

ST MARY & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 15th February 2026 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February Devotion: The Holy Family



God gives us his Law to guide us in his wisdom The spirit of the commandments is much deeper than a set of rules. They are clues and signposts to the unimaginable depth of God's wisdom, and when we mould our lives round the loving essence of this law we shall be drawn more closely to the pulse of God. But we are perfectly free to choose if we want to take the opportunity.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sun 15 th Feb	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:00am St Paul's Mass 10:30am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Bernard Rowan (RIP) Sally Bibby (RIP); Vincent & Molly Mooney Wedding Ann (RIP)
Mon 16 th Feb	Ferial	6:15pm Eucharistic Adoration, St Mary's; Mass 7:00pm	John Storey (RIP)
Tues 17 th Feb	Ferial	8:45am Mass St. Mary's	Parishioners' Intention
Wed 18 th Feb	Ash Wednesday Distribution of ashes will take place at both masses Day of Fasting and Abstinence	9:00am Mass, St. Mary's 1:15pm Funeral service for Reginald Mealing; St Mary's 7pm Mass St Paul's	Sorrow for sins Repentance and forgiveness
Thu 19 th Feb	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am Eucharistic Adoration, St Paul's; Mass 9:30am	Thanksgiving for Edith Miranda
Fri 20 th Feb	Friday after Ash Wednesday (Abstinence)	9:00am Eucharistic Adoration, St Paul's; Mass 9:30am	Parishioners' Intention
Sat 21 st Feb	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9:40am Holy Rosary, St Mary's; Mass 10:00am	Sick and housebound
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

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

RECENTLY DIED: Maria Luisa Greenhalgh, may she rest in peace. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

MATTHEW 5:17-37: Jesus was not punctilious about observing the exact letter of the Law. On a number of occasions, he healed on the Sabbath instead of resting from all work, and this raised doubts and righteous anger in others. So, Jesus takes pains to explain the purpose of God's Law. He shows people not only its limitations but also its demands. Instead of conserving narrow,

pedantic behaviour, the Law is now thrown open so that in one sense we are freed from exclusive and rigid rules and in others we are given the grown-up responsibility of observing God's loving will in all its awesome ideals. Our whole selves are to be brought under his Law in this way – what we think and as well as how we act; what is hidden as well as what is seen by others. Since rules define limits, the temptation is to go no further than they explicitly demand. That gives us a sense of having 'done our duty' and 'arrived'. When Jesus speaks of the law as complete loving, the limits are swept away, and we can see that there is no point at which we will have completed our duty, for the duty of love in God's terms has no boundary.

ASH WEDNESDAY is one of the most ancient observances in Western Christianity, marking the beginning of Lent—a season of repentance, prayer, and preparation for Easter. Its roots lie in early Christian penitential practices, when public sinners were marked with ashes as a sign of humility and conversion. Over time, this symbolism expanded to include the whole community, expressing the universal need for reconciliation with God. Although Lent itself developed early in the Church's history, Ash Wednesday was added to the liturgical calendar later, once the forty-day penitential period had become standard across the Latin Church. The use of ashes—an ancient biblical symbol of mourning and mortality—became a powerful reminder of the human condition, encapsulated in the traditional words, "Remember that you are dust." Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter and is preceded by Shrove Tuesday, also widely known as Pancake Day. The tradition of eating pancakes and other rich foods developed because households needed to use up ingredients like eggs, butter, and sugar before the Lenten fast began.

LENTEN COURSE: This year's diocesan Lenten course invites parishioners to prepare their hearts and minds to renew their Baptismal promises during the Easter celebrations. Through Baptism, we are united with Christ and given our mission to image him in our homes and communities. This resource aims to contextualise our vocation within God's plan of Salvation, Christ's self-gift and the Sacramental life of the Church. While the world tempts us in all manner of ways yet by God's grace, we can turn back to him with contrite hearts to ask his mercy and forgiveness. We stand to renew our Baptismal promises and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to renew and restore our covenant relationship with Jesus, that we may live in an ever-deepening union with him. The course can be found here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-ask/>

FEBRUARY DEVOTION THE HOLY FAMILY: February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. 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.

THANK YOU! Maureen Rowan would like to say a big thank you for the good wishes, kind thoughts, and the beautiful birthday cards she received for her 90th birthday, and also for the people who put in masses for her intentions.

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.

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: £430.36; Building Fund £194.56. 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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