

**THE WORD THIS WEEK**

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A**

**25 February 2023**

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent - these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus's own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.

**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: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-9** - God fashioned man from dust, breathed life into him and placed him into the garden of Eden. The serpent tempted the woman with the gift of knowledge.

**Psalm 50** - Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned / Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness / My offences truly I know them / A pure heart create for me, O God / Give me again the joy of your help.

**Second: I Romans 5: 12-19** - Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given ... divine grace coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to many as an abundant free gift.

**Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11** - Jesus fasted for forty days and nights in the desert, where he was tempted by the devil.

**3. LENTEN MASSES AND SERVICES**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** On Fridays at St Herbert's at 9.30 am before Mass.

**DEANERY LENTEN STATION MASSES/SERVICES** (No Masses at Corpus Christi on these Tuesdays)

**28 February:** SS Aidan & Oswald at 7.00 pm. Theme: Environment (Bishop John to preach)

**7 March:** St Patrick's at 7.00 pm. Theme: Interfaith Work and Nostra Aetate.

**14 March:** St Edwards at 7.00 pm. Theme: Church & Lumen Gentium

**21 March:** Holy Family at 7.00 pm. Theme: Lent.

**28 March:** St Herbert's at 7.00 pm. Penitential Service (no Mass)

**4. CONFIRMATION:** Details about the 2023 programme of preparation, including the process of enrolment, will be coming out to the families of **Year 8 students** next week. Please register your interest, including name and contact details with your parish priest. Last year over 90 students successfully completed the 6-week programme and were confirmed over the weekend of Pentecost. **Parents, in particular, may wish to make note of the date of Pentecost 2023 - 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May.** The dates for the sessions are: 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Confirmations with Bishop Arnold on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Fr Callum Brown

**5. MEMBERSHIP OF PARISH COMMITTEES:** Many thanks to all the Committee members who have worked so hard for our Parish. There will soon be formal appointment of new members and re-appointment of some current members. The appointments will be for the next three years. When this is done, you will be notified, and the list will be at the back of each church. God Bless.

**6. CAFOD – FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL:** This LENT your donations to CAFOD'S Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

Please give today using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD'S development and emergency response work all over the world. Thank you.

**7. MASS TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF FR D O'KANE:** will be held on Wednesday 1st March at 7:00pm. Sacred Heart, Kingsway, Rochdale.

**8. ST PATRICK'S FAMILY NIGHT:** There will be a St Patrick's Family night in St Herbert's Parish Centre on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Come along with all the family and enjoy a night of games for the children and dancing for everyone. More information next week.

**9. TRIP TO ST HERBERT'S ISLE:** The trip to St Herbert's Isle is on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. The price for the trip is £15.00 for adults and £10.00 for children. Monies will be collected from the 4<sup>th</sup> March. Cheques made payable to the Parish of Divine Mercy. There are places still available for anyone wishing to join us.

**10. HOPE IN THE FUTURE FORMATION DAY:** The diocese is running a 'Formation Day' for those who want an opportunity to learn more about the needs of their community and how best to respond. The session for our Deanery will be on 18th March. Further information and registration details are on the poster at the back of each church.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 234; Offertory: 273, 175; Communion: 447, 538; Recessional: 582.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 700; Offertory: 516; Communion: 447; Recessional: 582.

## PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

**11. PARENT/TODDLER GROUP:** takes place every Thursday in St Herbert's Parish Centre from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm. £1.00. All welcome.

### 12. LENT AT THE HIDDEN GEM

*St Mary's Church, 17 Mulberry St, Manchester M2 6LN*  
If you are visiting Manchester City Centre during the Season of Lent, why not pop into St Mary's, the Hidden Gem? Each weekday during Lent there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (10.30am) and Confessions (11.00am), Rosary (12noon), Holy Mass (12.30pm) and Stations of the Cross (1pm). There will also be the weekly evening Mass Wednesday at 5.15pm, followed by a series of Lenten Meditations each Wednesday at 6pm given by Fr Ian Kelly. More details about St Mary's Lenten Programme are available on the [diocesan website](#). Everyone is welcome.

### 13. SCHOOL NEWS

**Corpus Christi:** After a relaxing half term break, the children and staff returned to school to a busy and exciting week.

This week we welcomed Kath from the charity Caritas. She talked to the whole school about the charity and the work they do. She also spoke to us about the St Joseph

Penny Appeal, which we are supporting during Lent. We also gathered together with our parish family for Ash Wednesday Mass in Church. Our Pupil Chaplains led a beautiful mass about showing love this Lent.

Our Sacramental programme children met for their next session. It was all about the journey they are on during their sacramental programme.

**St Herbert's:** We have had a lovely week. On Wednesday the whole school came together with the Parish Family for Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent.

The school football team continue to have success on the football pitch. They played St Anne's in Royton and won 4-1; they were very happy. We have now an after-school football club for girls. We have 20 members who we hope will be like the Lionesses!! We would like to say thank you to you for the supplies of food which we receive on a weekly basis. It really does make a huge difference to our families, who are extremely grateful. Thank you.

### 14. SUNDAY SMILE

#### Items found in Church Newsletters:

Now we have entered Lent, there has never been a better time to invite your friends to church.

All single people are warmly invited to join us Friday evening at 7.00 p.m. for our weekly Singalone."

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Both churches closed.
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi: NO MASS</b> <b>Lenten Deanery Mass at SS Aidan &amp; Oswald at 7.00 pm.</b> Theme: Environment (Bishop John to preach)
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>St Herbert's:</b> Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>St Herbert's:</b> Stations of the Cross at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am <b>St Herbert's:</b> Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am

## MASS REQUESTS

**Missa pro populo**

**Lately Dead:** Anne Hayes, Pat Poulton, George Woodcock

**RIP:** Fr D O'Kane, Sr Philomena Jordan, Edie Stack, Richard Stack

**Anniversary:** Lillian Cheetham, Margaret Tominson

## PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish: John McCarthy, Gerard Healey, Mary Gowran, Margaret Lawless, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Agnes Conroy, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Jean Allen, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Sheila Cavey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Jack Hulme, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mrs Lewandowski, Mary O'Connor.



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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.