

SAINT ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER PARISH.



Parishes of:

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

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

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Kris Louis Aneke, MSP

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Martin Dowd

Website: www.stmaryslevenshulme.co.uk Email: info@stmaryslevenshulme.co.uk Tel:Office 0161-248-8836

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS. 14th September 2025.

Mass Readings are on Page 191 in the Parish Mass Book.

Reflection:

What is the difference between a crucifix and a cross? A crucifix is a cross with the image of Jesus on it. To crucify means "to fasten on a cross," and crucifix means "the crucified one." When the image of Jesus is not on it, it is simply referred to as a cross. For us Catholics, crucifixes are called crosses. Generally, plain crosses represent the Christian faith. Crucifixes go deeper to signify the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for humanity's redemption. Plain crosses and crucifixes are a powerful Catholic and Christian identity.

Historically, the cross was one of the ancient ways of execution which continued during the Roman Empire. The cross was a symbol of shame for public execution of political rebels, criminals, and rebellious slaves. Jesus was condemned as a political rebel and was crucified. From the earliest time, Christians gave dignity to the Cross of Jesus, exalted, and venerated it as a powerful religious and spiritual symbol. Honouring Jesus, the Roman Emperor, Constantine, abolished crucifixion about 313 AD after he became a Christian. Before the Battle of Milvian Bridge, Constantine testified that he saw a vision of a cross in the sky with the inscription, "In this sign, conquer." He marked his soldiers' shields with the sign of the cross. He attributed his victory to the power of the cross and to the Christian God.

Jesus' crucifixion transformed his own cross to a glorified and Holy Cross. Christians, from the apostolic time, began to use the Sign of the Cross as a prayer for invocation of the Trinity, as a gesture of prayer for protection, as a profession of faith, and for blessing. Part of Good Friday's liturgy is the Veneration of the Cross. We sing, "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world ... Come, let us adore." We begin each station of the Stations of the Cross with the prayer of exaltation, "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you; because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world." The Cross is exalted in the Preface of today's Mass: "For you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered, through Christ our Lord." This exaltation summarizes the story of the fall of Adam and Eve and the salvation story. Later in this Mass, we will acclaim the Mystery of Faith: "Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free." The Church calls the Cross "Immortal Tree" and "Tree of Life."

Jesus himself exalts his Cross by his words in today's gospel, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up [on the cross], so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14). Jesus also says in John 12:32, "And when I am lifted up [on the cross] from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

The cross is exalted because it tells the salvation story at a glance. The salvation story is a story of hope that does not end with crucifixion but continues with resurrection and ascension. The Cross of Jesus is a symbol of strength and perseverance. Jesus did not refuse his Cross. He persevered through it all. We are encouraged to do the same. May our crosses not be the end of our stories. May we also attain our own 'resurrection' and 'ascension' in whatever shape or form God wills it. Let us graft our crosses to the Holy Cross and draw spiritual nutrients from it for our earthly journey. Today, the Church reassures us that there is power in the Holy Cross.

One of the classical hymns of the Exaltation of the Cross, The Old Rugged Cross, was written in 1913 by Rev. George Bennard (Methodist Episcopal Church). The refrain:

*So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it some day for a crown. *

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.

Betty Costigan. Mary Newbold. Tommy Hegarty. Eammon McKeever. Bridie Devlin.

Memorial Anniversary John McGee (7th) Vera Hogan. Fr Paddy Durkin.

Birthday Remembrance Phelim Clerkin (May their souls rest in peace)

Special Intention Happy Birthday to Ehiabhi Agbonrofo, Sr Edith.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. We welcome the Legionaries from Ireland to our Parish. They are with us till Saturday the 20th. and will undertake home visitation of Catholics and Non-Catholics alike around our parish.
2. **Weekday Masses for this week ONLY at St. Mary's at 9:30am. This is to avail our visitors, the Legionaries from Ireland to attend Mass before going out for their Visitation.**
3. Funeral arrangements for the late Elizabeth (Betty) Costigan RIP: evening reception into St Mary's Church on Tuesday 23rd September at 6:30 pm. Funeral Mass on Wednesday 24th September at 10 am followed by burial at Mill Lane Cemetery.
4. 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. Please see the poster in the porch.
5. St Bernard's Parish have organised a day trip to Blackpool on Saturday 11th October 2025. Pick up from St Bernards at 11am going to St Annes, then 5pm driving through the Blackpool lights and returning approximately 10pm. Cost is £18 please contact Peggy 07808966425.
6. Also pilgrimage to Walsingham next year 1st-3rd May 2026. Twin ensuite room is available; there are no single rooms left. Price £269 per person. Please contact Peggy 07808966425
7. **Anyone interested or knows someone who would be interested in managing our Parish Hall and bar please see Fr Kris or call into the Parish Office Monday or Thursday 10am -1pm. The person will require a liquor licence in their name.**

Diocese Information

8. This Season of Creation, the Diocese of Salford and the Laudato Si' Centre are joining with the Columban Missionaries in Britain for a special Mass to pray for the future of our common home. Join us at 6pm on Thursday 25th September at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church as we pray the new Mass for the Care of Creation, approved by Pope Leo this summer. All are welcome to attend!
9. There are a number of job vacancies in the diocese to find out more and apply go to <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies> J
10. Join us in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham with a special Mass at St Luke's Church (M6 7WR), in Salford, on Wednesday 24 September. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John, at 7pm. There will also be an opportunity to find out more about next year's diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham.

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

Weekday Masses

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

Last week's offerings St Richards £148.80 St Marys £412.04 total £560.84
As always thank you for your generous offerings