

**FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING YEAR A**

**26 November 2023**

“Shepherd-King o’er mountain steep, homeward guide thy wand’ring sheep.” This hymn which we will probably sing today captures the readings perfectly: our King is not a cruel tyrant or despot, but a shepherd who loves his flock, who would (and did) give his life for them. Love for the flock means that he will have to judge them, separating the sheep from those who do not belong to him. Coming to the end of the Church’s year leads us to look to our final ending, the homecoming the hymn speaks of. The judgement of the end of time we do not view as a trial or a terror, but as a coming home: look back to the Isaiah reading on the **28th Sunday** to see what a homecoming party is offered. All we do is put our lives in order, living just and holy lives, longing for the Day of the Lord to come.

**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**

**Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17** - The Lord will look after his flock like a shepherd - and will judge between sheep and rams.

**Psalm 22/23** - The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want / Near restful waters he leads me / You have prepared a banquet for me / Surely goodness and kindness

**Second: I Corinthians 15:20-26, 28** - Christ has been raised from the dead ... at the end, he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

**Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46** - Jesus tells the disciples that when the Son of Man comes ... he will take up his seat on the throne of glory and separate men as the shepherd separates sheep and goats: ... the Kingdom will be given to the virtuous.

**3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE PRAYER CYCLE:** Let us pray: this week for the people of the parish of St. Cuthbert, Manchester; and for Fr. Brendan Curley, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school and for the Christie Hospital. May they know the Lord as their Shepherd and King.

**4. CHANGE OF WEEKDAY MASS TIME:** Please note that Mass on Wednesday morning this week at St Herbert’s will be at 9.30 am.

**5. ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKS:** are available at the back of church from today. Price : £1.00.

**6. DIOCESAN ALMANAC:** now on sale at the back of each church. Wirebound copy - £4.50; Plain copy £3.50.

**6. ST HERBERT’S CHRISTMAS FAYRE:** Come along today to meet Father Christmas at St Herbert’s Christmas Fayre. Lots of fun for all the family. See you there after 11.00am Mass.

**7. CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS FAIR:** The Fair will be held on Sunday 3rd December 2023 in Corpus Christi School Hall. The doors will open at 10.30 am after the 9.30 am Mass. Christmas Raffle tickets will be on sale at all Masses. First Prize £100 plus many more prizes. Price of tickets £1.00 each. The Raffle will take place at the Christmas Fair and we would like to appeal for good quality prizes for the Raffle and bottles for the Bottle Tombola. Please come along and make this event a huge success.

**8. BRASS BAND CONCERT:** In Corpus Christi School Hall on Sunday 17th December 2023 from 2pm - 4pm. Please come along

and enjoy an afternoon with MOSSLEY BRASS BAND. Tickets will be on sale from this weekend: Saturday/ Sunday 18th/19th November.

**9. NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION:** In St Herbert’s Parish Centre. 7.30pm till late! This year we have live entertainment provided by singer George William & DJ Andy Glynn. A Hot Supper all for £21. See the posters & add your name to the list for tickets at the back of both churches.

**PLEASE SUPPORT ALL SOCIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER. THANK YOU.**

**10. MEETING OF THE PARISH SVP:** will take place in Corpus Christi Presbytery on Sunday, 10 December after the 9.30 am Mass.

**11. DIOCESAN SYNOD:** On 15th October Bishop John announced that as part of the Diocesan Synod we are going to come together as a Diocese for what he describes as the ‘Big Listen’. Parishes are encouraged to hold Listening Sessions and there is an opportunity for individuals to respond directly to the questions being posed. As a Parish we are planning to hold our listening session in the new year and in the coming weeks we will provide more information as to how parishioners can become involved in this important process to shape the future direction of our Parish and Diocese. For more information about what a synod is and what it means for our local Church today, please see the video which is available on <https://youtu.be/v0yU3gtfwV8>.

**12. PARISH SVP CHRISTMAS PROJECT:** The SVP would like to distribute some Christmas food hampers to parishioners who may need a little help over the festive period and are unable to access the food pantry. If you want a hamper or you know of anybody who you think would benefit from one e.g. housebound, low income households etc, please forward your/their details to the parish email [divinemercyoldham@gmail.com](mailto:divinemercyoldham@gmail.com). Please provide us with a name and contact number so we can arrange delivery and please ask consent of any nominees. Donations of festive foods would be greatly appreciated but also items for hamper construction e.g. cellophane, tissue paper, ribbon. Thank you very much for your continued support. The SVP.

**13. PLAYGROUP:** is held every Thursday during term-time at St Herbert’s Parish Centre from 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm. £2.00 includes refreshments. All welcome.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 310; Offertory: ; Communion: 681; Recessional: 346.

**ST HERBERT’S:** Entrance: 229; Offertory: 583; Communion: 310, 652; Recessional: 274.

**14. ADVENT CANTATA:** A much-loved choir is heading to our diocese on Saturday 2nd December at 6pm to provide a musical start to the season of Advent. The Forum for the Inculturation of Liturgical Music has become a regular feature at the Parish of the Nativity in Failsworth and Limeside and is back at St Mary's church this December by popular demand. Tickets are £5 per adult and £1 per child and can be bought on the door or booked in advance by emailing [nativityparish@yahoo.com](mailto:nativityparish@yahoo.com)

**15. BINGO:** on Thursday nights in St Herbert's Parish Centre lounge at 8.00 pm to start at 8.30 pm. Over 18s welcome.

**16. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** This week, we held annual Holy Soul assembly. Each year we dedicate our assembly to our loved ones that have died and take the time to remember them. The assembly was emotional as we remembered our loved ones and the special memories we hold in our hearts.

This week we also announced our new Pupil Parliament members. Initially this consists of eight members, but this will expand as the group becomes established. The children will have the opportunity to see the real parliament in London. They will take part in a trip to London in January 2024, and this will include a tour around parliament and the opportunity to meet politicians. Well done to everyone who applied to join our

Pupil Parliament.

**St Herbert's:** Congratulations to the Children of the Sacramental programme who were presented at Mass on Sunday. Stay with them Lord on their journey.

Year 5 and 6 continue to rehearse for their Christmas show and it sounds wonderful.

Key stage 1 and EYFS have begun to rehearse their nativities! Upper key stage 2 had their topic day -All about the rainforest. A special visitor came to meet the children- Thomas the Gorilla! The children heard about his life and struggles and dangers he faces living in the Rainforest. They then had a green screen experience. Please go to X (formally Twitter) to see the fantastic images. Class8@stherberts.

**17. SUNDAY SMILE**

*The new Year 7 intake at St. Thomas the Dubious High School are now settling in much better. However, some of the children still provide their teachers with a smile. (10)*

Julie, in 1 Alpha, told her form teacher that she had achieved 100% in her schoolwork that week. She had got 45% in Maths and 55% in English.

One form teacher told her class of newcomers that now they were in high school she expected them all to write their names in cursive. However, one girl said that she could only write hers in English.

**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 9.00 am; **Mass at 9.30 am**  
**THURSDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 9.00 am; 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

**Lately Dead:** Anthony & Tommy Murray  
**Anniversary:** Dominic & Angelina Mazza, Joseph Wright

**PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish: Louise Whittaker, Stuart Williams, Peter Stone, Wade Stevens, Luke Burke, John McCarthy, Gerard Healey, Mary Gowran, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mary O'Connor.



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[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.