



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
18 July 2021

“Sheep without a shepherd.” This is the simple theme of today’s readings. It is interesting that Jesus’ reaction to the crowd is one of pity – as he sees their great thirst for his teachings. This is, in a sense, a clear fulfilment of the prophecy we hear in the first reading, where God promises a true shepherd who will care for the people of Israel. Shepherding is a particularly suitable image of God’s love and care. The dependency of the sheep on their shepherd, their wandering and drifting without someone to guide them, is also a suitable image of the people God loves. Our own age also displays sheep without shepherds - a great wandering crowd, seeking something, but not knowing what they are seeking. It is to this flock that the present day followers of Jesus are sent as shepherds.

Marriage Matters: *Walking alongside or away?* Jesus, the Good Shepherd, experienced rejection: many “walked with him no longer”. This offers us some consolation, when despite doing our best to pass on our faith in Jesus and His Church to our children, we, their ‘shepherds’, experience them drifting away from the faith. God loves our children unconditionally, and we need to continually ‘hold them’ in our love..

Think Vocation: In the Gospel the crowds are longing for the hope and encouragement that comes from the lips of Our Lord. Could we spend more time acquainting ourselves with the Word of God in the Sacred Scriptures? Do we try to take at least one word or phrase from the homily, prayers and readings from the Sunday Mass to nourish us in the week ahead?

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Let us pray, this week, for the parish of Christ the Redeemer, Bolton, its parishioners and Fr Morrigh O’Brien, their parish priest and Rural Dean. We pray for their three parish primary schools. May the Lord raise up shepherds from amongst them to serve the People of God, as priests, deacons and lay disciples.

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.

Masses / Services This Week
Government guidelines require people attending places of worship to wear a face mask (unless exempt).
Sunday – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9:30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am
Monday – Weekday No Mass today
Tuesday – Weekday or St Apollinaris Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm
Wednesday – Weekday or St Laurence of Brindisi Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am
Thursday – St Mary Magdalen (Feast) Mass at SsPP 6.30pm
Friday – St Bridget of Sweden, Patron of Europe (Feast) Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am
Saturday – Weekday or St Sharbel Makhlof or Memorial of BVM Mass at SsPP 12noon
Sunday – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mass at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9:30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am
Live-streaming is via our Facebook page: (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, Marie Campbell, David Pickup, Sue Remmer, Peter Carroll, Kathleen Broderick, Andrea Merrall.
Lately Dead: All who have died of the coronavirus and others who have died recently: Mary Appleton, Vera Gledhill, Angela Gaughran, Lorraine Hutton.
Anniversaries: Stewart Murphy, Catherine Simcox, Matalda Tenesaca
Masses Received - Stewart Murphy (A) & Special Intention, Fr Francis Waterworth (40th Anniversary of Ordination), Angela Gaughran (LD), Lorraine Hutton (LD), Julie Webster, Clare Bruce (90th Birthday), Catherine Simcox (A), Matalda Tenesaca (A), Alan Roberts, Deceased members of the Sloan & Roberts families, Andrea Merrall (S)

First Communion: Please pray for our young people who are receiving their First Communion at this time. Hopefully we should complete the celebrations this weekend, provided no other children have to self-isolate.

Parish Email Addresses

We are still unable to access any emails that were sent prior to last Wednesday, so if you are awaiting a response or you sent us specific information that we need, please resend your original email. We were able to reconstruct most of the newsletter distribution list from a backup file but there may be others who were added after that backup file was created. We've lost all the individual email contacts who were not on that distribution list. We're still hoping to get them back but it is taking time.

Lockdown Roadmap:

On Monday (19 July) we reach Step 4 of the Government's roadmap for coming out of lockdown. Whilst this means there will no longer be legal restrictions imposed upon us, it does not mean that everything is now safe and back to normal. The Prime Minister and his advisers were clear in their announcement that the pandemic is not over.

We have received advice from the Bishops' Conference regarding our approach to Step 4. This basically asks us to consider very carefully the local prevailing conditions in making any decisions about changing our current practice. Interestingly, Wales (which is also covered by the same Bishops' Conference) is not emerging from lockdown until sometime in August.

Here in Salford (both the City and the Diocese) we continue to be in an area where the prevalence of the virus is still strong and so Bishop John is urging us, having established very good practices in the use of our churches, to change little for the time being. This is sound advice and so we will not be making any dramatic or speedy changes here in Our Lady of Hope Parish. We will look carefully at things in the coming weeks and only lift our restrictions when we judge it is safer to do so.

The Bishops' Conference have also issued a statement entitled *Sunday - it is our Day* in which they reaffirm that the Sunday Obligation cannot be safely restored at this point, though they hope it might be possible by the First Sunday of Advent.

Vaccinations: Bishop John is urging all adults, who are able to do so, to be vaccinated. Pope Francis has reminded people of the duty to be vaccinated if they are able. The Church is clear that all Catholics can take any of the vaccines on offer with a clear conscience. Even if you are at a low risk of becoming seriously ill, being vaccinated will lower the risk of transmitting the virus to somebody else who might then have a severe reaction or even die. It is particularly important that those in our parishes, clergy and lay-people who visit those who are housebound or otherwise vulnerable are vaccinated.

Year 6: Please pray for pupils from Year 6 in St Luke's School. They were all sent home to self-isolate on Wednesday which means that their Leavers' Mass on Thursday was cancelled. It also means that they won't be back in school before they actually leave! So, whilst we can't mark the occasion as we would normally do, we thank them for all they have contributed to the school during their time there and we wish them well as they move on to high school in September.

Sea Sunday: Thank you for the £245.09 given in the special collection for Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea) last weekend.

Weekly Eco Thought: In today's Gospel, Jesus took the apostles to a lonely place to rest for a while. *Might we find time and space in these weeks to rest for a while and enjoy the beauty of God's gift of creation?*

Reconciliation: If you would like to celebrate the sacrament socially distanced in an open space, please telephone the priests (0161 736 2696) to make an appointment.

Our Lady of Hope Online Choir: You are welcome to join the choir:

www.ourladyofhope.org.uk/index.asp?t=onlinechoir

Diocese of Salford: Remember that the diocese is recruiting for a Receptionist and two PA roles at Cathedral Centre. Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 26 July. Full details and application forms for each of these roles are available on the diocesan website:

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies

Salford Cathedral's Choral Family: Following a period of restructuring and re-auditions, Salford Cathedral now offers a range of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to sing:

- **Children's Choir** – for ages 7–12. Rehearsals Tuesdays & Wednesdays (4.15pm-5.30pm) in Cathedral House (no auditions)
- **Youth Choir** – for ages 12–18. Rehearsals Tuesdays (5.45pm-6.45pm) in Cathedral House (no auditions)
- **Music Group** – for singers and instrumentalists of all ages and abilities. Rehearsals at 8.40am for the 9.15am Mass on Sundays (no auditions)
- **Voluntary Choir** – for adults of all abilities who enjoy singing in a mixed-voice choir. Rehearsals at 4.30pm for the 5.30pm Mass on Sundays (informal audition)
- **Cathedral Choir** – for experienced choral singers with good sight-reading skills. Rehearsals Thursdays (7.30pm-9pm) and 10am for the 11am Mass on Sundays (formal audition)
- **Choral Scholarships** – worth up to £1,200 for students ages 18+ in full time education. Rehearsals as for the Cathedral Choir and also for 5pm Vespers on Thursdays (formal audition)

For more information please get in touch with the Director of Music, Alex Patterson, either on 0161 817 2210 or via email alex.patterson@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: The inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on Sunday 25 July 2021. Instituted by Pope Francis, it has been given the theme "I am with you always" from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 28: 30). Identifying with the more senior members of our society, he says "The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!"

Next Week's Newsletter: Liz Connolly

Please send notices before Wednesday

Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk