St. Mary's Parish Horwich
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 6th September 2026 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Mass this Week

Tuesday 8th Sep - **10am High School Mass *(Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary)***
Weds 9th Sep - **6:30pm Mass *(St Ambrose Barlow)***
Thurs 10th Sep - **10am Mass *with Exposition from 9:30***
Friday 11th Sep - **10am Mass *with Exposition from 9:30***
Sat 12th Sep - **11am Mass followed by Exposition & Confessions**
Sun 13th Sep - **6:30pm Saturday Vigil; 10:30am Mass**
(24th Sunday in OT)

Prayer List

Our sick and housebound: Theresa Hargreaves, Theresa Jean Molyneux, Kevin Lawman, Anne Aldred, Derren Harrison, Madeline Bell, Anthony Michael Woods, Stan Ellison, Simon Taylor, Paul Davis, Tim Travis, Steven Welch. **Lately Dead:** Agnieska Przybytniak, Patricia Mould, Nancy O'Gara. **Anniversaries:** Stan Ashworth, Irene Maguire.

Today – Second Collection for the Catholic Communications Network (CCN)

Deferred from earlier in the year, this weekend we will take a second collection for the work of the Catholic Communications Network.

Parish Safeguarding

This weekend, we welcome our St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Reps; Angela, Sandra and Emma, who will give us a short presentation on the work they do for our Parish.

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group takes place this **Wednesday 9th September** at 7pm in the Rosary Room, following the 6:30pm Mass. All the men of the Parish are welcome to come along.

Rosary Room 20th Anniversary

This year, the Rosary Room is celebrating 20 years since its opening. To mark this and to celebrate, there will be a short presentation about how the Rosary Room came into being after the 10:30am Mass on **Sunday the 13th of September** in the Rosary Room. John and Joan Chamberlain will give a brief history of the Rosary Room, followed by a small buffet, with time for people to reminisce and share stories. If anyone is willing to contribute food items for the buffet, please contact: 07309744018 or email: rosaryroom19@gmail.com. Thank you.

Home Mission Sunday

The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales has asked to remind us that on Sunday 20th September, we will celebrate Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate our faith in these lands, and our shared commitment to communicate the beauty and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Celebrating the Holy Father's first encyclical, the theme for this year is "Magnifica Humanitas" as the heart of mission. We can celebrate together the call the Holy Father has placed before us to live out our authentic humanity which finds it's fullness in Christ. More details about this can be found on the Bishops' Conference website - Home Mission Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference. The Second Collection on this weekend is to support the work carried out by the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. Through the Mission Directorate we support our Church in a wide field of service and mission here in England and Wales. Please hold this important work in your prayers and give as generously as you can. Thank you.

St Joseph's Deanery Dinner Dance
Once again, this year our own Deanery of St Joseph is offering a special Dinner Dance in aid of Bolton Hospice as this year's charity. It is on: **Friday 16th October** and takes place at Regent Park Golf Club, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AF. For details, see the poster at the back of church. Booking will be essential and booking forms and payment should be sent no later than 30 September. Please ask Fr Richard for a booking form, or contact: Agnes Lloyd-Holt, email: agnes.lloydholt@gmail.com or mobile: 07840 112756. Alternatively, contact Gemma Pendlebury, email: pendleburygemma4@gmail.com or mobile: 07717 686358.

Team St Mary's Parish Kit
Once again, Team St Mary's kit is available: T-shirts in navy/yellow and white/pink from last year and a newly added light blue and navy t-shirt in adult and children's sizes. There is a lightweight tracksuit top with a hood in light/navy blue, with the Parish logo in adult sizes, plus baseball caps and bucket hats, in both adult and children's sizes available in the new light blue. Lorraine is available after Mass to take orders and answer any questions. As ever, enquires can also be emailed to: stmarysteamkit@gmail.com

St Mary's Parish Garden
We are always looking for more volunteers to help with the care and maintenance of the church garden. Please contact Mary Durkan on 07786 033449 if you would like to help or want more information about what is involved.

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

Rosary Room: House keeping
If you have any items to donate or which you think might be useful for the Rosary Room, please speak first to Geraldine Ratcliffe before bringing them in. Thank you.

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.

Parish Art Club
The Art Club meets in the Rosary Room on Monday mornings 10am-12noon. 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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Pantasaph Monastery
We are pleased to announce our diocesan pilgrimage to the Pantasaph Monastery in North Wales for the Year of St Francis of Assisi, which takes place on **Saturday 17 October 2026**. The day coach will leave the 1st pick up point at 9am and will be returning at around 6pm. The cost of the trip is £35pp, which includes the following: Coach travel; Lunch; Tea/coffee & Donation to the monastery.

For more information and to book your place, please contact the pilgrimage office by telephone on 0161 817 2209 or by email at walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Resources from University of Manchester: Salvation and Creation Care

As we approach the start of the Season of Creation on 1 September, the Diocese of Salford and The University of Manchester have launched a new collection of Catholic formation resources designed to help parishioners, schools and other groups deepen their understanding of creation care and translate faith into practical action. The resources include a ready-to-use, three-session course built around three short videos, a participants' booklet and a detailed leader's handbook. These resources and more information about the course can be found using this link: https://research.manchester.ac.uk/en/projects/formation-and-training-resources-salvation-and-creation-care/

Hope in the Future Cycle of Prayer

Over the coming weeks, we will be praying for the parishes of the Deanery of St Therese of Lisieux, for its parishioners and clergy in our latest Hope in the Future Cycle of Prayer. Please click here to download the latest cycle now.

Become a CAFOD School Volunteer

Do you have a passion for faith, justice, and inspiring young people? CAFOD is seeking volunteers to visit local Catholic schools to lead assemblies and workshops about our work and mission. Help children and young people learn how they can make a positive difference in the world. Full training and support provided. For further information, please contact Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email aletizia@cafod.org.uk

A Talk on the Characteristics of Franciscan Prayer

Sr Joan Kerley FMSJ will be giving an online talk on the Characteristics of Franciscan Prayer on Thursday **17 September** from 7pm. Please visit the diocesan website to register your place: https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/talk-on-franciscan-prayer/

Join the Catholic Medical Association

Whether you are a doctor, nurse, student, or allied professional — if you are a Catholic in healthcare, join us to grow in fellowship, prayer and formation together. For more information & upcoming events, visit: https://catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk

ADOREMUS 2026

The 2026 National Eucharistic Congress will be held on Saturday 10 October 2026 at St George's Cathedral, London. Please click here for more information and to register your interest.

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/

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

Caritas Fundraising Concert

Friday 18th September, 7pm. A Mercy Brothers Concert with string Quartet for Caritas at St Ambrose Barlow High School Swinton M27 6QP. This event will include Solanus string quartet, the Mercy Brothers band performing music to sign and dance to, as well as the school's steel band and their rock band. It will certainly be a night to enjoy and remember! Solanus members include newly ordained diocesan priest Fr Theo, Fr Chris, and Hannah and Holly who work in roles across the diocese. The Mercy Brothers, formed in the Year of Mercy 2013, now includes Fr Mark as lead singer and rhythm guitar, Fr Joe on lead guitar, Fr Nick on bass guitar, Fr Chris on keyboard, and Tom the drummer. For tickets please visit: https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/fr-gorton-silver/

Caritas Conference: Tackling poverty and injustice in the Diocese of Salford

Caritas Salford invites you to join them for a free day of learning and reflection on the social teaching of Pope Leo XIV. This conference will be held on **Saturday 10 October** from 11AM to 3.30PM. Guest speakers will be present with a free lunch provided. For more information and to book your place please visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/CaritasConference

Services to Support Local People

Caritas Salford runs a wide range of community and outreach services to help people in our diocesan communities who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, isolation and discrimination. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from their support, you can find details on their website: www.caritassalford.org.uk/services

Love knitting, crocheting, sewing or making?

Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, is looking for creative parishioners who might be able to help them raise funds to help support people in our parish communities who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. They're looking for people who can either make items to sell in aid of the charity, or groups of people from our parishes who can be paired with local schools to help knit hats and scarves for pupils to wear in their Big Sleep Out fundraisers. If you can help, please get in touch with the team at fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk or call 0161 817 2250.

Free energy bill advice from Caritas

If you are worried about rising energy costs, our diocesan charity Caritas Salford runs a range of free drop-in advice sessions to help with everything from energy debt to making your home more energy efficient. You can find out more about these and other ways the team can help people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire on the Caritas website at www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport

Help end Child Poverty in our Parishes

Child poverty is increasing in our area, with latest statistics from the government showing almost one in three children are growing up in poverty. Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford supports local families facing crisis and is asking us to join them in taking action to help. There are lots of different ways you and your parish can get involved. Please visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/endchildpoverty to find out more.

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/

VACANCIES

Latest Vacancies Within the Diocese

- Cathedral Business Manager
- Choral Director: Schools Singing Programme

Please find more information about these jobs and how to apply on the Diocese website: https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Reach Befriending Service

Reach is a charity which matches volunteers with isolated and elderly people across Bolton for weekly visits, friendship, and a listening ear. If you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact: Hello@reachfamilyproject.co.uk