

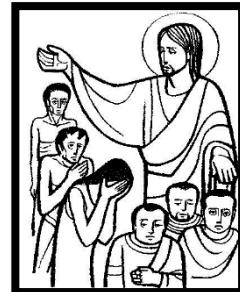


Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

Today's Gospel is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus, Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God. In this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" are not people we think of as blessed, such as the poor in spirit, or those persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. "Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favoured. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome and surprising to the crowds who heard Jesus that day. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.



Times of Services this Week		
	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 1 st February	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday 3 rd February (St Ansgar. St Blaise)	7.30pm Mass	12.30pm Requiem Mass June Donoghue RIP
Wednesday 4 th February		9.30am Requiem Mass Richard Bambrick RIP
Thursday 5 th February (St Agatha)	9.30am Mass	
Friday 6 th February (Sts Paul Miki & companions)		9.30am Mass
Saturday 7 th February	10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 8 th February	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Next Sunday: The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Isaiah 58:6-10. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Matthew 5:13-16.		
Response to today's psalm: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		
Mass Intentions: Recently deceased: June Donoghue, Robert Duff, Maria Kravos, Mary Seymour, Vincent Nuttall, Margaret King, Catherine Shaw, Anne McCrystal, Pat Peevor, Richard Bambrick, Fr Frank Austin.	Anniversary: Peter Hilton, John Mycock, Margaret Philomena Harrington, Peter Nolan, Hilda Hughes, Bernard Hobson, Mary Mason, James Murphy, Vincent Bernard Murphy, Stephanie Breslin.	
Sick: Becky Gough.	Other intentions: Rita Clarke (RIP), Joan & Bernard Howell (RIP), The Ramlogan Family (Special Intention), Adele (Special Intention).	

Parish Priest - Canon Steven Parkinson

St Bernadette's Catholic Church 436, Bury New Road Whitefield, M45 7SX Tel: 0161 766 2356	St Michael's Catholic Church Albert Rd, Whitefield, Manchester M45 8NR
E-mail: info@whitefieldrc.co.uk	
Website: www.whitefieldrc.co.uk	
Parish Office: 0161 766 5961	
(Monday – Friday 9.00am-2.00pm)	

Weekly offerings for week ending 31st January 2026 £1518.41 of which £899.25 can be Gift Aided. Thank you.

Crib offerings of £497.50 have been donated to Friends of the Holy Land for their work supporting Christian Communities in the Holy Land.

Please continue to donate any foreign and obsolete UK currency to Mary's Meals. For further information about Mary's Meals visit: marysmeals.org.uk

DONA machines to enable donations by card payment are installed at the back of each church, thank you for using them. The month end payment for December 2025 is £914.14 for offertory collections, that is in addition to the amounts listed above each week.

Barclay's Bank have added to our Christmas Fair Raffle takings in a Community Charities Trust Match Funding scheme for their Employees. We have received £1000.00 Thank you Barclays

THE PRAYER GROUP will meet via Zoom at 7.00pm on Tuesday evenings. For further information please contact Tel: 0161 766 5141. All Welcome.

RCIA JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP For anyone who would like to know more about or reflect upon the Catholic faith. The group meets in the Lourdes Room in St Bernadette's on Wednesdays at 7.30pm

PARISH SVP CONTACT NUMBER IS 07749678562. Need help or advice, phone, or leave a message and someone will call back.

YCW IMPACT GROUP The Parish Impact Youth Group (YCW) for 10–14-year-olds to see how you can be more involved in the life of the parish. The next meeting will be Tuesday 3rd March in the Lourdes Room in St Bernadette's.

BAPTISM Parents seeking Baptism for children, please collect the leaflet which can be found at the back of each of our churches, 'Celebrating the Baptism of your child'. Please return the slip from the leaflet indicating the date of the Baptism preparation meeting you wish to attend. Families not resident in the parish and who do not make St Michael's and St Bernadette's their parish by attendance, will be directed to their parish of residence.

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.

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE Did you know our Parish has a new Facebook Page? We share homily highlights and updates about events and activities in our parish community. Just search for "Parish of St Michael and St Bernadette Whitefield" on Facebook to find us. Remember to Like and Follow the Page to stay connected.

LENT 2026 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament- Wednesday mornings in St Michael's from after 9.30am Mass until 12noon, beginning Wednesday 18th February (Ash Wednesday) and will run until the Wednesday of Holy Week (1st April) All are welcome to come for silent prayer in preparation for Easter

PARISH FUNDRAISERS

1. CHRISTMAS FAIR Thank you for the many early donations we have received, they have been stored carefully until later in the year and we do appreciate your support. If you are having a spring clear out between now and November, we will pick up any unwanted items from you. In particular, new gift sets which are always sought after, new or used soft toys, tombola items and any bottles of alcohol for our stalls. Ring 0161 766 8448 for pick up or to arrange to drop off.

2. PARISH TABLE TOP SALE - the sale event last Sunday was a great success with all tables fully booked and plenty of visitors to buy. The Parish Bric a brac stall raised £150.00. The next Table Top Sale will be Sunday 8th March, booking will open 17th February.

3. EASTER EGG RAFFLE - coming soon.

Thank you for your support with all our fundraising events. The money raised goes directly into much needed parish funds!

TALK FROM CARDINAL TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE OP On 17th February, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP will be giving a talk as part of a series of guest lectures from Manchester Universities Catholic Chaplaincy. The theme will be 'How we can keep our hope alive today.' The talk will begin at 6.00pm at the Catholic Chaplaincy Church of the Holy Name, 339 Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PG. British Sign Language interpretation will be available. For more information, please contact mucc@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

LENTEN TALKS: SCHOOL OF PRAYER During Lent, a series of talks and prayerful reflections will be taking place every Tuesday from 10:30AM to 12:30PM, led by Mgr. Paul Smith, Sr Joan Kerley and Maria Kidd. These will be held at Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church, Little Hulton, from 17 February to 24 March, and light refreshments will be served. For more information on how to book your place please visit the diocesan website by clicking the following link: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lenten-talks-school-of-prayer/>