

St Mary's Parish Horwich

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 11th January 2026 (The Baptism of the Lord)

Mass this Week

Tuesday 13 th Jan	- 10am Mass with Exposition from 9:30
Wednesday 14 th Jan	- 6:30pm Mass
Thursday 15 th Jan	- 10am Mass with Exposition from 9:30
Friday 16 th Jan	- 11am Requiem Mass for Eric Hester
Saturday 17 th Jan	- 11am Mass followed by Exposition & Confessions (St Anthony)
Sunday 18 th Jan (2 nd Sunday in OT)	- 6:30pm Sat Vigil; 10:30am Mass

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. **Lately Dead:** Mgr Francis Frost, Bernadette Stokes, Cheryl Turner, Eileen Birchall. **Anniversaries:** Charles Arewa, Joseph Foy, Nora Kenyon, Josephine Sale.

Crib Collection 2025-26

The Christmas Crib Collection this year will go to the charity 'Aid to the Church in Need' (ACN). The crib will stay up until next Saturday.

St Mary's Sacramental Programme 2026

The Parish Sacramental Programme will begin later this term. Thank you to all families who have already registered their child on the Programme. There is still time to do this by emailing: secretary.stmaryshorwich@gmail.com To prepare for the Sacramental Programme, all parents/carers of their children are invited to a meeting on **Wednesday 4th February at 5:30pm in the Rosary Room**. Here we will outline the details of the programme and answer any questions. This will be followed by a **Mass of Presentation at 10:30am on Sunday 8th February**, where all the children will be presented to the Parish as they begin their Sacramental journey. Parents/carers are expected to bring their child to Mass on that Sunday.

Churches Together Covenant Service

On Sunday afternoon, all are invited to attend the annual 'Covenant Service' at St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Road at 4pm. The Covenant Service is a wonderful way for believers from all our local churches to enjoy fellowship together as we commit ourselves to the Lord for the coming year.

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group takes place this **Wednesday 14th January** at 7pm in the Rosary Room, following the 6:30pm Mass. All the men of the Parish are welcome to come along.

Parish Choral Event

The Parish is offering another fundraising choral event on the evening of Wednesday 11th February in the Rosary Room. To plan for this, any parishioner who would like to help organise or support the event is invited to a meeting this **Thursday 15th Jan at 7pm** in the Rosary Room.

Next Sunday: Peace Sunday

Next Sunday The Catholic Church marks the World Day of Peace, instituted by Pope St Paul VI. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales designate the second Sunday in Ordinary Time as 'Peace Sunday'; the 18th of January this year. Every parish is encouraged to reflect on the message of Pope Leo XIV which is: Peace be with you all:

towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace. This is a challenging but exciting goal. He is telling us that peace should not rely on fear, threats, or weapons. Peace should have the capacity to resolve conflicts and open hearts through mutual understanding and hope. To view Bishop John Arnold's letter to parishes regarding Peace Sunday, please click the following link: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Letter-from-Bishop-Arnold.pdf>

Caritas Sunday

On Sunday 25 January we will be marking Caritas Sunday. The charity wishes to give thanks for all the generous support received over the past year and communicate the difference that has been made when it comes to the lives of local people experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination. The second collection that weekend will be for Caritas Salford and is vital for ensuring that this work can continue.

APF Mill Hill Red Mission Boxes

The Winter Collection of red mission boxes is now due and the 'Mission Today' magazines will soon be delivered by promoters. If you have any queries, please contact Paula Rowlinson, tel. 01204 770378 or mobile 07565 555502.

Team St Mary's Parish Kit

We have gloves, scarves and a selection of winter hats available. If anyone has placed an order, please see Lorraine for collection. As ever, any enquires can also be emailed to: stmarysteamkit@gmail.com

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. If you would like to volunteer or ask for more information, please send an email to 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 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 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

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.

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford

In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from **28-29 January 2026** before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from **30 January to 1 February 2026**. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

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

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 2nd 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

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>

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 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

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 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/>