



The Parish of St
Mary and St Paul

ST MARY & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

23rd August 2026 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

August Devotion: Immaculate Heart of Mary

You are the Christ, Son of the living God Through faith Peter had recognised the glory, majesty, and wisdom of God in this man from Galilee, and he was prepared to stand up and voice his belief. Because of his faith Jesus chose Peter as the foundation rock on which his Church would be built. What Peter had glimpsed was something of the great power combined with compassion which is beyond understanding but can change our lives. For if Jesus of Nazareth is God himself, then we have such hope as was never possible before.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sun 23 rd Aug	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:00am St Paul's Mass 10:30am St Mary's	Parishioner's Intentions Parishioner's Intentions Parishioner's Intentions
Mon 24 th Aug	St Bartholomew, Ap	6:15pm Eucharistic Adoration, St. Mary's; Mass 7:00pm	Fr. Isidore's 24 th Anniversary of priestly ordination
Tues 25 th Aug	St Thomas of Hereford, B	8:30am Eucharistic Adoration, St. Mary's; Mass 9:00am	Sir Ignatius Madueke (RIP) 12 th Anniversary
Wed 26 th Aug	Ferial	8:30am Eucharistic Adoration, St. Mary's; Mass 9:00am	Parishioners' Intention
Thu 27 th Aug	St Monica (Memorial)	9am Eucharistic Adoration, St. Paul's; Mass 9:30am.	Mary Bouchier (private Intention)
Fri 28 th Aug	St Augustine, B, D (Mem)	9am Eucharistic Adoration, St. Paul's; Mass 9:30am.	Margaret & Tedd Davenport (55 th Wedding Anniversary)
Sat 29 th Aug	The Passion of John the Baptist	9:40am Holy Rosary, St. Mary's; Mass 10:00am.	Sick and Housebound
Sun 30 th Aug	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:00am St Paul's Mass 10:30am St Mary's	Parishioner's Intentions Parishioner's Intentions Molly Mooney (RIP) BD Anniversary

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.

Date and Time	Event	Location
9 th Sept 6:00pm	First Holy Communion Meeting	St Mary's Meeting Room
17 th Sept 6:30pm	First RCIA Meeting	St Mary's Meeting Room

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Betsy-Anne Suzanne Fell was received into the family of God. Kindly pray for her and her family.

MATTHEW 16:13-20 is one of those moments in the Gospel where everything seems to come into focus. Jesus asks His disciples a simple but piercing question: "Who do you say I am?" It is not curiosity but invitation — an opening for them to step beyond hearsay and into faith. Peter's answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," is not merely correct; it is revelatory. Jesus tells him that this insight did not come from human reasoning but from the Father Himself. Faith, then, is not something we manufacture — it is something we receive. This passage reminds us that recognising Christ is always a grace. Peter speaks boldly, yet moments later in the Gospel he will falter. Still, Jesus chooses him, not because he is flawless, but because he is open to God's revelation. The promise that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" is not a triumphal boast but a reassurance: the Church is founded not on human strength but on divine fidelity. The keys given to Peter symbolise responsibility rather than privilege. To bind and loose is to discern, to guide, to shepherd. It is a call to service rooted in Christ's own authority. For us, this passage becomes

a personal question: *Who do I say Jesus is?* Not in theory, but in the lived reality of our choices. In Peter, we see ourselves — imperfect, sometimes wavering, yet capable of profound faith when we allow God to speak within us. And in Christ we see the One who builds His Church on grace, not perfection, inviting us to stand firm in the truth revealed by the Father.

ST THOMAS OF HEREFORD, also known as Thomas de Cantilupe, was a 13th-century bishop, scholar, and reformer. Born into a noble family, he became Chancellor of Oxford and later Bishop of Hereford, where he restored discipline and defended church rights. After dying in 1282 while appealing an excommunication, many miracles were reported at his tomb. He was canonised in 1320 and became a major saint of the Welsh Marches.

ASSISTED DYING: *Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide* The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill. You can support the Archbishop's call and contact your MP now as a matter of urgency. For more information and resources, visit: cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide or righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, are you a baptised Christian wishing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church, or are you a Catholic who has not yet received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion? Our RCIA programme offers a welcoming opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith through discussion, reflection, and prayer. The course begins on 17th September at 6.30 pm in St Mary's meeting room. Please register by 31st August to help us prepare for the course. To register, please pick up a form from the back of church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Registration for older children (7-12 years) who are not in our schools but wish to receive their FHC has begun. Lessons will start on 9th September at 6pm in St. Mary's meeting room. To register your child, please pick up a form from the back of church.

PARISH VOLUNTEER SERVICES: This weekend we will hear from Suzanne Toulson regarding Churches Together.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION for August is "For evangelization in the city." He asks Catholics to pray that large cities—often marked by loneliness and anonymity—may discover new, creative ways to proclaim the Gospel and build genuine Christian community.

PRAYER FOR HOLIDAY MAKERS: *Lord, bless all who travel and take their rest. Keep them safe on the roads, refresh them with the beauty of Your creation, and grant them peaceful days with those they love. May their time away renew their hearts, and may they return home in Your protection and Your peace. Amen.*

PRISTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY MASS: A **Priestly Ordination Anniversary Mass** is a **Special Mass of Thanksgiving** offered to mark a priest's anniversary of being ordained. The core meaning is simple: it is the Church's way of giving thanks for the priest's years of sacramental service, and for the grace God has worked through his ministry. On Monday, Fr. Isidore will celebrate his 24th Priestly Anniversary Mass. Kindly join him in the thanksgiving Mass.

POLITE REMINDER: Please remember that Holy Communion must be received in front of the Priest or Minister and consumed before you go back to your seat. It is OK to take one step to the side, but do not start to walk away until after you have consumed the host.

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.

LAT WEEK'S OFFERTORY: £639.87 Thank you for your generosity.



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

Reverend Father Isidore Madueke, 29 Zetland St, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 4EJ
Tel: 0161 330 2424 Website: stmaryandstpaul.org
Email: stmaryandstpaulRC@gmail.com
Please consider remembering the parish in your will.
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