

## 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

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### **TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A. 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2026.**

**Mass Readings are on Page 117 and Order of Mass from page 7 of the Parish Mass Book.**

**Reflection:** THEME: Faith That Breaks Barriers

The Gospel of today presents us with a remarkable encounter between Jesus and a Canaanite woman. She approaches Jesus with great faith and cries out: **“Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is severely possessed by a demon.”** At first, Jesus appears silent. The disciples even ask Him to send her away. Yet the woman does not give up. She continues to plead: **“Lord, help me.”** Jesus eventually praises her: **“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”** And her daughter was healed. The Canaanite woman teaches us the meaning of perseverance in prayer. She prayed even when there seemed to be no immediate answer. Sometimes we pray and wonder: *Why has God not answered me? Why is my situation still the same?*

Today's Gospel reminds us not to give up. God's silence is not necessarily God's rejection. Sometimes God allows us to persevere because perseverance deepens our faith. When we pray, therefore, we must not pray only when things are easy. We must continue trusting God even in moments of difficulty.

The woman was a foreigner and a Canaanite. She was outside the traditional Jewish community. Yet Jesus uses her faith to teach everyone an important lesson: **God's mercy is not restricted by nationality, race, social status or background.**

The first reading tells us that God's house is to be **“a house of prayer for all peoples.”** As Christians, we must therefore avoid creating unnecessary barriers. The Church is called to welcome people, especially those who feel rejected, forgotten or unworthy. There are people around us who need not only material assistance but also acceptance, encouragement and compassion. The Canaanite woman does not demand anything from Jesus. She humbly says, **“Lord, help me.”** Her humility is part of the greatness of her faith.

Sometimes our prayers are filled with demands: *God must do this; God must do that.* But genuine prayer also says: **“Lord, I trust You. You know what is best for me.”** Humility allows us to recognize that we need God.

The woman was not asking for herself. She was interceding for her daughter. This is a beautiful reminder for parents, grandparents, relatives and friends: **never stop praying for those entrusted to your care.**

Perhaps you have a child who has gone astray, a family member who is struggling, someone who has abandoned the faith, or a loved one facing serious difficulties. Bring that person before the Lord. The Canaanite woman teaches us that persistent intercession can become an expression of profound love.

Today's Gospel invites us to examine our faith. When God seems silent, will we continue to trust Him? When our prayers are delayed, will we persevere? When we encounter people who are different from us, will we welcome them? And when someone we love is suffering, will we continue to pray for that person?

Let us learn from the Canaanite woman. Let us approach Jesus with **faith, humility and perseverance**, saying:

**“Lord, help me.”**

**We Pray for the sick and housebound.** John Fitzgerald. Cyril Corcoran. Anne Leavy. Margaret McAteer. Kathleen Beech. Martina McGeehan. Jean Angus. Irene Rice, Karen Rice. Paul and Kath McNenny. Keith and Linda Marshall, Jim McGlynn. James Nally, Vincent Foy, Delia Groarke. Peggy Sweeney. JJ Coyne. Bernadette McLaughlin.  
**May God grant them good health of mind and body.**

**May God grant eternal rest to those who have died recently:** Freda Maria Paulson. Christopher Joyce. John Shiels. Steven Murphy. Peter Harrison

**Memorial Anniversary:** Kathleen Molloy

**Special Intention:** For Happy Birthdays for a granddaughter and great nephew.

### **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

1. **This is not an appeal for funds** but as it is holiday season if you have any foreign coins or find money that is no longer legal tender, don't throw it away. Please leave it in the basket at the back of Church and this money will be sent to the charity Marys Meals. Marys Meals use old and foreign currency to provide a daily meal for children in schools and live in poverty throughout the world. Any "odd" money from the weekly collection is saved and will be sent to this Charity. Thank you
2. **Become a CAFOD School Volunteer:** Do you have a passion for faith, justice, and inspiring young people? CAFOD is seeking volunteers to visit local Catholic schools to lead assemblies and workshops about our work and mission. Help children and young people learn how they can make a positive difference in the world. Full training and support provided. For further information, please contact Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email [aletizia@cafod.org.uk](mailto:aletizia@cafod.org.uk).
3. On Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a McMillan coffee morning in the hall from 10am, everyone is welcome to attend.
4. The Annual Cemetery Mass at Southern Cemetery will take place on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 12 noon outside the Catholic Chapel in the Cemetery. Please provide your own chair if you require one. If it's raining Mass will take place in St Ambrose Church.
5. Bingo is held every Sunday at 8pm in the lounge in the Hall, everyone is welcome to attend, bring your friends or come alone and make new friends.
6. The **Thursday Active Retirement Group** are next meeting on **3<sup>rd</sup> September**.
7. Last couple of prizes from the funday which need to be claimed, please bring your tickets to the office on Monday or Thursday between 10-1pm to collect your prize.

**You can now pay your donations to Church by using the card machine at the back of Church or by scanning this QR code on your phone. You then follow the simple instructions.**



### ***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***