

Times of Services this Week

ST. BERNADETTE'S

ST. MICHAEL'S

Saturday 24th – Sunday 1st August

Sat 24th 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer
10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

6.00pm Mass

Sun 25th 11.00am Mass

9.30am Mass

Tues 27th 7.30pm Mass

10.00am Mass

Wed 28th

10.00am Mass

Thurs 29th 10.00am Mass

Fri 30th

10.00am Mass

Sat 31st 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer
10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

6.00pm Mass

Sun 25th 11.00am Mass

9.30am Mass

DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday – Sts Joachim & Anne.

Thursday – St Martha. Friday – St Peter Chrysologus.

Saturday – St Ignatius Loyola.

Next Sunday – Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)

2Kings 4:42-44. Ephesians 4:1-6. John 6:1-15.

Mass intentions:

Sick: Karen Higgins, Nora Hickey.

Recently Deceased: Tommy Hunt, Mary Brady, David Laxton, Patrick Banks, Margaret Lawless.

Anniversary: Patrick McDermott, Alan Greene, Robert McCormack.

Other: Graham Naisbitt (Birthday Remembrance), Teresa Fitzgerald, Rita Clarke, Holy Souls, Mgr Paul Smith (Golden Jubilee).

WELCOME! to Noah Livesey who was baptised recently, we pray he will grow strong in the love of God.

Together

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



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the elderly 25th July 2021

We leave Mark's Gospel for the few weeks, reflecting upon the account of the multiplication of the loaves and the fish as presented as a sign of Jesus' authority and divinity. John's Gospel uses this miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish to teach about the Eucharist. Like the Last Supper, this miracle is said to have occurred near the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. John's description of this event anticipates the Messianic banquet of heaven, as the crowd reclines and all hungers are satisfied with utter abundance. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven.

In his Last Supper account John describes how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. In both stories about the Eucharist—the washing of the disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes—the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action. The word Eucharist is taken from Greek and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself and we are sent to serve others. God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve others. The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms the offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labours, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus and we also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

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ONGOING ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC In order to make sure everyone feels confident coming to Mass in a safe environment we will be starting to ease some of the restrictions from Saturday 24th July onwards. Our stewards will still be on hand to make sure everyone is seated comfortably and safely. They will ensure there is a safe space on each pew so you won't feel too crowded. If you feel you might still be particularly vulnerable please let them know and they will do their best to find you space where you will feel safer. Arrival to weekday Mass tends to be more serene and less busy, so if you consider yourself to be vulnerable, we would advocate joining us then rather than on Sundays. We will be taking down the roped off areas in church so we can create more space on each pew, and **we will also be managing the distribution of Holy Communion to avoid 'traffic jams', keeping the one way system in place and for the first few weeks Holy Communion will remain at the end of Mass. We are going to maintain cleaning at the end of every Mass and will still encourage people to sanitise hands on entry and exit from church. In view of the current high levels of infection and the number of vulnerable parishioners who wish to attend Mass, we will be asking everybody over age 12 (unless medically exempt) to wear face coverings when inside the church building,** to protect yourself and everyone else. This will be reviewed when public health advice changes. As a community we understand that whilst legislation has reduced we still have an obligation to the most vulnerable in our community, also noting Public Health and Diocesan advice. We hold in our prayers those who continue to suffer because of the pandemic.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS Many thanks for the generous donations for the week ending 24th July of £1351.68 of which £674.40 could be gift aided. Details about direct debit donations are available, as are Gift Aid donation tax statements for 2019/20. Helen Carey in our parish office from Monday – Friday 9.00am – 2.00pm will be able to help you on 0161 766 5961 or email the info email address.

TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL please log on to whitefieldrc.co.uk and select the news tab. To the left of the screen there is an instruction to subscribe for the newsletter.

ST MICHAEL'S & ST BERNADETTE'S CREDIT UNION is offering a telephone service. For information please phone 07803 854963.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Wednesday 20th October – Friday 22nd October 2021. Accommodation is in the retreat centre in Walsingham village (rooms are ensuite) and includes dinner on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and breakfast on Thursday and Friday. The cost is £225 per person in twin rooms, with some single rooms available. Booking forms are available at each of our churches. A £50 deposit with booking is required. For more information see Fr Steven.

TEA & COFFEE ON AFTER SUNDAY MASS Tea & Coffee: We are delighted to be able to welcome you back to our parish centres after each Mass on Sunday mornings from Sunday 25th July, whether it be after 9.30am Mass at St. Michael's or the 11.00am Mass at St. Bernadette's. If you would like to help out at either centre, please contact Angela on 07964059145 for St. Michael's Hall or Paula on 07780848220 for St. Bernadette's Social Centre. It would not be a weekly commitment and your help would be greatly appreciated.

A WORD OF THANKS TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES As our two parish primary schools come to the end of this term and school year we express our appreciation for their hard work over this challenging term and school year. Our thoughts and prayers go to all the pupils, staff and families for the summer holiday and we thank the staff particularly for their generous and dedicated service.

SVP Thank you for the generous donation received week ending 18th July of £150.

ZUMBA & SLIMMING WORLD are open in St Michael's Hall - Slimming World is on Tuesdays at 5.30pm & Saturday mornings at 7.30am & 9.15am. Zumba Gold (suitable for all ages) is on Wednesdays at 10.15am, please text Rebecca 07969 551721 to check in as numbers are limited for the next few weeks.

LOURDES AT HOME live-streamed Mass. A special pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John from Sacred Heart Church, Rochdale this Sunday 25th July at 2.00pm. Mass will be accompanied by a small number of the pilgrimage choir and is online only via the diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

RED DOOR (Caritas, Diocese of Salford) is open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 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 issue.

FOODBANK Contributions of non-perishable food for the SVP foodbank can now be left in the collection points in the porch of either of our churches. Your continuing support is much appreciated, £70 was donated in the week ending 24th July.

SOUTH AFRICA ORPHANAGE APPEAL a word from Fr. Ephraim Odhiambo MHM:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the parish of St. Michael & St Bernadette, and to all the donors, who made it possible for Jacinta Yates and her daughter Carys to raise £1200 towards our nutrition programme for vulnerable children and orphans in our township parish where I serve here in South Africa. It has been a very distressful time since the advent of Covid19 and such a generous donation came as a great relief. On behalf of these children and the poor, I thank you very much and I pray God will bless you abundantly.