

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A

22nd FEBRUARY 2026

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent – these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.

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: Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7 - God fashioned man from dust, breathed life into him and placed him into the garden of Eden. The serpent tempted the woman with the gift of knowledge.

Psalms 51 – Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned / Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness / My offences truly I know them / A pure heart create for me O God / Give me again the joy of your help.

Second: I Romans 5: 12-19 - Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given ... divine grace coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to many as an abundant free gift.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus fasted for forty days and nights in the desert, where he was tempted by the devil.

3. READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

If you would like to volunteer to read or give out Holy communion at Corpus Christi please speak to Father Lawrence. We need extra volunteers. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered. Lisa.

4. ST HERBERT'S COFFEE MORNING

Everyone is very welcome to join us for Tea, Coffee, Juice and refreshments following the 11am mass at St Herbert's this Sunday 22nd February. Looking forward to seeing you all.

5. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at 9:30am before the 10:00am Mass at St Herbert's Church.

6. PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN

This letter will be read and distributed at all Masses this weekend, 21st/22nd February.

7. CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST: Will take place on Friday February 27th. Please take an envelope this weekend and return it next weekend. Thank you for supporting CAFOD and helping our brothers and sisters around the world.

8. LENTEN DEANERY STATION MASSES

(No Parish Mass at Corpus Christi Church on these Tuesdays)
24th February, St. Anne's, Ashton;
3rd March, Our Lady's, Moorside;
10th March, Holy Family, Limeside;
17th March, St. Patrick's, Oldham;
24th March, St. Aidan and Oswald's, Royton
All these Masses will be at 7pm.

9. ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

'After 9.30am and 11.00am mass on Sunday 1st March there will be a short appeal for new members to join the Divine Mercy Parish SVP conference. The SVP group currently runs the parish food pantries and has also helped a number of local residents in their time of need. However, with more members we could expand our community and parish activities. A member of the parish SVP group will be available after both masses to hand out information to anyone who may be interested. Thank you.'

10. DEANERY CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:

Newman Students:

Student Session 1 – Wed. 18th March (3.30 – 5pm at Newman School)

Student Session 2 – Wed. 25th March (3.30 – 5pm at Newman School)

Holy Week and Easter Holidays:

Student Session 3 – Wed. 22nd April (3.30 – 5pm at Newman School)

Student Session 4 – Wed. 29th April (3.30 – 5pm at Newman School)

Student Session 5 – Wed. 6th May (3.30 – 5pm at Newman School)

Student Session 6 – Wed. 13th May (3.30 – 5pm at Newman School)

Student Session 7 – Wed. 20th May (3.30 – 5pm at Newman School)

Pentecost Weekend and Half Term Holiday (25th – 29th May)

Service of Confirmation: Thurs. 4th June at (Time & Venue TBC)

Non-Newman Students:

Student Session 1 - Tues. 17th March (6pm - 7.30pm) at St.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 234; Offertory: 369, 273; Communion: 447; Recessional: 582.

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 700; Offertory: 516; Communion: 447, 164; Recessional: 582.

Edward's Church, Lees
 Student Session 2 - Tues. 24th March (6pm - 7.30pm) at St. Edward's Church, Lees
Holy Week & Easter Holidays
 Student Session 3 - Tues. 21st April (6pm - 7.30pm) at St. Edward's Church, Lees
 Student Session 4 - Tues. 28th April (6pm - 7.30pm) at St. Edward's Church, Lees
 Student Session 5 - Tues. 5th May (6pm - 7.30pm) at St. Edward's Church, Lees
 Student Session 6 - Tues. 12th May (6pm - 7.30pm) at St. Edward's Church, Lees
 Student Session 7 - Tues. 19th May (6pm - 7.30pm) at St. Edward's Church, Lees
Pentecost Weekend and Half Term Holiday (25th – 29th May)
Service of Confirmation: Wed. 3rd June at (Time & Venue TBC) Fr. Callum

11. ST HERBERT'S NEW GIFT AID AND NON-GIFT AID ENVELOPES

These are available for collection at the back of church from this weekend. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider joining the Gift Aid scheme. It's free to join and it enables the Parish to claim back 25% of your donations - an important boost to Parish funds. Please speak to Deborah at the back of church this weekend either before or after 11.00 am

Mass. Alternatively, please email the Parish Office: divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com. Thank you.

12. PILGRIMAGE TO ST HERBERT'S ISLE KESWICK SATURDAY 21st March 2026

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. Please put your names, details of adult/child places required with your telephone number on the lists at the back of both churches as soon as possible. We have one 50 seater coach. Payment to be made by Sunday 1st March. Cheques should be made payable to Divine Mercy Parish.

13. 'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS – A JOURNEY OF PRAYER FOR LENT: Are available at the back of both Churches for £1.50. (St. Herbert's – please put your money in the Booklets' Wall box.) Thank you.

14. SUNDAY SMILE:

The A627(M) motorway, leading onto Broadway, became blocked on Wednesday morning after a lorry shed its load of brightly coloured writing paper and envelopes. Police said the traffic was pretty stationary.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MONDAY: Both churches closed.
TUESDAY: **St Ann:** Deanery Station Mass at 7.00pm. 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 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 populon
Lately Dead: Maureen Martin, Micheal Melody
RIP: Heather Maton
For souls in Purgatory

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, Jean Watkinson..



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.