

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 C. Dowd

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 22ND February 2026.

Mass Readings are on Page 151 and Order of Mass from page 7 of the Parish Mass Book.

Reflection:

Lent is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his forty days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time of repenting for our sins and renewing our lives so that we can celebrate Easter with our Risen Lord Who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death and Resurrection.

Today's readings teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, by the world, and by our own selfish interests. So, we need to cooperate actively with God's grace, if we are to conquer our temptations and practice prayer, self-control, and charity.

The first reading, taken from the book of Genesis describes the "Original Temptation" – "*You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil.*" Adam and Eve were given the freedom to make a choice to live for God, dependent upon, and obedient to, His will, or to say no to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin. In contrast, today's Gospel from St. Matthew shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and authority.

In the **second reading**, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam, who fell to Satan's Original Temptation, brought him and us sin, death, and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that Christ regained for us a right relationship with God by his perfect obedience to God his Father.

Today's Gospel teaches us how the "*desert experience*" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation — to mistrust His Father by satisfying his own immediate, temporal needs — thus reducing His Divine mission to self-satisfaction! The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove that he is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the Temple. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and demand He prove His Trustworthiness! Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if worshipping Satan would enrich and empower Jesus with all kingdoms of the world.

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, Delia Groarke.

May God grant them good health of mind and body.

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

Oneta Wilson, Martin Murphy. Stephen Mullaney,

Memorial Anniversary: Mary McKenna. Anthony Doherty. Francis Bwalya Pupe (2nd)
Hughie Kelly (16th)

Special Intentions: Private intention for a Parishioner

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

During lent we are supposed to grow closer to God before Easter. Lent is about prayer, fasting and almsgiving. If you break your promise, don't give up start again tomorrow. God sees you and what you do, that is what matters!

1. **Fridays during Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 6pm in St Marys. Friday is traditionally dedicated to the remembrance of Christ's passion and death.**
2. We are having an Easter Raffle to raise funds for our Churches. This weekend raffle tickets will be sold at both Churches before and after each weekend Mass. There are a variety of prizes for example £100 cash, Easter eggs, Bottle of Baileys, United and City footballs and many more!!
3. Funeral Mass for Stephen Mullaney RIP is on Wednesday 25th February at 10am in St Marys. **Sorry, there will be no Mass on Wednesday in St Richards**
4. After 11am Mass every Sunday breakfast is available to buy in the Hall at St Mary's, tea/coffee, toast, bacon or sausage sandwich. Everyone is welcome.
5. CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 27th February. CAFOD envelopes are at the back of Church please take one and return them to Church any weekend during Lent.
6. Anyone interested in joining The Legion of Mary in the Parish, please speak to Fr Kris. If there are enough people interested more information will be shared as soon as possible.
7. **There will be no Active Retirement Group gathering on Thursday 26th February as the Hall will be used as a Polling station.**
8. Pope Leo has announced from 10th January 2026 until 10th January 2027 will be a Franciscan Jubilee Year to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. The faithful can receive a plenary indulgence during this year for more information visit: Decree of the Franciscan Jubilee Year.

***Parish Usual Weekend/Weekday Masses'* Check the points in the newsletter for any changes to Mass times.**

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 Third Sunday of the month @ St. Mary's

12:00 pm First and 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: SATURDAYS @ St. Mary's 10:00am Mass: 11:00am

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