

ST ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER



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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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A. 30th AUGUST 2026.

Mass Readings are on Page 122 and Order of Mass from page 7 of the Parish Mass Book.

Reflection: Theme: “Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me”

Today’s Gospel presents us with one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus.

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

The Christian life involves the Cross and the cross is not something we should deliberately look for, but it is something we cannot completely avoid. Every human being experiences difficulties: sickness, disappointment, rejection, family problems, financial challenges, misunderstanding, loneliness and sometimes persecution because of our faith.

Jesus does not promise us a life without difficulties. Instead, He teaches us how to carry our difficulties with faith. The cross becomes meaningful when we carry it with Christ.

We should therefore ask ourselves: **How do I respond when life becomes difficult?** Do I abandon God? Do I complain against Him? Or do I continue to trust Him?

Self-denial does not mean hating ourselves. It means refusing to make ourselves the centre of everything. In our world today, we are often encouraged to say, “My comfort comes first. My desires come first. I must get what I want.” But Jesus says: **“Deny yourself.”**

This means learning to control our anger, forgive those who hurt us, resist temptation, make sacrifices for our families, serve others and put God’s will before our own selfish desires. True discipleship requires sacrifice. Each person has a cross to carry. For one person, it may be family responsibility. For another, it may be difficult work, disappointment, poverty, loneliness, persecution, Addiction or a painful situation that cannot immediately be changed.

The important thing is not simply to carry the cross, but to carry it **with Christ**. When we unite our suffering with Christ, our pain can become an offering to God.

The first reading gives us a beautiful example in Jeremiah. He experienced rejection and suffering because he faithfully proclaimed God’s word. Yet he could not abandon his mission. He says that God’s word was like a fire burning within him. That is the attitude of a true disciple. Jesus asks a powerful question:

“What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”

This is a question we should all take seriously. We spend so much time pursuing money, possessions, positions, influence and recognition. These things have their place, but none of them can save the soul. At the end of our lives, we will not be asked how much property we accumulated. We will be asked how faithfully we lived. We must therefore seek first the things that truly matter **faith, love, holiness, forgiveness, service and eternal life.**

In the second reading, St Paul tells us: **“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”**

The Christian must not simply follow whatever the world says is acceptable. We are called to allow Christ to transform our thinking, our speech, our choices and our relationships.

A transformed Christian is someone who chooses forgiveness instead of revenge, honesty instead of deceit, generosity instead of selfishness, purity instead of immorality, and love instead of hatred. Let us always remember that, the cross is not the end of the Christian story. After the cross comes resurrection.

Jesus carried His cross and conquered death. Therefore, when we carry our crosses faithfully, we do so with the hope that God will also lead us to resurrection and eternal life.

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. Bernadette McLaughlin.

May God grant them good health of mind and body.

May God grant eternal rest to those who have died recently: John Collins. Rose McNally

Memorial Anniversary: Betty Costigan (1st) Catherine Barrett (26th) Seamus Gallogly. Elaine McGuire (5th)

Special Intention: Mary Brady. Winnie Collins

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Could you be called to serve the church as a Permanent Deacon?
If you are a Catholic man interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Salford, please come along to the next 'Come and See' event. There will be opportunities to talk to some of our deacons and find out more about their journey and the ministry without committing to anything further. For more information, please email diaconate@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
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.
3. On Sunday September 13th there will be a **McMillan coffee morning** in the hall from 10am, everyone is welcome to attend.
4. We have just over two weeks left before MPs will vote at Second Reading of the **assisted suicide Bill** in the House of Commons on 11 September. Only 12 MPs need to switch for the assisted suicide Bill to be defeated on 11 September. A face-to-face meeting can make a real difference to how your MP votes. Right To Life UK's simple tool lets you request a meeting in just 30 seconds and gives you everything you need to prepare, including a short video guide. **Please ask your MP today for a meeting and urge them to vote NO to assisted suicide:** <https://righttolife.org.uk/meetyourmp>
5. **St Gregory's Annual Mass** for deceased former pupils, teachers and families of St Gregory's High School, will be celebrated at St Catherine's RC Church, School Lane, Didsbury on 5th September at 12noon. Celebrant Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSP. Contact Peter Ryan on 07980498431 or Dominic Mulcahy on 07545283334
6. Thank you for the money left so far for Marys Meals. Any foreign money or old money that cannot be used can be placed in the basket at the back of Church and this money will be sent to the charity Marys Meals. Marys Meals use this money to provide a daily meal for children in schools who live in poverty throughout the world. Any "odd" money from the weekly collection is saved and will be sent to this Charity. Thank you
7. **Active retirement group will resume meeting on Thursday 3rd September.**

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