



Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the significance of Jesus' action, we need to be aware of the activities that were going on in the Temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.



After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs very significant and the sign above all others, will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection; the Paschal Mystery. The salvation that flows from the Paschal Mystery is freely given. God's love, as fully revealed in Jesus, is not dependent upon a transaction nor upon any form of exchange, but comes wholly from the utter love and mercy of God.

Times of Services this Week		
	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 3 rd March	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday	6.45pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Mass	
Wednesday	6.30pm Service of Reconciliation for Sacramental Programme Children	9.30am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 Noon.
Thursday	9.30am Mass	6.30pm Service of Reconciliation for Sacramental Programme Children
Friday	7.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Saturday	10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Private Prayer 10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 10 th March	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Response to today's psalm: You Lord have the message of eternal life.		
Next Sunday – The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B): 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23. Ephesians 2:4-10. John 3:14-21.		
Mass Intentions: Recently deceased: Mary Noone, Wayne Parrot, Mary Coll, Connell O'Donnell, David Kelly		Other: Rita Clarke (Remembrance), Joan & Bernard Howell (Remembrance), Christine Byrne (Birthday), Special Intention.
Anniversary: .Albert Butterworth, Florence Geelan, Mary & Jim Euston,		Sick: Diana Dimambro, Kate Thompson

Parish Priest - Canon Steven Parkinson

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St Michael's Catholic Church
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Parish Office: 0161 766 5961
(Monday – Friday 9.00am-2.00pm)

Weekly offerings for week ending 2nd March 2024 £1303.24 of which £693.40 can be Gift Aided.
Foodbank donations £40.00 Red Door £30 SVP £20 Thank you.

RED DOOR (Caritas, Diocese of Salford) is open each weekday (Monday-Friday) from 10.00am until 1.00pm at St. Joseph's (former Presbytery), Peter St, Bury, for meals, food parcels, toiletries, showers, a laundry service and advice with housing and benefit issues. Tel 0161 272 0771.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Many thanks to all who support the Children's Liturgy at the 11.00am Sunday Mass. Activity packs and Sunday activity sheets for children are available at the back of each church.

LENT 2024 – Something for Lent

Early Mass on Fridays of Lent - St Bernadette's at 7.00am. **Stations of the Cross on Tuesday Evening** - St Bernadette's at 6.45pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Wednesday mornings in St Michael's from after 9.30am Mass until 12noon and will run until Wednesday 27th March in Holy Week. All are welcome to come for silent prayer in preparation for Easter; and on Saturdays 10-11.30am in St Bernadette's. **Parish Lenten Reflection with Bishop John** - Bishop John will join us and lead a reflection on Mark's Gospel on Saturday 16th March in the Archangel Room at St Michael's at 11.00am followed by a shared lunch.

Deanery Lenten Station Masses An ancient tradition of the Church in Lent is "Station Masses" – we call at "stations" – churches in our Deanery where we can come together as we travel through this holy season. They will be at 7.00pm on Thursday; Thursday 7th March at Guardian Angels, Bury; Thursday 14th March at Saint Michael's, Whitefield.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Bishop John will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 6th June at 7.00pm in St Bernadette's Church. In preparation, candidates (with an accompanying adult) are to attend two meetings. These will take place in St Michael's Church at 6.30pm on Thursday 16th May and Thursday 23rd May. Families of any young people of Year 8 age range who have not been invited through one of our Catholic High Schools and who would like to request the Sacrament of Confirmation, should speak to Fr Steven after Mass.

VISITATION OF THE PARISH BY BISHOP JOHN The Bishop will make a Visitation of the parish spending the weekend of March 16th and 17th with us. On Monday 18th March he will visit our two parish primary schools. We look forward to welcoming him.

THE PRAYER GROUP will meet via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm. If you need further information, please contact Tel: 0161 766 5141. All are welcome.

RCIA JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP For anyone who would like to know more about or reflect upon the Catholic faith. The group meet on Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Lourdes room at St Bernadette's.

WARM AND FRIENDLY SPACE in the Lourdes Room at St Bernadette's is open Thursdays from 10am – 12noon for tea, coffee, toast and a chat. All are welcome.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: FIRST RECONCILIATION we welcome the children who are currently preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week to Presentation Masses this weekend. We keep them and their families in our prayers as they journey on towards First Holy Communion.

FATHER JOE'S DIAMOND JUBILEE Father Joe wishes to thank all those who attended his Diamond Jubilee Mass and Reception in St Michael's Church on 22nd February and all those who sent cards, presents and congratulations. Thank you very much indeed.

THE FORGIVENESS PROJECT Margaret and Barry Mizen will be visiting St. Michael's and St Bernadette's Primary Schools on Monday 25th March. They will be talking to the children about the death of their son, Jimmy Mizen, who was killed aged 16. On the same day they will also be leading a talk for Parishioners and Parents at 7.00pm at St. Michael's Primary, Ribble Drive, for those who would like to come and listen to their story. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen to them speak about forgiveness and ask this inspirational couple any questions you may have. The talk should last between 60-90 minutes and refreshments will be provided. If you are intending on attending then please ring the school office on 0161 766 6628.

THE SVP SOCIETY CHARITY SHOP IN BURY is urgently seeking donations of good quality clothing, household goods etc. The shop is open Monday-Saturday 9 am to 5 pm and is located at 43 Market Street, Bury. BL9 0BL (beside the bus station). The shop is also seeking more volunteers. If you feel you could give up just a couple of hours of your time to help, please call the shop on 0161 762 9542. Alternatively, speak to a member of the parish SVP conference.

YCW IMPACT GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE For 10–14-year-olds to see how you can be more involved in the life of the parish. Thanks to those who attended the last meeting: the next meeting will be in the Lourdes room at St Bernadette's at 6.00pm on Thursday 21st March.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th June to North Yorkshire, staying at Burn Hall Hotel York (where our group stayed in 2022) visiting Ripon on Monday and Whitby on the Tuesday to reflect on the story of St Wilfrid and St Hilda, returning on Wednesday 19th via Thirsk. £199 per person in a twin or double room; some single rooms will be available at £245. Cost includes coach travel, two nights dinner, bed and breakfast and entry to Whitby Abbey. Booking forms are available from Fr Steven or Helen in the parish office at St Michael's.

EXCITING NEWS FROM ST BERNADETTE'S SOCIAL CENTRE RENOVATION TEAM Our fabulously festive Christmas Concert made £1608.00. Thank you to everybody who supported us. We are launching a new and exciting fund-raiser. We are delighted to be able to raffle 2 tickets with backstage passes to the Elbow concert on May 14th at Manchester's brand-new arena. The lucky winners will be chauffeur driven to the venue where they will be able to join family and friends of the band backstage. Thanks to lead singer Guy Garvey for offering us this fabulous prize. Tickets are only £5 each and you can enter the raffle by following this link: paypal.me/GGFHELBOW and selecting Send or you can ask any of the team to help you enter if you don't use social media.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES IN OUR CENTENARY YEAR Bookings are now being taken for this year's diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, marking our centenary year. The pilgrimage, led by Bishop John Arnold, will take place between 26th July and 1st August. Find out more and book online at <https://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk/travel-accommodation> or phone 0161 817 2209