

St. Mary 's Parish Horwich

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 18th October 2026 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Mass this Week

Tuesday 20th Oct - **10am Eucharistic Service**
Weds 21st Oct - **No service**
Thurs 22nd Oct - **10am Eucharistic Service**
Fri 23rd Oct - **No service**
Sat 24th Oct - **11am Eucharistic Service**
Sun 25th Oct - **6:30pm Saturday Vigil; 10:30am Mass**
(30th Sunday in OT)

Prayer List

Our sick and housebound: The Ashworth Family, 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:** Malcolm Lunt. **Anniversaries:** Pauline Whittaker, Albert Alcroft, Harold Black.

This Sunday: World Mission Sunday

Today, Sunday 18th October is 'World Mission Sunday', when every Catholic parish around the world celebrates Mass and has a special collection from Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission. Pope Leo says, "*Your prayers and practical support, particularly on World Mission Sunday, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion. I renew my heartfelt gratitude for everything you will do to help me help missionaries throughout the world.*" We will therefore take a second collection for Missio this weekend. Many thanks.

Recent Second Collections

Many thanks to everyone for contributing to our second collections over recent weeks. In summary, we raised: Stella Maris (26/7) = £297.82, Catholic Communications Network (6/9) = £285.34, Home Mission Sunday (20/9) = £352.90 and CAFOD Family Fast Day (4/10) = £674.68. All these charities will benefit from your generous donations which are much appreciated.

Parish Flower Arranging

If anyone has some experience or interest in flower arranging and might be interested in helping with the altar flowers in church, please email Fr Richard: richard.howard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

APF Mill Hill Red Mission Boxes

The Autumn 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. 07565 555502.

Urban Outreach

The next Urban Outreach collection will be on Wednesday 28th October. Donations of food, nappies, toiletries etc may be placed in the Grub Tub at the back of church. As the weather begins to get colder many individuals and families will be forced to choose between keeping warm or eating. Even one item donated allows Urban Outreach to help those who are struggling. Many thanks.

Deanery Holy Hour

As we near the end of October, the month of the Holy Rosary, all are invited to our next Deanery Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church Eastbourne Grove Bolton BL1 5TR on **Friday 30th October** at 7.00 pm. Come spend a quiet hour before the

Blessed Sacrament as we entrust the needs of our families and communities to the intercession of Our Lady. There will also be the opportunity to go to Confession.

Science Tuition

One of our parishioners, Damien Brown, is offering his services in science tuition for GCSE students in the Rosary Room. Any science subject and tier is welcome. The sessions will be one hour, in groups of 2-6. If this is something of interest, please contact Damien on: 07889227822 for full details

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.

Cause for the Beatification of Pedro Ballester

The Diocese of Salford has formally opened the Cause for the Beatification and Canonisation of Pedro Ballester, a young man from Manchester who died in 2018 aged just 21. Pedro was known for his warmth, generosity and strong faith. After being diagnosed with cancer while at university, he faced his illness with remarkable courage, offering his suffering in prayer and trusting deeply in God. As part of this process, the Diocese is inviting anyone who knew Pedro, or who has memories, testimonies or writings relating to him, to come forward to help build a fuller picture of his life and

character. For more information or to contribute, please contact the Diocesan Tribunal: Email: tribunal@dioceseofsalford.org.uk Post: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP.

Hope in the Future Cycle of Prayer

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

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

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>

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

STONYHURST CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE

The Centre is offering several events in the coming months:

Retreat: Be Still and Know that I am God, 20th–23rd November 2026

Step away from the noise and rediscover the stillness in which we become attentive to God. Led by Fr Roger Dawson SJ, Liz Lord and Steve Noone, this residential retreat explores mindfulness, psychology and the Christian spiritual life. The weekend includes talks, contemplative prayer, Mass, Adoration and time to walk, rest and reflect in the peaceful surroundings of the Stonyhurst estate. Find out more and book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god/>

Marriage Preparation Weekend, 8th–10th January 2027

Our residential Marriage Preparation Weekend offers engaged couples time and space to explore the beauty of the Church's teaching of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Led by Stefan and Eleonora Kaminski, it combines a Scripture-based theological reflection with prayer, thoughtful conversation and practical exercises for couples. Please share this opportunity with engaged couples, clergy and

marriage-preparation teams in your community. Find out more and book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation/>

Men's Retreat: Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius

Two possible dates are offered: 26th Feb to 3rd March 2027 OR 5th to 10th March 2027. A five-day silent retreat for men (laity and clergy), led by Benedictine monks from St Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny. Through guided meditations, prayer, daily Mass and individual spiritual direction, the retreat offers participants an opportunity to step away from everyday distractions, deepen their relationship with God and discern His will more clearly. Find out more and book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-retreat-spiritual-exercises-of-st-ignatius/>

CARITAS

Call for research participants

Caritas Salford is carrying out new research into how the cost of living and financial difficulties impact people in, and connected to, our parishes and schools. The research will help to better understand people's experiences, and to inform and shape their campaigning work too. If anyone in your parish would be willing to be interviewed sensitively about their own experiences, please contact Annabeth Taylor at a.taylor@caritassalford.org.uk for more information. All information shared will be treated confidentially and used anonymously.

Homelessness - Write to your MP

As part of their latest campaign to support people in our diocese who are homeless, Caritas Salford - our diocesan charity - has put together information on how you can write to your MP to call for change. They are asking for help from people in our parishes and would like as many as possible to call for Local Housing Allowance rates to be unfrozen and uplifted in line with local rents. The current rates are a significant driver of homelessness, and a letter to your MP could help bring about change to support local families and adults at risk. Find out more and access the free template letter and more on the Caritas website at: www.caritassalford.org.uk/EndHomelessness

Big Sleep Out

Caritas Salford invite you to join people from across our diocese in 'The Big Sleep Out' to raise funds for hundreds of people in our area currently experiencing homelessness. So dust off your sleeping bag and get ready to wrap up warm whilst we spend the night in the great outdoors for a great cause. For more information and to register please click the following link: www.caritassalford.org.uk/BSO

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
- Cathedral Receptionist and Administrator
- 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