

**THE WORD THIS WEEK**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR C**

**27 March 2022**

As today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "new creation". This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship and began to eat of the produce of the country. It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we return. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences, as the new creation God offers us, if we but turn back to him and embrace him as our Father.

**PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS**

**PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, help us never to abandon your ways. As you have loved and shown us your mercy, may we sincerely express our love for God by loving our neighbour and being merciful to them. Jesus, King of Divine Mercy, we trust in you.

**2. READINGS**

**First Reading:** Book of Joshua, 5:9, 10-12. Recounts the celebration of the Passover in the Promised Land by Joshua and those who had sojourned with him in the desert for 40 years.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Second Reading:** The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, 5:17-21. The reconciliation of mankind with God has been brought about by Christ's death on the cross.

**Gospel:** St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. The parable of the Prodigal Son.

**3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE REFLECTION – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:**

This weekend we celebrate Mothers' Day – a day when mothers everywhere are reminded how much they are loved and appreciated. This Mothers' Day let us reflect on Mary, the Mother of God, as Mary is our Mother too.

Mary's life was filled with times of great joy but also great sorrow. The gospels remind us of Mary's great faith as she demonstrated a unique acceptance of her role as the Mother of Jesus, trusting in God's plan.

During Lent we are reminded of the suffering Mary endured as the prophecy of Simeon was fulfilled:

*'...And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart' (Luke 2:35)*

We reflect on Mary's pain as she experienced the darkest time of her life witnessing her Son's suffering and death on the cross. But Mary remained strong in faith and always had hope in her heart – hope for the Resurrection of her Son.

By praying to Mary, we can deepen our faith and grow closer to God. Mary intercedes for us in prayer, so it is with confidence that we pray:

*Mary, our Mother, stay close to us and grant us courage especially during our moments of darkness and despair. Help us to follow your example of Faith, Hope and Love and bring us closer to your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

**4. EASTER LITURGIES 2022**

The Easter Liturgies this year are as follows:

**HOLY THURSDAY:** Mass of the Last Supper at Corpus Christi – 7.00 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY:** Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Herbert's – 3.00 pm

**EASTER VIGIL:** Mass at Corpus Christi – 7.00 pm

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Mass at Corpus Christi – 9.30 am;  
Mass at St Herbert's – 11.00 am

**5. MOTHERS' DAY:** We wish all Mothers in the Parish a very happy Mothers' Day.

**6. WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2022:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. SPUC is currently campaigning to protect Pro-Life speech. Pro-life witness is being restricted now more than ever; we must be able to speak freely to protect unborn babies. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

**7. BIOGRAPHY OF ST HERBERT – DONATIONS TO UKRAINE:**

Thanks for donations of £73.20 for our Parish History, which details the story of St. Herbert, and which was available at last Sunday's Lunch held to celebrate our Saint's Feast Day. The money will go to Caritas Salford Diocese - Ukraine Crisis Fund. Michael Lawson.

**8. ACT OF CONSECRATION OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIA TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY:**

In union with Our Holy Father Pope Francis, Bishop John will make an Act of Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the immaculate Heart of Mary, in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist, on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

**9. BRITISH SUMMER TIME:** Please remember the clocks go forward by one hour this weekend.

**10. CAFOD – FAMILY FAST DAY LENT APPEAL:** The Parish raised £1,133.79 for the CAFOD appeal. Thank you very much for your generosity.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 647; Offertory: 641;  
Communion: 165, 628; Recessional: 461.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 458; Offertory: 129;  
Communion: 349, 635; Recessional: 532.

**11. ALTAR SERVERS AT ST HERBERT'S**

We hope to have Altar Servers back in St Herbert's Church for Easter. If you wish to do this role (need to have made First Communion), please come to the meeting in St Herbert's on Monday 28th March at 6pm or contact me, Trish, on 07947 660389.

**12. CARITAS DIOCESE OF SALFORD JOB**

**Office Manager for Caritas Diocese of Salford**

**Appointment type:** Full time (37.5 hours per week), 9-5 Monday to Friday (occasional support of fundraising activities outside these hours); **Location:** Caritas, 104 Denmark Road, Manchester M15 6JS; **Closing date:** Thursday 31 March, 2022; **Salary:** £23,859 - £25,825 per annum. **Find out more and apply:** [www.caritassalford.org.uk](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk)

**13. HOPE IN THE FUTURE PRAYER CYCLE:** Over the next five months we are asked to pray for the people and priests of the deanery of St. Ambrose Barlow, with Fr. John Hitchen, their Dean. In South Manchester and in Trafford, Stockport and Denton, may they respond to God's call to be Ambassadors for Christ.

**14. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** This week our children in Starling and Woodpecker Class lead the Lenten Mass in Church. Their theme was showing 'love' this Lent. The children were a credit to us and they delivered a beautiful Mass for Fr Lawrence and the parishioners. Thank you to the staff for preparing the children. On Wednesday we also held our half term 'Wellbeing Wednesday'. The whole school were treated to archery lessons. It was a great day (even the sun made an appearance). On Friday, we held our NHS 'Superhero' Day and raised money for the NHS to thank them for the amazing work they do, especially during the pandemic.

We would like to welcome our parish members to our Easter Passion Play on **Monday 11th April 2022 at 10am** and to the Stations of the Cross (made by the children) on **Wednesday 13th April at 9am.**  
**Parishioners can enter via the parish hall entrance.**

**15. SUNDAY SMILE**

A priest has a great fear of lifts and goes to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist listens patiently, then explains to him how irrational is this fear, and how it is probably affecting the quality of his life in the parish. Finally, he says to the priest, "I think there are steps you could take."

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed.
- TUESDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Stations of the Cross at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm.
- WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
- THURSDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am
- FRIDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Stations of the Cross at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
- SATURDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm
- SUNDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am  
**St Herbert's:** Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am

**CONFESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE BEFORE MASS ON REQUEST**

**MASS REQUESTS**

**Missa pro populo**

**Anniversary:** Joan Elizabeth O'Hara, Robert William Power, Eileen Wright

**Mothers' Day Memories:** Mary Cathrine Nangle

**PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:  
David Roberts, Agnes Conroy, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Jack Clark, Jean Allen, Dorothy Buckley, Tony Mulherin, Nora Hickey, Sheila Cavey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Beryl Henderson, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Cath Carrol, Jack Hulme, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mrs Lewandowski, Mary O'Connor.



0161 624 2258



[divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com](mailto:divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com)



@divinemercuryoldham



Corpus Christi RC Church, 8 Derby Street, OL9 7HX



St Herbert's RC Church, 148 Broadway OL9 0JY

[www.divinemercuryoldham.org](http://www.divinemercuryoldham.org)

**ARE YOU...**

- New to the Parish?
- Know someone who is sick or in hospital?
- Can you help the parish or us you?
- Like a visit from the priest?

Please speak to Fr Lawrence after mass or at any convenient time.