



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 February 2021

Thankfully, we do not encounter leprosy in our culture. It can therefore be difficult to enter into the real depth of today's readings. We have to understand that leprosy meant exclusion, rejection and the end of "normal" life. For your leprosy to be cured would be like being given a second chance at life. What is the cause of exclusion and rejection in our society – or even in the Church? Who are those who must "live apart"? And how can we put into effect in our day those most touching of the words of Jesus, when asked if he wants to cure the leper: "Of course I want to!"? Contemplating exclusion and rejection in our world can be hard work: Saint Paul guides the way: the Christian path is not to work "for my own advantage, but for the advantage of everybody else".

Marriage Matters: Keeping our love alive: Sometimes we have a sense of being at odds and separated from each other. The question, often unasked, is 'do you love me?' The answer is the same as Jesus gave to the outcast leper 'of course I do!' From being apart, we can be one again. How often do we say to each other 'I love you'?

Think Vocations: St Paul tells us to model ourselves on Christ. Jesus had time for those who were pushed away by society and the authorities. There are people in the Church today who strive to ensure that no one is excluded from the Lord's love. We pray for those who work with the homeless and marginalised to feed them, shelter them and show them the love of Christ.

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: In our Diocese we now pray for the parishes of St John's Deanery, for its people, and clergy and for Fr Martin Collins, the Dean. Let us pray for the people of the parish of St John Paul II, Eccles, with Fr Martin Collins, their parish priest, their primary schools and St Patrick's High School, the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph and the chaplaincy to Salford Royal Hospital. May all that they do be done for the glory of God

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 –Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Day of Prayer for the Unemployed
Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am
Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am

Monday – Weekday
No Mass today

Tuesday – Weekday
Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm

Wednesday – Ash Wednesday - Day of Fasting and Abstinence
Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am. Mass at SsPP 6.30pm

Thursday – Lent Weekday
Mass at SsPP 6.30pm

Friday – Lent Weekday
Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Saturday –Lent Weekday
Mass at SsPP 12noon

Sunday – First 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

Lately Dead: All who have died of the coronavirus and others who have died recently: Helen Lambert, Sue Fazakerly, Brian Maycock, Edith Bond, Peter Plevin, Cheryl Sheehy, Alf Evason, Tommy Cooke

Anniversaries: - Renee Tyldesley, Margaret Holmes, Rose Morris, Carmel Barnard

Masses Received: Julie Webster, Renee Tyldesley (A), Isabelle Lyons (BR), In thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Polly Shields-Haines, Betty Brierley (BR for 100th), Margaret Holmes (A), Rose Morris (A), Alf Evason (LD), Alan Roberts, Deceased Members of the Sloyan & Roberts families, Carmel Barnard (A)

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

Engaged Couples: On this weekend closest to St Valentine's Day, the bishop would normally hold a service of blessing for engaged couples in the Cathedral. Sadly this was not possible this year because of the restrictions in place at present. However, there is nothing to stop us from praying privately for all those who are engaged to be married, that the Lord might help them in their preparations and bless them in their marriage.

The Unemployed: This Sunday is a day of prayer for the unemployed. Whilst keeping in mind all those who are out of work and the stress caused to them and their families, it would be particularly appropriate this year to pray especially for those who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

Pastoral Letter: This weekend we have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop John inviting us to think about how we will enter into the season of Lent this year, perhaps finding a new focus for our Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving in the current circumstances.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday (17 February) marks the start of Lent. In addition to the usual 9.30am Mass at St Luke, we will also have a 6.30pm Mass at Ss Peter & Paul. In conformity with the Instructions from the Congregation for Divine Worship issued on 12 January, Bishop John has issued advice for the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes on this Ash Wednesday. The ashes will be blessed in the usual way (after the Gospel) but the formula used for their imposition ("Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return") will just be said once (as we currently do for the Body and Blood of Christ at Communion). Given the current practice we have here of receiving Communion at the end of Mass, we will also go with the option of distributing the ashes as people are leaving church. The priest will be helped in this task by a Eucharistic Minister. Instead of marking the forehead with wet ashes, a small amount of dry ashes will be sprinkled on each person's head. Please remember that there is no obligation to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday.

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
<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lentcourse/>

Global Healing: In 2015, Pope Francis published his groundbreaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, the Global Catholic Movement are inviting you to join us for a series of reflective evenings, using the film-based resource Global Healing. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action. When? Six Thursdays from 18 February – 25 March (7.30pm – 8.30pm). For further details, email: jane@catholicclimatemovement.global.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience...Truly, much can be done!" (*Laudato Si'*, 217, 180).

Cathedral Sacristan Vacancy: This is a Full-time, permanent position, working 30 hours per week, to be worked over 5 days per week including every Sunday, some Saturdays and some evenings, at the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, 250 Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LE. Salary and benefits: £14,820 per annum (actual), 25 holidays plus bank holidays (subject to pro-rata) and 5 Diocesan closure days, employers pension scheme.

We are looking for a reliable person who can work well independently as well as within a team to coordinate the work of the Cathedral Sacristy supporting the smooth running of the liturgical and sacramental life of the church. The successful candidate will have good communication skills and be able to work with sensitivity in a Catholic environment. They will maintain high standards of cleanliness, health and safety and safeguarding.

For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>
Closing date for applications is 12pm on Friday 5 March.

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.

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

Next Week's Newsletter: Margaret Haydock

Please send notices before Wednesday

Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk