

**HOLY FAMILY**

**YEAR A**

**28 DECEMBER 2025**

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today’s Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

**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: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14** - Honour your father and mother.

**Psalm: Psalm 128 – Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways / Your wife like a fruitful vine / Indeed thus shall be blessed**

**Second: Colossians 3:12-21** - Calling the people of God to live as a loving family.

**Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23** - The Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and warned him to escape to Egypt. Joseph obeyed, and stayed until the Lord told him that it was safe to go back to Israel.

**3. THANK YOU TO THE BROADWAY STITCHERS:** We would like to thank the Broadway Stitchers for their very generous donation of £1,000 to the Parish. It is very much appreciated. The Broadway Stitchers meet on Thursday mornings in the Parish Centre from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. New members are welcome.

**4. DIOCESAN ALMANAC:** on sale at the back of each church. Wirebound copy - £6.00; Plain copy £5.00.

**REMINDER:**

**5. BISHOP JOHN'S MESSAGE FOR CARITAS:** Bee ing there this Christmas: Demand for our diocesan charity Caritas Salford's services is greater than ever as more and more people in our diocese experience poverty, homelessness and discrimination. If you haven't seen their Bee There Advent appeal yet, which

asks if you are able to help support people locally, you can read more at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere) Bishop John has recorded a special message to tell us more about why it's so important, especially at this time of year: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-christmas-25/](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-christmas-25/)

**6. SAFEGUARDING SURVEY - PUBLIC CALL FOR INFORMATION:** The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) are completing a safeguarding inspection within the Diocese of Salford, and would like to hear the views of as many people as possible regarding their arrangements for safeguarding. Responses will be collected anonymously unless you choose to provide your contact information, and the survey will close at 11:45pm on Friday 16th January 2026. To submit your response, please scan the QR code:



**7. RELICS OF ST CARLO ACUTIS TO VISIT DIOCESE OF SALFORD:** In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint, achings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 536 ; Offertory: 155 , 801 ; Communion: 526; Recessional 622: .

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 622; Offertory: 501; Communion: 526, 614; Recessional: 317.

## 8. SAINTS OF THE WEEK

**Saint Thomas Becket – 29 December:** was born in London in 1118; he became Chancellor of England and in 1162 was chosen to be Archbishop of Canterbury. He defended the rights of the Church and King Henry II exiled him to France. On his return the followers of the King murdered him in 1170.

**Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen – 2 January:** close friends, and great figures of the Eastern Church in the fourth century. Basil was Bishop of Caesarea and active in promoting the monastic life, writing a “rule” which is still observed today. Gregory was Bishop of Constantinople, and because of his great learning is still known in the East as “Gregory the Theologian”, he eventually retired from the episcopacy to return to his monastery in Nazianzus. Gregory summed up their lives: “Our great concern, our great name was to be Christians and be called Christians.”

**9. SUNDAY SMILE:** *If you haven't heard enough Cracker jokes, here are a few that parishioners came across at their Christmas parties.*

Where do you find reindeer? It all depends on where you leave them.

Why was the woman disgusted at the snowman choosing carrots at the market? Because he was picking his nose.

What's the difference between a knight and Santa? One slays a dragon, the other drags a sleigh.

How do you know that Santa is an expert at karate? He has a black belt.

What do you call someone who has a fear of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic.

What do you call a snowman who's always at the gym? An abdominal snowman.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Both churches closed.
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>St Herbert's:</b> Divine Mercy Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>St Herbert's:</b> Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am <b>St Herbert's:</b> Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am
<b>CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST</b>	

## MASS REQUESTS

**Missa pro populon**

**Lately Dead:** Margaret Crighton.

**Thanksgiving Mass:** Apostol Family.

**Special Intention:** Anonymous.

## 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, Luke Burke, Mary Gowran, 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, Heather Matson, Christopher Ward, Mary Prince, Ann Muldoon, Boe Heppel.



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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.