



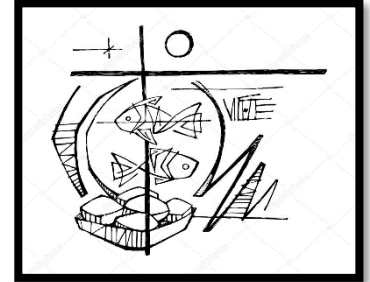
Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 2ND AUGUST 2026

Today's Gospel reading from St Matthew begins with the story of John the Baptist's arrest and execution at the hands of Herod. Upon hearing the news of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus seeks to withdraw but the crowds follow him. Jesus reaches out to them in compassion and heals the sick. At the end of a long day, the disciples encourage Jesus to send the crowds away so that they might find provisions for themselves. Jesus tells his disciples to provide food for the crowd. The disciples reply with a report of the inadequacy of their own provisions, five loaves and two fish. The result is the very familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Matthew's Gospel tells us that 5,000 men were fed and this number does not even include the women and children. Jesus' 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 the parables we have heard these last few weeks: even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Lord. The story of this miracle is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God. The importance of the Eucharist has been a defining element of Christian life from the very beginning.



Times of Services this Week		
	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 2 nd August	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday 4 th August (St John Mary Vianney)	7.30pm Mass	
Wednesday 5 th August (Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major)		9.30am Mass
Thursday 6 th August (The Transfiguration of the Lord)	9.30am Mass	
Friday 7 th August (St Sixtus. St Cajetan)		9.30am Mass
Saturday 8 th August (St Dominic)	10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 9 th August	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Next Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A) 1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13. Romans 9:1-5. Matthew 14:22-23.		
Response to today's psalm: You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.		
Mass Intentions: Recently deceased: Margaret Mary Plant, Peter An, Breda Egan Anniversary: Colm Clerkin, Jacinta Martin, Carl Allen, Maureen Reid, James Meeley, Pauline Easton, Agnes Ward		Sick: Fr. Chris Lough, Sue Richardson Other: Rita Clarke (Birthday Remembrance), Joan & Bernard Howell (RIP), Robert Duff (Remembrance), Graham Naisbitt (Birthday Remembrance), Stephen Devine (Birthday Remembrance), Chrissie & Gerard Garvey (75 th Wedding Anniversary Remembrance), Colin and Maria Bushell Golden Wedding: 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 1st August 2026 £1438.90 of which £903.00 can be Gift Aided

Food Bank £20.00 **Anonymous donations to the parish:** £200.00 & £150.00 **Thank you**

We are no longer collecting running the charity collections for foreign and obsolete currency or used stamps.

DONA machines to enable donations by card payment are installed at the back of each church. The month end payment for June 2026 is £799.95 for offertory collections, that is in addition to the amounts listed above each week.

CAFOD VENEZUELAN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER APPEAL Final total **£440.54** Thank-you.

THIS MONTH'S CHARITY APPEAL: Aid to the Church in need. Aid to the Church in need funds over 5,000 projects in more than 140 countries around world, helping to support the Church in its mission, and bringing hope and solidarity to millions of people. From building churches, to providing resources, projects range from big to small and cover a whole range of ideas to help nurture the faith of persecuted and suffering Christians.

A SMALL COMMITMENT, A BIG WELCOME Our Sunday tea and coffee after the 11.00am Mass is a valued part of parish life, a chance to meet, welcome newcomers and enjoy time together. We are looking for a few more volunteers to join our friendly team. The commitment is just one Sunday every six weeks and involves arriving about 30 minutes before Mass to set up, serving tea and coffee afterwards, and helping to tidy away. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to help and a friendly smile. If you can't move tables, don't worry; others can do that. With one of our team stepping down at the end of August, we would love to welcome some new helpers to keep this important part of parish life going. If you can help or would like to know more, please speak to any team member, contact the parish office, or email cduffin.t21@btinternet.com Thank you!

LOVE KNITTING, CROCHETING, SEWING OR MAKING? Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, is looking for creative parishioners who might be able to help them raise funds to help support people in our parish communities who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. They're looking for people who can either make items to sell in aid of the charity, or groups of people from our parishes who can be paired with local schools to help knit hats and scarves for pupils to wear in their Big Sleep Out fundraisers. If you can help, please get in touch with the team at fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk or call 0161 817 2250.

ST MICHAEL'S HALL THURSDAY GROUP 1st Thursday of every month. Everyone welcome. Help to keep the hall well organised and prepare for the Christmas Fair. Always includes coffee and a chat. Come and join us.

PARISH SVP CONTACT If you need support, advice or a visit, please speak to Helen in the Parish Office, or to Fr Steven, and they will pass your contact details on to us.

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 will take a break for the Summer and reconvene 9th September at 7.30pm in the Lourdes room at St Bernadette's.

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.

BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST Grand Christmas Craft Fayre. Sunday 6th December, 10.00am to 2.00pm at St Bernadette Social Centre **CALL FOR ENTRIES.** Are you an artist or crafter who would like to take part in our Grand Christmas Craft Fayre? Please apply to join us with information and photos of your handmade goods. Stalls cost £12 for a 4 ft table and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The application process is to ensure a diverse choice of goods on offer for both buyers and sellers. Please contact Rose Holt on Email: Rosieholt@gmail.com or Tel: 07789108000. Proceeds from bookings and the day to St Bernadette's Social Centre Renovation Fund.

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.

CONFIRMATION 2026 Bishop John will be here in October to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our candidates who are currently in Year 8 of High School. (They will have just begun Year 9 when they will be Confirmed). Parish meetings will take place on Thursday 3rd September and Thursday 10th September at St Michael's at 6.30pm. Candidates for Confirmation are required to attend both meetings, accompanied by an adult. Confirmations with Bishop John will be celebrated in St Bernadette's on Sunday 4th October at 2.00pm.

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.