

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**YEAR A**

**18 JANUARY 2026**

There is no break between Christmas and Ordinary Time – one flows almost seamlessly into the other through the Baptism of Jesus. We ended our Christmas Season thinking about the “revelation” of the Son of God – people realising who this “Jesus of Nazareth” actually was – and this continues today, as we interject a passage from Saint John before we begin our weekly reading through Saint Matthew’s Gospel. New Year is about beginnings, and as we return to the beginning of Our Lord’s public ministry there is a sense of something exciting about to happen – even though we know the story, we dive into it once more, like returning to a favourite novel or film. So it is with joy that we stand in the country of the river Jordan, and recognise Jesus of Nazareth as the Chosen One of God, who offers himself to do God’s work.

**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: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6** - You are my servant, Israel .. I will make you light to the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

**Psalms 40 : Behold, I have come. Lord, to do your will** / I waited, I waited for the Lord / You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings / In the scroll of the book it stands written / Your justice I have proclaimed..

**Second: I Corinthians 1:1-3** : Paul sends greetings to the church in Corinth ... who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere ... for [Christ] is their Lord no less than ours.

**Gospel: John 1:29-34** - John sees Jesus and recognizes that he is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world and says that he saw the Spirit come down on Jesus like a dove when he (John) baptized Jesus. This is how he knows that Jesus is the Chosen One of God.

**3. PARISH LADIES DINNER AND DANCE**

**FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026:** If any ladies would like to come to the annual dinner at St Herbert's Parish Centre on Friday 30th January 2026 please contact Janette Sterritt at St Herbert's (janettesterritt@outlook.com) or Annmarie Ford at Corpus Christi (Tel 07593 796224). This is a great opportunity to get together and meet other ladies of the parish, we have a 4 course meal provided by Greenwoods catering followed by entertainment and dancing with Cliff's Disco. This is a very popular event but we still have a few places available. If you are new to the parish or have not been to the dinner before and want more details please get in touch with us. The price is £28.

**4. DATE FOR YOUR DIARY-PILGRIMAGE TO ST HERBERT'S ISLE KESWICK:**

Our annual pilgrimage to St Herbert's Isle Keswick will take place on Saturday 21st March 2026. After our journey by coach to Keswick we celebrate Mass together overlooking St Herbert's Isle then there is free time in the town before the coach returns to St Herbert's Church. Price: Adults £18 Children £10. A list will be put up at the back of both churches in due course.

**5. CARITAS SUNDAY 2026:** There will be a retiring collection next weekend's Masses for the work of Caritas Salford, the principal domestic charity of the Diocese of Salford supporting local people experiencing poverty, homelessness and displacement. Copies of their newsletter, Love in Action, are available in church highlighting just some of the difference your support has made possible in the past year. Please visit the website: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/caritassunday](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/caritassunday) for more information or to make a donation towards the ministry of charity in our Diocese. Donations are also welcome by cheque which can be made payable to Caritas Diocese of Salford and returned using one of the freepost envelopes available in church. Alternatively, envelopes marked **CARITAS SUNDAY** can be sent to Caritas House, Nobby Stiles Drive, Manchester M4 4FA. Please include your full name, address and postcode and indicate if you wish to 'Gift Aid' your donation. The Caritas team are available on 01618172250 (press 1 for fundraising) during office hours to help. Thank you.

**6. EARLY CAREER TEACHERS - PRIMARY POOL APPLICATIONS:**

The Diocese of Salford Education Team are inviting applications from ECTs to be added to their Primary Pool for 2026. The Primary Pool will identify and recommend high quality candidates who will gain Qualified Teacher Status in summer 2026 for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2026. The Application Form, Person Specification and Job Description can be found in Vacancies on the Diocesan website by following this link: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/>. If you require further information, please contact the Education Team by emailing [education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**7. REMINDER - LEGION OF MARY (DIVINE MERCY PARISH):**

Our Legion of Mary members continue to meet every Wednesday evening at 7.00 - 8.30pm at St Herbert's Church in the Sacristy. 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.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 647 ; Offertory: 470 , 443 ; Communion: 538; Recessional 147: .

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 132; Offertory: 366; Communion: 560 , 500; Recessional: 604.

## 8. SAINT OF THE WEEK

**St Francis de Sales – 24 January:** was born into a noble family in Annecy in 1597. He was ordained a priest and worked strenuously for the Church by distributing printed essays on the Faith. He became Bishop of Geneva and is patron saint of journalists and writers.

## 9. SCHOOL NEWS

**Corpus Christi:** Happy 2026 to you all! During the cold and snowy weather last week, the children and staff returned to school, eager and excited to start a new term. Unfortunately, the boiler broke and was unable to be fixed until later in the week, so school had to close for two days on our first week back which was disappointing. The boiler is now back working, and our school is back to being warm and toasty. Children have enjoyed starting new topics and they are excited for all the exciting things planned this term. Woodpecker Class had their class assembly on Friday all about their previous history topic 'Ancient Greece'.

They did a fantastic job in front of the school and parents, and we were very proud of them. We would like to wish our parish family a very happy new year, and we look forward to spending time with you this year.

**St Herbert's:** It's been a quiet week this week in terms of activities. The children have settled back into the school routine. Year six have started their booster classes in preparation for the SAT's test. They arrive early and work in small groups with the teachers. After school clubs have begun with clubs ranging from chess, netball, girls football and art all of which are well attended. Thank you for your continued support in donating food. We are truly grateful.

**10. SUNDAY SMILE:** The other evening, when getting ready to go out for a meal, a parishioner's wife asked him to pass her one of her new lipsticks. However, in the fading light he accidentally gave her a glue stick. He says she hasn't spoken to him since.

## 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>St Herbert's : Funeral Mass for Rebecca Louise Barlow at 1.00 pm</b>
<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 populo**

**Special Intention:** Sheila Holis.

**Anniversary:** Caroline Fanning, Norah Carter, Mount Francis Ward.

**R.I.P:** Mrs Patricia Egbele.

**Birthday Thanksgiving:** Shawn Abhulimen.

## 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, Harry Kynaston, Shirley Kynaston.



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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.