

St Mary's Parish Horwich

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 22nd March 2026 (5th Sunday of Lent)

Mass this Week

Tuesday 24 th March	- 10.00am Mass <i>with Exposition from 9:30</i>
Wednesday 25 th March	- 10.00am Mass <i>with Exposition from 9:30 (THE ANNUNCIATION)</i>
Thursday 26 th March	- 10.00am Mass <i>with Exposition from 9:30</i>
Friday 27 th March	- 6:30pm Mass (<i>Novus Ordo</i>)
Saturday 28 th March	- 11:00am Mass followed Exposition & Confessions
Sunday 29 th March (Palm Sunday)	- 6:30pm Sat Vigil; 10:30am Mass; 3:00pm Stations of the Cross

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: Yvonne Durkan, Margaret Blackwell.

Anniversaries: Geoff Ratcliffe, Margaret Caton (11/03/26), Michael McHugh, Ellen Egan.

Altar Flower Dedications – During Lent we do not dress the altar with flowers, but any donations generously given during this time will go towards our Easter flowers.

St Mary's Parish Finance

We welcome this weekend Stephen Carr, from the Parish Finance Committee, to present us with a report on the Parish Finances and to advertise forthcoming Parish social and fundraising events. Following this presentation, the new collection envelopes for 2026-27 will be available after Mass.

St Mary's Sacramental Programme

Prayer sponsors can collect prayer cards in the brown envelopes at the back of church. Please see the stewards at the end of Mass.

Simnel Cake Raffle

Tickets will be on sale in the Rosary Room after Mass again today, and also next Sunday 29th March, when the draw will take place. Also, homemade marmalade and lemon cheese will be on sale today, Sunday 22nd March, in the Rosary Room.

Easter Egg Bingo

Thank you for donations of Easter Eggs. The Easter Egg Bingo will take place on Easter Sunday in the Rosary Room after the morning Mass.

Team St Mary's Parish Kit

Gloves, scarves and a selection of winter hats are still available, as well as the navy gilet carrying the St Mary's Parish logo; priced £32. We have introduced a new line for our younger parishioners: winter hats in pink, pale blue and navy with the parish logo (priced £12), suitable for newborns to about 1yr old. Lorraine will be available after Mass to take orders and answer any questions. As ever, any enquires can also be emailed to: 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 final meeting is this week:

Friday 27th March at St John's church

It starts at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

Deanery Creation Walk

On Saturday 18th April, there will be a special event taking place for our Deanery. The day will begin with Mass here at St Mary's at 9:30am. The walk will then take in the beautiful countryside around Rivington with Scriptural reflections along the way. The walk will take over two hours, so it's not a gentle stroll: outdoor clothing and suitable footwear will be needed. But less able walkers will also be able to do a shorter route if preferred. We will return to the Rosary Room for lunch at the end. Tea and coffee will be provided. Anyone who would like to come along (whether on their own or as a family) just needs to email: laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to indicate how many people and they should bring a packed lunch with them on the day. This should be a lovely way to enjoy God's Creation and to celebrate Easter.

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

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

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.

Hope in the Future Cycle of Prayer

Over the coming weeks, we will be praying for the parishes of St Chad 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.

Exploring our Lenten Gospels

Each Tuesday during our Lenten period, a series of reflections will be given online by various speakers, exploring the meaning of our Lenten Gospels and their implications for our lives today. The series will conclude on Tuesday 24 March with Bishop John reflecting on the Palm Sunday readings. For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

Manchester Chinese Catholic Community (MCCC)

MCCC would like to invite you to their monthly Mass. This takes place on the second Sunday of the month at 2PM and is held in Salford's temporary Cathedral on Great George Street, M3 6EH.

Youth Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

Following on from the success of last years pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, we are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22 May – Sunday 24 May 2026. The cost is £120 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Young Adults Hub

The diocesan Youth Team are delighted to share news of the Young Adults Hub, created especially for those aged 18–35 across the Diocese of Salford. The Hub offers a welcoming space for young adults to deepen their faith, build authentic friendships, and grow together through prayer, formation, and social gatherings. If you would like more information, please reach out to Mikey hub.president@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk and Edward hub.chair@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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/>

The Shroud of Turin Exhibition and Talks at Blackburn Cathedral

Saturday 11 April 2026, 11:00am – 5:00pm (Doors open 10:00am)

There is a special convention bringing together some of the world's leading authorities on the Shroud of Turin for a day of discovery, reflection, and new insight. Join us for this landmark event which also marks the 50th anniversary of the British Society for the Turin Shroud. Featuring an International Panel of Distinguished Speakers. Hear about the latest research across history, science, theology, and art as we delve into an enigmatic cloth that continues to captivate scholars and investigators alike. Tickets: £40 per person. Ticket price includes a two-course lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments and a souvenir gift bag containing, among other items, a limited-edition commemorative coin. For more information visit: <https://www.bstnewsletter.com/golden-jubilee.html>. In addition to this, at 1pm on Sunday **12th April 2026**, you can enjoy a free one-hour public talk by Fr. Andrew Dalton on the Shroud of Turin in the main Cathedral, where you can also visit Pam Moon's acclaimed Shroud Exhibition. This talk and the exhibition are open to the general public and are both free of charge. See posters at the back of church.

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

New Dawn Catholic Conference 2026

This year, the New Dawn Conference takes place at All Saints Church, Manchester (Redclyffe Road, Urmston, M41 7LG) as we celebrate 40 years! Join hundreds of people in prayer, worship, and fellowship at All Saints - the Church of the City of Mary Immaculate - and be encouraged by the beauty of the Catholic Faith as together we seek the ongoing renewal of the Church in England. Our first conference runs **29-31 May** (Principal Celebrants & Speakers include: Right Rev John Arnold, Fr Pat Collins CM, Fr James Anyaegbu, Fr Frankie Mulgrew, John Hesketh, Gary Stephens and Daniella Stephens) with daily Holy Mass, praise and worship, talks, prayer ministry, children's (ages 5-11) and youth (ages 12-17) ministries, and opportunities for confession and personal prayer; bookings are now open (<https://booking.princeofpeace.org.uk/>). A second conference follows 3-7 August (Principal Celebrants & Speakers include: Abbot Hugh Allan O.Praem, Fr Michael Payyapilly VC, Fr Richard Bailey CO, Fr Cliff Fumbelo, Michelle Moran, Deacon Larry and Andi Oney, and Terry Quinn), with bookings open March 1st. For more information go to www.princeofpeace.org.uk

Diocesan 2026 Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The 92nd Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop John Arnold, will take place from **29th July to 6th August**. For young people and young adults there is a special opportunity to take part if you are not going with an existing Parish or School group. Why not join us in the Diocesan Youth & Young Adults group? Travel is by overland Express Coach (£695 per person sharing). Price Includes: Travel (Overland Express Coach Option); 6 nights' hotel accommodation (Hotel Astoria); Breakfast, lunch & dinner each day in Lourdes; Packed lunch for the return journey. To register your interest or if you have any questions, please contact the youth office on; 0161 817 2214/07436157005. Email: youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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!

Stations of the Cross

A moving, ecological journey through the Stations of the Cross at the Laudato Si' Centre Woodland. Experience a reflective journey through the Stations, contemplating the Passion of Christ in the midst of nature. Each station will have an ecological link and quotes from Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical. This event takes place on Friday 27 March from 10AM to 11AM. For more information please contact laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Laudato Si' Centre Parish Awards 2026

The inaugural Laudato Si' Centre Parish Awards will take place this year - the Year of St Francis. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, the awards are open to parish communities who take part in practical action that supports environmental stewardship and/or social justice, showing faith-filled care for God's creation. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a presentation at Wardley Hall where they will receive a certificate in recognition of their work, presented by Bishop John. Please email laudatosicentre@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is **Friday 27 March**.

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

Caritas Salford - Pray, Fast, Give

This Lent, visit Caritas Salford's website for a range of free resources and information for your parish community as you pray, fast and give this Lent: www.caritassalford.org.uk/Lent

Thank You from Caritas

Thank you to everyone who has supported our diocesan charity Caritas Salford in recent months and that is doing so during Lent as we pray, fast and give. The demand for their services has continued to increase and all of your prayers, kindness and generosity make a huge difference to the lives of people in our parish communities. Find out how your support has helped, and see some special thank you messages at: www.caritassalford.org/thankyou

This Lent, Will You Make a Change to Change a Life?

Whether you're making a change to your diet, fasting, amending your behaviour or adapting your thoughts and focus...as you pray, fast and give this Lent, the change you're making could also help change lives in your parish. By remembering our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, during Lent, your actions, donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people experiencing homelessness, poverty and discrimination in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/Lent now for ways you can help. Thank you.

Caritas Salford Call for Volunteers

Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, is looking for parish volunteers to help with a range of activities. These are flexible roles that can be tailored in line with your availability, skills or interests. If you're able to give even a few hours to help, they would be hugely grateful. You can find out more at: www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/in-your-parish/

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/>