



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 31 January 2021

Where does authority come from? Why is one man regarded as a prophet, and another as a lunatic, and a third as a hypocrite? Jesus startles the crowds with a 'new teaching' today, but what amazes them so much is not the message but the authority behind it: they are convinced because what he does somehow adds credibility to what he says. It's the old situation that we are all familiar with - we look through words to see the actions, which show us the real message. The scribes did not heal or work miracles, but simply talked about God. Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, but also shows the people what it is - a Kingdom where all that damages human happiness is abolished. The other side to this is that we must listen to a prophet or teacher when they are backed by such authority; we may not "harden our hearts" and ignore the message when we have recognised that the messenger is sent by God. This is the hard part, because it demands that we too show, by our actions, that we have heard.

Marriage Matters: *Evangelisation through our Sacrament:* St Paul infers a deeper spirituality is found among the unmarried, yet writing to the Ephesians (5:32), he speaks of 'the profound mystery' of marriage and compares it to the relationship between Christ and the Church. The Lord is at the heart of our love for one another, providing the grace for daily living and evangelisation, through our Sacrament.

Think Vocations: St Paul speaks today of the responsibilities in marriage. Let us thank God for those who are married and ask His blessing upon them. Healthy marriage is the foundation for a family from which a spirit of vocation to build up the Kingdom of God can be nurtured. Let us also pray for those who live the single life that their contribution to the Church may also be encouraged.

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: We pray for the parish of St Vincent de Paul, Norden, for Fr James Manock, their parish priest and for their parish primary school. May they be a prophetic voice to the people.

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

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 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Caritas Sunday* - *Racial Justice Day*

Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am
Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am

Monday – Weekday
No Mass today

Tuesday – The Presentation of the Lord (Feast)
Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm

Wednesday – Weekday or St Ansgar or St Blaise
Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Thursday – Weekday
Mass at SsPP 6.30pm

Friday – St Agatha
Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Saturday – Ss Paul Miki and Companions
Mass at SsPP 12noon

Sunday – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
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

Lately Dead: All who have died of the coronavirus and others who have died recently: Frank Flynn, Michael Hogan, Patricia Kelly, Bernadette Higson, Kathleen Ryan, Archbishop Philip Tartaglia (Glasgow), Tony (Anthony) Devine, Patricia Mary Smith, Helen Lambert, Sue Fazakerly, Brian Maycock, Edith Bond, Peter Plevin

Anniversaries: Eric Burke, Florence Jackson, Mathew

Masses Received: Eric Burke (A), Julie Webster, Ouseph Chako & Annama, Mr & Mrs C Mathew & Alekertty, Mr & Mrs Varkey & Annama, Mr & Mrs Isaac & Annama, Souls who have nobody to pray for them, Maura Murray (BR), Helen Lambert (LD), Sue Fazakerly (LD), Brian Maycock (LD), Edith Bond (LD), Mathew (A), Peter Plevin (LD)

Caritas Sunday: Today we have our special collection to support the work of Caritas Diocese of Salford. Attention was drawn to this in the bishop's pastoral letter two weeks ago and the article on the newsletter last weekend.

We have been asked to share with you a link to the Caritas Impact Report 2020 that highlights the charitable work Caritas has carried out last year across the Diocese: www.caritassalford.org.uk/news/caritas-impact-report-2020/

As the report states, it's been a year like no other. The challenges for the coming year, and the future capacity of Caritas to maintain the same level of response, remains at risk due to the prolonged impact of the pandemic on fundraising activities. The staff, volunteers and supporters will continue to respond with great energy and determination and look forward to working closely with parishes and schools in 2021, supporting the most needy and vulnerable in our communities. Thank you for your interest and support.

If you would like to make a one off debit or credit card donation online or set up a direct debit mandate, you can do so via the Caritas secure website <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/donate/> or call Rachel Taylor on 0161 817 2285

Racial Justice Sunday: Today is also the annual day of prayer and reflection on the matter of racial justice and this year it is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme is "A Time to Act" and resources for reflection and prayer are available at www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/

Bishop John: Tuesday (2 Feb) is the anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop John, when he became an auxiliary bishop in Westminster in 2006. It is an appropriate day on which to pray for him and his ministry here as the Bishop of Salford, as well as the various roles he undertakes for the wider Church community.

Our Lady of Hope 500 Club: If you would like to join the Our Lady of Hope 500 Club for 2021, please get in touch via email to office@ourladyofhope.org.uk

Our Lady of Hope Online Choir: During lockdown, if you love to sing, please join in with our online choir: www.ourladyofhope.org.uk/index.asp?t=onlinechoir

Cathedral Children's Choir: Would your child like to try a new creative outlet? Are they a keen singer? Do they need a little help with their confidence? Following the successful debut of our children's choir at the cathedral over Christmas, we are recruiting new members. There's no fee to join and during the lockdown we are holding rehearsals over Zoom on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4 – 5.00pm. If you'd like to find out more please email: alex.patterson@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Music Course: CJM is offering a six month intensive course for parish musicians and singers. With the current ban on singing in church in mind, the time may be right to consider how we can develop our music ministry skills so that we are prepared for when we are called upon once more to serve our communities. It is always good, however long we have been involved in any ministry, to take time to reflect on what we have been doing and seek ways to develop our repertoire and skills.

CJM is offering us the opportunity to do that with a six month intensive course (money back guarantee if you do not find the first month helpful). Why not take a look and then persuade someone in your parish to do the course with you. Sharing it together is likely to make it a very fruitful experience. Full details can be found here: <https://cjmmusic.mykajabi.com/parish-music-ministry-collective>

Next Week's Newsletter: Jan McIntyre
Please send notices before Wednesday
Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk

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