



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,
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**If you would like to receive this
newsletter electronically, then
please email the parish.**

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



26th January 2025



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

[St John Southworth's YouTube Channel](#) 
Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Unrolling the Scroll and Beginning to Read



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Imagine picking up a book, and as you read the first few pages, you begin to realise it is all about YOU! Not only are you surprised that someone seems to know all about you, but, beyond that, the author knows things about you that you did not even know yourself!

This was the experience of Jesus as he unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and began to read. The ancient writing foretold the coming of the Messiah. 'Messiah' is the Hebrew word for the 'Anointed One'; or in Greek, the 'Christos'; or in English, the 'Christ'. Jesus saw a clear reflection of himself, shining through the prophetic words of Isaiah, just as we might see a reflection of ourselves in a mirror.

Maybe Jesus himself was taken by surprise on that day as the Word of God jolted him into a full realisation of his true identity, and beyond that, the mission laid out before him: a mission of proclamation, healing, and liberation.

It is no wonder that Jesus, having read aloud these few lines, would roll up the scroll, give it back to the attendant and sit down. He must have been in a state of shock as he realised that, from this day forward, life would never be the same again. Here in Nazareth, his hometown, he was no longer to be claimed by his family and townsfolk as the familiar son of the carpenter. The story of Jesus, written by the prophet, was taking a new turn and unfolding into an astonishing drama!

Jesus, in a state of surrender to what he has read and understood, can only speak out from his now certain conviction that, 'Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This glimpse into the vocation of Jesus sheds light on how we too can come to an understanding of who we are and what we are called to be and to do. We have a sense of overwhelming privilege that God himself knows us personally and intimately—better than we can know ourselves! On the other hand, we are humbled to the core of our being in that what God is asking of us goes far beyond our abilities. Our attitude can only be one of surrender.

In Baptism and Confirmation, we too become Anointed Ones, not in our own right, but anointed to share in the life of Jesus. There is no genuine vocation that takes us away from a single-minded and single-hearted devotion to Jesus and his mission. And on every day, even today itself, we can recognise that we too have our part to play in the unfolding of God's plans for the world. Do we dare to unroll the scroll and live by the script that has been written especially for us?

With love and prayers to all in our parish family,
Fr Gerard

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 27th January 2025

Monday 27th Jan	Tuesday 28th Jan	Wednesday 29th Jan	Thursday 30th Jan	Friday 31st Jan	Saturday 1st Feb	Sunday 2nd Feb
NO MASS	Class Mass C.C. 10.00am	Requiem C.C. 11.00am H.S. 7.00pm	Mass and Exposition C.C. 10.00am	Requiem C.C. 12.30pm	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 26th January	Margaret Borman	Joan Penny-Heyes
Next Sunday: 2nd February	Jeremiah	Zechariah

Children's Church: C.C. - Linda & Bridgette H.S. - Antonio & James / Catherine M, Irene B & Lorraine

DIED RECENTLY

The Requiem Mass for **Maureen Waddington** will take place at Christ Church on Wednesday 29th January at 11.00am.

The Requiem Mass for **Ann Mullarkey** will take place at Christ Church on Friday 31st January at 12.30pm.


The Funeral Service for **Aurimas Balnys** will take place at Christ Church on Wednesday 5th Feb at 9.30am.

The Requiem Mass for **Gertrude Conway** (103), onetime housekeeper at Holy Saviour's, will take place at Holy Saviour's on 6th February at 12.00 noon. I am grateful to Fr Haworth who is coming to celebrate the Mass.

It is with sadness that we have received the news of the death of **Anthony Whittle**. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. AMEN

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Jan 26th	Eddie Collingwood (1996) Bernard Tansey (2017)	
Jan 27th	Rev Fr John Aspinall (1957)	
Jan 28th	Frank Brierley ((1995)	
Jan 29th	Anthony Cardus (2015) Mary Judge (2015)	
Jan 30th	James Darling (2024)	
Feb 1st	James Waterworth (1990)	
(Fr Aspinall, PP at Sacred Heart for many years)		

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND
To support our Youth Retreat Weekend

Eucharistic Ministry

Holy Communion will be distributed under one kind this weekend to make things a little less complicated for Fr Ian as a visiting priest.

MASS INTENTIONS

Esme Thornton, died recently
Ann Mullarkey, died recently
Gertrude Conway, died recently
Maureen Waddington, died recently
McGuinness Family, anniv, 25th Jan

CHURCH COLLECTION

19th January: £310.20
Standing Orders: approx: £624 p/w
Many thanks!

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Barbara Martin
£10.00 Wilf Eccles
£10.00 Sarah Southworth
£10.00 Cath Brady



£91.00 towards Parish Funds, thank you!

Worship & Prayer Celebration at Life Church

The Life Church, Burnley, are inviting all local Christians to join them in worship and prayer this Sunday evening, 26th Jan, from 7.30—9.00pm. If you would like to attend and require a lift, just speak to Monica.

Class Masses at Christ Church

Over the next couple of weeks, classes of children from St John Southworth school will join us for morning Mass at Christ Church. On Tuesday of this week, we welcome the children from Year 6. On Friday, the Reception class will be making a simple visit, after Mass, at 10.45am