

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

**28 January 2024**

Where does authority come from? Why is one man regarded as a prophet, and another as a lunatic, and a third as a hypocrite? Jesus startles the crowds with a “new teaching” today, but what amazes them so much is not the message but the authority behind it: they are convinced because what he does somehow adds credibility to what he says. It’s the old situation that we are all familiar with - we look through words to see the actions, which show us the real message. The scribes did not heal or work miracles, but simply talked about God. Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, but also shows the people what it is - a Kingdom where all that damages human happiness is abolished. The other side to this is that we must listen to a prophet or teacher when they are backed by such authority; we may not “harden our hearts” and ignore the message when we have recognised that the messenger is sent by God. This is the hard part, because it demands that we too show, by our actions, that we have heard.

**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: Deuteronomy 18:15-20** - Moses tells the people that the Lord has promised to raise up a prophet from among them, who will have God's word put into his mouth.

**Psalms: 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 kneel and bend low.

**Second: I Corinthians 7:32-35** - Paul compares the responsibilities of married vs unmarried men and women - to help the people decide how to live.

**Gospel: Mark 1:21-28** - Jesus teaches with authority in the Synagogue: a man possessed by an unclean spirit challenges him, and Jesus orders the spirit to leave the man.

**3. BAPTISM:** We welcome into the Divine Mercy Parish community, Gabriel Lee, who was baptised in the Parish last weekend.

**4. WEEKDAY MASS AT ST HERBERT'S ON WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY:** Please note that there will be no 10.00 am Mass at St Herbert's because of a Requiem Mass at 10.30 am.

**5. DEANERY PREPARATON FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – FR CALLUM BROWN:** Calling all Year 8, 9, 10 Catholics: If your faith journey has lost its way over the last couple of years, or if you've left all that 'God-stuff' behind you in primary school, **it may be worth checking-out the wind of change celebrated by Catholic pupils across Oldham & Ashton.** A new initiative leading to the **Sacrament of Confirmation** has been welcomed by over 200 Yr. 8/9 students and their families. Don't let the fear of losing your 'street-cred' stop you finding out more; speak to Fr Lawrence.

**6. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY, 1 MARCH 2024:** Come and participate in this great wave of prayer joining with people in over 146 countries and islands around the world at: St Matthew & St Luke Church, Chadderton, Chadderton Hall Road, Oldham, OL1 2RT, on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 2.00 pm.

**7. CARITAS SUNDAY:** On Sunday 28th January, we will be marking Caritas Sunday by celebrating the work of our diocesan charity, Caritas Diocese of Salford. To find out more about the work of Caritas Salford and how you can get involved, please visit <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/caritas-sunday/>. We invite you to keep our diocesan charity in your prayers over this coming week.

**8. YOUNG ADULTS MASS:** The next Diocesan Mass for Young Adults takes place Sunday 11th February, 5.30pm, at St Augustine's, Manchester. Coinciding with the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, this month's Mass welcomes Canon Tony McBride - former Director of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - as our guest celebrant. Join the team after Mass as they explore more about the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in our Centenary Year. Please note, there is currently no vehicle access to the church. Details of alternative parking can be found at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/young-adults-mass-feb-2024/>

**9. EXPLORING PRAYER IN LENT PROGRAMME:** People across the diocese are invited to embark on a special journey of prayer this Lent in preparation for the 2025 Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee. Taking place on each of the Fridays of Lent between 10am and 12.30pm at Wardley Hall, the sessions will include presentations, discussion, and time for quiet prayer and reflection. Find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/prayer-in-lent/>

**10. DIOCESE OF SALFORD VACANCIES**

**COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT (replacement role):**  
**Appointment Type:** Full-time, 12 month fixed term; **Working hours:** 35 hours per week, some evenings and weekends required; **Location:** Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP; **Salary:** £22,672 - £24,343. Find out more and apply at <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

**CATHEDRAL ESTATE CARETAKER (replacement role):**  
**Appointment Type:** Full-time, permanent; **Working hours:** 35 hours per week, Tuesday - Saturday with some flexible working; **Location:** Cathedral Estate including the Cathedral, Cathedral Presbytery (Cathedral House) Cathedral House, 250, Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LE; **Salary:** £24,983 - £30,710

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 333; Offertory: 175, 516; Communion: 681; Recessional: 529.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 476; Offertory: 177; Communion: 173, 628; Recessional: 290.

Find out more and apply  
at <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

**11. SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

**St John Bosco – 31 January:** St John Bosco was born in 1815 in the north of Italy. He dedicated his priestly ministry to working with young people, especially street children whom he encountered in Turin. He established the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, to assist in this work. He died in 1888.

**St Ansgar – 3 February:** St Ansgar set out in 826 to preach the Gospel in Denmark. He persevered in his mission until he died in 865.

**12. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** On Monday, we welcomed our sacramental children and their parents into school for their first official session for the sacramental programme. It was lovely to see the support and dedication from our families. They are all very eager to progress on the programme.

This week, our RE and Maths link governors visited school to observe and discuss our teaching and learning in these subjects. It was lovely to welcome our visitors and share our practise with them.

**13. SUNDAY SMILE**

*Year 7 at St. Thomas the Dubious High School have now settled in. However, some children still provide their teachers with a laugh, especially in their recent General Studies assessments. (11)*

Marsupials are poached animals.

An octogenarian is an animal which has eight young at birth. One horsepower is the amount of energy it takes to drag a horse 500 feet in one second.

The largest mammals are to be found in the sea because there is nowhere else to put them.

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed
- TUESDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
- WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Requiem Mass at 10.30 am for Frank Carlisle (RIP)
- 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  
**Latently Dead:** Marie Corless , Malcolm Jones, Mary Cole  
**RIP:** Frank Carlisle  
**Anniversary:** Norah Carter, John Southworth, Annie Therea McDonnell, Owen McDonnell  
**Birthday Anniversary:** Peter Fitzpatrick, Edward Coonan

**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.