



DIocese OF
SALFORD

SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

14th April 2024

The Third Sunday of Easter (B)



"Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have!"

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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.

IN OUR PRAYERS ...

Requests for Masses & Prayers:

Recently Deceased: Eddie Deasey, John Cassell, Thomas Lynch.

Anniversary: Anne Morley, Mary Morley, Burke Family, Kildunne Family, Marjorie Lloyd, Noreen Ryan.

Infirm: Joe Thorpe, Pat Harrison, Roy Cooper, Eileen Lunn.

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.

Holy Father's Intention (April)

For the role of women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Let us pray for the parishioners of the parishes of Saint Aidan and Saint Oswald, Royton, and Saint Joseph, Shaw, and for Father Stephen Doyle, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and for the chaplaincy to the Royal Oldham Hospital and Dr. Kershaw's Hospice.

AT SAINT VINCENT'S THIS WEEK ...

THE THIRD WEEK OF EASTER

Monday 15th April Easter Weekday	Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 9.30 a.m. Word & Communion
Tuesday 16th April Easter Weekday	Acts 7:51—8:1; John 6:30-35 9.30 a.m. Word & Communion
Wednesday 17th April Easter Weekday	Acts 8:1-8; John 6:35-46 9.30 a.m. Word & Communion
Thursday 18th April Easter Weekday	Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 9.30 a.m. Word & Communion
Friday 19th April Easter Weekday	Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 9.30 a.m. MASS Day of Abstinence
Saturday 20th April Easter Weekday	Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 11.00 a.m. MASS 6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) 6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday
Sunday 21st April THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) "Good Shepherd Sunday"	Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18 9.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre 11.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre

THE WORD THIS WEEK

We continue to think about the Resurrection this week, from three different perspectives: the Gospel gives us another story of Jesus appearing to his disciples - this time the beautiful story of the meeting in Jerusalem, when Jesus proves he is alive and no ghost by eating some grilled fish: he reminds the disciples that all he suffered and rise so the “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” could be preached to the whole world. The first reading shows us Saint Peter’s doing just that, as he addresses the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost: he takes them through recent events (fifty days earlier), highlighting the important point, that he and the disciples can witness to the raising of Jesus from the dead, and calling them to “repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.” The second reading brings this into our lives: the resurrection is not just a historical event, which we remember. By baptism (which we renewed at Easter) we become part of Jesus in his dying and his rising, as he ‘becomes the sacrifice that takes our sins away’. So all that Saint John tells us about the commandments and avoiding sin is our way of living the Resurrection.

NEWS AND NOTES

Sunday Donation Envelopes

Our new envelopes should have been with us this weekend, but something has gone wrong with the delivery! Hopefully they will be here soon. In the meantime envelope users can still give, as long as your donation is in a envelope **with your box number on it**. Many thanks for your generosity, and more about money soon.

Car Park

You will have noticed that our most recent plague of potholes has been sorted. I am in discussion with the company that did this to have the whole carpark resurfaced at some point in the future, since it now resembles a tarmac patchwork quilt!

Thanks

I received the following message this week: *‘Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for the donation of £225.00 for Christians in the Holy Land. Your donation will help us to support the most vulnerable at this very challenging time. Please continue to pray for the Holy Land and a peaceful resolution.’*

Vatican Message for ‘Id al-Fitr

Every year the Vatican produces a message for our Muslim brothers and sisters for the Month of Rama-

dan: as ‘Id was celebrated this week, this is part of the message this year: *“We look to the Almighty as God of peace, the source of peace, who in a special way loves all those who devote their lives to the service of peace. Like so many things, peace is a divine gift but at the same time the fruit of human efforts, especially in preparing the conditions necessary for its establishment and preservation. Dear Muslim brothers and sisters, let us join in extinguishing the fires of hatred, violence and war, and instead light the gentle candle of peace, drawing upon resources for peace that are present in our rich human and religious traditions. May your fasting and other pious practices during Ramadan and the celebration of ‘Id al-Fitr that concludes it, bring you abundant fruits of peace, hope and joy.”*

Confirmations 2024

Bishop John Arnold will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people this year in a joint ceremony with Saint Joseph’s, Heywood. This year our confirmations will take place here at Saint Vincent’s on **Tuesday 7th May** at 7.00 p.m. Please keep our young people and their families in your prayers at this time.

Ecclesiastical Education Fund

Next 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: please bring a little extra for the retiring collection next weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

BIBLE BITZ II

16: The First Letter to Saint Timothy

Most of the letters of Saint Paul that we have looked at are “open letters”, written to be read publicly to a large audience of Christians in a particular place. Now we come to some very different letters—personal ones, written to one individual, with very specific advice. Saint Timothy was a disciple and protégé of Saint Paul, who knew his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois. The family was from what is now Turkey, and met Paul on one of his missionary journeys. After accompanying Paul, Timothy was sent back to the city of Ephesus, to become what we would call the “Bishop” of that area—someone with oversight over the church, with the mission to hold onto the true teaching passed on, and to organise the day to day workings of the community. Paul’s letter to Timothy is full of encouragement and advice

on how to fulfil this mission. In this first letter Paul begins by talking about his own journey of faith, while insisting upon adherence to the message that he transmitted: he then goes on to talk about aspect of church organisation—the role of bishops (“overseers”), priests (presbyters or “elders”) and deacons—especially emphasising their moral duties. The letters also contains advice about two particular groups—widows and slaves and their masters—and ends with strict warnings about the dangers of a love of money. It is possible that this letter, though originally a personal one, was circulated among other church leaders, because the advice Paul gives is universal. Indeed, it is still good advice for a priest or a bishop, to remind them to stay true to the faith they have received and minister.

Next Week: More Advice for a Young Bishop: 2 Timothy

A Patron Saint for Everything ...

You may recall a few weeks ago, when I was undergoing my dental treatment, I shared some notes about Saint Apollonia, the Patron Saint of Dentists. Recently I acquired a new book on Patron Saints, which included many which surprised me! Week by week I will share some slightly odd and strangely wonderful patronages, starting with:

1: The Patron Saint of Software Developers, I.T. Professionals and the Internet: Saint Isidore of Seville. How on earth can a saint who died in the year



636 be patron of a late 20th Century technology?! Isidore was a Catholic bishop who was interested in everything, and who compiled a massive twenty volume work called the “*Etymologiae*”, a collection of texts and information, which is often thought to be the world’s first encyclopaedia. It covers such diverse subjects as grammar, rhetoric, mathematics, geometry, music, astronomy, medicine, law, the church and heretical sects, pagan philosophers, languages, cities, humans, animals, the physical world, geography, public buildings, roads, metals, rocks, agriculture, war, ships, clothes, food, and tools. For this reason, Catholics working in the online industries in the 1990s recognised his work as a database, and adopted Isidore as their patron. As the internet was gaining sway in everyday life, Pope Saint John Paul II formally named Saint Isidore of Seville its the patron. Whenever we go online, let’s remember this and say “Saint Isidore: pray for us!”

The feast day of Saint Isidore is 4th April.

Next week—the Patron Saint of Television.

DIOCESAN NOTES

Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham

There are still a few places available for this year’s diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham, taking place on Saturday 4th May, for both overnight and day options. If you would like to join, please fill out a booking form, at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-2024> or you can get in touch by calling **0161 817 2214** or by sending an email to walsingham@pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Local Nature Reserve Survey

As part of the preparation of the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy, GMCA have launched a survey to engage the public, local community groups and organisations, with the strategy. Everyone can take part in the survey, which can be found by visiting www.gmconsult.org/environment-team-policy-and-strategy/greater-manchester-plan-for-nature/

The Constitutions of Vatican II

Our series of weekly talks on the Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council continue into April and May. The talks have been organised as part of our preparation for the 2025 Year of Jubilee, in response to Pope Francis’ invitation to learn more about these important documents. To find out more and to register, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/>

Launch Mass for Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in our Centenary Year

The Launch Mass for this year’s diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes - marking our centenary year - will be taking place at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 16th April at St Patrick’s, Livesey Street, Collyhurst, M4 5HF. Whether you are planning to join us in Lourdes this summer, or will be praying along at home, you’d be most welcome to join us for our Mass this week. For more information on this year’s pilgrimage, including how to book, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/booking-lourdes-2024/>

SALFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD PRAYER

Loving Father, be with us as we seek new ways of being your people in our Diocese. May each new day bring us closer to your son, Jesus, as we follow his teaching and become disciples of love. As we continue our Synodal journey draw us closer to each other. May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us. Open our hearts, as we listen to each other and reach out in love to your people. Stay with us, Lord, on our journey. Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL
John 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'



THE SACRAMENTS

Home Communions

Brenda Robinson is our Parish 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 holy communion at home, please let Brenda know by phoning **0793 222 6981**.

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

First Holy Communion is celebrated in Year 3, and registrations occur in September. Confirmation is celebrated in Year 8, and registration for this year is now closed (see note inside).

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. 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 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 generosity!

SUNDAY WORDSEARCH

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STORY ROAD BREAD FRIGHT
GHOST DOUBTS HANDS FEET
TOUCH BONES FISH PSALMS



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