

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

15th FEBRUARY 2026

Back in the 60s some groups “adopted” Jesus Christ as an icon of rebellion, overturning authority and tearing up the rule book – possibly because of the frequent confrontations between Our Lord and the Pharisees. Today’s Gospel, however, shows us Jesus not as rule-breaker, but as rule-fulfiller, bringing an even greater depth to the rule that had guided the people of Israel for centuries. Jesus does not throw out the rulebook – or as the first reading says, He does not command us to be godless! He challenges us in this Gospel to see how far our keeping God’s Law will go: will it just be about the letter of the Law (“I have never killed anyone”), or will it look deeper (“Have I ever been angry? Have I been violent in my thoughts?”). The challenge of the Kingdom of Heaven is to keep the commandments first and foremost from within, so that our outward behaviour conforms to the requirements of God’s Law.

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 15: 15-20 - You can keep the commandments ... God has given no one permission to sin.

Psalm 119 – Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord/ They are happy whose life is blameless / You have laid down your precepts / bless your servant and I shall live / Teach me the demands of your statutes.

Second: I Corinthians 2: 6-10 - We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity - the hidden wisdom of God - what scripture calls the things no eye has seen ... the very things God revealed to us through the Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 - Jesus says "I have not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete them" and explains certain aspects of the Law in light of his teaching.

3. BAPTISM: We welcome into the Divine Mercy community BETSY TURNER, who was baptized in the Parish last weekend.

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

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

6. 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.

7. 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.'

8. 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. 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

9. 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.

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 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: divinemeroldham@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance:121 ; Offertory:614 , ;273

Communion:133 ; Recessional:461 .

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 390; Offertory: 560; Communion: 307, 500; Recessional: 604.

11. VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED !!! Are you able to give a bit of time to support this year's Confirmation preparation programme at St. Edward's - a short series of evening meetings for secondary students, starting in March? Volunteers would simply be required to register student attendance, and then provide low-key supervision from the back of church to ensure safeguarding compliance. Please let Fr. Callum know **ASAP** if you are able to help. callum.brown491@gmail.com

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. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi: This half term has flown by, and our last week has been extremely busy. Staff and children are definitely looking forward to their half term break. Children in Reception ended their topic on Tuesday with an African inspired day. The children took part in an African drumming and dancing workshop and also enjoyed trying a range of African treats and snacks. This week, the children also took part in national Safer Internet Day. Classes took part in lessons about keeping safe on the internet, completed workshops and our digital leaders also created an informative video all about keeping safe. You can watch this here: <https://www.corpuschristi.oldham.sch.uk/Computing/>

St Herbert's News: This week we break up for half term and after 2 busy weeks children and staff are ready for a nice break. Key stage 1 had a fun day of activities learning about significant people - They listened to music composed by Gustav Holst, looked at the artist Andy Warhol and then attempted pop art using photos of themselves. The children really enjoyed the day being creative. The results were amazing. The under 11's took part in a chess competition which was held at Hulme Grammar school. The under nines played against 5 other primary schools and a member of the team came second overall. The under eleven's played against 4 schools and one of our team players came first overall. We are extremely proud of all the players. This week also saw the year 6 travel to the Co-op arena in Manchester to take part in "Young Voices." This is a concert which has the largest school choir in the world. The children had a fantastic time and it was lovely to see them singing and dancing to the songs that they have been learning. We will be back after the half term. Thank you for your continued support with the donations of food for our vulnerable families.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

MONDAY: Both churches closed.
TUESDAY: **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
ASH WEDNESDAY: **St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 5.30 pm; Mass at 6.00 pm
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: Mary Riley, Ann Carlisle, Edward Dervin.
Birthday Anniversary: Colin Prince, Susan and Tony Adams.
Special Intention: Teresa Dervin.

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..



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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.