

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

8th FEBRUARY 2026

While the world may seem to be very indifferent to Christianity most of the time, it can be very critical of Christians who do not seem to be following the most basic tenet of their faith – to be a people of “good deeds”, as Jesus teaches in today’s portion of the Sermon on the Mount. While we may sometimes feel indignant about the world’s criticism of our faults, we have to remember that we are in a vital relationship with “the world” – we are to be its light. This means that we should welcome the world’s gaze and scrutiny of our actions and beliefs and we should, in a sense, be accountable to the world for the way we live. We should never be salt that loses its taste. This openness to the gaze of all is not for our own glory, however: it is so that others may find what we have found – their way to the 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: Isaiah 58: 6-10 - Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless poor ... your integrity will go before you ... cry and the Lord will answer ... your light will rise in the darkness.

Psalms 111 - The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright / The just man will never waver / With a steadfast heart he will no fear.

Second: I Corinthians 2: 1-5 - I came to tell you what God had guaranteed ... the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. ... And I did this so your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16 - You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? ... You are the light of the world: no one lights a lamp to put it under a tub, they put it on a lampstand to shine for all the household. Your light must shine in the sight of all.

3. MASSES ON ASH WEDNESDAY: will be held on the 18th of February 2026, at St Herbert’s Church by 10:00am and at Corpus Christi Church by 6:00pm.

4. STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday during Lent at 9:30am before the 10:00am Mass at St Herbert’s Church.

5. LENTEN DEANERY STATION MASSES

24th February, St. Anne’s, Ashton;
3rd March, Our Lady’s, Moorside;
11th 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.

6. DATES FOR THE NEXT DEANERY CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME MEETINGS:

We start with one Parents Meeting for ALL parents of ALL candidates (regardless of school attended) ... that date is **Wednesday 11th March at St. Edward's Church starting 6.30pm.** After that the non-Newman candidates will meet on Tuesday 17th March at 6pm-7.30pm at St Edward’s; the Newman candidates will meet the following day (Wednesday 18th March) from 3.30pm till 5pm at Newman College. The candidates will be expected to attend seven sessions in all prior to

the confirmation. The other dates will be announced at the meeting with the parents. Confirmation 3rd/ 4th June, 7pm (venue to be announced).

7. CORPUS CHRISTI CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This will be the last lesson on Sunday for a couple of weeks due to the school half term break. We resume on 1st March during the season of Lent. Thanks for your support children and Parents.

8. CORPUS CHRISTI GIFT AID: Thanks for the very good response to the appeal. We have half a dozen new additions to our scheme so far. Don't forget, it's your choice as to how you donate your offerings. But only Gift Aid donations earn 25% more for the church so your money goes a lot further. Joining Gift Aid is free and available to all TAX payers, i.e. Tax paid on wages/salary, pension or savings. See Ken for an application form that just needs your Name & Address.

9. ONLINE GOSPEL READINGS DURING LENT: During the Lenten period, there will be a series of gospel readings taking place every Tuesday and delivered online by various speakers including Fr Michael Deas, with the final reading to be given by Bishop John Arnold ahead of Palm Sunday.

The first reading will be given by Fr Michael Deas on Tuesday 17 February:

- First Sunday of Lent (Feb 22): Matthew 4:1-11 (The temptation of Jesus)

For more information, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

10. GIFT AID & NON-GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2026–27 — ST HERBERT'S:

Thank you to everyone who supports the Parish—whether through Gift Aid or Non-Gift Aid envelopes, Standing Orders, or the collection baskets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme. It does not cost you anything extra, but it allows the Parish to claim an additional 25% on your donation. For every £1 you give, we can claim back 25p—an important boost to Parish funds. Joining Gift Aid is simple: just complete a short form (name, address, and signature), and we will provide you with your set of envelopes. Non-Gift Aid envelopes are also available for those who do not pay tax but would still like to use envelopes for their donations. The new sets of Gift Aid and Non-Gift Aid envelopes (for April onwards) will be available at the back of St Herbert’s Church from Sunday, 22 February. If you

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 439; Offertory: 252, 641;
Communion: 165; Recessional: 672.

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 388; Offertory: 699;
Communion: 334, 605; Recessional: 672.

would like to sign up for the Gift Aid Scheme, please speak to Deborah before or after the 11.00 am Mass on Sunday, 22 February, or contact the Parish Office at: divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support.

11. CARITAS COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous contribution on caritas weekend. The total amount raised was £583.69.

12. 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.

13. PARISH LADIES DINNER & DANCE 30th JANUARY 2026: It was great to see nearly 100 ladies from the parish get together for our annual dinner and dance. A big thankyou to all the ladies for your continued support & collection for Francis House Children's Hospice. We raised a wonderful £284.20. Date for your diary-Next year Friday 29th January 2027! Janette.

14. RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY RESOURCES FOR 8 FEBRUARY: Caritas Salford has collated a set of resources for Racial Justice Sunday on 8 February, including the excellent Churches Together resource 'Love Your Neighbour' which has ideas on how parishes can take action. Read more and access the free resources, prayers and other information here now: www.caritassalford.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday/

15. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi:

This week, KS2 classes enjoyed their session with Freddie Fit. Our choir also enjoyed their annual trip to Young Voices. The children visited the Co-Op LIVE arena for the event this year and loved every minute! They were a credit to us and their behaviour was exemplary. **This Sunday, our sacramental programme cohort of 2026 will be presented in Sunday Mass to our parish.** The children this year embark on the next stage of their sacramental journey, and we look forward to supporting them during this time. We kindly ask our parish family to keep them in their prayers.

16. SUNDAY SMILE:

At a recent Coffee Morning, a parishioner told his friends that he didn't like to boast, but he had made six figures at work last year. Even so, his boss named him as the worst employee at the toy soldier factory.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MONDAY: Both churches closed.
TUESDAY: **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
WEDNESDAY: **St Herbert's:** Divine Mercy Prayer 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:** Private Prayer 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

Anniversary: Giuseppina Gaeta

Special Intention: Edward Freeman, Alice Egan

Lately Dead: David Taylor, Maureen Lieghton, John MacDonald

RIP: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Birthday Memories: Mary Coonan

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..

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.



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St Herbert's RC Church, 148 Broadway OL9 0JY

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