

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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THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME . NOVEMBER 8th 2026.

Mass Readings are on Page 152 and Order of Mass from page 7 of the Parish Mass Book.

Reflection: There is a saying in the Irish language that, 'The help of God is nearer than the door'. It expresses the conviction that God is not far from us and God's help is near at hand. That same belief in the nearness of God, or, more particularly, the nearness of God's Son, is also expressed in a prayer often linked to Saint Patrick, 'Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me…'

That conviction about God's nearness is there in today's first reading. It doesn't speak of God but of a female figure named 'Wisdom', which was this author's way of speaking of God. The author says, 'Watch for her… and you will find her sitting at your gates'. God, through Wisdom, is sitting at the gate, the door. What the author says of Wisdom, we can say of Jesus, the Lord. He is always there, sitting close to us, closer than the door or the gate. He is there even when we are alone and may be feeling lonely or even abandoned.

Our calling is to be alert to his presence, or in the language of the gospel reading, to be awake to his coming. That sense of being alert to the Lord's presence is very powerfully expressed in today's responsorial psalm, 'O God, you are my God, for you I long, for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you, like a dry weary land without water… On my bed I remember you, on you I muse through the night'.

In the gospel reading, only some of the young women were alert to the bridegroom's coming, with their lamps or torches burning brightly so that they could lead him and his bride to the venue of the wedding banquet. They kept their lamps burning for him, even though he was very late to arrive at the place where they had agreed to meet him. Despite his absence, his long delay, these women were attentive to his presence when he finally came, and they did what was expected of them. They provided a light in the darkness for the celebratory procession of himself and his bride and entourage to the wedding feast. One of the messages of this parable may be that we need to keep alert for the Lord even when he seems absent from us.

There are times in all our lives when we don't have a strong sense of the Lord's presence to us, when we find it difficult to say that his help is nearer than the door. We are not aware of him sitting at the gate of our lives. At such times our faith in the Lord can be put to the test. The light of our faith, expressed in our good works, can grow dim. In the words of some of the young women in the gospel reading we might find ourselves saying, 'Our lamps are going out'.

Even though there may be times when we struggle to keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts, that flame never fully goes out. The Lord never stops saying to us, 'You are the light of the world. Let your light shine'

Today's readings call on us to keep opening awake to the light of the Lord's faithful presence

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, Bernadette McLaughlin. Anne Daey

May God grant them good health of mind and body.

May God grant eternal rest to those who have died recently: Richard O'Connor. Kathleen Bethell. Anthony Hanbury. Mary Harwood. Delia Groarke. Sr Ethna O'Grady. Daniel Santos Montesinos Martin

Memorial Anniversary: Frances Maher (9th) Flann Griffin (21st)
Special Intention: God's healing for Mary Neary

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Our Christmas Fair is in the Parish Centre on Sunday 6th December at 12pm. To help raise much needed funds raffle tickets will be sold before & after Mass at St Mary's & St Richard's each Saturday & Sunday.
   Any donations for our tombola stall, bottles of alcohol, boxes of sweets/chocolates/biscuits, toiletries & new toys will be greatly received. We also need donations for a bric-a-brac stall, please donate any used items that are in good condition. A box will be left at the back of Church for any donations, or they can be given to Fiona Keane. If anyone would like to help with the setting up of stalls on Saturday 5th December or help at the Christmas Fair, please let Fiona Keane or Peggy Sweeney know as any help would be appreciated.
   Attending the Christmas Fair is a great way to support our parish & also a lovely way to catch up with fellow parishioners, everyone is welcome, so let your family & friends know about it! There will be various stalls, a bouncy castle, burgers, hotdogs, tea, coffee, mince pies, scones & Gaelic coffees, we need your support to make the fair a success.
2. Funeral for Richard O'Connor RIP will be on Friday 27th November at 11 am in St Marys.
   Funeral for Kathleen Bethell RIP will be Friday 13th November at
3. **Registration to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion is open for any child who is not attending a Catholic School. Application forms are available from the Sacristy. Also, if anyone is interested in becoming a Catholic, registration is now open and the programme will begin before the end of November.**
4. Please place your framed phots of departed loved ones on our **Altar of Remembrance**. Please ensure you put your name and a contact number on the back. The maximum size of the photos should be 8x10.
   The envelopes for the names of our departed loved ones are available at the back of Church, please put the names and offerings in the envelope and you can leave them in the white post box or in the collection bag.
5. The **Parish Mass of Remembrance** will be on **Monday 30th November at 6:30pm** in St Mary's.

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