

THE WORD THIS WEEK

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

16 July 2023

The Gospel today is the beginning of a new section in Matthew, called 'The Parabolic Discourse' - a section of parables Jesus tells the crowd, which we will read over the next three weeks. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning: we can easily remember the story, and gradually the true meaning becomes clearer and clearer. Today is a famous example: the Parable of the Sower. In itself it is a story that would easily be understood by Jesus's audience - people who lived in an agricultural economy. Jesus uses their understanding to make an important teaching about the message he has brought: it is like a seed that is thrown out and received in different ways - the ideal is when the seed finds good soil, and produces a crop that can be seen and harvested: so the ideal listener to the word is one who allows it to lodge in the heart, but also produces a visible result. What is the harvest we should yield when we have heard the word?

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: Isaiah 55: 10-11 - As the rain waters the earth making it yield seed and bread, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty.

Psalms 64 - Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop / You care for the earth, give it water / And thus you provide for the earth / You crown the year with your goodness / The hills are girded with joy.

Second: Romans 8: 18-23 - From the beginning till now the entire creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth and not only creation but all who possess the first fruits of the Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23 - The parable of the sower ... for anyone who has will be given more ... happy are your ears because they hear ... the one who received the Word in rich soil understands - he is the one who yields a harvest and produces a hundredfold.

3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE PRAYER CYCLE: We pray for our Mother Church, our Cathedral Church of St. John, together with the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph, Salford. We pray for Bishop John as he celebrates his Fortieth Anniversary of priestly ordination, for Fr. Michael Jones, the Cathedral Dean, Fr. Ignatius, and Fr. Churchill. We pray also for the two parish primary schools and for all who work in the Cathedral Centre. May their sowing bring forth a rich harvest.

4. BAPTISM: We welcome into the Divine Mercy Parish community Arius Mark Miko, who was baptised in the Parish last weekend.

5. SEA SUNDAY: Donations to the Sea Sunday Appeal can still be made via the Stella Maris website – stellamaris.org.uk, by using the Stella Maris envelopes (if you are a UK tax payer, please consider signing the Gift Aid Form, or by using the baskets at the back of each church. Thank you very much for your donations. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need.

6. ST HERBERT'S COFFEE MORNING: St Herbert's Coffee Morning will be Sunday 23rd July after the 11am mass. Everyone welcome to join us for tea/coffee and cake.

7. SAINTS OF THE WEEK

ST LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI – 21 JULY: St Lawrence of Brindisi was born in 1559. He entered the Capuchin Order, where he taught theology. He became a renowned preacher, travelling through Europe, writing many works to explain the Faith. St Lawrence of Brindisi died in Lisbon in 1619.

ST MARY MAGDALENE- 22 JULY: was one of Christ's disciples, present at his death. On Easter morning she was the first to whom the risen Redeemer appeared.

8. SALFORD LOURDES PILGRIMAGE PRE-DEPARTURE MASS: Sunday 23rd July, 5.30pm St Bernadette's Church, 436 Bury New Road, Whitefield

The Diocese of Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage Team invites you to join them for this year's Pre-Departure Mass. Bishop John will lead the Mass at 5.30pm on Sunday 23rd July at St Bernadette's in Whitefield. All are welcome to attend the Mass and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

9. THINKING FAITH RETREAT – CHANGE AND RENEWAL: 22nd - 29th July; Boarbank Hall, Cumbria

Walk, talk, and pray with like-minded Catholics at a spiritual escape on the edge of the beautiful Lake District. The Thinking Faith course is aimed at younger adults (in their 20s - 40s) and offers a week-long stay in stunning surroundings to nurture mind, heart, body and soul! Led by Sr Margaret Atkins and Fr Richard Finn OP, this retreat provides an opportunity to hear fascinating talks, deepen our faith, make new friends, and explore the wonderful Cumbrian countryside. Prices are flexible but few places remain. For more information, email margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk or visit www.boarbankhall.org.uk

10. BISHOP JOHN'S RUBY JUBILEE: To mark the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to priesthood, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass at 3pm this Sunday 16 July in Salford Cathedral. This Mass is open to all members of the diocese, without the need for tickets, and so you are welcome to come along if you wish to do so. There will be some light refreshments

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: ; Offertory: ; Communion:; Recessional: .

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 557; Offertory: 177; Communion: 256, 724; Recessional: 202.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

(tea/coffee and biscuits) after the Mass, respecting the bishop's wish to keep things simple on this occasion. Let us all keep Bishop John in our prayers as he celebrates this significant anniversary.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hosting-refugees-webinar-tickets-660276513827>

10. WOMEN SAINTS AND SPIRITUALITY: *Friday 21st July, 10am; Wardley Hall, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2ND*

Join us as we continue our fascinating series of talks exploring the life and spirituality of women in the Church throughout history. Our next session takes place on Friday 21st July and has a special focus on Kateri Tekakwitha. Contact Sister Joan Kerley at joankfmsj@gmail.com or 07934 816 796 to reserve a place. Find out more at :

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/women-saints-and-spirituality/>

12. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi: This week, some of our Year 4 children went on their first overnight residential to Gulliver's World.

They had a wonderful time and were a credit to their family and to us as a school.

Our little ones in Reception also went out on their first school trip. They visited Smithills Farm in Bolton and they had a wonderful time.

Thank you to our parish family who visited our summer fair last week. It was lovely to see many of you there. Thank you for your support.

St Herbert's: We are very proud of Year 6 - They have worked hard all year and it has paid off. They received their SATS results this week and the results are extremely good! Well done Year 6 we are very proud of you.

This week EYFS met the children who will be joining us in September. It was lovely to meet them and their parents. We and they are very excited.

Also, we had a visitor - "Chaddy Owl" O AFC mascot. The children were shocked when he walked into the classrooms! He caused chaos!!! Marking books, playing musical instruments, and taking sweets!!!! Check out Twitter.

Finally, thank you for your support at our school summer fayre - £1700 was raised which will go towards subsidising the school trips to help all our families.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MONDAY:	Both churches closed.
TUESDAY:	Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
WEDNESDAY:	St Herbert's: Private Prayer at 9.30 am; SCHOOL/ PARISH Mass at 10.00 am
THURSDAY:	Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 9.00 am; SCHOOL/PARISH Mass at 9.30 am
FRIDAY:	St Herbert's: Private Prayer 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

Special Intention: P A Ojjezele, Otiti Ojjezele, PA Okohue, Maria Oviawe

RIP: Jean Allen, James Lochery, P A Akue, Anthonia Akue;

Anniversary: Paul Lawless, Terry Whelan

PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish: Wade Stevens, Luke Burke, John McCarthy, Gerard Healey, Mary Gowran, Margaret Lawless, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Agnes Conroy, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, 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, Mary O'Connor.



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

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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.