

# St Mary's Parish Horwich

## Weekly Newsletter

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

#### **Mass this Week**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb - 11am Requiem Mass for Bernadette Stokes  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb - 9:30am Mass  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb - 10am Mass with Exposition from 9:30 (St Agatha)  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb - 10am Mass with Exposition from 9:30 (Ss Paul Miki & Companions)  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb - 11am Mass followed by Exposition, Rosary & Confessions  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb - 6:30pm Sat Vigil; 10:30am Mass  
(5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT)

*This weekend we welcome Mgr John Allen and Canon Tony McBride to preside at our Sunday Masses*

#### **Prayer List**

**Our sick and housebound:** Hilda Holt, Anne Aldred, Noel Ryan, Derren Harrison, Madeline Bell, Anthony Michael Woods, Stan Ellison, Simon Taylor, Paul Davis, Tim Travis, Steven Welch, Joan Daranjo, Baby Dottie O'Hara. **Lately Dead:** Fr Thomas Mullin.

#### **St Mary's Sacramental Programme 2026**

A reminder that the Parish Sacramental Programme will begin later this term. This begins with a meeting on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 5:30pm in the Rosary Room**. This will be followed by a **Mass of Presentation at 10:30am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, where all the children will be presented to the Parish as they begin their Sacramental journey.

#### **Parish Choral Event**

The next Parish fundraising event is on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** at 7pm in the Rosary Room. Tickets are on sale from this weekend: £5 each for adults; children (under 12): £2.50. This includes refreshments.

#### **Friday Coffee Morning**

The next monthly Coffee morning in the Rosary Room is this **Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February** from 10:30am. All welcome.

#### **Team St Mary's Parish Kit**

In addition to gloves, scarves and a selection of winter hats available, we are also launching a navy gilet this weekend with our St Mary's Parish logo; priced £32. Lorraine will be available after Mass to take orders and answer any questions. If anyone has placed an order, please see Lorraine for collection. As ever, any enquires can also be emailed to: [stmarysteamkit@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysteamkit@gmail.com)

#### **Churches Together In Horwich and Rivington Lent Meetings 2026**

This year CTHR is once again offering a series of meetings to journey through Lent and prepare for Easter. The dates of the meetings are as follows:

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Holy Trinity church**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St Mary's church**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at The Bridge**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Horwich Evangelical church**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at St John's church**

All the meetings start at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome. More details to follow.

### **St. Mary's Volunteers**

We recently made an appeal for new volunteers in the parish. Volunteering makes a huge positive contribution to the life of the parish, and we are always looking for new helpers. All volunteers will go through the Diocesan 'Safe Recruitment' process. If you would like to volunteer or ask for more information, please send an email to [stmaryshelpers@yahoo.com](mailto:stmaryshelpers@yahoo.com)

### **New Parish website**

We are pleased to announce that our Parish has a new website! The new address is: [www.stmaryshorwich.org](http://www.stmaryshorwich.org) Please note the small difference in name: from .com to .org. If anyone tries to access the old website address, they will be automatically directed to the new one. We hope you enjoy the new website. New things will be added to it over the next few weeks.

### **Parish Flower donations**

As announced recently, we are launching a new fundraising initiative whereby parishioners can sponsor the altar flowers for a particular date e.g. for a special feast day, or for the anniversary of a loved one etc. We are grateful that one of our parishioners, Liz Gillies is overseeing this project and you are welcome to speak with Liz for more information: e-mail: [lizgillies274@gmail.com](mailto:lizgillies274@gmail.com) or phone: 07510332291. Full details are available on the blue sheet at the back of church.

### **Opportunities to support children at St Mary's RC Primary School**

St Mary's RC Primary School would like to welcome volunteers to help in different ways at school. We are passionate about reading and would love to have more volunteers to help hear the children read. We are also trying to improve our careers education so we would like people to come into school to share their career path and love of their chosen job. We also need help with our adult to children ratios whilst walking in the local area or to go on school trips. If you can spare any time to support us we would be very thankful. Please contact school on 01204 333625 or email at [office@st-marys-horwich.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys-horwich.bolton.sch.uk)

### **New: Parish Art Club**

A new Art Club has started meeting in the Rosary Room on Monday mornings 10am-12noon. This is a friendly self-help group for beginners to the more experienced in Watercolours, Acrylics and Drawing. If you are interested, please come along and join us in the next few weeks and see what we do. All are welcome (not restricted just to Parish members). The cost is £5.00 per week, which includes refreshments and is only required when you attend. Enquiries to Anne-Marie Davies, Tel:01204 695210.

### **Donations made to Charities by Cheque**

You can make a donation to a particular charity at any time by putting it in the Parish Collection (e.g. CAFOD, Caritas Diocese of Salford etc.). If you do this by cheque, please make it payable to: '**St Mary's RC Horwich**' and write the name of the charity you wish to support on the back. Thank you.

### **Parish Collection Envelopes**

If you use the brown collection envelopes, but are not a Gift-Aid donor, please can we ask that you don't write anything on the envelope before using it: no names or dates are necessary. Thank you.

### **Northern Dioceses' Environment Group**

The Northern Dioceses Environment Network and the Southern Dioceses Environment Network are joining together again for a Zoom meeting to take place on Monday 9th March from 6.30pm. It is based on the research finding and is aimed at supporting us in our response to the climate crisis. For more information and to book a place, click [here](#).

### **Early Career Teachers - Primary Pool Applications**

The Diocese of Salford Education Team are inviting applications from ECTs to be added to their Primary Pool for 2026. The Primary Pool will identify and recommend high quality candidates who will gain Qualified Teacher Status in summer 2026 for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2026. The Application Form, Person Specification and Job Description can be found

in Vacancies on the Diocesan website by following this link: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/> If you require further information, please contact the Education Team by emailing [education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

### **Hope in the Future Cycle of Prayer**

Over the coming weeks, we will be praying for the parishes of St Clare's Deanery, for its parishioners and clergy in our latest Hope in the Future Cycle of Prayer. Please click [here](#) to download the latest cycle now.

### **Mass for Engaged Couples to be celebrated by Bishop John Arnold**

On Saturday **14 February**, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass for engaged couples across the diocese. The Mass provides couples with an opportunity to seek God's blessing to guide and strengthen them during this time of preparation. Newly-married couples are also invited to receive a blessing in their first year of marriage. The Mass will take place at St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 1:30pm.

### **Newsletter from Diocesan Vocations Team**

The Diocese of Salford's vocations team is delighted to share its latest newsletter exploring updates on vocations to diocesan ministry, which includes the priesthood and permanent diaconate. For the latest on ordinations, inspiring vocation stories, and the latest update by numbers, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/vocations/>

### **Advice as weather gets colder and energy bills rise**

If you or someone in your wider parish community is in need of support around rising energy bills, Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, has a free energy advice service that can help. You can find details on their website on how to arrange a free session with their energy advice service team, and lots of other information too: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport)

### **Retreat Opportunity at The Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst College:**

#### **Ignatian Spiritual Exercises: Men's retreat, 4 & 11 February 2026**

A fantastic opportunity to experience St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises in a 5-day, shortened form. The retreat will be guided by the monastic community of St Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny (France), who were founded with the specific charism of offering this version of the Exercises and with a particular apostolate to men. The retreat is open to men in all states of life, who wish to seek God's will through a deepened detachment from the world. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius>

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2026**

We are delighted to announce the date for our 2026 diocesan pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham. Next year's pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**, with the option to extend your pilgrimage with an overnight stay on Friday 1st May. You can now register your interest by calling our pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209 or emailing [walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

### **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>

### **Exploring God's Creation within Catholic Theology**

Dr Finlay Malcolm from the University of Manchester will be delivering an interactive teaching session exploring how creation and the environment are integral to Catholic faith and theology. The session will involve theological and environmental teaching, spiritual reflection, and discussion of how we can be part of God's work, through the Church, in redeeming God's creation. The event will

take place on 25 February 2026, 7-9pm, at Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Church in Bury. Refreshments will be provided. For more information and to sign up for the event, please use the following link: [here](#).

### **Volunteering at the Laudato Si' Centre**

The Diocese of Salford's environment hub - the Laudato Si' Centre - is looking for new recruits to join its team of volunteers. This flexible, rewarding opportunity can be on a regular or ad hoc basis as the team works to develop the Centre's beautiful walled garden and woodland areas, set within the grounds of Wardley Hall. Email [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) to find out more!

### **Laudato Si' Centre Website and Brochure**

We're delighted to share details of a brand-new brochure and updated website for our Laudato Si' Centre. Packed full of information on our beautiful spaces, engaging activities, and opportunities for parishes and schools, our updated resources are a great way to find out more about the Centre and how your parish can get involved. The brochure is available online now at <https://tinyurl.com/brochure-lsc> You can visit our website at <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/> For more information or to discuss a visit to the Centre, please email [laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

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## **CARITAS**

### **A Message from Caritas: Thank you for helping to end child poverty**

Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford wishes to thank the parishes who have shared their appeal to support ending child poverty in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. To arrange secure collection of the pledge cards which were sent to your parishes, please contact the team on 0161 817 2250 and press 1 to speak to Iona or Kirstie. There are more details and an online version of the pledge at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/endchildpoverty](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/endchildpoverty) if you have not yet signed.

### **Caritas Salford E-newsletter**

Did you know that Caritas, our diocesan charity, now has a monthly e-newsletter providing updates, free resources, news and event details, plus much more? To begin to receive it, visit: <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/newsletter/>