

Diocesan Notices

Diocesan Mass for Young Adults: Our Diocesan Mass for Young Adults returns to St Augustine's in Manchester next month with a festive feel! Join us at 5.30pm on Sunday 8 December as we gather together for Mass before enjoying some seasonal treats and the return of our series of talks exploring the Catholic faith. All are welcome!

In the Footsteps of Mary: An Advent Prayer Walk: Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team this December for a reflective prayer walk around the Centre's beautiful woodland. This self-guided trail invites us to focus on Mary's journey to Bethlehem and the example she sets us as we continue our own spiritual journey in this season of Advent. A number of sessions will be taking place on Wednesday 18 December. Find out more at <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/advent-retreat/>

Opening Mass for the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee: Pope Francis has invited dioceses across the world to unite in prayer as we begin the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Our diocese will be marking the start of the Jubilee with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, on Sunday 29th December at 2pm at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church. All are welcome to join us as we mark the start of this special year of grace.

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee in our Diocese: Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church, an event that takes place once every 25 years and offers the faithful an opportunity to renew their relationship with God, each other, and all of creation. Over the coming months, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to observe this special year of grace in our own diocese. To find out more about the Jubilee and how to get involved, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/jubilee-2025/>

Jubilee of Youth - Pilgrimage to Rome: Young adults across the diocese are invited to join our diocesan Youth Ministry Team for a special pilgrimage to Rome next year. Pilgrims will be travelling to Rome for the Jubilee of Youth, announced by Pope Francis at the 2023 World Youth Day. Our pilgrimage will take place between 28 July and 4 August. Email youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more.

Carol Services: The Diocese of Salford is delighted to announce the return of its Salford Schools Singing Programme (SSP) Carol Services, which will take place in churches across the diocese this December. For a full list of dates and locations for our services, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ssp-carol-services-24/>

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2025: Our diocesan pilgrimage office is now taking bookings for its next annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. Next year's pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 3 May 2025, with an option to extend your visit by staying overnight on Friday 2 May. For more information, prices, and details on how to book, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-pilgrimage-2025> or call 0161 817 2209.

Caritas driver: Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity that supports people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire, is in urgent need of the support of a volunteer van driver. Van drivers are vital to Caritas services and are essential to their day-to-day running. If you can drive, have a few hours to spare each week, and want to help Caritas to support people across the diocese, then please contact their volunteer coordinator Matt on m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk or visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer

A Call to Lead - A Post-Confirmation Programme: A new post-confirmation programme has been developed by Salford Youth Ministry and the Young Christian Workers Movement to bridge the gap between confirmation and adult formation, with the aim of helping young people to grow in faith and become active leaders of the parish community. For more information about the programme, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/a-call-to-lead>



St Luke, Swinton Park Rd, Irlams o'th' Height, Salford M6 7WR
Ss Peter and Paul, Park Road, Pendleton, Salford M6 8JR
Parish Priest: Canon Michael Cooke (*Vicar General*)
Assistant Priest: Father Emmanuel Chukwujekwu HFFBY
Tel: 0161 736 2696 Email: priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk
Parish Website: www.ourladyofhope.org.uk

NEWSLETTER 8 DECEMBER 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent

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

Monday – The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

Mass & Cenacle Prayers at SL 6.30pm

Tuesday – Advent Weekday or Our Lady of Loreto

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at SL 6pm
Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm

Wednesday – Advent Weekday or St Damasus

No 9.30am Mass today
Requiem Mass for Terrence Simpson 11.30am at SL

Thursday – Advent Weekday or Our Lady of Guadalupe

Rosary at SsPP 6pm; Mass at SsPP 6.30pm

Friday – St Lucy

Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Saturday – St John of the Cross

No 12noon Mass at SsPP today
Reconciliation 5.45-6.15pm at SL

Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent

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

Live-stream: www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/

Reflections for This Week

Again, we hear about the coming "Day of Christ", and meet the character of John the Baptist. Just as once before he "prepared the way" for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord. The imagery of this Sunday is particularly rich: the dominant image is of a vast population moving together - the return from exile in the first reading, the going and coming of the sowers in the psalm, the community of the Church preparing together in Paul's letter. We prepare for the coming of the Lord as His people - a community who cooperate to make the "processional way" of the Holy One - flattening the hills of opposition and ridicule, filling in the valleys of doubt and despair, so that "all mankind shall see the salvation of God."

Marriage Matters: *Smoothing out rough ways...to welcome You:* Paul speaks of our 'partnership in the Gospel' and prays that our love continues growing. He wants us to 'come to true discernment' about our choices. Luke's Gospel challenges us as married couples: are we enabling each other to 'prepare a way for the Lord'? Are there 'paths' that need 'straightening' or 'rough' attitudes/behaviours that need to be made smooth?

Think Vocation: St John the Baptist was the voice that cries in the wilderness asking people to prepare a way for the Lord and to change their ways. Like John, the voice of the Church can seem to be a voice in the wilderness of our world. It might not be a message that the world wants to hear but it needs to hear it. May others be called to serve in the Church as a voice for the Lord for his people today.

Prayers Requested

Sick: All who are sick (at home or in hospital)

Lately Dead: Patricia Seale, Peggy Keating, Ben Ellicott, Henry Howard, Molly Leacy, Dennis Ball, Hannah O'Reilly, Terry Simpson, Ivor Parry, Joyce McCardle, John Haughian, Bernard Ogden, Ouseph Chako, Annamma, Lorratto, George, Annamna George, Jose, Mathew C, Alekutty, Fr Zarias, Fr Kanjrakomoile, Fr Andrew Slow (LD), Frank Jordan, Elizabeth Wright

Masses Received: Successful Operation, Special Intention, Peggy Keating (LD), Joyce McCardle (LD), Ben Ellicott (LD), Henry Howard (LD), Molly Leacy (LD), The Leacy Family, Pat Howard & Family, Terry Simpson (LD), Hannah O'Reilly (LD), SsPP UCM, Patricia Seale (LD)

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Let us pray for the parish of the Sacred Heart and St. Anne, Blackburn, and for Fr. James McCartney, their parish priest. We pray for the parish primary schools, the Beardwood Hospital and the work of THOMAS.

Parish Notices

Funerals: There is a Funeral Service for Dennis Ball on Tuesday 10 December at 12.15pm in the chapel at St Mary's Cemetery, Wardley. There is a Requiem Mass for Terrence Simpson on Wednesday 11 December at 11.30am at St Luke's. There is a Requiem Mass for Patricia Seale on Wednesday 18 December at 10am at Ss Peter & Paul. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Fair: Thanks to everyone who supported the Fair in any way, special thanks to Broadoak Funeral Services for their generous contribution to the sweet jar stall. £3549.45 was raised in total which will be divided between the Parish and St Luke's School.

Christmas Fair Prizes: Pick a meal was "Lancs Pot" and won by Andrew Malone. Half and Half - £60 was won by Margaret O'Hare. A list of Prize Winners for the Christmas Raffle is available in the porch at both Churches, most winners have been notified, prizes available for collection in the Church Sacristies. Would Lisa Graham and Stephen Heffety please ring 0161 736 5768 so we can get their prizes to them.

Diocesan Yearbook: The Yearbook for 2025 is now on sale for £5 at both churches.

Diocesan Synod Theme Gatherings: Our next gathering will take place on Sunday 8 December (3.15-4.45pm at SsPP) and will focus on themes 3 & 4: "Enabling Access" and "Fostering Christ-like Care". The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend. For further details about the Synod please visit the diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/

SsPP UCM Bingo: We are holding a Bingo afternoon in aid of our charities Loaves & Fishes and Caritas, Sunday 8 December 1.00pm - 3.00pm in the Parish Centre.

SVP Monthly Meeting: The monthly general meeting of the SVP is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 10th December at 7pm (after Mass) at St Lukes Church. New members are welcome.

Men's Fellowship: We wish to warmly invite you to join us for our Men's Fellowship at St Lukes Church on Thursday 12th December 2024 at 7:30pm. For further information, please contact Ian (icgifford@hotmail.com) or Calli (calli.onyebuchibe@outlook.com).

Children & Youth Choir: Rehearsal Friday 13 December 6-7pm at St Luke's Church. New members welcome, ages 7 upwards. Parental registration form on <https://www.ourladyofhope.org.uk>

New Lectionary: Thank you to those who have already offered sponsorship for the new Lectionary. The cost of four volumes has been covered. There are still four more if anyone else wishes to sponsor one. Thanks.

All Hallows R.C. High School: The Youth SVP group have written over 70 Christmas cards to be delivered to prisoners across Greater Manchester. Pupils explained that they wanted to show how to 'Love Thy Neighbour'. "We have decorated our school for Christmas this year, and our Nativity is proudly displayed in reception. Pupils are preparing to take part in our Senior Citizens' Christmas party, creating decorations and planning activities. We're excited to welcome these visitors to our school."

Advent and Christmas

Three Schools Carol Service: This annual event brings together pupils from St John's, St Luke's and Summerville and takes place in St Luke's Church at 9.30am on Tuesday 10 December. All are welcome to come along.

Walk With Me: The booklets for Advents are now available - free of charge. Do please take one for your household and use it to help your prayer during this season of preparation for Christmas.

Christmas Masses: There will be two Masses on Christmas Eve (5pm at SL & 7pm at SsPP) and two Masses on Christmas morning (9.30am at SL & 11am at SsPP).

Senior Citizens' Christmas party: All Hallows RC High school is hosting a Senior Citizens' Christmas party on Wed 11th Dec, 10:30-12:15. All local Senior Citizens are invited. To confirm your attendance, please contact Lisa Teasdale in advance on 0161 921 1900 or lisa.teasdale@salford.gov.uk

Next Week's Newsletter:

Could you please send notices before Wednesday
Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk

Financially Supporting Our Parish

Contactless: The Dona machines (card or mobile phone)
Bank Details: TSDT Our Lady of Hope
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