

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

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THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY 4TH JANUARY, 2026.

Mass Readings are on Page 111 and Order of Mass from page 7 of the Parish Mass Book.

Reflection:

There was a song released nearly fifty years ago by a group called 'Up with people'. The lyrics tell of a dad tucking up his little son in bed for the night, and his son asks, 'Tell me dad, what colour is God's skin?' His father replied, 'It's black, brown, it's yellow, and it's red and it's white. Everyone's the same in the good Lord's sight'. The little boy looking at his dad then asks, 'Daddy, why do the different races fight, if we are the same in the good Lord's sight?' Children have a way of asking probing questions, as parents know better than I do.

The child's question, 'What colour is God's skin?' is a version of the question that all people have been asking since the beginning of time, 'Who is God?' 'What is God like?' It is one of those big questions that don't lend themselves to an easy answer. As we struggle with that question, it is worth holding on to a statement towards the end of today's gospel reading, 'No one has ever seen God'. Libraries of books have been written about God. We all have our own image of God, based on what people have told us and what we have read. Yet there is more to God than our image of God because no one has ever seen God. Our image of God always needs to be corrected, to be purified in some way. How do we do that? 'No one has ever seen God', the evangelist immediately says, 'It is the only Son, who is nearest the Father's heart, who has made him (God) known'. There is one person who has seen God, the one the gospel reading refers to as Jesus Christ. He knows God through and through, because, in the words of the gospel reading, he was with God in the beginning, before the creation of the universe, and was himself God. 'In the beginning was the Word: The Word was with God and the Word was God'. This Word who was with God in the beginning and who was God became flesh, became fully human, as Jesus of Nazareth. To see Jesus is to see God. The mind of Jesus reveals the mind of God; the heart of Jesus reveals the heart of God.

Jesus shows us who God is like, the colour of God's skin, through every word he spoke, every action he performed, and above all through his loving commitment to all of humanity, a commitment so total that it led him to lay down his life for all. Whereas no one has seen God, many people saw Jesus. You might say, 'But, I haven't seen Jesus'. Yes, none of us have seen Jesus' face to face, but the gospels allow us to see Jesus through the eyes of those who saw him face to face. Also, the Jesus whom we see in the pages of the gospels isn't just a person who lived and died two thousand years ago. God raised him from the dead and he has been present with his disciples as risen Lord ever since. He is there to be seen with the eyes of faith.

Jesus who journeyed with the men and women of his time continues to journey with us all today as risen Lord. Jesus who gave himself as bread and wine to his disciples at the last supper continues to give himself to us as risen Lord at every Eucharist. Jesus who drew people to himself, and to the true God, continues to draw us to himself and, through himself, to the true God. Jesus who invited people to receive from all he had come to give, continues to invite us to receive from his fullness today. The community who stands behind this gospel of John had never seen Jesus' face to face, and, yet they were able to say, in the words of today's gospel reading, 'we saw his glory... from his fullness we have all received, yes, grace in return for grace'. We can all say the same if we entrust ourselves in faith to the Lord who speaks to us and who comes to us every day.

The risen Lord invites us every day to grow in our relationship with him, to befriend him as he befriends us. Every day he calls out to us as he called out to the disciples of John the Baptist, 'Come and see'. Every day he asks us as he asked Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee, 'Do you love me?' Every day he makes the same promise to us that he made to the Samaritan woman, 'Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty'. The more we respond to the Lord's daily presence to us, his daily invitation, the more we will come to know who God really is and

the more our image of God will be purified. because he wants to live in us, so that his word shapes all our words, so that we are alive with his life and come to love others with his love.

We Pray for the sick and housebound.

John Fitzgerald. Cyril Corcoran. Eileen Toth. Anne Leavy. Margaret McAteer. Kathleen Beech. Martina McGeehan. Jean Angus. Irene Rice, Karen Rice. Paul and Kath McInenny. Keith and Linda Marshall, Jim McGlynn. Mary McVarnock. Joe Toth. James Nally, Vincent Foy and Delia Groarke.

May God grant them good health of mind and body.

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

Alice Egan, Augustinho Asencio, And Michael Thomas Kane

Memorial Anniversary: Nancy Burne (10th Memorial Anniversary) , Benny Wood (2nd memorial Anniversary), Sean Devaney (80th birthday remembrance), Kevin Ward (4th memorial anniversary), John and Bridget Donelon

Special Intentions/Thanksgiving: Bawak family

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. The Parish office will be closed from Christmas Day and reopen on Monday January 5, 2026.
2. Today is children's Liturgy Mass. Thank you to all the children and who were involved in the liturgical roles. Parents, please encourage your children to take part in the Children liturgy.
3. All sacramental programmes in the parish will resume this January. We hope to send emails and give a call out to all those concerns to inform them of the actual date of resumption. Please if you are yet to register your children for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation class, kindly do so today and next week. For RCIA programme, you can still register also.
4. There will be second collection today for Building Maintenance.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE:

Dear Parishioners,

As we have already stepped into this New Year, 2026, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and our spirits as one big faith community be renewed in faith. May you be filled with hope, peace, and blessings from God to you and your loved ones and may the light of Christ shine upon you this New Year.

Thank you all for your amazing supports and generosity to the parish last year and I pray and looking forward to a more amazing support and generosity this New Year.

Happy New Year, dear parishioners! May this year bring us closer to God and to one another in fellowship and service.

Fada Kris Louis Aneke, MSP

Parish Usual Weekend/Weekday Masses'

Saturday Vigil Masses: 5:00pm @ St. Richard's 6:30pm @ St. Mary's

Sunday Masses: 9:30am @ St. Richard's 11:00am @ St. Mary's

Baptism: 12:30pm First and Last Sunday of the month @ St. Mary's
12:00 pm Third Saturday of the month @ St. Richard's

Weekday Masses: St. Mary's 9:30am – Tuesday & Thursday
St. Richard's 9:15am – Wednesday & Friday

EXPOSITION/ADORATION: @ St. Mary's 10:00am Mass: 11:00am

Sacrament of reconciliation: @ St. Mary's on Saturdays between 10:15am – 10:40am