

**THE WORD THIS WEEK**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A**

**12 March 2023**

The Gospel of the third Sunday is the remarkable conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well, the theme is water - which gives life, which cleanses, which is so necessary. This reading forms part of the catechesis given before Baptism at Easter: the candidates who would go into the water are invited to reflect on what that means. But more necessary than the water which gives life is the water which gives eternal life - the water of baptism, the water flowing from Jesus' side on the cross. Even if your Church does not have any candidates preparing for Baptism, we will all renew our baptismal promises at Easter: we should take this opportunity to reflect on what baptism has given us, and what God has done for us in this gift.

**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: Exodus 17:3-7** - the people complained to Moses of their thirst, so he appealed to God who guided him to strike a rock at Horeb and draw water.

**Psalm 94** - O that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts / Come ring out our joy to the Lord / Come in, let us bow and bend low.

**Second: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8** - the love of God has been poured into your hearts by the Holy Spirit ... Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**Gospel: John 4:5-52** - Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a drink at the well.

**3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**REFLECTION:** Copies of the Third Sunday in Lent Reflection are available at the back of each church.

**4. LENTEN MASSES AND SERVICES**

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

**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)

**5. GIFT AID DONATIONS 2023-24:** Thank you very much to all those who have donated to the Parish whether via Gift Aid or Non-Gift Aid envelopes, by Standing Order or via the baskets.

New Gift Aid and Non-Gift Aid envelopes are available after the Masses this weekend at both churches.

If you are a UK taxpayer, we would ask you to please consider donating via the Gift Aid envelope scheme. This does not cost you anymore than your usual donation. It does, however, allow the Parish to claim back 25% of your donation. So, for every £1.00 you donate we can claim back an extra 25p. Last year the Parish claimed back a total of £13,234.79. All you need to do is to fill in a form (just your name and address are required). These forms will be available at the back of each

church from Ken Coop (Corpus Christi) and Deborah Kearney (St Herbert's) this weekend. or further information, please email [divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com](mailto:divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com). Thank you.

**6. CAFOD – FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL:** Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast day appeal this Lent. Your generous donations rooted in love, will support families around the world grow in strength to fight the climate crisis, and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. You can still give online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent). Barbara Mallinson

**7. FAMILY NIGHT:** There will be a St Patricks Family night in St Herbert's Parish Centre on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. Come along with all the family and enjoy a night of games for the children and dancing for everyone. Adults £5.00 children £2.50 including supper – e- mail FAO J Roddy [divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com](mailto:divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com).

**8. ST HERBERT'S PILGRIMAGE:** The trip to St Herbert's Isle is on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. The price for the trip is £15.00 for adults and £10.00 for children. All monies are now due. Cheques made payable to the Parish of Divine Mercy. There are places still available for anyone wishing to join us. Please note that the coach will be leaving St Herbert's Parish Centre at 8.30 am.

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

**11. BULBS/CONTAINERS WANTED:** As we continue to pray for our environment, for 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 or 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.

**12. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** This week Swallow and Kingfisher class led our first Lenten mass and they were a credit to us. The children

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 131; Offertory: 757, 362;  
Communion: 446, 681; Recessional: 307.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 99; Offertory: 273;  
Communion: 349, 628; Recessional: 458.

## PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

presented themselves beautifully and were very reverent throughout. Thank you to our Parish for sharing this with us. Next week we welcome our youngest children in Duckling Class, Dove Class and Owl Class. They will be leading a mass all about showing determination during Lent. This week our faith life pupil leadership teams met with representatives from the Hope in the Future Team. The children were extremely mature and professional in their responses, and it was lovely to make further links with our Parish. We have been developing our school website to showcase all the learning that takes place at Corpus Christi. Please feel free to pop over to take a look.

**St Herbert's:** On Saturday, the children on the Sacramental Programme made their First Sacrament of Reconciliation – they have received the forgiveness of God. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers. Children in Key stage 2 have had a very exciting day. Upper Key Stage 2 held a topic day – World War 2 the Blitz – The children dressed up soldiers, nurses, and land girls. They had a variety of activities such as creating a suitcase for an evacuee, creating a building that had been bombed, they were given a ration of 1 boiled sweet and carrolade (carrot and pineapple juice) they were not impressed! The most exciting thing for the children was

the air raid shelter that sounded throughout the day, and they had to go to the designated place – the cloakroom or under the tables. The children had a wonderful day.

Lower key stage 2 worked in groups to make a volcano as their topic is “Rocks and Volcanoes.” Of course, they were live volcanoes!!! Screams of excitement could be heard along the corridor as the children used vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and washing up liquid to make the volcano erupt! Look on twitter where you will see photos of both days.

Class9@stherberts, class10@stherberts and class6@stherberts

### 14. SUNDAY SMILE

*St. Thomas the Dubious, is an excellent school, but even so its students sometimes make strange mistakes in their exams. Here is another selection (2):*

Under the U.S. Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

The Bible is full if interesting caricatures...

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music.

The government of Athens was democratic because people took the law into their own hands.

Crude oil is a vicious substance.

Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the Autumn when the apples are falling off the trees.

Letters in sloping type are in hysterics.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Both churches closed.
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi: NO MASS</b> <b>Lenten Deanery Mass:</b> at St Edwards at 7.00 pm. Theme: Church & Lumen Gentium
<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

## CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST

### MASS REQUESTS

Missa pro populo

**Lately Dead:** Anne Hayes

**RIP:** Maureen Dwyer

**Anniversary:** David Fenton, Mary Morgan, Olwen Baker

**Birthday Anniversary:** Margaret Lees

### 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.