



The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul, Norden

Diocese of Salford

Website: www.stvincentsnorden.org.uk

Telephone: 01706 645361

Email: nordencatholic@outlook.com

Parish Priest: Father James Manock

Saint Vincent's Presbytery, Caldershaw Road, Norden, OL12 7QL



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

8th March 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

At Saint Vincent's This Week ...

The Third Week of Lent (Psalter Week 3)

Monday 9th March

Saint Frances of Rome, Religious [Optional Commemoration]

📖 2 Kings 5:1-15a; Luke 4:24-30

9.30 a.m. Word & Communion

Tuesday 10th March

Lent Weekday

📖 Daniel 3:25.34-43; Matthew 18:21-35

9.30 a.m. MASS

1.00 p.m. "Getting Together"

Wednesday 11th March

Lent Weekday

📖 Deuteronomy 4:1.5-9; Matthew 5:17-19

9.30 a.m. MASS

Thursday 12th March

Lent Weekday

📖 Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:1-23

9.30 a.m. MASS

7.00 p.m. Lenten Station Mass at Saint Michael's, Whitefield

Friday 13th March

Lent Weekday

 Day of Abstinence

📖 Hosea 14:1-9; Mark 12:28b-34

9.30 a.m. MASS

12.00 noon Stations of the Cross

Saturday 14th March

Lent Weekday

📖 Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

10.00 a.m. Exposition and Confessions

10.45 a.m. Benediction

11.00 a.m. MASS for Peace

12.00 noon Baptism of Arabella Beal

6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday

Sunday 15th March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (A) "Laetare" Sunday

📖 1 Samuel 16:1b.6-7.10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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.

In our prayers ...

Masses & Prayer Requests

Recently Deceased: Carlos Dos Santos, Michael Purrett, Kathleen Lewis, Monica Bowden, Geoff Cattell, Paul Jude Mulligan, Seamus Carty.

Anniversaries: John Andrew Cassell, Patricia Sheerin, Frank Cropper, Kazimiera Andruszko, Bronisław Andruszko, Mary Clegg, Dorothy Rogerson, Eddie Deasey.

National Cycle of Prayer

During Lent we are asked to pray for: Candidates for the Sacraments; the Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

This week we pray for the parish of Saint Clare, Blackley, for Father Jeremiah Budau, OFM Conv., and the Franciscan community. We pray for their parish primary school and Our Lady's High School, for the

Good Shepherd Sisters and for the chaplaincy to the Romanian community.

Holy Father's Intention (February)

For disarmament and peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

The Word This Week

The Gospel of the third Sunday is the remarkable conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well, the theme is water - which gives life, which cleanses, which is so necessary. This reading forms part of the catechesis given before Baptism at Easter: the candidates who would go into the water are invited to reflect on what that means. But more necessary than the water which gives life is the water which gives eternal life - the water of baptism, the water flowing from Jesus' side on the cross. Even though our Church does not have any candidates preparing for Baptism this year, we will all renew our baptismal promises at Easter: we should take this opportunity to reflect on what baptism has given us, and what God has done for us in this gift.

News and Notes

Mothering Sunday

Next Sunday is Mothers' Day, and prayers and a special blessing will be offered for mums at all our weekend Masses.

"Getting Together"

The next meeting is this **Tuesday 10th March** from 1.00 - 3.00 p.m. in the Parish centre, with the usual hospitality, refreshments and raffle. This week we will be having Bingo and a Quiz! Everyone is very welcome.

Piety Stall

The Piety Stall has a good selection of cards including Saint Patrick's Day and Easter. It's also well stocked with Children's bibles, Crucifixes, Statues of Our Lady, Rosary Beads and other special gifts. Worth taking a look!

First Confessions

This week our Year 3 children on their way to First Communion will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) for the first time. Please pray for them as they take this important step on their journey of faith!

Petite Messe Solennelle

Next **Saturday 14th March** Bury Choral Society are performing Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle at Bury Parish Church, BL9 0LA, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets on the door cost £12.00. This is a wonderful work - filled with melody and even humour, and Rossini chose as accompaniment the unique combination of Harmonium and two Pianos! Well worth a listen!

Easter Raffle

Once again someone has kindly donated some chocolatey Easter gifts for us to raffle! We are going to use this to raise some funds for religious items for our primary school children - school budgets, as you will be aware, are very tight indeed nowadays, and religious resources are very much a luxury that cannot be afforded, so we will use this raffle for school to treat our children to some new Catholic resources! Tickets are available from the Piety Stall, £1.00 for a strip - five chances to win! The draw will be on Palm Sunday, so that someone can enjoy the goodies at Easter!

Deanery Station Masses

Lent is a journey, whereby we travel from Ashes to the Font at Easter. Along the way an ancient tradition of the Church is to stop at "stations": in our Deanery we will be calling at five different "stations" - four churches and a Sixth Form College - to celebrate Mass together as we journey through Lent. The Stations this year are:

Thursday 12th March: Saint Michael's Whitefield

Thursday 19th March: Sacred Heart, Rochdale

Thursday 26th March: Saint Vincent's Norden

Each Mass begins at 7.00 p.m., with the opportunity for confession beforehand, and refreshments afterwards. Everyone is very welcome to come to one or all Masses!

A Little Lent Extra ...

It's a long time since we had a "Wednesday Witter", so there will be a special one for Lent on **Wednesday 25th March** on "The Shroud of Turin." This remarkable object, whether miraculous or a medieval work of art, is a wonderful aid to understanding what the Lord went through in Holy Week. Starting with tea and coffee straight after 9.30 a.m. Mass, everyone is very welcome!

Holy Week

This is a very special week, with some very special services and celebrations. Most important is the Easter Vigil, which starts at 8.00 p.m. on **Saturday 4th April:** this is our main Easter celebration, starting with the blessing of the Easter Fire and including the Blessed of Easter Water and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Please do not think of this as an "ordinary Saturday night mass", only later and longer - it is a unique celebration of the resurrection and our place in that risen life! Please make every effort to attend the Vigil as your Easter Mass! Also important are the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6.30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday evening, and the Solemn Celebration of the Passion at 3.00 p.m. on Good Friday afternoon.

Ministers for Holy Week

Sign-up lists for Holy Week Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion are on the table in the Porch. Please fill them as soon as possible while allowing each other to exercise their ministries!

Maundy Thursday Washing of Feet

Maundy Thursday is a very special day, when we remember the Last Supper, and in particular the

example of service Jesus gives in washing his disciples' feet. This is part of our evening Mass on that day, and it is a beautiful and thought-provoking gesture, but it needs two things: parishioners who are willing to have their feet washed, and parishioners who will make the effort to come to the Mass of the Lord's Supper to witness it! Please think about being a "foot-washee", and pop your name on the ministers' list in the porch - let's see if we can muster twelve "disciples" this year! (Please note that anyone - Catholic, non-Catholic, man, woman or child - can have their foot washed.)

Parish Census

Many thanks to everyone who has already returned Registration Forms: please keep them coming, and if you haven't taken one to fill in yet there are plenty in the porch.

Marriage Matters

Find our 'living water': Jesus' message to the woman at the well reminds us of His first miracle at Cana where He changed water into wine. Today, He promises us "living water where we will never be thirsty again...a spring inside...welling up to eternal life". When His grace is poured into us, into our marriages, it can overflow, strengthening us, reaching out to others.

Diocesan Notes

Manchester Chinese Catholic Community (MCCC)

MCCC would like to invite you to their monthly Mass. This takes place on the second Sunday of the month at 2.00 p.m. and is held in Salford's temporary Cathedral on Great George Street, M3 6EH.

Youth pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

Following on from the success of last year's pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, we are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from **Friday 22nd May - Sunday 24th 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

Young Adults Hub

The diocesan Youth Team are delighted to share news of the Young Adults Hub, created especially for those aged 18-35 across the Diocese of Salford. The Hub offers a welcoming space for young adults to deepen their faith, build authentic friendships, and grow together through prayer, formation, and social gatherings. For more information, please reach out to Mikey hub.president@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk and Edward hub.chair@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Lourdes - Diocesan Youth Group

Are you a young person looking to take part in a pilgrimage this year? Do you want to make new friends, build community and grow in your faith? Why not join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. It's simple to sign up and you can join a new group led by the Diocesan Youth Department. The pilgrimage and

travel dates are **29th July to 6th August**. The cost is £695.00 and this includes coach travel and full board hotel accommodation (Astoria Hotel). Young people can join in 3 age groups 13-15 (aspiring volunteers), 16-17 and 18+. If you are interested, please email youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for details of how to register.

THE BODY BIBLE

5: The Hair

There's more hair in the Bible than you might think! Everyone probably remembers the story of Samson and Delilah, how by seducing him and cutting off his hair he lost all his strength: this is not because his hair was magic but because it was symbolic of his dedication to God - you will find elsewhere references to "Nazirites" - people who made a vow to God never to cut their hair as a sign of devotion. Samson's loss of hair is a symbol of his deserting his promise. Another "hairy" Old Testament story is when Jacob deceives his father Isaac and cheats his brother Esau of his inheritance by clothing his arms in animal fur, since Esau had hairy arms and Isaac was blind! In the New Testament Jesus comforts us by assuring us that "every hair on our head is counted." There is a moving moment just before the Lord's Passion when a woman (identified in John's Gospel as Mary of Bethany) comes into a feast and after anointing Jesus' feet wipes them with her hair. Finally, we can't ignore (though we must always put this in the context of its own time) Saint Paul's advice about hair: "Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory?" Paul develops a rather complex and somewhat confusing teaching about the different apparel of men and women in prayer, but his main point applies to everyone, men and women - be wary of outward displays and fashions and styles, especially with your hair, because God is concerned with what is within!

Next week: the Ear.

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 in Catholic High Schools will soon be invited directly, otherwise please ask Father James for a Registration Form.

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 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

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 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.

Sunday Gospel Wordsearch

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D	E	T	K	C	U	B	D	C	B

SAMARITAN SYCHAR JACOB
JOSEPH WELL WOMAN
WATER DRINK JEW
BUCKET CATTLE HUSBAND



✠ STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY ✠