



Our Lady of Hope Parish, Salford

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17 February 2019

Life is often about picking our way through opposites - choices and decisions that surround every moment of every day: should I do this or that, choose this way or that way, and so on. Just as there are choices on either side, so there are opposing consequences blessings and curses, in the language of the first reading, happiness and woe in the language of the Gospel. In Saint Luke's version of the Beatitudes, we see Jesus setting out very clearly the teaching that life is about choices, and that we must take control, and be responsible for the life we choose, or even the conditions of life that we embrace or accept.

Marriage Matters: *Our calling is to love one another:* Does 'the world speak well of me'? God wants us to use our talents to fulfil His plan, not for our own glory. His plan for marriage is that we love each other before everything else, which means listening deeply. When I focus on doing any job I need to ask: 'How do you need to be loved just now?'

Think Vocation: We pray to the Lord for an increase in prayerful trust among our young people that they may faithfully respond to their unique vocation in Christ.

Masses / Services	St Luke's	Ss Peter & Paul's
Sunday - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Racial Justice Sunday	Sat vigil 6:30pm, 9:15am, 11am	Sat vigil: 6:30pm 8:30am and 10:30am
Monday – Weekday	10.30am Requiem Mass for John James Finnegan	9am, Mass & Adoration
Tuesday - Weekday	9am Mass	9am Mass & Adoration
Wednesday - Weekday	7pm Mass	9am Mass & Adoration
Thursday - Weekday	9am Mass	5:30pm Holy Spirit Evening (including 7pm Novena & Mass)
Friday - The Chair of St Peter the Apostle	9am Mass; 12.45pm Funeral Service for Wilfred Morris	9am Mass & Adoration
Saturday - St Polycarp	11:30am Mass	12 noon Mass
Sunday - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sat vigil 6:30pm, 9:15am, 11am	Sat vigil: 6:30pm 8:30am and 10:30am

Sick: Julie Webster

Lately Dead: Rose McCourt; Elizabeth Billingham; Francis Griffin; Philomena Bowler; Helen Meaney; Audrey Jones; John James Finnegan; Wilfred Morris

Anniversaries: May Rice; Austin, Annie & Denis Eagleton

Masses Received: Harry Brooke (Birthday Memories); Ellen Lord (Birthday Memories); Alan Roberts; Maria (Happy 50th); Rose McCourt (Lately Dead); Isabelle Lyons (Birthday Memories); Francis Griffin (Lately Dead); Julie Webster (Sick); Gabrielle Ward (Birthday Memories); Sarah Nally (Birthday); Philomena Bowler (Lately Dead); Helen Meaney (Lately Dead); May Rice (Anniversary); Betty Brierley (Birthday Memories); Austin, Annie & Denis Eagleton (Anniversaries); Edith Blacklock; John Blacklock; Audrey Jones (Lately Dead); Peter Bradshaw

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Let us pray for the parish of St Margaret Clitherow, Rochdale and Kirkholt, with Canon Buckley and Fr Murphy, and for the parish of St Joseph, Ramsbottom, with Fr Thorpe. We pray for their parish primary schools and for St Cuthbert's High School.

Offertory Collection £1760.57 Many thanks.

Racial Justice Sunday Today we focus on the experiences of ethnic communities in England and Wales. It is a day on which we are all called to earnestly pray for an end to racism and racial inequality in our country. The theme this year is Dignity of Work, looking at how all people must not be exploited or face discrimination and hatred in their work. Our second collection today will support the work of CARJ - the Catholic Association for Racial Justice. For more information, please visit: www.catholicnews.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-2019.

Fatima: The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will visit the Cathedral on Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 February, along with relics of St Jacinta and Francisco. Details on diocesan website or poster at the back of Church.

Faith in Politics: Details of the Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs Internship Scheme for up to eight recently graduated Catholics can be found at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk. **Deadline for applications: Thursday 28 February**

Sunday Mass Times

Many thanks for the additional ideas that you have shared with us this week - and again thanks to all who have expressed their views over the period of consultation. It is heartening that, whilst perhaps arguing strongly for retention of a particular Mass, people have also acknowledged the difficulty of the decisions that need to be made. As always with change, there will be people who are inconvenienced; some will be unhappy about that but others will accept the necessity of the change. Having the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and the decision making will hopefully alleviate some (though, of course, not all) of the potential hurt caused by these changes. Please see this revision of our Sunday Mass times as a positive step in building up our new parish for the future. It is also worth keeping in mind that all of our neighbouring parishes have gone through a similar process in recent times - it is not only happening to us. In many of those situations, unlike our own, they also faced the closure of one of their churches.

There is a separate sheet available through which you can express your preferences for the new pattern of Sunday Mass times. In making your choices, you might like to take the following things into consideration:

- We could have the Saturday evening Mass at either 5pm or 5.30pm, given that our neighbours have Masses at 6pm (St James) and 6.30pm (Holy Cross). Continuing to have our Saturday evening Mass at 6.30pm at either of our churches does not give people in this area any real choice (especially those who might be looking for an earlier Mass before going out for the evening)
- There has been a strong plea to keep an early Sunday morning Mass for those who want to then make the most of the rest of the day. This could be at 8.30am (as at present) or even at 8am. The earliest Mass amongst our nearest neighbours is 9.30am (both St Mark, Pendlebury and St Mary, Eccles)
- A few people suggested that we should consider going down to three Masses now rather than having to go through this exercise again when we only have one priest. Given that we are not likely to get to that situation in the immediate future - and given the numbers currently attending Mass - it would seem best to plan for four Sunday Masses across the two churches
- From the figures published a few weeks ago, the average Mass attendance at St Luke is 372 and it is 375 at Ss Peter & Paul. This is a useful statistic because it demonstrates that neither of the churches needs special consideration or will be dominating the decision making and it also shows that two Masses in each church is adequate for the numbers involved
- Given that we have more than one priest, it is likely that (as has happened several times already) we will be looked to if there is need for help somewhere in the deanery (or beyond). It is worth noting that, with the exception of the Cathedral (which also serves St Joseph, Ordsall), all of the other parishes in this deanery only have one priest, so the situation of us having to help out is a very real possibility. Ideally this will be planned but it can also happen (and has) at short notice. Consequently, we need to space the Sunday morning Masses in such a way that (if absolutely necessary) they can all be covered by one priest. This means, at a minimum, that there should be an hour and a half between starting times for those Masses.
- There is the question of whether St Luke or Ss Peter and Paul would be best for the Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday mid-morning Mass, with the other church having the early and later Sunday morning Masses. In considering this, we need to be conscious of those who don't have cars and either walk to church or depend on public transport. There is also opportunity here for drivers to consider whether or not they might be able to offer a lift to someone who might now find it more difficult to get to church because the Mass they usually attend has changed.
- A couple of people have suggested we consider a Sunday evening Mass. However, two of our close neighbours already have Sunday evening provision - 4pm (St Mark) and 6pm (St Mary, Eccles)
- Once the Saturday evening Mass time and venue is resolved, we should adjust to just one Saturday daytime Mass (in the other church), possibly mid-morning rather than lunchtime
- We need to keep in mind that there are other things happening on a Sunday as well as the actual celebration of Mass. There are refreshments available and the opportunity to socialise after some of the Masses. The Sacramental Programme at Ss Peter & Paul is linked in with the current 10.30 Mass (though we have warned those involved this year that this might change). There are baptisms on many Sundays and there is the Sacramental Programme at St Luke's on a Sunday afternoon and possibly Sunday afternoon devotions at particular times of the year. Whatever changes we introduce will also have implications for Sacristans, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Musicians and Choir Members. So we need to be conscious of this bigger picture and not just focus on finding a time of Mass that best suits us individually.

A number of people have suggested specific patterns of Masses and it was originally intended that all of these would be included in the options presented for voting. However, some of them involve overlapping Mass times in the two churches or an insufficient gap between the Masses that would not allow one priest to celebrate them. So the patterns of Masses that are presented for voting reflect the ideas listed above. Please do take time to seriously consider what is proposed and to express your preference. Thank you.

Mass For Our Young People: "Be Who God Created You To Be": All are welcome at this Mass for Youth, especially the young but all others who wish to encourage and pray for our young people. It should be a great celebration and there will be refreshments afterwards. Please do attend and show our "Hope in the Future" in our young people. **Tuesday 26 February, 7pm at Sacred Heart Church, Rochdale (OL16 5BX)**

Quiz Night Every Friday in St Luke's Church Hall. Bar open from 8.30pm and Quiz starts at 9pm. All welcome.

Volunteers are very urgently needed to assist with cash counting at St Luke's. Counting is done Sundays before and after the 11am Mass. There will be a rota so this would not be every week. Please speak with one of our priests or contact Paul communications@ourladyofhope.org.uk

Flower Arranging: Our class starts again on Wednesday 20 February at Ss Peter & Paul church (2 - 4pm). Everybody is welcome. Come for a chat and a cuppa. £1.00

St Luke's School Headteacher Mr Jameson has decided to retire this summer. The governors are looking to appoint a new headteacher from September 2019 and details can be found at (www.stlukesrc.co.uk/keyinformation/vacancies). **Closing date: Friday 1 March** at midday. Please pray for the governors and for the school during this very important time

Salford Loaves & Fishes are recruiting a Chief Executive Officer. Full time (35 hours per week) Salary £36,000 **Closing date: Monday 25 February 2019** at midday. An application pack can be found on the website at www.salfordloavesandfishes.org.uk

Next Week's Newsletter: Liz Please send notices before Wednesday Email: newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk

St Luke, Swinton Park Rd, Irlams o'th' Height, M6 7WR Tel: 0161 736 2696
Ss Peter and Paul, Park Road, Pendleton, Salford M6 8JR Tel: 0161 789 4555
Parish Priest: Canon Michael Cooke VG (resident at St Luke's)
Assistant Priests: Canon David Ryder & Father Mark Paver
Email: priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk

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