

ST MARY & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 22nd February 2026 – 1st Sunday in Lent

February Devotion: The Holy Family



Christ has overcome evil

Man and woman spoilt God's perfect creation by falling into temptation and disobeying their creator. As fellow members of the human race, we are all guilty of sin, but through Christ Jesus we are given the strength and grace to resist temptation just as he did.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sun 22 nd Feb	First Sunday in Lent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:00am St Paul's Mass 10:30am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Parishioners' Intention Parishioners' Intention
Mon 23 rd Feb	St Polycarp	6:15pm Eucharistic Adoration, St. Mary's; Mass 7:00pm	John Storey (RIP)
Tues 24 th Feb	Ferial	8:30am Eucharistic Adoration, St. Mary's; Mass 9:00am	Catechumens
Wed 25 th Feb	Ferial	Requiem Mass for Maria Luisa Greenhalph, 10:00am, St. Mary's	Luisa Greenhalph (RIP)
Thu 26 th Feb	Ferial	9:00am Eucharistic Adoration, St. Paul's; Mass 9:30am	Children preparing for FHC
Fri 27 th Feb	Ferial	9:00am Eucharistic Adoration, St. Paul's; Mass 9:30am	Day of Special Prayer for the Needy and Hungry of the World.
Sat 28 th Feb	Ferial	9:40am Holy Rosary, St. Mary's; Mass 10:00am followed by Stations of the Cross	Sick and housebound
Sun 1 st Mar	Third Sunday in Lent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:00am St Paul's Mass 10:30am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Parishioners' Intention Mattheo Sassanelli Private (intention)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 8:50am St Paul's; by appointment. **Sacraments and other liturgies:** Please speak to the Priest after the weekend masses.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date	Event	Location
Thurs 26th Feb 2026	RCIA Meeting at 6.00pm	St Mary's Meeting room
Thurs 26th Mar 2026	Lenten Reconciliation service at 7.00pm	St Mary's Church
Thurs 2nd Apr 2026	Holy Thursday with washing of feet and renewal of ministries; 7:00 pm	St Mary's Church
Fri 3rd Apr 2026	Stations of the Cross 10am	St Paul's Church
Fri 3rd Apr 2026	Good Friday including Veneration of the Cross; 3:00pm	St Mary's Church
Sat 4th Apr 2026	The Easter Vigil, including blessing of the new fire; 8pm	St. Paul's Church
Thurs 16th Apr 2026	Parish Annual General Meeting 7pm	St Mary's Church

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Albie Stephen Kevin Butterworth was welcomed into the family of God last weekend. Please pray for him and his family.

MATTHEW 4:1-11: In today's Gospel we see some of the main temptations Jesus had to resist. They were, naturally, aimed at the weakest areas, and they all had just enough relationship with good sense to make them dangerous. After all, if someone approached us proposing a brutal act of murder, we should not find that very hard to resist, but if we are persuaded that a dishonest act is going to harm no one and will benefit those we love, then the moral issues blur and it is much harder to see and resist temptation. As with Adam and Eve, hunger is used, and the great advantage of immediate, dramatic results 'You will be like gods.' Adam and Eve were persuaded. Jesus like a man-god, pandering to our craving for excitement and grandeur, but ignoring our real needs. In resisting these temptations Jesus was abandoning any possibility of a peaceful end to his life; instead, he kept the door wide open for our salvation.

VISITING THE SICK: Fr. Isidore will visit the sick and housebound on Wednesday through Friday

THE SEASON OF LENT: Lent is a season of deep conversion in which the Church gently calls believers to place God once again at the centre of their lives. It begins with listening: opening the heart to the word of God, allowing it to shape and transform us. Just as God heard the cry of his people in Egypt, Christians are invited to listen with the same attentiveness – to Scripture, to reality, and to the suffering of others. This receptive posture helps cut through the noise of daily life and awakens compassion. Fasting is a concrete way to prepare for this listening. By engaging the body, fasting reveals our true desires, purifies what we hunger for, and keeps alive our longing for justice. When practiced with humility, it becomes an act rooted in communion with God. There is also a neglected form of fasting: abstaining from harmful speech. Refraining from harsh words, judgement, and gossip creates space for kindness, respect, and peace. Finally, Lent is a communal journey. Parishes, families, and communities are called to listen together, fast together, and allow their relationships to be renewed. True conversion embraces both personal transformation and a shared commitment to justice, reconciliation, and love. *A summary of Pope Leo's message for Lent 2026, created using CoPilot.*

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 27th FEB: This Family Fast Day we are thinking about hunger. Not the kind that comes from waiting too long to eat, but the kind that comes from having nothing to eat at all. Shorai in Zimbabwe put it simply: "As a father, it will be difficult for you to sleep." It's not just the hunger that kept him awake at night, but the guilt and pain of seeing his children go to bed with empty stomachs. Around the world – despite farmers' best efforts – crops are failing. Where Shorai lives, in Zimbabwe, rain is scarce. In parts of Bangladesh and South Sudan, there's too much water. Either way, the result is the same – seeds fail to grow, harvests disappear, and families go hungry. But there is hope and there is a solution. It needs all of us: you, me, CAFOD's local experts, and families like Shorai's. In God's eyes, we are one global family, called to be neighbours – to stand with one another in love and solidarity. By supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent, you're being the good neighbour Jesus calls us to be – loving others as we love ourselves. This Family Fast Day, let's show love to our neighbours. Let's eat simply and give generously – so another family can put food on the table. Thank you. ***There will be a retiring collection next weekend, please take an envelope home.***

CHRISM MASS: 1st April, 12 noon at Shrewsbury Cathedral. Each parish is invited to send two people. If you would like to go, please contact Fr Isidore before the end of this week.

FEBRUARY DEVOTION THE HOLY FAMILY: Let us pray together for our own families and for our parish and Diocesan family: *Lord, bless our family, all of us now together, those far away, all who are gone back to you. May we know joy. May we bear our sorrows in patience. Let love guide our understanding of each other. Let us be grateful to each other. We have all made each other what we are. O Family of Jesus, watch over our family. Amen*

POPE'S FEBRUARY INTENTION: For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Registration is open for older children who are not at St Mary's or St Paul's school, to make their First Holy Communion in June 2026. Please speak to Fr Isidore.

CONFIRMATION: Registration for Confirmation, for those in Year 8 and above, has begun. Please pick up a consent form from the back of our churches and speak to Fr Isidore. The programme will start on Tuesday 3rd March at 6:30pm in St Mary's Church.

TEA, COFFEE, AND A CHANCE TO CHAT: Every Sunday after Mass at St Mary's, there is an opportunity to have a tea or coffee and a chat with some of your fellow parishioners.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY: £451.49; Thank you for your generosity.



Scan the QR code to access the Online giving page for St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde

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Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

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