

# The Good Shepherd Parish
## worshipping at
## Sacred Heart Church.

25 Queen Street, Colne.
Lancashire BB8 9NB
Telephone: 01282 942228
Website: www.goodshepherdpendle.org.uk
email: enquiries@goodshepherdpendle.org.uk
Parish priest: Fr. Peter Wilkinson
email: peter.wilkinson@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Mobile 07853 974640 **Except Tue noon till Thu noon.**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Saturday 14th** | **6.00pm. Vigil Mass 33rd Week in Ordinary Time** |
| **Sunday 15th** | **9.30am. Sunday Mass** |
| Monday 16th | 10.00am Mass St Margaret of Scotland |
| Tuesday 17th | 10.00am Mass. St. Hilda of Whitby |
| Thursday 19th | Exposition and Benediction 5.45pm - 6.25pm<br>Mass 6.30pm. |
| Friday 20th | Mass 10.00am. |
| Saturday 21st | 11.00am - 11.30am Confessions during Exposition.<br>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| **Saturday 21st** | **6.00pm. Vigil Mass Christ the Universal King** |
| **Sunday 22nd** | **9.30am. Sunday Mass** |

| Key: | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Ap. | Apostle |
| | Ab | Abbott |
| | Bp | Bishop |
| | D | Doctor |
| | M | Martyr |
| | P | Priest |
| | R | Religious |
| | V | Virgin |

## Sacramental Programme 2027

The only appropriate and adequate preparation for the reception of Holy Communion is familiarity with the Holy Mass. It is therefore not appropriate to invite children onto the preparation programme unless they are familiar with what Mass is. In order to be familiar with the Holy Mass, they need to be coming to Mass regularly on Sunday or Saturday evening as the Church requires.

The Sacramental Programme in the Good Shepherd Parish will begin in mid January and will lead up to the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in early February.

Preparation for the reception of Holy Communion will be available from mid April for those who have made their First Reconciliation (Confession) and who are coming to Mass regularly. If they complete the full preparation course they will be invited to receive Holy Communion for the first time from the end of May into June.

Full dates are available on the parish website and on information sheets available from the Sacristy after Mass.

## Christmas Fair,

Our Christmas Fair, raising funds towards our roof repairs, will be held after **9.30am Mass on Sunday, 29th November**. We are now collecting donations throughout November. We would be grateful for raffle prizes, items for the Gift stall, Tombola and Bottle Tombola. We will also be having a Cake stall. There is a box at the back of church for any donations.

**November lists of the dead** There is a box for names of those who have died whom you wish to be included in our Masses during November. This box will be on the table outside the Ss Peter and Paul temporary chapel in the presbytery during the week and at the back of church at the weekend. All Masses celebrated here will include these intentions.

## Christmas lunch at Colne Golf Club -

**Saturday 5th of December 2026 - 12.30pm**
**£20 for 2 courses, £25 for three courses.** Cash only.
There are a few tickets left. If you still need to pay for your ticket(s), please do so as soon as you can at the weekend Masses and give to the person at the back of the church.

## Collecting toys

We are collecting toys again this year for needy families during November. Please be generous and help local deprived children to have a Happy Christmas. It may help you to know that Sainsbury's usually offer half price toys at about this time. Tk Maxx in Colne currently has a toys clearance sale
There is a tree at the back of the church with labels which include a child's gender and age. Please take one and buy a toy which is appropriate and then put it in the marked box at the back of church. No need to wrap.

## Salford Diocese Tour of the relics of St Gerard Majella in November

Monday 23rd - Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich, Mass 6.30pm
Tuesday 24th - The Hidden Gem Manchester, Relics available for prayer from 1pm, Mass 6pm
Thursday 26th - St Brendan's Bolton, Mass 6.30pm
Friday 27th, Our Lady of Louirdes, & St Gerard, Lostock Hall, Mass 6.30pm

### Handel's Messiah at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday 28th November 2026 at 7pm

Mark the beginning of Advent with Manchester Cathedral Choir and Manchester Baroque, performing on period instruments under the direction of Christopher Stokes. Hear Handel's setting of the Christmas story and the promise of resurrection, from 'For unto us a Child is born' to the famous 'Hallelujah' chorus. The easiest way for those interested in coming to the concert may be to share this booking link: Book tickets for Handel's Messiah or by visiting www.manchesterbaroque.co.uk/whats-on

**We're very happy to offer a 25% discount on 'red' seats for our performance of Handel Messiah, using the promo code 'hallelujah'. Book through tickettailor using the following link** Book tickets for Handel's Messiah **and entering the promo code after adding tickets to the basket, at the checkout.**

## Foundation Governor vacancy at Sacred Heart Primary School.

There is a vacancy for a Foundation Governor at our parish school. Foundation Governors represent the Diocese and the Bishop. It is one of the Catholic School posts which requires a 'Faith Reference'. Any post in our schools which requires a Faith Reference does so because the post constitues a 'Ministry' within the Church unlike other posts in the school. As such, the Faith Reference requires and confirms that the applicant is a 'Practicing Catholic' according to the definition in the Catechism of the Catholic Faith, ie. the person participates in the Mass on each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation unless there is grave reason. It also requires that they live the Sacramental Life of a Catholic. This is about life style. In particular, if they are living in a relationship, they must be married and the marriage must be recognised by the Church ie. The marriage must have been in a Catholic Church (unless there was a prior dispensation or a subsequent convalidation).

For more information please contact the school and request an application form.

## A letter from the clergy of the diocese to the people of the diocese.

We have received an email from the bishop. He has asked a small group of priests to write, expressing the results of a 'listening exercise' which the clergy of the diocese took part in some months ago. He has asked for it to be made available to the diocese this weekend.

### The clergy write:

At every Mass during the Eucharistic prayer we pray for our local Church, praying for our Bishop by name and also for "all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own." This prayer reminds us that we are all members of the one body of Christ, each with our unique role to play.
In the Diocesan Synod, between 2023 and 2025, the topic of clergy welfare featured prominently in the "big listen" and in the preparation for the final voting day. On that day, the following recommendation received one of the highest number of votes. It read: "The Diocese of Salford Synod 2025 recommends that, building on what is already in place, care and support for priests, whether active or retired, should continue to be a priority and should be further developed in both practical and personal ways".
The concern that you, the lay faithful of the Diocese, showed in this process for the clergy was noted and very much appreciated by us, your clergy. We have a real sense that you value not just the ministries of priests and deacons but us as individuals who, despite our human weaknesses, seek to serve the portion of God's flock which is entrusted to us to the best of our abilities. As part of the broader implementation of the synod recommendations, as clergy we have undertaken a process of listening, so that we can accurately assess our current situation and produce a plan taking this important issue of clergy welfare forward. Clergy had the opportunity to be listened to by a facilitator, and we have met to share and discern together what is going well and brings us joy in our ministry, as well as what the challenges are and what needs further work or development.
The first and most important thing to say is that, on the whole, we love being ordained, and we are inspired by our ministry with the people entrusted to us. We also appreciate the rich diversity which is now present across the body of priests serving in our Diocese. We have a strong desire to get to know each other better, especially for an increased fraternity between the priests belonging to Salford Diocese and those who come to minister in our Diocese from abroad and from other parts of our country. We want to take more responsibility for our mutual support, as well as continuing to foster our spiritual life of prayer upon which our ministry must be grounded.
In and amongst the joys of our ministry there are, however, some serious concerns which can affect our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Out of 80 Salford Diocesan priests with a current appointment, only 34 are under the age of 60. Many priests are already running several churches and there is a real sense of some priests being overwhelmed with increasing work and less help.
This is exacerbated in some places by modern "consumerist" demands and an increased culture of complaints. There are also some priests who feel isolated and lonely, or who feel like they don't know where to turn for the support that they need.
As a group of deacons and priests in the Diocese, we now wish to create a culture where we are all known and supported as individuals and where we can use our gifts and talents to further aid the mission of the Church. We have thus produced a plan for care of the clergy which we will be implementing over the coming years. The commitments in our plan fall into three categories: fraternity; supporting and caring; and growth and development. Our first priorities in the coming months will be the creation of the team who will coordinate these activities, a focus on developing priestly fraternity both within deanery structures and more broadly, relaunching the junior clergy
programme, and working on a planned approach to retirement.
We cannot do this without your help and support; please consider how you can support the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of your priests and deacons. Whether it be prayer,
voluntary work in the parish, or using your professional skills, we invite you to continue placing an importance on the welfare of your clergy just as you did when you placed it as a high priority in the synod.
We commend ourselves to the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Joseph so that we may serve you and each other well in this Diocese of Salford. May God bless you all. Amen.