

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

**4 February 2024**

This world, as we know, is a fragile and fallible place, in which we encounter hunger, disease, sickness and death. Jesus proclaims, by his actions of healing, that there is another world, the Kingdom of God, which will be free from all such anxieties and afflictions. The story of Paradise and the Garden of Eden painted a picture of a world which was perfect, and free from all problems. Jesus came into the world precisely to offer us a return to Eden, if we follow him. Each of his miracles is also, in some sense, a parable or teaching, pointing out to us something of the lost happiness and perfection which he is restoring. This vision of Paradise is not Utopian or delusory, not just a vain hope to comfort us with, but the true manifestation of God's love for us. Jesus could not cure every disease or sickness in the world then: but his miracles of healing are a sign that one day, when the Kingdom comes, sickness and disease will be wiped away for ever.

**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: Job 7:1-4, 6-7** - Is not ... life on earth nothing more than pressed service? .... Restlessly I fret 'till twilight falls ... swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed.

**Psalm: 146** - Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted / Praise the Lord for he is good / The Lord builds up Jerusalem / Our Lord is great and almighty.

**Second: I Corinthians 9 16-19, 22-23** - Paul says "I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel ... I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could ...

**Gospel: Mark 1 29-39** - Jesus heals: firstly, Simon's mother-in-law of a fever, and then many in the town who were suffering: diseases or possessed. Then he goes to a lonely place to pray - and then to the neighbouring towns to preach there too.

**3. WEEKDAY MASS AT CORPUS CHRISTI – THURSDAY,**

**8 FEBRUARY:** Please note that there will be no Parish Mass at Corpus Christi this Thursday, because of a Requiem Mass at 10.00 am.

**3. ST HERBERT'S FEAST DAY – PILGRIMAGE TO ST HERBERT'S ISLE:**

Our annual pilgrimage to Derwent Water is planned for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024. If you have never been this is a wonderful day of prayer, reflection and fun. Everyone is welcome. The coach will leave St. Herbert's Church at 8.30am. There is a short stop at Tebay services before alighting from the coach at Derwent Water, Lakeside, Keswick. Fr. Lawrence will say Mass overlooking St. Herbert's Island. Afterwards, there is free time in Keswick before our return at 4pm. We usually arrive back by 6.30pm.

This is a slightly later date so hopefully we will be blessed with fine weather. There is a Saturday market and lots of cafes in the town and the boats should be in operation on the lake if you wish to take a boat trip. The approximate cost will be £16 depending on take-up. Please add your name/number of people/phone number to the list which will be at the back of each church.

**4. SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024**

**After Baptism, Reconciliation & Holy Communion the Sacrament of Confirmation follows on as the next great landmark in your Faith development.**

**To all students Year 8, 9 & 10 Students across the Oldham Deanery**

Dear Parents & Students,

I have great pleasure in inviting you to this year's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a short course of formation over seven sessions which leads to students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation **on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> May 2024. (Pentecost)**

**Important meetings dates and times: -**

**Parents meeting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 7pm – 8pm**

**(Please note students are not required to attend the parents meeting)**

- Session 1 ~Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March (6-8pm)
- Session 2 ~Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March (6-8pm)
- Session 3 ~Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March (6-8pm)
- Session 4 ~Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April (6-8pm)
- Session 5 ~ Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April (6-8pm)
- Session 6 ~ Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May (6-8pm)
- Session 7 ~ Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May (6-8pm)

**All meetings will take place at St. Edward's RC Church, Lees.**

**NB. Having kept the number of meetings to a minimum, your attendance at each of the seven sessions will be expected.**

Students may appreciate knowing the following:

- Meetings will be conducted within a warm, friendly, informal atmosphere
- No one will be put on the spot, or be expected to stand up & take centre stage
- We want enjoyment & humour to underpin each session
- There will be a 'social' element to each gathering (a chance to relax, meet & chat).

**We are confident students will enjoy learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation and look forward to working with them.**

God bless and keep you safe,

**Fr. Callum Brown (on behalf of the Oldham Deanery)**

**HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAMME:**

Parents are asked to complete an application form on the student's behalf and **bring it with them to the Parents' Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Further application forms can be obtained through the school or the Parish Priest at your church.

**5. CORPUS CHRISTI COFFEE MORNING:** Come and join us for the first Coffee Morning of 2024. It will be held this Sunday 4th February after the 9.30am Mass. Teas, Coffee and Home Made Cakes. Everybody Welcome!!

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 439; Offertory: 164; Communion: 641, 413; Recessional: 202.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 557; Offertory: 273; Communion: 165, 254; Recessional: 202.

**6. MEETING OF THE PARISH SVP – SUNDAY, 11 FEBRUARY:** A meeting of the Parish SVP will take place on Sunday, 11 February in St Herbert’s Parish Centre after 11.00 am mass.

**7. PARISH SVP FOODBANK – FRIDAY, 8 FEBRUARY:** The Parish SVP Foodbank takes place on every second Friday of the month between 2 pm and 4 pm in Corpus Christi Presbytery. The next one will be held on Friday, 8 February. Please spread the word if there’s anyone you know who may benefit from the Pantry.

**8. GREAT MANCHESTER RUN:** Caritas Diocese of Salford is looking for people to take on this year's Great Manchester Run to raise funds to support its work across the diocese. Our diocesan charity works to provide vital support to people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, and discrimination. Find out more at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/EveryStep](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/EveryStep)

**8. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** This week our Pupil Parliament took an exciting trip to London to visit Parliament and had an extra special surprise, a visit to 10 Downing Street. The children

met with local MP Jim McMahon and talked to him about local plans and how they can help. The children were a credit to us and are extremely excited about their future plans as our school Pupil Parliament. We look forward to seeing what they do in the future. Our EYFS and KS1 children enjoyed their visit from Freddy Fit. They always enjoy spending time with him, learning about the importance of fitness and a healthy, balanced diet. Children in Wren Class also enjoyed their trip to Portland Basin this week. They were extremely well-behaved and enjoyed their day visiting the museum.

**9. SUNDAY SMILE**

*At St. Thomas the Dubious High School, the First Year recently held a fundraiser for charity. Each pupil who took part, had to tell a school-based joke, some being included here.*

- Q. Why did the boy steal a chair from the classroom?  
A. Because the teacher told him to take a seat.
- Q. Why do music teachers do well in a rounders game?  
A. Because they have a perfect pitch.
- Q. What is a mathematical plant?  
A. One with square roots.,
- Q. Why didn't the school leaver get a job in the orange juice factory?  
A. Because he could never concentrate enough
- Q. Why did the teacher draw on the window?  
A. Because she wanted her lesson to be very clear!

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed
- TUESDAY:** **St Herbert’s:** Funeral Service at 10.00 am for Mary Whitehead (RIP)  
**Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
- WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert’s:** Divine Mercy Chaplet at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
- THURSDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Requiem Mass at 10.00 am for Brenda Gilbert (RIP)
- FRIDAY:** **St Herbert’s:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am  
**St Herbert’s:** Requiem Mass at 1.00 pm for Marie Corless (RIP)
- 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

**MASS REQUESTS**

**Missa pro populo**  
**Special Intention:** Rita Murphy, Nemesia & John Wrigley, St Agata  
**Lately Dead:** Gerard Traynor, Mary Whitehead, Brenda Gilbert  
**RIP:** Marie Corless, Frank Carlisle, Holy Souls in Purgatory  
**Anniversary:** Anne Hayes, Annie Theresa McDonnell, Owen McDonnell, Anna Giuseppina Gaeta  
**Birthday Anniversary:** Mary Coonan, Mary Morgan

**PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:  
  
Sheila Cavey, Agnes Conroy, Louise Whittaker, Stuart Williams, Peter Stone, Wade Stevens, Luke Burke, John McCarthy, 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.



0161 624 2258



[divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.