

## Diocesan Notices

**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/>

**Advice as energy bills continue to rise:** If you, anyone you know, or someone in your wider parish community is in need of support around rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. You can find out more by visiting <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/fuel-poverty-challenges/> and can also find details on the website page on how to arrange a session with their energy advice service team.

**New Pilgrims of Hope book launched:** Monsignor John Allen has harnessed his love of the geography and history of our diocese, penning a very special book which is being sold in aid of Caritas Salford. The book, Pilgrims of Hope, has been published in time for the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year which is also focussed on the theme of Pilgrims of Hope, and is available to purchase by visiting the Caritas website: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/pilgrimbook](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/pilgrimbook)

**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](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) to find out more.

**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](mailto:m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk) or visit [www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer](http://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](mailto:priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk)  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyofhope.org.uk](http://www.ourladyofhope.org.uk)

## NEWSLETTER 15 DECEMBER 2024

### Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

**Sunday** – Third Sunday of Advent - *Gaudete Sunday*

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

**Monday** – Advent Weekday

No Mass today

**Tuesday** – Advent Weekday

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

**Wednesday** – Advent Weekday

No 9.30am Mass today  
Requiem Mass for Patricia Seale 10am at SsPP

**Thursday** – Advent Weekday

Rosary at SsPP 6pm; Mass at SsPP 6.30pm

**Friday** – Advent Weekday

Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

**Saturday** – Advent Weekday

Mass at SsPP 12noon  
Reconciliation 12.30-1pm at SsPP; 5.45-6.15pm at SL

**Sunday** - Fourth Sunday of Advent—*Special Collection for Salford Loaves & Fishes*

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

**Live-stream:** [www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/](http://www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/)

### Reflections for This Week

This Sunday is called “Gaudete” Sunday — “Rejoice Sunday”. This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underscores an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us

**Marriage Matters: *Rejoice in God's gift:*** Today we are invited to ‘Rejoice’ and recognise ‘God is in our midst’. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God’s delight, His gift to His people.

**Think Vocation:** What must we do? Advent is a time for us to reflect about our lives. A regular examination of a well-informed conscience is essential for the committed Christian. By exposing ourselves regularly to such questioning in prayerful reflection, the Lord can guide us to take the steps in our lives that keep us on the way of peace.

### Prayers Requested

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

**Lately Dead:** Ray Lappin, Jimmy Tracey, Daniel Hind, 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)

**Anniversaries:** Anthony Johnson, Linda Rose Gill, Jean Holmes

**Masses Received:** Jean Holmes (A), Louisa Duffy, Ray Lappin (LD), Anthony Johnson (A), Sarah Horton (BM), Paul Chisnall, Jimmy Tracey (LD), Keane Family, Ball Family, Graham Family, Special Intention, Hannah O’Reilly (LD), Daniel Hind (LD), Molly Leacy (LD), Linda Rose Gill (A), Louisa Duffy, Jean Holmes (A), Terry Simpson (LD)

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle:** We pray this week for the people of the parish of St. Alban, Blackburn, for Canon Jude Harrison, Fr. Paul Taylor, OMI, and Fr. Joseph O’Carroll, for their parish primary schools and the Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph.

### Parish Notices

**Funerals:** There is a Requiem Mass for Patricia Seale on Wednesday 18 December at 10am at Ss Peter & Paul. May she rest in peace.

**Paul Chisnall:** Congratulations to Paul who was ordained a Deacon this weekend. Please continue to support him with your prayers as he begins this new ministry in the Church.

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

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

**Salford Loaves and Fishes:** Next weekend we have our annual Christmas appeal as part of the ongoing Parish support for this local charity which provides much needed help to vulnerable people near to us.

**SsPP UCM:** We would like to thank all Parishioners who have supported us in the last 12 months. We have been able to send £500 each to Loaves & Fishes and Caritas Salford charities for the year. The winners of our Food Hamper raffle: 1st Prize orange ticket number 561 won by Cathy Bruce. 2nd prize blue ticket number 250 won by Ann McGrath. Once again a huge thank you.

**Missio Red Box SL:** We are looking for volunteers to act as Coordinators for the Missio Red Box appeal for St Luke's Church. If you are interested please contact either Phillipa Roberts 07747410908 or Jane Leader 07854723801 for further details.

**Missio Red Box SsPP:** For the parishioners who are part of the Red Box Missio family, the 2025 calendar is available at the back of SsPP, please take one. Collection of your red Box and or any donations for Missio will be next Sunday 22nd December. Could you please leave your Red Box or donation at the back of the church. Many thanks for your continued support.

**All Hallows R.C High School:** The School hosted a Senior Citizens’ Christmas party on Wednesday and were delighted to welcome parishioners into our school. There was bingo, a raffle, music and a visit from Father Christmas! A new Caritas Ambassador group has been formed with pupils keen to make a positive difference to our local community. They are currently working on the #BeeThere campaign to encourage others to share the real meaning of Christmas.”

### Advent and Christmas

**Carol Singing:** The Churches on the Height will be Carol Singing at Aldi on Saturday 21st December (11.30am to 1pm). All are welcome to join in.

**Carol Concert:** Sunday 5.30pm 22nd December at St Luke’s Church. Carols, readings, brass band and Father Christmas will be with us! All welcome. Please join our clergy in the Parish Hall afterwards for Christmas refreshments.

**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).

**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.

#### Next Week’s Newsletter:

Could you please send notices before Wednesday  
Email: [newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk)

#### Financially Supporting Our Parish

**Contactless:** The Dona machines (card or mobile phone)  
**Bank Details:** TSDT Our Lady of Hope  
50317403 20 55 34  
**Cheques:** Payable to Our Lady of Hope  
Diocese of Salford Registered Charity 250037