

## Parish Bulletin

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
(Laetare Sunday)

March 15, 2026

Sunday Cycle A  
Weekday Cycle 2  
Divine Office Week 4

### Website

nativityparish.org.uk

### Our Churches

**Church of St Mary the Immaculate Conception**  
Clive Road, Failsworth, Manchester,  
M35 0NN.

**Church of the Holy Family**  
407, Roman Road, Hollinwood, Oldham,  
OL8 3PY.

Email: saint.marys@hotmail.com  
Tel 0161 681 1835

### Parish Priest

Canon Michael Job

### Assistant Priest

Fr Celestine Nyikwagh

### SVP

Parishofthenativitysvp@outlook.com

### Youth Group

youth.parishofthenativity@gmail.com

### Bee Together Community Garden

beetogetherhollinwood@gmail.com

 @ParishoftheNativity

 @oldham\_nativity

## This Week's Divine Services and Other Events

**Monday March 16**  
Weekday of Lent

📖 Isaiah 65:17-21; Ps 30(29):2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12a, 13b. R2a;  
John 4:43-54.

**9:15AM Mass, Holy Family**

**Tuesday March 17**  
St Patrick, Bishop (feast)

📖 Jeremiah 1:4-9; Ps 117(116):1, 2. R Mark 16:15;  
Luke 10:1-12, 17-20.

**9:15AM Mass, St Mary's**

**2:00-4:00PM Cuppa Club Irish Event, Parish Room at Holy Family Church. All welcome.**

**Wednesday March 18**  
Weekday of Lent

📖 Isaiah 49:8-15; Ps 145(144):8-9, 13c-14, 17-18. R8a;  
John 5:17-30.

**9:15AM Mass, Holy Family**

**11:30AM Funeral Mass - Adekusibe Adebiyi, Holy Family.**

**Thursday March 19**  
St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (solemnity)

📖 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89(88):2-3, 4-5, 27, 29.  
R37a; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a.

**9:15AM Eucharistic service, Holy Family**

**Friday March 20**  
Weekday of Lent

📖 Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34(33):17-18, 19-20, 21, 23. R19a;  
John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.

**8:50-9:20AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, St Mary's**

**9:30AM Mass, St Mary's**

**6:30PM Scripture study, St Mary's meeting room**

**Saturday March 21**  
Weekday of Lent

📖 Jeremiah 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9b-10, 11-12. R2a;  
John 7:40-52.

**11:00-11:20AM: Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), St Mary's**

**11:30AM Stations of the Cross, St Mary's**

**12:00 noon Mass, St Mary's**

**Sunday March 22**  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

📖 Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 130(129):1-2, 3-4, 5-6b, 6c-8. R7bc;  
Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45.

**9:00AM St Mary's Church open for private prayer.**

**9:30AM Sung Mass, St Mary's**

**10:45AM Holy Family Church open for private prayer.**

**11:15AM Sung Mass, Holy Family**

Light refreshments will be served after both Sunday morning Masses.

**6:00PM Mass, St Mary's**

(Divine Office Week 1)

### Confession

Saturdays (see above); otherwise on request.

### Baptisms and Marriages

If you would like to arrange a baptism or a marriage, please speak to a priest or to Sr. Benedicta after Mass.

**Please note, we require six months' notice for a wedding.**

### We Pray For...

#### Birthday

Sheila Pritchard.

#### Sick

We pray for all who are currently awaiting results, undergoing treatment or battling illnesses. In particular: Paul Vincent Rostern, Gregory Francis Rostern, Joe & Anne Appleton, Monica Reed, Maria-Thérèse Passenger, Geraldine Power, Kath Wilkinson, Betty Brown, Joe Gallagher, Finola Bedford, Catherine Redikin, Catherine Ardill, Christopher McAuley, Austin Moran, Burny Maughny, Pat Snelling, John Moran, Michael Bray, Wendy Felstead, Caroline, Ann Burn, Donni Marie, Sarah O'Brien, Collette Hartwell, Immanuel Iro, Annamarie O.S. Asemota, Susan Watson, Stephanie Farrell, Anna, Morris Maude, Mary Jowes, Phyll Watson, Mrs. Gavin, Patrick O'Brien, Ian Kirkham, Dave Riley, Mary Woods, Stuart Radcliffe and Mark Wilkinson.

#### Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of: Sid Simms, Michael Melody and Pdraig Rafferty. May they rest in perfect peace.

#### Anniversary

We pray for the souls of: May Haynes, Agnes Doherty, Catherine O'Neill, Mary Doyle and Christopher McAuley. May they continue to rest in the Lord.

## Sanctuary Candles at Holy Family

Recent sanctuary candle donations at Holy Family were as follows:

Week beginning March 1: Donated by Sheelagh McAuley, in memory of **Charles McAuley**.

Week beginning March 8: Donated by Deacon Stephen Scott, in memory of **Dave Batey**.

This week, beginning March 15: Donated by Deirdre McArdle, in memory of **Anthony and Jacqueline Nolan**.

## Deaths and Funerals

We sadly announce the deaths of:

**Adekusibe Adebisi**, whose funeral Mass will take place at Holy Family Church, 11:30am on Wednesday, March 18.

**Sheila Kennealey**, whose funeral service will take place at St Mary's Church, 1:15pm on Monday, March 23.

**Brian Brookes**, whose funeral Mass will take place at St Mary's Church, 11:45am on Wednesday, March 25.

We keep their families and friends in our prayers.

## Lenten Deanery Station Masses

The remaining Lenten Deanery Station Masses are celebrated on the following Tuesdays:

**Mar. 17: St Patrick's, Oldham.**

Mar 24: Ss Aidan & Oswald, Royton.

Masses begin at 7:00pm. For anyone having pre-booked transportation, bus pickup times are 6:15pm from St Mary's Church, and 6:25pm from Holy Family Church.

## Cuppa Club St Patrick's Day Celebration

The Cuppa Club will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day—Tuesday, March 17—with Irish music, Irish coffee, Irish lucky dip & all things Irish. The celebration will take place in the Parish Room at Holy Family Church from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. All are welcome.

## Flexible in Number

On Tuesday March 24, 2:00pm, local folk group *Flexible in Number* will be back in the Parish Room at Holy Family Church, performing a range of Lancashire and Irish folk songs. Humour and light refreshments are included. Entry is £3.00—pay at the door.

## ORDER OF MASS

### HYMN 153

*Awake, awake, fling off the night*

### PENITENTIAL ACT

#### General Confession

*All say together:*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and  
sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I  
have failed to do,**

*(Striking breast:)*

**through my fault,  
through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore, I ask blessed Mary  
ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our  
God.**

### Kýrie Eléison

*Choir:* Kýrie, eléison<sup>1</sup>.

*All:* Kýrie, eléison.

*Choir:* Christe eléison<sup>2</sup>.

*All:* Christe eléison.

*Choir:* Kýrie, eléison.

*All:* Kýrie, eléison.

*Sung in the original Greek, translating as follows:*

<sup>1</sup> Lord, have mercy.

<sup>2</sup> Christ, have mercy.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### First Reading

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

*David is anointed king of Israel.*

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD

rushed upon David from that day forward.

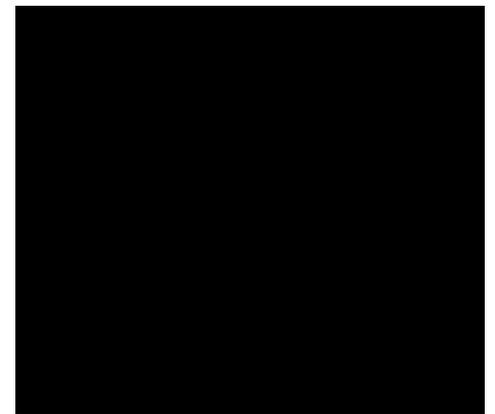
*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 23(22), R1**

*All sing the response:*



- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.
- 2 He guides me along the right path for his name's sake.  
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.
- 3 You have prepared a table before me

in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

- 4 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.

## Second Reading

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

*'Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'*

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*(Sung)*

**Cantor:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ, King of eternal glory.

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ, King of eternal  
glory.**

**Cantor:** I am the light of the world,  
says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have  
the light of life.

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ, King of eternal  
glory.**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** A reading from the holy  
Gospel according to N.

**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord**

## Gospel Reading

**John 9:1-41**

*'He went and washed and received his sight.'*

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must

work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered,

'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ.**

## THE CREED

*All say together:*

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were  
made.**

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
*(All kneel or bow at the underlined  
words that follow)*

**and by the Holy Spirit was  
incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the  
Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the  
Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father  
and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and is glorified,  
who has spoken through the  
prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the  
resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### HYMN 641

*Thake our bread*

#### Preface Dialogue

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the  
Lord.

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord  
our God.

**All:** It is right and just.

#### Holy

*All sing together:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of  
hosts. Heaven and earth are full  
of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes, who  
comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

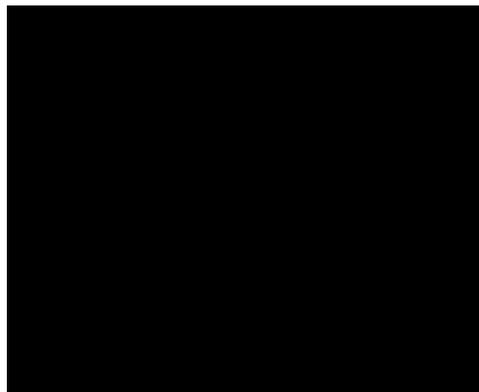
*The congregation kneel for the  
remainder of the Eucharistic Prayer.*

#### The Mystery of Faith

*The priest sings or says:*

The mystery of faith

*All sing together:*



#### Conclusion

*The priest alone sings or says:*

Through him, and with him, and in  
him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

*All respond:*

Amen.

#### COMMUNION RITE

*All stand: the Priest says:*

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching, we dare  
to say:

*All sing:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*The priest alone continues, saying:*

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every  
evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus  
Christ.

*We conclude the prayer together, by  
singing:*

**For the kingdom, the power and  
the glory are yours now and for  
ever.**

#### Lamb of God

*All sing together:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world, have mercy  
on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world, have mercy  
on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the  
sins of the world, grant us  
peace.**

#### Invitation to Communion

*The priest says aloud:*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper  
of the Lamb.

*And together with the people he adds:*

**Lord, I am not worthy that you  
should enter under my roof, but  
only say the word and my soul  
shall be healed.**

### HYMN 168

*Be thou my vision*

#### Song of Praise and Thanksgiving

*Sing three times:*

**O Sacrament most holy,  
O Sacrament divine,  
all praise and all thanksgiving  
be every moment thine.**

### HYMN 202

*Colours of day*

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