



Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield



TWENTY- FIRST SUNDAY (YEAR A) 23RD AUGUST 2026

We read today's and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story, these readings being a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter 'Satan' when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people say about his identity, the disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is; Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the 'rock' upon which Jesus will build the Church and that he will be given the keys of the kingdom of heaven. In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. The use of the term Church in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.



Times of Services this Week		
	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 23 rd August	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday 25 th August (St Louis. St Joseph of Calasanz)	7.30pm Mass	
Wednesday 26 th August (Blessed Dominic Barberi)		9.30am Mass
Thursday 27 th August (St Monica)	10.00am Requiem Mass James Hardman RIP	
Friday 28 th August (St Augustine)		9.30am Mass
Saturday 21 st August (The Passion of St John the Baptist)	10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 30 th August	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Next Sunday: Twenty Second Sunday (Year A) Jeremiah 20:7-9. Romans 12:1-2. Matthew 16:21-27.		
Response to today's psalm: O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.		
Mass Intentions: Sick: Fr C Lough. Recently deceased: Janice Gibson, Brian Lynam, James Mulgrew, Jackie Linacre, Eileen Butt, Helen Bradley.		Anniversary: Bernard Morley, Bridie Kilcoyne, Alan Greene, Teresa Shatliff, Bridget Murphy, Bernadette Ryle. Other: Rita Clarke (RIP), Joan & Bernard Howell (RIP), Robert Duff (RRIP), Special Intention, Maria & Colin Bushell (Golden Wedding Anniversary), Leah McMahon (Birthday Remembrance), Thanksgiving.

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 22nd August 2026 £1369.79 of which £853.75 can be Gift Aided.

Red Door £10.00 **SVP** £125.00 from tea and coffee donations after 11.00am mass. **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 July 2026 is £805.82 for offertory collections, that is in addition to the amounts listed above each week.

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. **Total so Far: £196.51**

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!

BUILDINGS UPDATE The quinquennial inspection of the condition of the electrical installations in all of our parish buildings is currently underway. This is necessary every fifth year to ensure that we are compliant, as public buildings with the necessary health and safety requirements and for insurance purposes.

Also, the scaffolding remains on the south wall of St Bernadette's Church so that we do not have to pay for it be re-erected once work begins to address the water ingress and the significant deterioration of the interior wall of the church around the fire doors on the south side of the main body of the church. This section of the building has presented various issues over the years. Work in progress....

TABLE TOP SALE AT ST MICHAEL'S HALL SUNDAY 13TH SEPT Booking opens Tuesday 25th August. Text or ring 07759 678753. Tables 6ft - £12 & 8ft - £15. Book early to avoid disappointment.

SAVE THE DATE - PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2026.

With only 13 weeks to go until our Christmas Fair the team are hard at work planning and preparing. More details will be announced from September onwards. We have an immediate need for medium & large gift bags, new or used. The donation boxes are in the porch for both churches. Thank you.

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.

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.