



First Sunday of Lent 21 February 2021

We begin our Lenten journey at the decisive moment of the flood, when God establishes his first Covenant with man, in the person of Noah. Noah was saved from the waters, while we (as Saint Peter points out) are saved by the waters of Baptism. This is the Covenant we live in, thanks to Christ, who came to establish this “new and eternal Covenant in his blood”. He is the only one who can do this, because he is without sin, despite “having been tempted in every way that we are”.

Marriage Matters: *We hunger for closeness:* Wilderness’ can be a reality in our marriage relationship at times, a kind of ‘desert experience’: hungering for a gentle touch or return of the closeness in our relationship. Yet, we can look back on such times and recognise the Spirit was at work. God’s grace was in our yearning, calling us to choose life and turn away from self-indulgence.

Think Vocations: Temptation is a very powerful force at work in our world. It is as strong today as it ever was. Society can make us narrow minded and think only of ourselves and what we can get out of life. This can lead to destruction of the spirit of generosity needed to foster vocations within the Church. Temptation can make us closed to the promptings of the Holy Spirit that lead us closer to God. If we are tempted to despair over the future of the Church, then let us reconnect during this Holy Season of Lent with the New Covenant established in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: We pray for the people of the parish of the Holy Trinity, Worsley, with Mgr John Dale, their parish priest, for the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph, the chaplaincy to St Ann’s Hospice, and for the parish primary schools. May their journey with the Lord this Lent be richly blessed.

Prayer During the Pandemic: O God, our refuge and our shield, even when we walk in the shadow of death you are there at our side. Be with your people in this time of danger: bring strength to the afflicted and protection to those untouched by disease. Give us love and courage that we may trust in your power to save and reach out to all who need our care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Next Week’s Newsletter: Liz Connolly
Please send notices before Wednesday
Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk

Masses / Services This Week
Unlike in previous lockdowns, we are able to keep our churches open for public worship this time. Government guidelines require people attending places of worship to wear a face mask (unless exempt for some reason).
Sunday – First Sunday of Lent Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am
Monday – The Chair of St Peter the Apostle (Feast) No Mass today
Tuesday – Lent Weekday or St Polycarp Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm
Wednesday – Lent Weekday Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am Deanery Mass 7pm [See Notice]
Thursday – Lent Weekday Mass at SsPP 6.30pm
Friday – Lent Weekday <i>CAFOD Family Fast Day</i> Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am
Saturday –Lent Weekday Mass at SsPP 12noon
Sunday – Second Sunday of Lent Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am
Live-streaming is via our Facebook page: Our Lady of Hope Parish, Salford (https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/)

Sick: All those who are suffering from the coronavirus and others who are sick at this time, including, Robert Livesey, Nuala Corridan, Tomas Cusack, John Ainsworth, Emily Martin (a sick child), Marie Campbell, David Pickup, Sue Remmer. Sr Therese Murphy, Pat Griffin, Peter Carroll, Kathleen Broderick
Lately Dead: All who have died of the coronavirus and others who have died recently: Cheryl Sheehy, Alf Evason, Tommy Cooke, Paul Byrne, Fr James Austin, Leonora Conroy
Masses Received: Julie Webster (Special Intention), Martin Murray (BR), Paul Byrne (LD)
National Prayer Cycle During Lent we are asked to pray for Candidates for the Sacraments, Women, the Needy and Hungry of the World, Penitents and Wanderers



St Luke, Swinton Park Rd, Irlams o’th’ Height, M6 7WR Tel: 0161 736 2696
Ss Peter and Paul, Park Road, Pendleton, Salford M6 8JR
Parish Priest: Canon Michael Cooke VG **Assistant Priest:** Father Mark Paver
Email: priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk www.ourladyofhope.org.uk
Diocese of Salford Registered Charity 250037

Bank Details (for Standing Orders or BACS)
TSDT Our Lady of Hope
50317403 20 55 34
Cheques: Payable to Our Lady of Hope

Rite of Election: On the First Sunday of Lent, those across the diocese who are going to be received into the Church at Easter gather in the cathedral with the bishop to celebrate the Rite of Election. Due to the pandemic restrictions this year, the Rite of Election will have to be celebrated in a different way, virtually. The Zoom link is only being shared with those directly involved in the ceremony but please pray for all those catechumens and candidates preparing to become part of the Catholic Church.

Walk With Me: These booklets are now available (free of charge) at each church for you to take home and use throughout the Lenten period. If you are not currently getting to church but would like a copy, please either ask a friend or neighbour to pick one up for you or email us with your name and address and we will do our best to get one to you.

Sycamore: Each Tuesday during Lent the parish will be running a Sycamore course via Zoom. This is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion. The course will be every Tuesday from 7.30pm - 9pm please email formation@ourladyofhope.org.uk to register your interest and receive joining instructions. Everyone is welcome.

Deanery Lenten Station Masses: Last year we began the practice of having an evening Mass in a different church in the deanery for each week of Lent. Sadly, after only three such Masses, the lockdown closed our churches and so we were unable to continue. This year, the priests have decided that we will have these Masses again - but they will be live-streamed Masses without a congregation (since we can't gather in large numbers). Although we can't physically gather together, we can be spiritually (and virtually) gathered with our brothers and sisters from the other parishes of our deanery, building up the sense of belonging to something bigger than just our parish. These Masses will be on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and the first one, this Wednesday, will be from St John Paul II parish in Eccles. You can join it via: Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ParishofStJohnPaulIIEccles> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ourparishcommunity>

Pastoral Letter: In his Pastoral Letter last weekend, Bishop John invited us to think about how we might enter into the season of Lent in the current circumstances. He said "There are the three signposts for our attention during Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. These are themes for self-examination. Can they be the means for challenging ourselves, particularly in the experience of the Covid-pandemic, for re-setting our priorities, and stimulating action and change?" He spoke briefly on each of these and mentioned specific websites that might help us with prayer (www.pray-as-you-go.org), fasting (www.cafod.org.uk) and almsgiving (www.caritassalford.org.uk). He also stressed that the reflections he was offering "are only suggestions – there are many ways of making this Lent holy."

Lent Resources: The Diocesan Department for Formation has compiled a pack of resources, Celebrating Lent in Lockdown, to help us sustain our prayer life this Lent. You can find these at: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-in-lockdown-resources/>. They will also be sharing video reflections on diocesan social media channels as we move through Lent

Diocesan Lent Course: LET US DREAM - Our Lenten Journey with Pope Francis, guided by Austen Ivereigh. Over the Wednesdays of Lent we will explore Pope Francis' book, *Let us Dream*, with the assistance of Austen Ivereigh, who worked closely with Pope Francis on the book. This is the first book by a pope in response to a specific crisis and offers us Pope Francis's spiritual guidance for humanity in the throes of the Covid crisis, helping us to seize the opportunity for conversion and change. The course begins on Wednesday 24 February at 7pm. Every Wednesday (3 March until 31 March) we will meet 7pm-8.30pm, to explore the book in five sections, share our thoughts, ask questions and deepen our understanding of the Lord's call to us, to our Church and world through the teaching of Pope Francis. The Bishop and Diocese are very grateful to Austen Ivereigh for making this possible. To sign up, please email: formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk, or go to the website <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lentcourse/>

Global Healing: This series of reflective evenings, using the film-based resource Global Healing, continues on Thursdays through to 25 March (7.30pm – 8.30pm). For further details, email: jane@catholicclimatemovement.global.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: This week (Friday 26 February) we mark CAFOD's Family Fast Day, a day on which we are invited to pray, fast and give to help people in need. This year the theme is "The Longest Journey" and features Abdella who lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says: "I am wasting my life. I am a young man; I should be doing something else." A more detailed account of Abdella's journey for water can be seen by going to: <https://projects.cafod.org.uk/walkforwater/index.html>.

Whatever you are able to give will help vulnerable communities around the world have access to clean water and provide other vital support. We will have a basket out in church next weekend (and some CAFOD envelopes) to collect in your donations. You can also donate online through the CAFOD website (www.cafod.org.uk) or by text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10. * * * Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see their Privacy Policy: <https://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice>. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Caritas Lent Appeal - Pray, Fast, Give: We are grateful to Bishop John for commending the work of Caritas to you in his Lenten pastoral letter last weekend. Caritas invites all parishes to join us in daily prayer during Lent by accessing the prayers written by pupils in our schools on the key themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Please go to <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/serviceview/sjp2021/>

Weekly Eco Thought for Lent: From the first reading: God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you.' God pledges never to destroy his creation. Can we make that same pledge to God and safeguard the gift God has given us? Think of one practical step that you will take this Lent and beyond.