



## St John Southworth's RC Parish

at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE  
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS

### Nelson

**Parish House:** 5 Park Drive,  
Nelson, BB9 0JY

**Parish Priest:** Rev Gerard Kelly

**Tel:** 01282 614859

**Email:** [stjohnsouthworthrc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsouthworthrc@gmail.com) (click)

**28th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**



**15th October 2023**



Click on the moneybox to make a  
secure online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's Facebook Page](#)

Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

## MASS OF HEALING AND NEW LIFE at CHRIST CHURCH



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Today, at Christ Church, we celebrated our *Mass of Healing and New Life*, which was a lovely occasion and a great experience of family, faith, and healing.

Almost 1,700 years ago, St Augustine confessed that his heart was restless until it rested in God, which was an acknowledgement that his heart was in need of a healing touch from the Lord. In his surrender to the love and will of God he found not only peace, but he found his real self and his authentic vocation which led him on to sainthood.

It is only through the healing touch of Jesus that we can aspire to become missionary disciples in our world as Pope Francis and Bishop John fervently remind us that this is our calling. (Please see the attached letter from the Bishop)

We continue to pray for our parish community, that as individuals and as a spiritual family we may be drawn closer to Jesus and closer to each other, that we may be a true sign of God's kingdom—here on earth as it is in heaven! With every blessing, Fr Gerard.

## Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 16th October

| Monday<br>16th Oct | Tuesday<br>17th Oct              | Wednesday<br>18th Oct  | Thursday<br>19th Oct                                  | Friday<br>20th Oct               | Saturday<br>21st Oct | Sunday<br>22nd Oct                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| NO MASS            | <b>MASS<br/>C.C.<br/>10.00am</b> | MASS<br>H.S.<br>7.00pm | <b>MASS &amp;<br/>Exposition<br/>10.00am<br/>C.C.</b> | <b>MASS<br/>C.C.<br/>10.00am</b> | <b>NO MASS</b>       | <b>C.C. 9.30am<br/>H.S. 11.15am</b> |

**Children's Church:** C.C. - Sarah & Margaret M      H.S. - Lisa, Catherine, Irene B

| Date                           | Reader 1        | Reader 2       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>This Week:</b> 15th October | Margaret Borman | Tony Finnan    |
| <b>Next Week:</b> 22nd October | Joan Penny-Heys | George Winkley |

### MASS INTENTIONS

Kathleen Finlay, sick.  
John Richard Batson, anniv, 19th Oct.

### BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Oct 14th Christopher Purcell (2012)  
Oct 15th Wilf Mullarkey (2014)  
Oct 19th Jose Da Silva ((996)  
                  Amelia Kester (2009)



*We pray for the repose of the souls of all who  
have died, that the Lord will receive them into the  
fullness of his resurrection life!*

### POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10 Venus Ghulam  
£10 Margaret Fiorentini  
£10 Roger Lee  
£10 Margaret Waddington



£96.00 towards Parish funds. Thank you!

### October is the Month of the Rosary!

*During October, we are praying one decade of the  
Rosary before each of the daily Masses.*

*Our prayer intention is for the fruitfulness of the  
Universal Synod as the bishops of the world gather  
in Rome.*



### CAFOD FAMILY FAST

Envelopes and donations can be returned  
over the next few weeks.

### CHURCH COLLECTION

8th October: £455.50  
Standing Orders: approx: £632 p/w  
Thank you!

### Pendle New Neighbours (PNN)

PNN is a community volunteer group that supports the refugees and asylum seekers living in our area. We hold a Drop-In every Thursday afternoon at Christ Church.

One of the most important needs of a displaced person is to learn the language, and PNN runs several two-hour sessions/week teaching English in Nelson library and at our Centre based in Pendle Business Centre.

**We urgently need retired teachers  
to help with this programme!**

If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested, in devoting two hours/week to support those in need, please contact:  
Paul Gauntlett on: 07870 626633. Thank you!

### All Souls Cemetery, Wheatley Lane

The Annual Mass for those who have died, with a particular focus on those interred at All Souls Cemetery, was celebrated in Sacred Heart Church last Saturday. To pray for those who have died is a great witness to our faith, and the best way of continuing to remain in loving relationship with those who have completed their life's journey.

As the mowing season at Wheatley Lane comes to an end this year, we give thanks to Joe Winkley and the team of volunteers who, on our behalf, keep this Catholic cemetery beautifully maintained as a sign of our reverence and respect for those who have died.

The sound of mowers will be heard again next April, and as 'the harvest is great and the labourers are always few', maybe it's a task you would like to be engaged in next time round—something to consider over these winter months!



# DIOCESE OF SALFORD

## *Pastoral Letter of the Right Reverend John Arnold Bishop of Salford*

*To be read and distributed in all Parishes on the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October 2023*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What is God asking of us, as the community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Salford? How should we be living the Gospel values in our present times? These are important questions that we need to address.

It is all too easy to think that the Church provides us with familiar routines and objectives. That sense of reliable consistency can be very appealing, when so many other things are changing. Some may see their religious faith as something which is private to themselves, giving them a direction and a self-discipline. But Pope Francis is insistent in declaring that we are “missionary disciples”. Our Faith is not something that we can celebrate in private. We need to be living our Faith in all our actions and decisions, as nothing less than “ambassadors for Christ”, as St Paul calls us. Nor do we live our Faith on our own – it is best lived and expressed in community, whether in school, family or parish. It is by working together that we can achieve more.

As we live in a fast-changing world, we must be prepared to question our priorities and our aspirations. There are global issues that are so distressing: the war in Ukraine, conflicts in other parts of the world, the plight of refugees and migrants, religious persecution, poverty, and the increasing impact of climate change. While we must look to the Universal Synod to prioritise global actions as the Catholic Church, we must recognise that we have a particular responsibility for our local Church, here in the Northwest of England and its own particular needs and opportunities.

Pope Francis’ announcement of a Universal Synod took many by surprise. We had probably known of Synod meetings in the past, usually comprised of bishops, but the practice of “synodality” and the way a synod is carried out, was unfamiliar to many. As we now engage with our local Diocesan Synod, we are better equipped to play our part in prayer, listening and discernment. Everyone – priests, religious, laity – is invited to participate. From this weekend, we are beginning what is called “The Big Listen”, in our synod process. This will continue until mid-January 2024. This is a time when we are asked to respond to some specific questions and see what thoughts occur. We are not being asked to form firm opinions or to discuss or argue a point of view. This is not a debate, to be won or lost.

Whether you feel moved to submit answers to the synod questions or not, there is an invitation to pray for the Synod, using the Synod Prayer or simply in your own words. A determination to pray for the Synod will ensure that we are moving in the right direction and hearing the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We have a grace-filled opportunity to shape the priorities of our Diocese for the coming years. There will no doubt be challenges ahead but together we can listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and be guided by the Spirit's grace.

It is also important in this process that we engage other Catholics who are not closely associated with their parishes or who might feel distanced from their faith. What would they like the Church to be for them? How might it have failed them in some way? It will be important that young people feel welcome to participate. During this listening time, all the commissioned Synod Members are encouraged to facilitate one or more local listening sessions in their parishes, schools, or organisations. It is my hope that many people will feel able to contribute thoughts and ideas. Contributions can also be made independently on-line, through the website.

One matter that I think will be included in our synodal discernment is the matter of caring for the environment and our common home. In his recent exhortation, *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis has rehearsed the challenges that we face and the global failure to meet those challenges through the various COP meetings. He is insistent that we all have our part to play in repairing the damage of climate change, but he also speaks strongly of the need of a global response to this global problem. He asks for a new form of "multilateral" action by governments working together. He believes that the growing awareness and actions from people can encourage and demand such a new form of global action.

Therefore, I am asking that all our parishes and schools make a priority of having environmental groups who can promote the good use of facilities and grounds, dispensing information about how we might adjust our lives in what Pope Francis calls an "ecological conversion". By growing in our awareness of climate change, by our learning and helping to educate others, we will be speaking loudly and clearly to our politicians about the priorities that need to be expressed in radical policies and how industrial practices need to change.

We certainly live in challenging times. Jesus said, "I am with you always...." He said that he would send the Holy Spirit to "remind you of all I have said to you and to lead you in all truth". Through our Diocesan Synod, let us be determined to be listening to all that the Spirit is saying to us and responding so that we are truly caring for our brothers and sisters and our common home, as well as determining priorities for the future work of our Diocese.

I happily remind you of the importance and relevance of our Diocesan Prayer:  
"Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey".

May God bless you for all you achieve through your Faith and actions.

Yours devotedly,



Bishop of Salford

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