



5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 4th	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	Ordinary Time: 5th Sunday 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Parish Meeting	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 12:30 Rosary & Prayers	
Mon 5th	St. Agatha 08:00 Mass	
Tue 6th	St. Paul Miki and his companions 09:15 School Mass	
Wed 7th	Ordinary Time: Week 5 —	
Thu 8th	Ordinary Time: Week 5 12:00 Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
Fri 9th	Ordinary Time: Week 5 09:15 School Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Flower Club	
Sat 10th	Parish Community 09:30 Church Clean	
	Sacramental Programme 11:00 First Reconciliation	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
Sun 11th	Ordinary Time: 5th Sunday 17:30 Vigil Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	Ordinary Time: 6th Sunday 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Caritas Event: Reducing Disability Hate Crime 11:45 Refreshments 12:15 Event Start	

PREPARING FOR LENT

So, we are in February already! Not so long ago, many of us made New Year's Resolutions. I wonder how 2024 has begun for you? As I get older, the years rush by so fast and I understand more and more the need to make the most of each passing day. When I was younger, time seemed to move so slowly when waiting for my birthday or Christmas or the Summer holidays.

In the first reading, Job, who has undergone great suffering, laments to himself, "Remember that my life is but a breath..." And yet he also feels that his days pass slowly: "How slowly evening comes." When our lives are not centred on God, our time can both drag in one way, and be quickly over in another.

In ten days' time it will be Lent. This is the great season of the Church which offers us the chance to change our lives and return more fully to the Lord. Next week I will let you know about the precise events in the parish that are on offer in Lent and also give out a small guide to making the most of Lent.



The question is not so much, "What am I going to do for Lent?" but rather, "What sort of person do I want to be by the end of Lent?"

God bless, Fr Kevin.

REPAIRS IN CHURCH

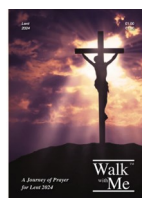
I am very grateful to Lukas and Julian who have carried out a lot of repairs in the Parish Centre and church. The front doors have been returned to their former splendour, the peeling paint on the sanctuary wall has been repaired and flooring in the foyer has been levelled off. They have also renovated parts of the sacristy and cleaning room. I am very grateful. Please let me know if you notice other things which need attention.

PARISH MEETING

The next parish meeting is after the morning Mass on **Sunday 4th February**. I hope that the recent "Big Listen" has prompted some thoughts of how the Holy Spirit is calling us all in the days ahead. Please be thinking and praying and come to the meeting with ideas and plans and reflections.

LENT "WALK WITH ME" BOOKLETS

The popular "Walk With Me" booklets for Lent are now available in both churches and cost only one pound. Please make sure that you get your copy as early as you can, so that I can re-order if more are needed.



CAR PARKING FEB 11TH

A number of people coming to the Caritas event on February 11th have advised that they require parking close to the venue. To allow space for people who require it, half of the forecourt will be "coned off" before Mass to provide spaces for who need it. Please respect this and park on the surrounding roads should you be able to.



We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in their situations, and experience the many blessings that motherhood brings. **Lord hear us**



Sunday 18th February 12-1:30pm

We would new/good-quality donations to sell to raise money for our parish Mary's Meals project.
Please give donations to Ann Todd, Wendy Scofield or Nancy Nalikata by February 11th so there is time to sort them for sale.

CONFIRMATION IN 2024

The programme for our younger and older parishioners who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2024 will begin soon. Register using this link: www.sacredheartstfranciscogorton.co.uk/sacraments. The programme is open to young people in Year 8 and upwards and in fact there is no age limit: some adults have spoken to me about never having been confirmed. This programme is for you as well.

SATURDAY CLEANING



Thanks again to those of you who came along on Saturday morning to clean the church. This is now a weekly event and I hope that a rota can be set up. More help is needed so please do come along any Saturday morning at 9.30 a.m.

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Murphy
Permanent Deacon: Davie Nalikata
Administrator: Minna Moffatt-Feldman

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Telephone: 0161 223 0338
parish@sacredheartstfranciscogorton.co.uk
www.sacredheartstfranciscogorton.co.uk
Facebook: Sacred Heart & Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.



After Mass, there in the Parish Centre, Caritas are hosting a "reducing disability hate crime" event, looking to increase awareness of accessibility needs, and promoting inclusion. Please do let Minna know if you are coming so food can be arranged. <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/event/reducing-hate-crime-disability/>

Thank you very much to Minna (Parish Administrator) for the excellent talks at Masses last weekend. I trust that you were inspired by the work of our Catholic charity Caritas. Please make your donation in one of the Caritas envelopes given out or else simply put the donation in an envelope marked "Caritas" and hand in with the usual weekly collection. Donations can still be handed in for the next two Sundays.

TRIP TO WALSINGHAM

A few places are still available for the trip to Walsingham on 3 and 4 May 2024. The trip entails one night away and this accommodation has already been booked. Please see the poster at the entrance to church if interested.



PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

MASS INTENTIONS:

The greatest prayer we can offer is the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. If you would like a mass to be offered for a specific intention, detail this and enclose an offering of £10 or more in an envelope (noting if it should be kept private). Pass this to Fr. Kevin or place in the offertory basket.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: "AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED", "SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN".

OUR BRETHERN WHO ARE UNWELL

AMBER McCOURT, ELIZABETH SENGHORE, LENNY, JOHN AND MARJORIE FISHER, MAGGIE JOYCE, SHEILA DOWNEY, TOMMY LOFTUS.

SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE: ARE YOU MARRIED BEFORE GOD?

Sometimes couples have married civilly at a Registry Office or other venue, but have not married in church. Such a marriage is not sacramental. Catholics are called to be married sacramentally before God. It is possible for civilly married couples to undertake a "Convalidation" which is a Catholic rite that confers Sacramental Marriage. It has been a great blessing in the parish to conduct such convalidations. If this is your situation, please speak to me if you would like to discuss the possibility of arranging for a convalidation.






MASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The next Salford Diocese Mass for Young Adults will be celebrated on **Sunday 11th February, 17:30**. Coinciding with the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, this month's Mass welcomes Canon Tony McBride – former Director of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – as our guest celebrant and preacher. There will be the opportunity to meet and chat too.. All are welcome. St. Augustine's Church, Grosvenor Street, M15 6BW. Allow time to park in the local area, and note that the venue is accessed by stairs.



OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND 20-21/01/24		
	Basket	£153.90
	Basket	£369.40
	Online	£60.00

Please consider switching to making your offertory contributions by **Standing Order**. Forms are available at the back of each church, or you can set up with your bank directly using these details:

TSDT SACRED HEART & ST FRANCIS GORTON,
20-55-34
20707600

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First reading: Job 7:1-4,6-7 ·

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his
wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days
have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146(147):1-6

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.

**Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.**

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due.

**Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.

He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name.

**Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.**

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

**Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.**

Second reading: 1 Corinthians

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since
it is a duty which has been laid on me; I
should be punished if I did not preach it! If I
had chosen this work myself, I might have
been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a
responsibility which has been put into my
hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is
this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the
Good News free, and not insist on the rights
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I
have made myself the slave of everyone so
as to win as many as I could. For the weak I
made myself weak: I made myself all things
to all men in order to save some at any cost;
and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,
to have a share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.