



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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A. 13TH SEPT 2026.

Mass Readings are on Page 128 and Order of Mass from page 7 of the Parish Mass Book.

Reflection: Today's Gospel presents us with one of the most challenging demands of Christian life: forgiveness. Peter approaches Jesus and asks, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Peter probably thought he was being generous. But Jesus responds, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." Jesus is not asking us to count the number of times we forgive. He is teaching us that forgiveness must become a way of life. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a servant who owes his master an enormous debt. The master has compassion on him and forgives the entire debt. But shortly afterwards, that same servant finds another servant who owes him a much smaller amount. Instead of showing mercy, he grabs him and demands payment. The tragedy is that he received mercy but refused to give mercy. This can sometimes be our story. We ask God to forgive our sins, weaknesses and mistakes, yet we can find it extremely difficult to forgive someone who has hurt us. Every time we pray the Our Father, we say: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

We are asking God to measure our forgiveness by the forgiveness we extend to others.

Sometimes people misunderstand forgiveness. To forgive does not mean that the wrong was acceptable. It does not mean that we should allow someone to continue abusing or hurting us. It does not always mean that trust is immediately restored. Forgiveness means refusing to allow the injury to control our hearts.

When we refuse to forgive, we often carry the person who hurt us everywhere we go. They may have hurt us once, but our anger causes us to relive the injury again and again.

The first reading reminds us that anger and resentment destroy us. Sirach asks us to remember our own mortality and our dependence upon God's mercy.

We forgive because God has forgiven us.

Think of how many times we have failed God. How many times we have promised to change and fallen again. Yet God continues to welcome us. The Psalm says: "The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy."

If God is so merciful towards us, we must learn to show that same mercy to others.

There are times when forgiveness does not come easily. Someone may have deeply wounded us. We may still feel the pain even after many years. In such situations, we can begin with a prayer:

"Lord, I am not yet able to forgive this person completely. But I desire to forgive. Give me the grace to let go of my anger and place this person in your hands."

A practical question for today

As we leave this Mass, each of us can ask:

"Is there someone I need to forgive?"

Perhaps it is a husband or wife. Perhaps a child. Perhaps a brother or sister. Perhaps a friend. Perhaps someone at work. Perhaps someone in the parish. Or perhaps we need to forgive ourselves for something we continue to carry.

Jesus says today: "Forgive your brother from your heart."

Let us not leave Mass carrying hatred, resentment and bitterness. Let us place our wounds before Christ.

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 McInenny. 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: Roderick Mannion. Bridie O'Hara. May Harkin. Margaret (Peggy) Stenson. John Dwyer.

Memorial Anniversary: Michael Ruddy (1st) Patrick Smullen (1st) Phelim Clerkin. Mary McGee

Special Intention: In Thanksgiving for successful surgery and God's continued healing throughout treatment. For a Parishioner

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. On Sunday 20th September after 11 am Mass in St Marys, a meeting will be held to discuss options for Christmas fundraising events for our Parish. Everyone is welcome to attend and offer suggestions.
2. The Barlow RC High School has open sessions for parents and young people who are interesting in attending this High School: morning sessions are available to book 5-16th October and there is an open evening on 1st October from 5-7pm. To book call 0161-445-8053 or email admin@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk.
3. 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
4. Today September 13th there is a **McMillan coffee morning** in the hall from 10am, everyone is welcome to attend.
5. Thank you for the money left so far for Marys Meals. I will leave the basket there until the end of September if you have any foreign currency or money that is no longer legal tender, please leave it for Marys Meals.
6. World Mission Sunday is on 18th October; the new autumn booklet from Missio is available at the back of Church. Please take one and read it.

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