

4th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C LAETARE SUNDAY

30 March 2025

As today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "new creation". This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship, and began to eat of the produce of the country. It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we return. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences, as the new creation God offers us, if we but turn back to him and embrace him as our Father.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

1. 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: Joshua 5: 9-12 - The Israelite kept the Passover when they entered the Promised Land.

Psalms: Psalm 33 - Taste and see that the Lord is good / I will bless the Lord at all times / Glorify the Lord with me / Look towards him and be radiant.

Second: II Corinthians 5: 17-21 - For anyone in Christ, there is a new creation ... God through Christ reconciled the world to himself.

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 - Parable of the prodigal son.

3. LENTEN DEANERY STATION MASSES/ CONFESSIONS:

Note that confession is available at 6.30pm before each Mass at 7.00pm as agreed in the deanery meeting.

No Parish Mass at Corpus Christi Church on these days.

- Tuesday, 1 April at St Ann's Ashton
- Tuesday, 8 April at St Edward's Lees

4. STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday during Lent at 9.30 am before the 10am Mass at St Herbert's Church.

5. BAPTISMS: We welcome into the Divine Mercy community RIAN JAMES GOWRAN-BARRET, HARRY DUNKERLEY and SARAH DUNKERLEY who were baptized in the Parish last weekend.

6. WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS - A JOURNEY OF PRAYER FOR LENT: Are available at the back of both Churches. £1.00 (St Herbert's - please put the money in the Booklets ' Wall box.) Thank you.

7. GIFT AID DONATIONS 2025 -2026: The new Gift Aid and Non-Gift Aid envelopes (St Herbert's) are now available for collection from the back of church.

8. FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY - SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2025: A DAY OF DIVINE MERCY will be celebrated at St Clare's RC Church, 186 Victoria Avenue, Higher Blackley, M9 0RR on Sunday 27th April, beginning at 2.30pm. Including Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. **NO MASS AT THE DEVOTIONS.**

Between 1931 and 1938 Our Lord appeared to a very young Polish Sister of Mercy, Sister Faustina (now Canonized). One of His requests to Sister Faustina was to have the Sunday after Easter celebrated as a special Feast Day of Divine Mercy. Please see the poster at the back of the Church for all details. Everyone is welcome.

9. EASTER LITURGY – 2025

Maundy Thursday: St Herbert's at 7.00 pm

Good Friday: Corpus Christi at 3.00 pm

Easter Vigil: St Herbert's at 7.00 pm

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

10. LEGION OF MARY (DIVINE MERCY PARISH):

Our Legion of Mary members continue to meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30 - 9.00pm at St Herbert's Parish Church. We are always looking for new members to join and expand this beautiful devotion to 'Our Lady Mother of Christ'. Please feel free to come and visit one of our meetings, speak to one of our Legion members or alternatively ring Annette on 07975869010. Auxiliary (praying) members are also required as a very important part of our work.

11. MOTHER'S DAY: We wish all Mothers in the Parish a very Happy Mother's Day.

12. BRITISH SUMMER TIME: Please remember the clocks go forward by one hour this weekend.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 647; Offertory: 641,443;
Communion: 165; Recessional: 461.

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 478; Offertory: 129;
Communion: 560,511; Recessional: 532.

12. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi: This week, all classes were visited by ZooLab for their well-being activity this half term. The children absolutely loved their time in their sessions. They got to have a hands-on experience with a cockroach, snake, giant African snail, millipede and a tarantula. We have some very brave children.

On Thursday, children in Reception, Eagle and Hawk Class, led our final Lenten class mass. The mass was all about love. The children were a credit to us and led the mass beautifully. Thank you once again to our parish family for their lovely words about the mass. We thank you all for supporting us with our Lenten masses over the last few weeks. It has been lovely to share our masses with you all.

St Herbert's: It's been another busy week. The reception class had a topic day -Kings and Queens this is linked to their topic. The children arrived as knights,queens,kings ,knights and princesses. Following a morning of activities the children had an afternoon tea and then learnt to do the waltz. You can see the rising

Strictly stars on the "StHerbert'sreception" instagram page. This week year 6 have worked exceptionally hard as they have had a week of SATs papers under test conditions in preparation for the "real ones." As usual they took it all in their stride but were tired after them! Year 6 continued with the Chameleon Project. This week was all about drugs. During this session they were able to look at real drugs and learn about the effects they have. Again the children found this session interesting saying they had gained lots of knowledge around drugs that are circulating in today's world. We would like to thank you for the continued support in filling the box for food for our vulnerable families, we and they are truly grateful.

13. SUNDAY SMILE: Last Tuesday morning a parishioner went for an interview in Manchester. He was asked why he had put the letters M, C, E, O, D, E, I, M, N, O, R, T, N, and A on his application form. He promptly replied that they were the letters of recommendation!

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed
- TUESDAY:** **LENTEN DEANERY STATION MASS: 7.00 pm at St Ann's Ashton**
NO PARISH MASS AT CORPUS CHRISTI
- WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Divine Mercy Prayer 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: Katie Overd

R.I.P: Edie Stack

ANNIVERSARY: Michelle Stott

PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:

Noreen Butterworth, Margaret Lawless, Sheila Cavey, Stuart Williams, Peter Stone, Wade Stevens, Luke Burke, John McCarthy, Mary Gowran, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Peter Wooldridge, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mary O'Connor, Louise Knotman, Shirley Pryce.



0161 624 2258



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

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.