



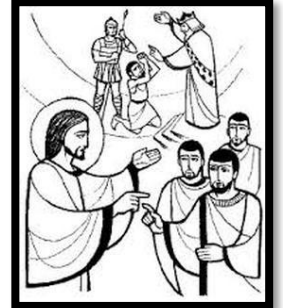
Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield



TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY (YEAR A) 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but seventy-seven times. The parable of the unforgiving servant that follows is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The parable is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the transforming effects of God's mercy in our lives. As we rely upon God's love and mercy, Jesus calls us to be forgiving people.



Times of Services this Week		
	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 13 th September	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday 15 th September (Our Lady of Sorrows)	7.30pm Mass	
Wednesday 16 th September (Sts Cornelius & Cyprian)		9.30am Mass
Thursday 17 th September (St Robert Bellarmine. St Hildegard)	9.30am Mass	
Friday 18 th September		9.30am Mass
Saturday 19 th September (St Januarius. St Theodore of Tarsus)	10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 20 th September	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Next Sunday: Twenty Fifth Sunday (Year A) Isaiah 55:6-9. Philipians 1:20-24. Matthew 20:1-16.		
Response to today's psalm: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.		
Mass Intentions: Recently deceased: Maureen Blacklock. Anniversary: Patrick Monagle, Colette Keck, Winnie Gilbert, Marian Breen.		Other: Rita Clarke (Remembrance), Joan & Bernard Howell (Remembrance), Robert Duff (Remembrance), Madelaine (Birthday), Marcela Payawal (Birthday Remembrance), Zacharias Santiago (Birthday Remembrance), Special Intention, Julie Goggins (Birthday Remembrance).

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 12th September 2026 £1352.00 which £888.50 can be Gift Aided
AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Final total £294.92 Food Bank: £45.00 Thank you.

DONA machines to enable donations by card payment are installed at the back of each church. The month end payment for August 2026 is £1140.50 for offertory collections, that is in addition to the amounts listed above each week.

CHARITY APPEAL FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IS MARY'S MEALS who provide around three million children every school day, across 16 countries in the world's poorest communities with a nutritious meal at school. It costs just 10p a day to feed a hungry child with Mary's Meals in school. Even the smallest donation will have a big impact. Total so far: **£80.45 Thank-you.**

CHANGES TO REGULATED ACTIVITY AND DBS CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERS The Crime and Policing Act 2026 has changed the definition of regulated activity by removing the supervision exemption. This means that many volunteers who are supervised whilst undertaking parish activities involving children may now be classified as undertaking regulatory activity. In simple terms, this means that from 1st September 2026 any volunteer undertaking parish activities that brings you into contact with children, is now required to undergo an Enhanced DBS check that includes a children's barred list check. You must also complete the check and be registered in the parish even if you have a DBS certificate issued by another organisation. Please note the requirement for holding a DBS if you work with adults in the parish remains. If you have a parish check currently, please check your certificate is in date and still valid. Any questions please email our Parish Safeguarding Lead - christine.joyce10@virginmedia.com

Welcome to Fr Philip Amek who will be here again in Whitefield with us for a couple of weeks. Fr Philp is a member of the Mill Hill Missionary Society and a member of their General Council.

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 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 Wednesday 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.

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.

SVP SEPTEMBER AWARENESS MONTH, WEEK 2 Through the month of September, we would like to update parishioners about the activities of our SVP Conference members over the past twelve months. Here is the second of four updates, which we hope you will find interesting:

Practical Help

At Christmas, we gave gifts to children in the families we visit and took festive plants to care home residents. At Easter, we gave cards, plants and boxes of biscuits to the people and families we support, and chocolate eggs for the children. We wrote Christmas cards to parish families who had been bereaved during the previous year. We supported and advised someone facing a difficult financial situation, signposting them to appropriate help to make the problem more manageable.

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR - SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2026 - ST MICHAEL'S HALL As we start to prepare for our biggest parish fundraiser event, we will be asking over a period of the next few weeks, for donations that will help with the fair. For the next 2 weeks we are inviting you, if you are able to do so, to donate towards our bottle tombola. All bottles glass or plastic wanted and welcome.

Suggested ideas include shampoo /conditioner, bodywash, hand soap, sauce (brown or red) any alcohol including wine, other drinks, cordial, etc - basically anything on the supermarket shelves that comes in a bottle! The team will be appreciative if you can add an extra item to your weekly shop and place in the Christmas fair boxes. These are located in the foyer in both churches. Thank you very much.