

# **His Holiness Pope Francis**

## **1936—2025**

### **Requiescat in Pace**



**“I can only imagine how many people are shocked and greatly saddened by the sudden death of Pope Francis. Although there have been various episodes of illness in recent times, he has always shown such determination to fulfil his commitments and return to his ministry. But this time, the final illness has been overwhelming and the Lord has called him to Himself. Let us pray that he will rest in peace and be rewarded for all that he has achieved for the Church, for us all, in his papal ministry.”** *Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford*

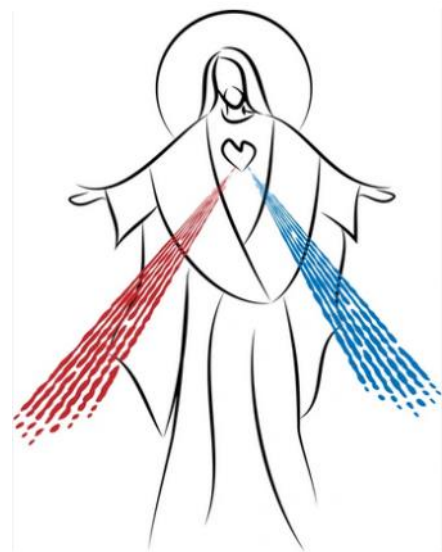


**Diocese of  
Salford**

## SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

**27th April 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter  
or of Divine Mercy [C]**



*“Jezu ufam Tobie!”  
“Jesus, I trust in You!”*

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## 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:**

**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.

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

## In our prayers ...

### Requests for Masses & Prayers

**Recently Deceased:** Pope Francis, Daniel Byrom, Pam Shuttleworth Joe Thompson, Anna Turvey, Seamus Callanan.

**Anniversaries:** Pat Harrison, Elizabeth Doyle, Kevin Byrne, Charles & Winifred Magee

### National Cycle of Prayer

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.

**The Holy Father's Intention (April): For the use of the new technologies:** Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

We pray for the people of the parish of Saint Mary and Saint Anselm, Whitworth and Bacup, and for Father Christopher McGrane, their parish priest, together with their two parish primary schools.

## The “Via Lucis”

You will have noticed eight new posters around Church: these are the “Way of Light”, a devotion similar to the Way of the Cross (Via Crucis), but for the Easter Season. There is a sheet in the porch with meditations to accompany the eight images: please feel free to use this either following round the pictures in Church before or after Mass, or at home.

At Saint Vincent's This Week ...	
SECOND WEEK OF EASTER	
Psalter Week 2	
<b>Monday 28th April</b> Saint George, Martyr, Patron of England (Solemnity)	Rev 12:10-12a; 1 Tim 2:8-13,3:10-12; John 15:18-21 <b>9.30 a.m. Word &amp; Communion</b>
<b>Tuesday 29th April</b> Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe (Feast)	1John 5—2:2; Matthew 11:25-30 <b>9.30 a.m. MASS</b>
<b>Wednesday 30th April</b> Saint Pius the Fifth, Pope (Optional Memorial)	Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 <b>9.30 a.m. MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 1st May</b> Saint Joseph the Worker (Optional Memorial)	Genesis 1:26-3; Matthew 13:54-58 <b>10.00 a.m. Funeral MASS of Daniel Paul Byrom</b>
<b>Friday 2nd May</b> Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)	Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 <b>9.30 a.m. MASS</b> <b>Day of Abstinence</b>
<b>Saturday 3rd May</b> Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles (Feast)	1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14 <b>11.00 a.m. MASS for Peace</b> <b>6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)</b> <b>6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday</b>
<b>Sunday 4th May</b> Third Sunday of Easter [C]	Acts 5:27b-32,4-b-41; Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19 <b>9.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre</b> <b>11.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre</b>

## THE WORD THIS WEEK

After the joys and exuberance of Easter Sunday and Easter Week, we settle down into the longest Season in the Church's Year - Eastertide. This period of fifty days is a time of sustained gladness, which comes through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures which describe the risen life of Jesus - not just his appearances to the disciples after the Resurrection, but the teachings from his ministry which reveal the risen life he now possesses. We also hear how the Resurrection made a difference: how the timid and frightened disciples were able to leave Jerusalem and proclaim a message of life over death to the whole world, as we read through the book of the Acts of the Apostles. We also linger over the first letter of Saint John, which ties together so many of the themes of Easter: life, faith, baptism, the Spirit - all brought together in the person of the Lord Jesus, risen from the dead. On this second Sunday, we continue to track through "real time", by hearing what happened in Jerusalem the Sunday after the Resurrection, with the Lord appearing to Thomas.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Bishop John's Statement continues ...

*"Let us give thanks for his concern for the environment which has done so much to make people within the Church and beyond aware of the dangers of climate change and the need for urgent action. Let us be thankful for his example of welcome to all who might be even curious about a faith in Jesus Christ. Every Pope must be a Pope for his time and we give thanks for the achievements of Pope Francis' predecessors but we recognise the courage and the dedication of Pope Francis in guiding us in unprecedented times where our world is seemingly overwhelmed by conflicts, migration, poverty and climate change. He has died in the Octave of Easter, a time of great hope - in a Jubilee Year of Hope - and we must continue, aided by his prayers, to strengthen our commitment to build Hope in our world for the dignity and well-being for all our brothers and sisters and our common home. He has shown us the way and, by our listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, in the Universal Synod, Pope Francis has ensured that we are the Body of Christ - the Church - for the times in which we live."*

### A Biography of Pope Francis

He was born in Buenos Aires on 17 December 1936, the son of Italian immigrants. His father Mario was an accountant employed by the railways and his mother Regina Sivori was a committed wife dedicated to raising their five children. He graduated as a chemical technician and then chose the path of the priesthood, entering the Diocesan Seminary of Villa Devoto. On 11 March 1958 he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus. On 13 December 1969 he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Ramón José Castellano. On 31 July 1973 he was appointed Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina, an office he held for six years. He then resumed his work in the university sector and from 1980 to 1986 served once again as Rector of the Colegio de San José, as well as parish priest, again in San Miguel. In March 1986 he went to Germany to finish his doctoral thesis; his superiors then sent him to the Colegio del Salvador in Buenos Aires and next to the Jesuit Church in the city of Córdoba as spiritual director and confessor. It was Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, who

wanted him as a close collaborator. So, on 20 May 1992 Pope John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary of Buenos Aires. On 27 May he received episcopal ordination from the Cardinal in the cathedral. He chose as his episcopal motto, *Miserando atque Eligendo*, and on his coat of arms inserted the IHS, the symbol of the Society of Jesus. He was immediately appointed Episcopal Vicar of the Flores district and on 21 December 1993 was also entrusted with the office of Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Thus it came as no surprise when, on 3 June 1997, he was raised to the dignity of Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires. Not even nine months had passed when, upon the death of Cardinal Quarracino, he succeeded him on 28 February 1998, as Archbishop. Three years later at the Consistory of 21 February 2001, John Paul II created him Cardinal, assigning him the title of San Roberto Bellarmino. He asked the faithful not to come to Rome to celebrate his creation as Cardinal but rather to donate to the poor what they would have spent on the journey. All the while Cardinal Bergoglio was becoming ever more popular in Latin America. Despite this, he never relaxed his sober approach or his strict lifestyle, which some have defined as almost "ascetic". In this spirit of poverty, he declined to be appointed as President of the Argentine Bishops' Conference in 2002, but three years later he was elected and then, in 2008, reconfirmed for a further three-year mandate. Meanwhile in April 2005 he took part in the Conclave in which Pope Benedict XVI was elected. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires — a diocese with more than three million inhabitants — he conceived of a missionary project based on communion and evangelization. He had four main goals: open and brotherly communities, an informed laity playing a lead role, evangelization efforts addressed to every inhabitant of the city, and assistance to the poor and the sick. He aimed to reevangelize Buenos Aires, "taking into account those who live there, its structure and its history". He was elected Supreme Pontiff on 13 March 2013. Not even his accession to the papal throne could change Francis' ascetic habits. Not for him the pomp and ceremony of the Vatican, or the luxurious apartments that were the preserve of his predecessors: Francis chose to live in the more down-to-earth surroundings of the Domus Sanctae Marthae guest house, leaving the Papal suite of rooms vacant. He preached of peace and acceptance — and reflected those values through his actions. One of the central pillars of Francis' papacy has been to reduce the church hierarchy's focus on status and worldly authority, what he defines as 'clericalism,' and aiming instead at a more inclusive and service-oriented vision of the priesthood. And nobody could argue that he hasn't practised what he preached: Francis has been one of the most accessible popes of all time, frequently seen in public and happy to engage with ordinary people. In his final months, as Jubilee celebrations began to take shape in Rome, the world watched anxiously as the pope's health declined. Admitted to Rome's Gemelli Hospital with a serious respiratory infection in early March, Francis continued to speak to the faithful with clarity and compassion, even from his hospital bed, thanking those who care for the sick and praising all who "bring a little light into the night of pain." It is entirely in keeping with his character and ministry that his final public words were "Happy Easter" as he appeared in Saint Peter's Square the day before he went to the Lord.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 21:1-19

At that time: Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred metres off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed my

lambs.' He said to him a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.' (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

## 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 also by appointment. Please take an information leaflet from the porch and return the tear-off portion to arrange an interview. Please do not make bookings before this interview and note that 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

Registration for First Communion this year is closed, as the program has begun. Children baptised in the Catholic Church in **Year 8** but NOT at Catholic High School, please ask Father James for registration forms for Confirmation. Confirmation preparation will begin here after Easter.

## 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 send an email to [PresidentD111410@svp.org.uk](mailto:PresidentD111410@svp.org.uk). Please also remember that donations to the SVP can be 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) and a full "shopping list" is available by the donations box.

### 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

## Gospel Wordsearch

S	A	R	F	I	N	G	N	I	S
I	D	E	H	T	A	E	R	B	O
G	A	G	U	D	F	E	E	H	S
R	N	N	S	O	O	E	D	O	S
V	A	I	D	O	R	O	T	L	A
E	I	F	N	S	G	S	R	E	M
G	C	O	A	E	I	D	I	S	O
R	I	A	H	D	V	E	R	E	H
O	T	A	E	F	E	E	B	A	T
F	T	S	E	P	S	L	I	A	N

EVENING  
DOORS  
FEAR  
PEACE  
HANDS  
SIDE  
BREATHED  
FORGIVE  
THOMAS  
HOLES  
NAILS  
FINGER



✱ STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY ✱