

THE WORD THIS WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A

19 March 2023

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened” There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world.

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: Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 - Samuel is sent by the Lord and anoints David King of Israel.

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want / He guides me along the right path /You have prepared a banquet for me/Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me.

Second: Ephesians 5:8-14 - Wake up from your sleep and rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel: John 9:1-41 - Jesus heals the man born blind.

3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT RELFECTION:

This weekend we celebrate Mothers’ Day when mothers are reminded how much they are loved and appreciated. Let us, today, reflect on Mary, the Mother of God and our mother too. She is the model of the perfect disciple because she entrusted herself completely to God. At the Annunciation, Mary, without hesitation, tells the angel: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). It is appropriate to celebrate Mothers’ Day during Lent as this day of devotion was originally introduced as a way of honouring the sacrifice mothers make for their children. 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)

Let us allow ourselves to reflect on some of these times:

- The fear when Mary and Joseph had to flee to Egypt to escape Herod
- The pain when meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary
- The agony as she witnessed the crucifixion of her Son, Jesus
- The torture as Jesus was taken down from the cross
- The burial of her Son, Jesus

During the darkest times in her life, however, Mary always remained strong in faith and had hope in her heart, in anticipation of the Resurrection of her Son, Jesus. Lent is a perfect time to renew our devotion to Mary as our spiritual mother who cares for us in the midst of our own challenges and difficulties. By praying to Mary, we can deepen our faith and grow closer to God. Let us ask Mary to guide us during our Lenten journey and follow Jesus, even when this is

demanding. ‘Sometimes we know what we have to do but lack the courage to do it. Let us learn from Mary how to make decisions, trusting in the Lord.’ (Pope Francis) ‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’.

4. LENTEN MASSES AND SERVICES

DEANERY LENTEN STATION MASSES/SERVICES

(No Masses at Corpus Christi on these Tuesdays)

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

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

5. ST HERBERT’S FEAST DAY – 20 MARCH:

I would like to wish all parishioners a very happy St Herbert’s Feast Day. To celebrate the Feast Day there will be coffee, tea and cake served after 11.00am Mass in the Parish Centre. Please come and join us.

6. ENQUIRERS’ MORNING FOR VOCATIONS TO THE DIACONATE:

Saturday 1st April, 10am at St Patrick’s Church, Livesey Street, Manchester, M4 5HF

The Diocese of Salford’s Department for Formation is holding an enquirers morning for anyone who may be discerning a vocation to the diaconate. If you would like to learn more about what a deacon is or does or would like to speak to someone about how God might be calling you to serve as a deacon in our diocese, this event will help you find out more. Come along to an Enquirer’s Morning at St. Patrick’s Church, Livesey St, Manchester, on Saturday 1st April, starting with Mass at 10am and finishing with a sandwich lunch.

Email formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to let us know you’re coming. You can also learn more about the role of deacons by

visiting <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/diaconate-faqs/>

7. PARENT/TODDLER GROUP:

takes place every Thursday in St Herbert’s Parish Centre from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm. £1.00. All welcome.

9. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi: This week, Duckling, Dove and Owl class led our next Lenten mass. The children were a credit to us, and their behaviour was impeccable throughout. Thank you to our

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 202; Offertory: 286, 801; Communion: 461, 165; Recessional: 672.

ST HERBERT’S: Entrance: 557; Offertory: 177; Communion: 419, 635; Recessional: 532.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

parish for sharing this with us. Next week, we welcome Starling and Woodpecker Class. They will be leading a mass all about being a witness during Lent.

This week our children in Reception celebrated St Patrick's Day and enjoyed learning all about him. Our children in Woodpecker enjoyed learning more about their class saint.

We would like to welcome our parish family to our Easter production on Monday 3rd April. If you would like to attend, we ask that you give your name to Tony Power after Mass.

St Herbert's: This week in school we have had an exciting week. It began with a visit from a basketball player talking to the children about the game and encouraging them to take up the sport.

Then we held a school disco – it was lovely to see the children having a good bop!

As part of our Lenten Challenge, we held a “Go Green Day” where the children were asked to come to school wearing green clothes and accessories. This was to raise awareness of climate change and our need to care for God's world as Pope Francis asked us to do in his letter “Laudato Si”.

Finally, we would like to thank all the parishioners for their generous donations that enable us to continue to

to support our families. As such, we awarded “Our Caritas Social Teaching Award” to two parishioners for sharing God's love with us. We will keep you all in our prayers.

BULBS/CONTAINER WANTED (ST HERBERT'S): As we continue to pray for our environment, families around the world and the ongoing climate crisis and to follow Pope Francis' Laudato Si call to “live wisely, think deeply and love”, we are asking if the Parish family would donate flower bulbs, a tree sapling or containers so we can then plant them across school grounds - this will be our little step towards Pope Francis' call. Thank you in advance

14. SUNDAY SMILE

The comedian at a social in a local Parish Centre was hilarious. Here are a few more of his one-liners (2):

I cleaned the attic with the wife the other day. Now I can't get the cobwebs out of her hair.

I hate Russian dolls, they're so full of themselves!

My wife told me I had to stop acting like a flamingo. So I had to put my foot down.

I decided to sell my vacuum cleaner - after all it was just gathering dust!

Do you remember that joke I told you about my spine? It was about a weak back!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MONDAY:	Both churches closed.
TUESDAY:	Corpus Christi: NO MASS Lenten Deanery Mass: at the Holy Family at 7.00 pm. Theme: Lent.
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 AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST

MASS REQUESTS

Missa pro populo

Lately Dead: Elsie Lawson, Generosa Suarez Flores, Frank Walsh

RIP: Anne Hayes

Anniversary: Harry Lawless

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.



0161 624 2258



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

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.