St. Mary 's Parish Horwich
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 8th November 2026 (32nd Sunday in OT)
Remembrance Sunday

Mass this Week

Tuesday 10th Nov - **10am Mass *with Exposition from 9:30*** *(St Leo the Great)*
Weds 11th Nov - **6:30pm Mass** *(St Martin of Tours)*
Thurs 12th Nov - **10am Mass *with Exposition from 9:30*** *(St Josaphat)*
Fri 13th Nov - **12 Noon Mass**
Sat 14th Nov - ***No Service***
Sun 15th Nov (33rd Sunday OT) - **6:30pm Saturday Vigil; 10:30am Mass**

Prayer List

Our sick and housebound: Margaret Brice, 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:** David Bolton. **Anniversaries:** James W Lloyd, Maureen Loughran, William Holt, Betty Gillies, Francis J Chamberlain (02/11).

Today: Mission Appeal

This weekend we welcome Fr Samuel Alabi MSP, of the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP), who will preach at our Masses and make a mission appeal. The MSP is a religious congregation working in different parts of the world, committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvific work of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. The MSP warmly invites you to support their mission appeal. There will be a second collection at both Masses.

November Remembrance

From this weekend, there is a box at the back of church for parishioners to submit the names of deceased family members, loved ones and friends. Later in the month, on **Wednesday 25th November**, there will be a special evening Mass of Remembrance here at St Mary's in which all these will remembered. The Mass will be open to all parishes in the Bolton Deanery and there will be a guest preacher.

Parish Men's Group

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group takes place this **Wednesday 11th November at 7pm** in the Rosary Room, following the 6:30pm Mass. All the men of the Parish are welcome to come along.

Urban Outreach

The next Urban Outreach collection will be on **Wednesday 11th November**. A list of items needed is above 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. If each family donated one item a fortnight it would allow Urban Outreach to help those who are struggling.

Parish Christmas Fair

There will be a Christmas Fair on **Sunday 29th November** after Mass in the Rosary Room. Bottles and raffle prizes would be gratefully received. Likewise, donations of cakes for the cake stall would be appreciated. Please speak to Geraldine Ratcliffe for more information.

New 2027 Almanacs
The new Salford Diocese Almanacs are on sale at the back of church, priced £5.50. Money for these can be simply placed in the Piety stall collection box or use the Dona Card device at the front of church.

Team St Mary's Parish Kit
Just to let parishioners know that we have a new navy zip up fleece and the relaunch of the woollen hats, fleece gloves and scarves, all with a new blue SMH logo. This includes hats for young children. The hoodies and other merchandise are still available. We are also selling umbrellas with the SMH logo: great for Christmas presents. Lorraine is available after Mass to take orders and answer any questions. As ever, enquires can also be emailed to: stmarysteamkit@gmail.com

Request from St Mary's Primary School
Our Year 1 Primary School teacher has asked if parishioners might be able to donate various things that the children need for next term's topic: "Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat". These are: Off-cuts or scraps/sample/small pieces of fleece, cotton, silk, felt, patterned ribbons, ribbons, elastic, and/or off-cuts of patterned fabric. Also, cardboard pieces (A4 size roughly). Anyone able to help should contact the school: Office@st-marys-horwich.bolton.sch.uk Tel. 01204 333625.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella
To mark the 300-year anniversary of the birth of St Gerard Majella, a nationwide tour of his relics is taking place, and the Diocese of Salford is one of 11 dioceses in the country to receive them for a visit. The relics will be visiting four of our churches - the times and locations are as follows:
Monday 23 November - Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich from 5:30pm with Mass at 6:30pm.
Tuesday 24 November - St Mary (The Hidden Gem), Manchester from 1pm with Mass at 6pm.
Thursday 26 November - St Brendan's, Bolton from 6pm with Mass at 7pm.
Friday 27 November - Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella, Lostock from 5pm with Mass at 6:30pm.
For more information, please visit: https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/

Signed Mass for Deaf Community
Mass is signed every Sunday at St. Patrick's church, Livesey St, Manchester, M4 4FH at 11:30am. In addition, St Joseph's Chaplaincy to Deaf People provides a rich programme of socials, retreat days, trips and pilgrimages each year. Please come along. For more information contact: Fr. Paul Daly (paul.daly@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) or Peter McDonough (peterjpmcdonough@gmail.com)

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies - British Sign Language
Starting in January 2027 the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies will be available in the Diocese in British Sign Language. Spread over one Saturday each month at St. Patrick's church, Livesey St, Manchester, each module will be taught through BSL and, for those seeking to gain the certificate, it can be assessed via BSL signed video. The programme is designed for Deaf persons interested in being involved more fully in the local Deaf community, providing support and empowering them to share fully in the life of the church. For further information contact Fr Paul Fletcher SJ (pmf1uk@yahoo.co.uk) or Peter McDonough (peterjmcdonough@gmail.com

Italian Mass at Salford Cathedral
There will be Mass celebrated in Italian at Salford Cathedral at 2PM on **Sunday 6th December.** Please do come along. *Una Santa Messa in italiano verrá celebrata al Duomo a Salford, domenica 6 dicembre, a 14:00. Sarete tutti benevenuti.*

Mass for Carers
A Mass is being celebrated for all Carers within our Communities at St Cuthbert's RC Church, Palatine Road, Withington, Manchester. M20 3LH. Mass will start at 12 Noon on Saturday **November 28,** 2026. Following the service sandwiches and refreshments will be served in the parish hall. Mass will be live-streamed through the parish website - www.stcuthbertswithington.com - so please attend online if you are unable to attend in person.

Free Catholic Social Teaching Webinar
Catholic Social Teaching has been referred to as 'the Catholic Church's best kept secret' (Mark Shea). Many people are unaware of the depth of the Church's teaching on social justice, which applies the Gospel to current social issues impacting our communities. On Wednesday **11 November** from 6pm to 7.15pm, our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford will be holding a free online

session on Catholic Social Teaching, in advance of World Day of the Poor. To register to join the free webinar, visit: www.caritassalford.org.uk/CSTWebinarNov26

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

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

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/

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