



ST MARY & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 19th January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
 January Devotion: The Holy Name of Jesus

Parish of St Mary & St Paul
 Celebrating 200 years
 1825 to 2025

We are chosen and cared for

God has chosen us and cares for us as a bridegroom loves and cares for his bride, to the extent that he has put away our sin and gives us the gift of his living Spirit which enables us to work powerfully for good in his strength. He can transform us into living members of his body.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sun 19 th January	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Molly Mooney (RIP) Parishioners' Intention
Mon 20 th January	Weekday in ordinary time	Domestic Church: Hebrew 5:1-10. Psalm 110	For the weak and aged
Tues 21 st January	Weekday in ordinary time	Domestic Church: Mk. 2:23-28. Psalm 111	For school children
Wed 22 nd January	Weekday in ordinary time	Domestic Church: Hebrew 7:1-17. Psalm 111	Diocesan clergy
Thu 23 rd January	Weekday in ordinary time	Domestic Church: Hebrew 7:25-8:6. Psalm 40	For the religious men and women
Fri 24 th January	Saint Francis de Sales	Domestic Church: Mark 3:13-19. Psalm 57	Seminarians and aspirants
Sat 25 th January	The Conversion of St Paul	Domestic Church: Hebrew 9:2-3,11-14. Psalm 47	For the sick and house bounds
Sun 26 th January	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Sally Bibby (Ann RIP) Parishioners' Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 9:20am; by appointment. **Sacraments and other liturgies:** Please speak to the Priest after the weekend masses.

RECENT DEATH: Denise Scott, may she rest in peace. Please pray for the happy repose of her soul and the comfort of her family and friends.

JOHN 2:1-11: In the first miracle of his ministry, Jesus shows himself as he who transforms and provides. He will transform the old Law into the wine of Love's salvation; he will transform our narrow, selfish, lives into the wine of Christ-filled open-heartedness and joy; he transforms jars of water into sweet wine. To do this he needs the consent and obedience of the servants, just as Mary told them to do whatever Jesus said. If he is to transform us he needs our consent and obedience as well; sometimes we beg his to help us but when he tells us what to do we are not prepared to obey, especially if it seems rather foolish, unnecessary, or unlikely to succeed. But if we trust him and are prepared to fill our water pots up to the brim, he will honour his word and transform us into ourselves at our best, our most fulfilled.

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE: Since its establishment in 1967 by Pope St Paul VI, the Popes have taken the World Day of Peace on 1 January as an opportunity to offer a message on peace related topics. Every year, we promote Peace Sunday on the second Sunday in Ordinary Time as a way of observing the World Day of Peace and promoting the Pope's message for that year. Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace has the theme 'Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace'. The message speaks of how we must listen to the 'pleas of an endangered humanity', how the year of Jubilee inspires us to seek the liberating justice of God in our world and how by 'opening our hearts to our brothers and sisters, we will restore God's justice on earth' and 'move forward to achieve the goal of peace'.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY is traditionally observed from the 18- 25 January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul and the theme for 2025 is "Do you believe this"? As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief. We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each of us is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?" You can find materials for each day on the Bishops of England and Wales website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/material-for-each-day-of-week-of-prayer/>

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE: On Friday 24 January Catholic schools across England and Wales will join together to celebrate Jubilee Launch Day for Schools, as children and young people embark on a journey as "pilgrims of hope". Cardinal Vincent Nichols has prepared an inspiring video message to be shared as part of the event. The Catholic Education Service, CAFOD and Catholic Social Action Network are working in partnership, together with the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation, to provide this framework of events and resources to all Catholic schools. The Chair of the Catholic Education Service, Rt. Rev. Marcus Stock, wrote a letter to all Catholic schools inviting them to participate in Jubilee for Schools saying, "The theme of Jubilee 2025 is 'Hope', the hope that comes from knowing we are loved by God, the hope we can bring to those in most need, and the hope we can bring to our common home, the earth."

INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY YEAR 2025: A special day will be held at Saint Joseph's Stockport on Saturday 1st February to introduce the Jubilee Year 2025. The day will begin with Mass at 10.00 am and include presentations by our catechetical, marriage and family life, CAFOD and Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury teams.

THE FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL: Celebrated on Saturday January 25th, this feast commemorates the pivotal moment when Saul, a fierce persecutor of Christians, encountered Christ on the road to Damascus. This profound experience transformed him into St Paul, one of Christianity's most ardent apostles. Known for his missionary journeys and epistles, St Paul played a crucial role in spreading the Gospel. The feast not only honours his conversion but also serves as a reminder of the power of divine grace and the possibility of profound personal transformation. Through prayer, scripture readings, and reflection, the faithful celebrate St Paul's enduring impact on the Church and his unwavering commitment to Christ. *St Paul, Apostle of Christ, you encountered the divine grace of our Lord on the road to Damascus, transforming your heart and soul. We ask for your intercession, that we may also experience such profound conversion in our lives. Guide us in our journey of faith, inspire us to live with courage and conviction, and pray for us as we strive to follow Christ more faithfully. Amen.*

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 25: For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

THE SPIRITANS: This weekend we welcome a priest from the Spiritans in Manchester. Founded in 1703, they carry out their mission of evangelization in more than 60 countries throughout the world. They are dedicated to the Holy Spirit, author of all holiness and place themselves under the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was filled beyond measure by the same Spirit. In keeping with their ideal of a life that is both fraternal and apostolic, they take for their motto the words used to describe the early Christian communities: "One heart and one soul".

NEW LOGO: Feedback for last week's logo was that people preferred the first one. Another one depicting St Mary and St Paul this week - let me know if you have a preference.

OFFERTORY: Weekend 4th & 5th January: £403.63; SMA Appeal: £1359.21 both including online donations. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: Priest's Retirement Fund



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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