



DIocese OF  
SALFORD

## SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

28th April 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)



IF YOU  
ABIDE IN ME  
YOU WILL BEAR  
MUCH FRUIT

*"I am the vine—you are the  
branches"*

### Website

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### Parish Priest

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Saint Vincent's Presbytery

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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:** Edna McIndoe, Pat Harrison, Geraldine Rogan, Terry Geraghty, Nicola Winnard.

**Anniversary:** John French.

**Infirm:** Joe Thompson, Joe Thorpe, 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 (May)**

**For the formation of religious and seminarians:** We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

Let us pray this week for the parish of Saint Marie and Saint Joseph, Bury, and for Father William Foley, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools, for Saint Gabriel's High School and Holy Cross Sixth Form College, and for the chaplaincy to Fairfield Hospital and the Bury Hospice.

## AT SAINT VINCENT'S THIS WEEK ...

### THE FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

**Monday 29th April**

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe [Feast]

1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 11:25-30

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

**Tuesday 30th April**

Saint Pius the Fifth, Pope [Memorial]

Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31

**9.30 a.m. MASS**

**Wednesday 1st May**

Saint Joseph the Worker [Memorial]

Genesis 1:26-2:3; Matthew 13:54-58

**9.30 a.m. MASS for Peace**  
*Coffee Morning after Mass*

**Thursday 2nd May**

Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church [Memorial]

Acts 15:7-21; John 15:22-31

**9.30 a.m. MASS**

**Friday 3rd May**

Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles [Feast]

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14

**9.30 a.m. MASS**

Day of Abstinence

**Saturday 4th May**

The English Martyrs [Feast]

Acts 7:55-60; Matthew 10:17-20

**12.00 noon First Holy Communion MASS 1**  
**6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)**  
**6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday**

**Sunday 5th May**

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

**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

Last week it was sheep: this week, the vine. Jesus offers us another (agricultural) image to explain the mystery of his offering of himself, and our belonging to him, our being part of him, which comes about through the sacrament of Baptism. This is, as was stated earlier, the period of Mystagogy, when the newly baptised are helped to see what life in Jesus Christ really means. Today this comes out strongly for all of us, with two of the three readings emphasising the moral aspects of life in Christ: it is not simply enough to “belong” to him: our belonging must be shown by the works we do, by the fruits we bear - while remembering of course that we cannot bear fruit except in him.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Sunday Donation Envelopes

Boxes of envelopes for GiftAid donors can be found in the porch—please collect them as soon as possible. If you are a GiftAid donor and for some reason there is not a box in your name, please contact Father James as soon as possible. Many thanks to everyone who “GiftAids” their donations, either through envelopes each week or by direct giving through your bank, which allow us to claim an extra 25% on top of your gift from the tax you have paid.

### CAFOD Emergency Appeal

The people of Sudan need our help urgently. CAFOD is launching an emergency appeal for donations to get aid to them on the biggest scale they can muster. When violence broke out last year in Sudan between government and paramilitaries, most aid agencies evacuated. Now, humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help, meaning severe delays in getting aid to the people, and the challenges of getting into areas where fighting is still going on remain. Many borders are shut as the government say they need to keep weapons out. **How your donations can help in Sudan:** CAFOD’s local partners are already responding. But they need urgent support to drastically increase their emergency response. **Food:** Millions of families who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and are now facing yet another urgent crisis – hunger. Donations now will help provide emergency food packages, as well as other essentials like medicine. **Water:** Water pipelines have been damaged, meaning that families are having to fetch water from unsafe locations. With your support,



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we can work to repair damage to pipelines and build new ones so that clean water can reach the communities who need it. **Sanitation:** We are providing emergency sanitation in several of Sudan’s largest refugee camps. This is a desperate need especially for the sick, the elderly, those with young children.

**There will be a retiring collection after Masses next weekend for this emergency appeal. Please also consider donating online to CAFOD at [cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal](https://cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal) or using the QR code.**

### Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse

Tuesday 30th April is the Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse. Celebrated each year on the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter, it is a day on which the Catholic Church in England and Wales holds in particular prayer all who have been abused, in whatever way, by another, whether within the Church or any other setting. It is a day not only to recommit ourselves as Church to learn from past mistakes and make the Church a safe setting for all but also a day to reflect on the Church’s ministry of healing and welcome to Survivors/Victims. At 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 30th April Bishop John will celebrate Mass to mark this Day at St. Patrick’s, Livesey Street, Collyhurst. All are warmly invited to join him.

### First Holy Communions

The next two Saturdays see the celebration of First Holy Communion for our Year 3 children who have been preparing for this day for so long! Please remember to pray for them and their families at this time, especially that this gift may be for our young friends the beginning of a new relationship with Jesus within the family of the Church in our parish.

### 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.

## BIBLE BITZ II

### 18: Saint Paul’s Letter to Saint Titus

A lot of what we said about the two letters Paul wrote to Timothy can also apply to this letter to Titus: it was a personal letter, addressed to Paul’s friend, companion and protégé after he had been entrusted with leading the Christian community on the island of Crete (what we would call a Bishop). It would also probably have been circulated and read in the

churches, and so also has a more “public” feel as well as being a private letter. As usual, the context is important: Paul is about to be arrested and sent to Rome—this letter is a sort of “farewell to the East” as Paul prepares to travel West and witness to Jesus in the other half of the Empire—he was actually planning to go to Spain, before he was arrested. Before he leaves, he has entrusted Titus with sorting out some problems in Crete, especially with character and responsibilities of the “elders” (“presbyters” in Greek, priests in English!) So Paul begins by reminding Titus why he sent him to Crete—to put right what was defective”, especially in appointing leaders in the community. Personal behaviour is the key, and Titus is told to encourage everyone in the church to be aware of the manner of life they should be living, especially by the example of his own life, living “in this world as responsible persons, upright and serving God.” (2:12) Paul might sound a little severe in this letter, but he tempers it by referring to his own transformation from one who was “foolish, disobedient and misled.” (3:3) Through the power of Jesus Christ everyone has the possibility of changing, or embracing the new life that Jesus has won for us. Paul ends this letter (and our following his thoughts in the New Testament) with a very simple heartfelt salutation: “All who are with me send greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith, Grace be to you all” (3:15)

*Next Week: An Anonymous Letter “To The Hebrews.”*

## A Patron Saint for Everything ...

### 3: The Patron Saint of Dogs: Saint Rock



Last week we saw an “official” patron saint, proclaimed as such by a Pope. This week it is someone very unofficial! Many people would guess that the patron saint of dogs is Saint Francis of Assisi—after all, he is the patron of animals, wildlife and the environment. But dogs have their own special patron—**Saint Rock** (or Roch,

Roche or Rocco, depending on which language you are using!) Rock was born in Montpellier in France around 1350, to a well-off family. At the age of 20 he abandoned his wealth and joined the Third Order of Saint Francis, and set off for Italy, where a plague was raging. Rock set himself to serve the sick, especially victims of the plague, but ended up contracting it himself. He took himself off to a lonely forest, living as a hermit, so that he would not infect others. But there, one day, he was found by a hunting dog of a local nobleman, which then visited him each day, bringing bread stolen from the nobleman’s table! Rock was also suffering from serious wounds which

the dog licked well again. Eventually the nobleman wondered where his dog was wandering off to, found the saint and brought him to his castle to heal. When recovered, Rock resumed his wandering—but the dog went with him, and stayed with him for the rest of his life, even when he was mistakenly arrested and imprisoned. This loyalty and companionship of the hunting dog is why Saint Rock is patron of dogs and those who love them. In art he is always depicted showing the wound on his leg, with the dog at his side, a loaf of bread in its mouth.

*Next week—given the weather, the patron saint of Floods!*

## DIOCESAN NOTES

### 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-s-plan-for-nature/](http://www.gmconsult.org/environment-team-policy-and-strategy/greater-manchester-s-plan-for-nature/)

### Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024

Volunteer Registrations for Lourdes pilgrimage are closing soon: there's not long left for volunteers to register for our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in our centenary year. Head to <https://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk> to find out more and register before 30th April. Aged 18-35? We'd love to welcome you along on our Young Adults Pilgrimage. Email [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

### The Constitutions of Vatican II

Our series of weekly talks on the Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council continues 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/>

### 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 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'



**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](mailto: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) 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**

P	L	E	N	W	T	E	Y	E	P
Y	O	G	O	E	N	U	R	P	S
T	L	R	N	T	H	R	O	W	N
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E	H	C	N	A	R	B	A	B	T

VINE BRANCH FRUIT PRUNES  
WORD HOME PLENTY THROWN  
FIRE BURNT GLORY DISCIPLES



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