



**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**25 July 2021**

For the next five weeks we take our leave of Saint Mark's Gospel (since it is not long enough to fill the year) and read Chapter Six of Saint John's Gospel. This is the famous "Eucharistic Discourse" and begins with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. A line of the Psalm gives the meaning of today's readings: "The eyes of all creatures look to you (O God) and you give them their food in due time." Our God is the God who provides for his people; the prosperity and fruitfulness of our earth and the mysterious cycles of nature ensures that all have what they need - and have some left over. The actions of Elisha and Jesus are in a sense prophetic: many would say that there is not enough food in this world to go round, just as the two sets of disciples complain that there is not enough for the hundred or the five thousand. But the prophetic action states that this is not true: God provides what is needed. This might prompt us to think about the unfair and unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth: the miracle is a sign of the Kingdom of God - what God wants the world to be like. Perhaps we should take the message of the miracle to heart this Sunday and think about the multitude that still sits in hunger in our world today.

**Marriage Matters: *Selflessness in giving:*** The readings recount God's continuing faithfulness to His people, and their response. Elisha's story is the forerunner to Jesus feeding at least five thousand on a few loaves and fishes. Such providence reminds us of our faithful God who gives, and gives, and then gives again. Do I do this, do we, to each other? In His strength, we can.

**Think Vocation:** The boy in the Gospel was encouraged to generously give to Jesus the little bit of food he had. Each of us has an abundance of gifts but often a reluctance to allow them to be used by the Lord for the building up of his Kingdom. Let any reluctance we have be replaced by an outpouring of trusting generosity.

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle:** Let us pray, during this week, for the people of the parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton, for Fr Alfred Rebello, their parish priest, and for their three parish primary schools. May they be ever nourished on the Bread of Life, the Body of Christ.

**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.

<b>Masses / Services This Week</b>
<b>We are asking people attending our churches to wear a face mask (unless exempt).</b>
<b>Sunday</b> – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly</i> Mass at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9:30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am
<b>Monday</b> – Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of the BVM No Mass today
<b>Tuesday</b> – Weekday Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b> – Weekday Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am
<b>Thursday</b> – St Martha Mass at SsPP 6.30pm
<b>Friday</b> – Weekday or St Peter Chrysologus <i>Please note</i> No Mass today
<b>Saturday</b> – St Ignatius of Loyola Mass at SsPP 12noon
<b>Sunday</b> – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9:30am Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am
<b>Live-streaming is via our Facebook page:</b> ( <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford">https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford</a> )
<b>Sick:</b> 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.
<b>Latently Dead:</b> All who have died of the coronavirus and others who have died recently: Angela Gaughran, Lorraine Hutton, Stephen Carter, Canon Francis Deeney.
<b>Masses Received:</b> Julie Webster, Ged Aitken (S)

**Parish Email Addresses**  
We are grateful to Paul Ashton for the work he has done to restore access to all the emails and contact details we had lost a few weeks ago.

**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!”

As the Pope says, we should cherish the elderly and recognise that there’s no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to grandchildren. Quoting his predecessor, Pope Benedict, he reminds us that “the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others.” Cardinal Nichols says that this day



of prayer will help different generations to remember that we are gifts to each other and he recalls what Pope Francis said to a million young people at one of the World Youth Days: “If you want to be a sign of hope for the world, go and talk to your grandparents.”

**Lourdes at Home:** Bishop John will celebrate a special pilgrimage Mass from Sacred Heart Church, Rochdale this Sunday (25 July) at 2pm. Mass will be accompanied by a small number of our wonderful pilgrimage choir and is online only at [www.churchservices.tv/sacredheartrochdale](http://www.churchservices.tv/sacredheartrochdale).

**Farewell Service:** Rev Clare Stainsby, the minister at Height Methodist Church is leaving next week to take up a new appointment. There is a Farewell Service for her this Sunday afternoon (2.30pm) but the number of attendees has to be limited because of the ongoing situation with Covid. Those unable to attend can join in with the service via this YouTube link: [www.salfordcircuit.org.uk/farewellservice](http://www.salfordcircuit.org.uk/farewellservice). We thank Clare for all that she has done in helping our churches to work together during her time here and we wish her well for the future.

**Remembrance:** Please remember in your prayers Stephen Carter who has recently died. For many years Stephen, with Jim and Vera, tended the grounds at St PP, so faithfully and to such great effect. His requiem will be at St Mary’s Mulberry St., the Hidden Gem, on Tuesday August 3rd at 1.45. May he rest in peace.

**Lockdown Roadmap:** 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 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.

**First Communion:** Congratulations to our young people who have received their First Communion over the past few weekends. There are just a few who missed out due to self-isolating, so they will make their First Communion at our usual parish Masses when they can.

**Mikron:** Thank you to all who organised and supported the recent performance from the Mikron Theatre. Thanks too for the £366 raised for parish funds by the raffle held on the night.

**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](http://www.ourladyofhope.org.uk/index.asp?t=onlinechoir)

**Salford Cathedral’s Choral Family:** There is now a range of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities: *Children’s Choir* (7–12), *Youth Choir* (12–18), *Music Group* (singers and instrumentalists of all ages and abilities), *Voluntary Choir* (adults of all abilities who enjoy singing in a mixed-voice choir), *Cathedral Choir* (for experienced choral singers with good sight-reading skills) and *Choral Scholarships* (worth up to £1,200 for students ages 18+ in full time education). For more information please get in touch with the Director of Music, Alex Patterson, [alex.patterson@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:alex.patterson@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) or 0161 817 2210.

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C	R	L	R	U	S	H	B	E	P	TIBERIAS
I	F	E	R	E	A	S	O	N	I	HILLSIDE
S	A	I	V	M	E	I	Y	A	L	FEAST
D	N	A	P	O	T	F	E	R	I	PASSOVER
G	O	E	D	I	S	L	L	I	H	BREAD
L	R	I	V	B	S	S	R	I	P	BOY
S	A	A	E	I	E	A	A	H	A	FIVE
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S	A	I	R	E	B	I	T	A	S	LOAVES
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**Next Week’s Newsletter:**  
Please send notices before Wednesday  
Email: [newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk)