

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR B**

**17 March 2024**

In the weeks of Lent so far we have followed God's work of salvation: we have seen the Covenants he established with Noah, Abraham, Moses and the people of Israel after the return from Babylon. Now we come to one of the most significant parts of the Old Testament: the promise of a brand new Covenant, which will be different from all those that went before. This Covenant will see God and Man living more closely together. For the ratification of a Covenant, something was always sacrificed as a sign of the new relationship – normally man would offer some animal offering to God. But the New Covenant will be ratified not with the death of sheep or bull, but by the death of Jesus Christ, God and Man. In this perfect sacrifice is the source of our eternal salvation.

**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: Jeremiah 31:31-34** - The prophet speaks of the new covenant the Lord will make with Israel ... I will be their God and they will be my people.

**Psalms 150** - A pure heart create for me, O God.

**Second: Hebrews 5:7-9** - Christ offered up prayer to the one who had the power to save him - he learnt to obey through suffering ... and became the source of eternal salvation.

**Gospel: John 12:20-33** - Jesus predicts his death ... unless a grain of wheat dies it remains a single grain but if it dies it yields a rich harvest ... a voice from heaven says, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again".

**3. FEAST DAY OF ST HERBERT'S – Wednesday, 20**

**March:** I would like to wish all parishioners a very happy St Herbert's Feast Day.

**4. EASTER LITURGY – 2024:**

**Maundy Thursday:** Corpus Christi at 7.00 pm

**Good Friday:** St Herbert's at 3.00 pm

**Easter Vigil:** Corpus Christi at 7.00 pm

**Easter Sunday:** Corpus Christi at 9.30 am  
St Herbert's at 11.00 am

**5. DEANERY STATION MASSES:**

Tuesday, 19 March at St Joseph's, Mossley at 7.00 pm  
No Parish Mass at Corpus Christi on this day.

**6. MASS OF THE SACRED CHRISM:** There are five tickets available for the Sacred Chrism Mass which will be held on Wednesday, 27 March at 11.00 am at St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst. Anyone interested in attending should speak to Fr Lawrence. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

**7. ST. HERBERT'S FEAST DAY- PILGRIMAGE TO ST HERBERT'S ISLE, SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2024:**

If you wish to come on the coach, please ensure your name is on the list by SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024. The price will be

£16 pp & money will be collected at church over the weekends 9th/10th March & Saturday 16th/17th March.

**ITINERARY FOR THE DAY:** Meet at St Herbert's Church. Coach to leave at 8.30am. Short stop at TEBAY services for comfort break. Alight from the coach at Lakeside Car Park Keswick. Take a short walk to Friars Crag, Derwent Water, where Fr Lawrence will celebrate mass overlooking St Herbert's Island. Free time in Keswick, where there is a market, cafes etc. Return from Booth's Car Park at 4pm prompt.

**8. GIFT AID DONATIONS 2024-25:** 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. 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. 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 along with the new Gift Aid and Non-Gift Aid envelopes (St Herbert's), which start on 7 April, from Ken Coop (Corpus Christi) and Deborah Kearney (St Herbert's) from 16/17 March. For further information, please email [divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com](mailto:divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com). Thank you.

**9. CORPUS CHRISTI GIFT AID:** New PINK boxes are now available to pick up in the narthex. If you have changed address recently or the box has the wrong address, please let us know.

**10. LAUNCH MASS FOR DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES IN OUR CENTENARY YEAR:** The Launch Mass for this year's diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes - marking our centenary year - will be taking place at 7pm on Tuesday 16th April at St Patrick's, Livesey Street, Collyhurst, M4 5HF. Whether you are planning to join us in Lourdes this summer, or will be praying along at home, you'd be most welcome to join us for our Mass next month. For more information on this year's pilgrimage, including how to book, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/booking-lourdes-2024/>

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 147; Offertory: 286, 516; Communion: 538; Recessional: 604.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 498; Offertory: 247; Communion: 419, 254; Recessional: 672.

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** On Monday, our children on our sacramental journey were joined by their parents for a meeting in preparation for their Reconciliation. We ask our parish family to remember our children in your prayers as they prepare for their first Reconciliation in the upcoming weeks.

On Thursday our children in Robin, Sparrow, Eagle and Hawk class led a beautiful Lenten mass all about Hope. They talked about how Jesus gives us hope and how we can give hope to one another this Lent. The prayer partners were extremely well behaved and a credit to us. Thank you to our parish family for joining us and sharing such kind words.

This week we all went green at Corpus Christi and celebrated St Patrick's Day. We enjoyed learning more interesting facts about St Patrick and our children in Woodpecker Class enjoyed learning about their class saint.

**St Herbert's:** Father Lawrence has had a busy week as he came to Early Years to take part in our class celebration which was wonderful - the children sang beautifully.

Early Years had a very special visitor this week. Father Lawrence came to do our class celebration which was all about Lent. The children sang beautifully, making us very proud. Then he came in the following day to do reconciliation with Years 4 to Year 6 in preparation for

Easter. Thank you Father Lawrence. Year 3 children had a special day on Saturday as they made their First Reconciliation. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Finally, on Friday we had a celebrity visit school - Paul Foreman whose character in Coronation Street has motor neurone disease. He read the children a story and the children asked Peter a variety of questions, some which made him chuckle. Peter's message to the children was "don't give up on dreams and any opportunities that come their way put them to good use."

**SUNDAY SMILE:** *Friday was Red Nose Day, and the Year Seven children at St. Thomas the Dubious High School held a charity event at lunchtime. If you paid a £1 contribution you could tell a joke. Here are some of their 'funnies'.*

Q. What do you call a girl with one leg that's shorter than the other?

A. Eileen.

Q. What happens to a frog that is illegally parked?

A. It gets toad away.

Q. What does a clock do when it's hungry?

A. It goes back for seconds.

Q. What do you call an alligator in a vest?

A. An investigator!

Q. Why did the man run around his bed?

A. Because he was trying to catch up on his sleep!

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed
- TUESDAY:** **St Joseph's, Mossley: Deanery Station Mass at 7.00 pm**  
**NO PARISH MASS AT CORPUS CHRISTI**
- WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Divine Mercy Chaplet at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
- THURSDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am
- FRIDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Stations of the Cross 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:** Rod Riley

**RIP:** Rita Hall, Pauline Berne

**Anniversary:** Daniel Moore (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary), Generos Suarez Flores, Joan Elizabeth O'Hara

**Golden Wedding Anniversary:** Julie & Michael Cadd

**Birthday Anniversary:** Jean Allen

**PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:  
Margaret Lawless, Sheila Cavey, Agnes Conroy, 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.



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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.