

SAINT ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER PARISH.



Incorporating the Parishes of:

St. Mary of the Angels & St. Clare Church, Elbow St, Levenshulme, M19 3PY

St. Richard Church, Sutcliffe Avenue, Longsight, M12 5TN

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SUNDAY 31st August 2025. Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings are on Page 130 in the Sunday Mass Book.

Reflection: St. Augustine was asked which was the most necessary of all the virtues he is supposed to have, and he said, "Humility." They asked him, which is the second, he replied, "Humility," they asked which is the third, he said "humility."

The invitation to be able is thrown to all, man, woman, old, young, weak or strong, poor or rich, ugly or pretty, boy or girl. The word humble is from the Latin word "Humus" which basically refers to 'the soil'. As scripture says, we are formed from dust (Gen 2) and since we are from dust, the invitation reminds us that we must remember our humble beginning (from the dust) and stop thinking highly of ourselves.

Jesus undoubtedly agreed because in our Gospel passage of today, Jesus sees the guests pushing their way to the most prominent and prestigious seats at a meal, obviously because they want to be recognized as important. Don't we also do this consciously or unconsciously whenever we are invited by friends to a meal or a party? Jesus says, "Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled and he who humbles himself shall be exalted." This was exactly the problem with the Pharisees and the guests at the wedding feast in the Gospel Reading (Luke 14:1,7-14). Their main aim was to be honoured. But they took the path of Pride, and it led them to the greatest dishonour of their life, and we see that also in Genesis 3:5 when our first parents Adam and Eve, wanted to be more than what they were; they wanted to be like God. Their pride was the beginning of the wide stream of evil to which we all contribute whenever we sin. Hence, Jesus said in the gospel to those who are not humble, "A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, give up your place to this man. And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place."

Today's first reading presents God as the model of humility though God is Omnipotent, he still pays attention to the least of people. If God does not look down on us or anyone, who do you think you are when you look down on your fellow men and women. What have you achieved in life that made you think you are better than other people and you look down on them? The WORD of God teaches us today that, the greater you are, the humbler you should be but unfortunately in our society today, the opposite is the case. The reading also says that pride is the worst of all vices because of its destructive tendency, Sirach 3 :28. Says, "The affliction of the proud has no healing for a plant of wickedness has taken root in them". What does pride do to us?

– A proud person is self-centred that he/she can never think of others.

– A proud person is unable to learn more, and he or she can't be corrected.

- A proud person is unable to relate well neither with God (in prayer) nor with his /her neighbour, A proud person cannot be told anything because he/she has all the answers, A proud person is completely satisfied with himself or herself and completely dissatisfied with life as lived by others. Pride my beloved brothers and sisters is self-destructive and equally destructive of family, community, or parish life because a proud person would never want to receive anything from others, a proud person is an insecure individual who tries to make up for their insecurity by boasting and vainglory in all their manifestations.

Humility on the other hand is Truth: it is knowing and appreciating the truth about yourself; it is integrity, sincerity, honesty. It neither overestimates or underestimates yourself, your talents, and abilities. The humbles person knows his or her strength and weakness and seeks to develop and shares his/her strength and talents and in accepting this truth about yourself, you give the credit to God who endowed you with talents and gave you the ability to develop it and expect you to use them for the good of others.

Beloved in the Lord, we need humility starting from the house of God – especially here in our parish of SJN. We need humility in prayer, during offerings, in relating with one another, in showing care, love and compassion and even helping those in need, we need humility while receiving holy communion (We still want to hear people say 'Lord I am not worthy to receive you... Matt 18 :8) and to say 'Amen' when receiving the Lord who humbles himself for us and gave us himself in the holy eucharist, his body and his blood.

At this point I would like to challenge all of us especially our youths and young ones and you parents of these blessed and talented children that God has given/blessed you with and yet some of you are NOT using their gifts and talents to serve God in His House, in our parish. You would rather want to be famous and show these wonderful gifts and talents of yours at school, states, and national events but not here, in your Church that God sealed you with his gifts, baptized, received the Holy Spirit and more. What could be wrong? Why are you not coming forward in humility to share your gifts, your talents to add to the beauty of God's worship? Is this pride or what?

We all know the danger and evil of pride. The problem is, how do we overcome pride? How do we become humble?

We are invited today by the Lord in his WORD to reject the path of pride if we want to be truly honoured! The Path of humility remains the most excellent and efficient way to receive honour both from God and from men and women! Because "The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, He accepts the homage of the humble." Also, "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man or woman who humbles himself or herself will be exalted." The world today may want to convince us that the true and noble path of humility is the path of weakness. But then history has proved that the path of pride is the path of destruction and extinction! Also, those who walked this wrong path were forgotten whereas those who walked the true path of humility are always remembered and are given to us as examples as we have in the saints and in the great men and women, we know in the history of our beloved country and world at large. It is time for all of us to allow Jesus to live his life in us daily, and then we, like him, will be gentle and humble of heart.

We Pray for the sick and housebound John Fitzgerald. Cyril Corcoran. Sr Edith. Eileen Toth. Anne Leavy. Maria Morrissey, Margaret McAteer. Kathleen Beech. Martina McGeehan. Jean Angus. Irene, Karen Rice. Paul and Kath McInenny. Keith and Linda Marshall, Jim McGlynn. John Reilly. Mary McVarnock. May God grant them good health of mind and body.

May God grant eternal rest to those who have died recently.

Mary Newbold. John O'Hara. Greg Dromey (May their souls rest in peace)

Memorial Anniversary Elaine McGuire (4th) Sean Devaney (14th) Seamus Gallogly (6th) Marita Salcedo Zuniga de Jaime (4th)

Special Intention Happy belated Birthday to John Corrigan. Anonymous donor

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Funeral at St Mary's for John O'Hara RIP will be Tuesday 9th September at 10:30am
2. Mary Newbould who attended Mass at St Mary's and St Richard's for very many years has recently died. Requiem Mass at St Bernard's at 10am on Tuesday 9th September. Reception into church Monday 8th at 6.30pm.
3. The Parish collection for Mary's meals was a total of £347.80, which is enough to provide at least 18 children with a daily meal in school for a whole year or at 10p per serving, that's enough to provide 3478 nutritious portions of Mary's Meals. Thank-you to everyone at the parish who donated to this initiative and thank you for your generosity & kindness. Everyone is invited to a Thanksgiving Mass of Mary's Meals on Monday 8th September at Sacred Heart Church, Kingsway, Rochdale OL16 5BX at 7pm. Tea and cake in the Parish centre after Mass. Please RSVP to fran.lawson@marysmeals.org if you would like to attend
4. Anyone who spoke to Fr Kris offering accommodation for the Legionaries please provide your contact details on the form at the back of Church as we need to organise this event now. Most of those who have provided contact details have been spoken too.
5. Parents, in September, the parish is beginning Children Liturgy on Sunday at the 11:00am Mass. We are encouraging you to kindly talk to your children for their full participation and commitment. Please register your child in any of the ministries – Readers, Ushers, Choir, welcoming ministry and offering collection during mass. We need your support.
6. Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 05th October 2025. £849.00 pps. Price includes return flight, 10kg check in bag, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre. Limited single rooms £200.00. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. See the poster in the porch.
7. The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday 12 September. Right To Life UK has launched an *EasyAction* tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill. ***Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds!***

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK AT MASS TO WORSHIP TOGETHER.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil:	5:00 pm St. Richard's	6:30 pm St. Mary's
Sunday:	9:30 am St. Richard's	11:00 am St. Mary's

Daily Masses

St. Mary's:	9:30 am – Tuesday & Thursday
10:00am – 11:00am	Exposition/Adoration & Mass on Saturday
10:15 – 10:45 am –	Sacrament of Reconciliation
St. Richard's:	9:15 am - Wednesday & Friday

Last week's offerings St Richards £229.28 St Marys £337.22 total £566.50

As always thank you for your generous offerings