: mercy, peace, brotherhood, the odour of the sheep, the field hospital and many others. Each of these expressions leads us back to the Gospel he lived out in a new language that proclaims the same Gospel as always. Pope Francis nurtured a deep devotion to Mary throughout his life; indeed, we recall that he visited Saint Mary Major, the site of his burial, on many occasions, as well as numerous Marian shrines around the world. May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, help us to be, in every circumstance, tireless apostles of her divine Son and prophets of His merciful love."*

### Ecclesiastical Education Fund

This Sunday is "Good Shepherd" Sunday, which is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. In our Diocese it is also the day a collection is taken after Masses for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund (EEF), which supports the training of priests for the Diocese. As you will be aware, numbers of vocations have diminished, but we still have students in Seminaries, and they need to be supported and their training paid for: thank you for your generosity in the retiring collection.

### "Coffee, Cake and Chat"

The next in our ecumenical series is this **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April** from 10.30 a.m. at Norden Methodist Church on Edenfield Road. This is an opportunity for people from all the different churches in our area to spend a bit of time getting to know each a bit better. At this one Father James will be talking about "Propaganda and Prejudice."

### More from Pope Leo ...

Also on the subject of our ecumenical journey, in case you missed it here is part of the message Pope Leo sent to the new Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, last month: *"With this assurance of God's abiding presence, I send prayerful greetings to Your Grace on the occasion of your Installation as Archbishop of Canterbury. I know that the office for which you have been chosen is a weighty one, with responsibilities not only in the Diocese of Canterbury, but throughout the Church of England as well as the Anglican Communion as a whole. Moreover, you are commencing these duties at a challenging moment in the history of the Anglican family. In asking the Lord to strengthen you with the gift of wisdom, I pray that you may be guided by the Holy Spirit in serving your communities, and draw inspiration from the example of Mary, the Mother of God. Sixty years ago, during their historic encounter in Rome, our predecessors of happy memory, Saint Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey, committed Catholics and Anglicans to "a new stage in the development of fraternal relations, based upon Christian charity" (Joint Declaration, 24 March 1966). Despite much progress, our immediate predecessors, Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby, acknowledged frankly that "new circumstances have presented new disagreements among us." Nevertheless, we have continued to walk together, because differences "cannot prevent us from recognizing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ by reason of our common baptism" (Joint Declaration, 5 October 2016). For*

my part, I firmly believe that we need to continue to dialogue in truth and love, for it is only in truth and love that we come to know together the grace, mercy and peace of God (cf. 2 Jn 1:3), and thus can offer these precious gifts to the world.”

### Wednesday Witter ...

Father James will be doing another random “witter”, entitled “**Story, Memory and Sacrament – a Theology of Antiquing**”, which will include the display of several hopefully interesting artefacts acquired in recent months! It will be on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** starting with tea and coffee straight after the 9.30 a.m. Mass. Everyone very welcome!

### Marriage Matters

**Feeding your sheep:** John 10:10 describes us as ‘sheep’. God watches over and feeds us with his Word, and in the Eucharist. With God’s help we have created a few more sheep, so we pray for His help, read books, use the internet to protect our children from the harm done by the ‘media’ and many of today ‘addictions’. That’s being good shepherds.

## Diocesan Notes

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 2nd May 2026. There are a few spaces left for the day trip picking up in Salford, Collyhurst and Oldham. The cost is £40. To book your place please contact the pilgrimage office at: [walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) or on **0161 817 2209** by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. No bookings can be taken after this date.

### Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Caritas Salford is offering a free online webinar to introduce the basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) in an accessible way, with a particular focus on building hope, homes and a positive future for all. This will take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 6.00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. With local elections approaching in May, the time is right to raise our awareness of CST and reflect on how it can help to inform the decisions and choices we make in life. Register for your free place or find out more at: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/events](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/events)

### Youth Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

Following on from the success of last years pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, we are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026. The cost is £120.00 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the S.V.P. Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) to register.

## THE BODY BIBLE

### 8: The Breath

So far we have seen how the parts of the body are used, not in a literal way, but figuratively: this is especially true of this week. Rather than the lungs, we need to talk about breath, and there is a problem: the Hebrew for breath is “ruach” – but this is also the word for spirit, wind, or the animating force of life itself! This is how we first encounter “breath” – a breath that blows over the face of the deep in the first moments of creation. This is the Holy Spirit – a Divine Breath that ultimately gives life to all things. This is made clear in the creation of human beings: “the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” This “breath of God” is the Holy Spirit, which makes us not just physical but also spiritual creatures. Throughout the Old Testament, we see “breath” being used as a term describing life itself, with a common phrase that we still use today “he breathed his last.” Later, in Isaiah for example, the breath or Spirit of God is also used as an image of Divine power: “His breath is like an overflowing stream that reaches up to the neck; to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction.” When we come to the New Testament and the Greek speaking world, breath occurs more literally: perhaps the most significant example is in Saint John’s Gospel, when the risen Jesus appears to his disciples: “he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Here the literal and figurative meanings all coincide: the physical breath of Jesus risen from the dead is the gift of the Divine Breath or Spirit, wherein is the true life of the believer!

*Next week: The finger*

## The Sacraments

### Home Communions

Brenda Robinson is our Coordinator for Home Communions: if you or a relative find yourself housebound for a period of time, or know of a Catholic moving into one of our care homes, and would like to receive communion at home, please let Brenda know on **0785 559 8016**.

### Baptisms

...are by appointment: please collect, fill in and return one of the Information forms from the porch. They provide details of what is required and the next steps in the process.

### Marriage

...is by appointment. Please take an information leaflet from the porch and return the tear-off portion to arrange an interview. Do not make bookings before the interview. Six months’ notice is required.

### Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Presbytery to ask for this Sacrament. It should not be left until the last minute, but the sick should celebrate this sacrament to receive God’s healing and comfort.

### Confirmation and First Holy Communion

As the Communion programme has begun, no further candidates can sign up for 2026. Registration for 2027 will begin next September. Confirmation is in Year 8—children not in Catholic High Schools please ask Father James for a Registration Form as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Care and Concern

### Our Parish S.V.P.

The S.V.P. Conference at Saint Vincent's support people in need in a variety of ways; visiting people at home or in care homes, responding to calls for practical help, providing home cooked meals for around twenty-four residents of Leopold Court, a local homeless unit, one day every fortnight, providing food bags for local families. If you or anyone you know would like any kind of help, please contact Joan Hamilton on **0773 990 8561** or email **PresidentD111410@svp.org.uk**. Please also remember that donations to the SVP can made at any time through the donations slot on the back wall of Church, or by bank transfer online: Account Name D111410 SVP ST VINCENT—ROCHDALE; Account Number 4608 2506; Sort Code 60-60-04. Thank you for your support!

### Rochdale Food Bank

Please place your donations in the boxes at the back of the Church. The Food Bank is currently short of everything, but in urgent need of Coffee, Tinned Rice/Custard, Sugar, Tinned Potatoes, Fruit Juice and Jam. More details at [rochdalefoodbank.org.uk](http://rochdalefoodbank.org.uk)

### Donations

Please be aware that there are permanent donation boxes on the back wall of Church for CAFOD, Caritas Diocese of Salford, Caritas Ukraine and the Parish S.V.P. Thank you for your constant generosity!

### Bank Donations

The account details for direct banking, for either one-off or regular giving are: Account Name: **"The Salford Diocesan Trust St Vincent de Paul Norden"** Account Number: **8049 2523** Sort Code: **20.55.34**

## Next Sunday's Gospel

**John 14:1-12**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

### Sunday Gospel Wordsearch

E	R	U	T	S	A	P	E	D	R
D	E	E	P	H	H	E	N	L	E
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H	T	E	E	F	I	L	F	H	E
S	A	F	H	C	E	F	E	S	T
E	G	R	E	G	N	A	R	T	S

SHEEPFOLD	THIEF	BRIGAND
SHEPHERD	FLOCK	GATEKEEPER
STRANGER	PARABLE	PASTURE
STEAL	KILL	LIFE



✠ **STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY** ✠