

Times of Services this Week

ST. BERNADETTE'S

ST. MICHAEL'S

Tuesday 4th – Saturday 8th August

Tues 4th	7.30pm Mass	10.00am Mass
Wed 5th	10.00am Mass	7.30pm Mass
Thurs 6th	7.30pm Mass	10.00am Mass
Fri 7th	10.00am Mass	7.30pm Mass
Sat 8th	10.00-11.30am Church open for Private Prayer	2.00 – 3.30pm Church open for Private Prayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Sat 10.00-11.00pm

Sat 2.00-3.00pm

DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday – St John Vianney.

Wednesday – The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major.

Thursday – The Transfiguration of the Lord.

Friday - St Sixtus; St Cajetan. Saturday – St Dominic .

NEXT SUNDAY NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

1Kings 19:9, 11-13. Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33..

Mass Intentions received:

Recently Deceased: Sr Mona O'Carroll, Tony Smith, Fr Peter Sheahan, Fr Bernard McGarry, Pat Lambe, Mary Towey, Alan Worsley, Maureen Beesley, Howard Denning, Margaret Keane Williams, Margaret Gibbons.

Anniversary: John Perkins.

Other: Special Intention: Leanne Murrey, Jacqueline Mallet, Angela Brady, Joan Cavanagh. Teresa Fitzgerald(Remembrance), Malcolm Baker(Remembrance), Holy Souls, Rita Clarke (Remembrance), Graham Naisbitt (Remembrance).

We pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Smith RIP whose funeral took place this week. May he rest in peace and may his loved ones find consolation in their loss.

Together at St. Michael's & St. Bernadette's Whitefield



**Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A
2nd August 2020**

In today's gospel we hear Jesus feeding the five thousand, his blessing brought abundance from the meagre provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in all the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions—remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for our lives of faith. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Kingdom of Heaven.

We find the story of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fish in each of the four Gospels. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus performs this same miracle on two separate occasions. Of course, the story of this miracle is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God. Yet for each one of us, it is also a wonderful, encouraging sign that teaches us what God can achieve in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, from whatever we can offer to be blessed and transformed.

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REOPENING OF CHURCHES in addition to weekday Masses, our churches will be open for **private prayer** at the following times:

Saturday 8th August St Bernadette's Church 10.00am - 11.30am
Saturday 8th August St Michael's Church 2.00pm – 3.30pm

THANK YOU to members of the Parish Pastoral Team for their continuing hard work in organising our church buildings and our gatherings. We could not keep our churches open for Masses and private prayer without their efforts. The numbers of people permitted in our buildings are limited and arrival into them will be facilitated by our stewards, our patience is much appreciated. Bishop John says: ***It could be suggested that when Sunday Mass does resume, people might try to attend a public celebration of Mass on any day of the week. I remind you all that at this time of Pandemic, there is no obligation to attend Mass even on a Sunday.*** We must all move at a pace at which we feel able and safe to do so. Some parishes have re-opened for prayer, other are not ready to do so yet. As we continue to build on our experience here in Whitefield, Sunday Mass will follow in due course. We have organised our buildings with a 2 metre distance, rather than 1 metre, so that we do not need to sign "Track and Tracing" paperwork. Unfortunately in these circumstances, we are not in a position to have our much appreciated sacristans and servers. **Anyone with any COVID like symptoms should not attend any public gathering.**

We can continue to keep holy, in whatever way we can, the Lord's Day. For resources for keeping Sunday at home see <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/covid-19-online-resources/> There is an extensive list of where Mass is available livestreamed online. The *Lord's Day at Home* prayer sheet is being made available by email with this newsletter and can be found on our parish website, along with a Sunday activity sheet for children. CAFOD VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S LITURGY Sundays, 10.00am Register via the CAFOD website or search *CAFOD children's liturgy*. If you can't join live, then recordings will be available to watch afterwards.

FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH As we are all aware, face coverings are mandatory on public transport and in shops and in supermarkets. We have been informed from Public Health England via the Bishops' Conference that people are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as in church. Bishop John seeks to remind us of our duty, rooted in the common good, to do all we can to contribute to Public Health efforts in these days of social distancing.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY Many thanks for offertory donations for the week ending 26th July of £1101.15, £629 of which can be Gift Aided. Thank you to those who have recently gone to the trouble of setting up direct contributions. Details about direct debit donations are available by emailing the info email address. Helen Carey in our parish office from Monday – Friday 9.00am – 2.00pm will be able to help you.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE NORTHERN SAINTS Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd September. We are still hoping that this pilgrimage can go ahead, the hotel has confirmed that it will be open and the coach company anticipates that there will be appropriate distancing between passengers on board their largest coach whilst travelling, face coverings will now be required for the journey. There is currently no space for further bookings. **Anyone who now does not wish to go, please let Fr Steven know.** Balances for payments for those still wishing to do so, would be appreciated by 8th August. £50 deposit was asked for; balance is £135 shared room, £185 single room.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Beginning in 2021, Bishop John will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation upon young people in Year 8 of High School, their preparation will be a shared enterprise between family, parish, school and Diocese. To support those who will come forward to receive the Sacrament we need a small group of Catechists who will meet occasionally with the candidates. Sister Linda, a Religious Sister, recently arriving to St Patrick's Rochdale will help the volunteer Catechists prepare for this role. Anyone who would like to help in this valuable ministry, would be very welcome to get in touch with Fr Steven!

CARITAS (DIOCESE OF SALFORD) VACANCY Hostel Operations Manager 37 hours per week. SCP20-25 £25,295 - £28,785 per annum. Qualification bar SCP23. Closing date: Friday, 14 August 2020. To apply, please visit the Caritas website www.caritassalford.org.uk for an application pack or contact Rebecca Anderson on 0161 817 2264 or by email r.anderson@caritassalford.org.uk

FOODBANK Contributions can be left in the porch of the house at St Bernadette's. Thank you for recent cash donations of £10.

RED DOOR (Caritas, Diocese of Salford) remains open and continues to work with Bury Christian Fellowship at The Manna House, Irwell St, Bury, on Mondays from 11.00am–1.00pm offering homemade soup and a roll as a takeaway service.

On Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.00am–1.00pm, Red Door is open at St Joseph's (former Presbytery), Peter St, Bury, for food parcels, toiletries, showers and a laundry service. There is also help and advice with housing and benefit issues. If you are aware of anyone who might benefit from this local support, please encourage them to visit Red Door.

BURY COUNCIL HAVE A SUPPORT PACKAGE for those who need assistance. If you, or someone you know needs anything from advice to some shopping call 0161 253 5353.

GREATER MANCHESTER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT offers free confidential help 24/7. Just Text GMBury to 85258.

ST MICHAEL'S & ST BERNADETTE'S CREDIT UNION is currently offering a telephone service. If you have any concerns or require more information please phone 07803854963.