



6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 11th	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	Ordinary Time: 5th Sunday 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Disability Hate Crime 11:45 Refreshments 12:15 Event starts 13:00 Lunch 14:30 Close	
Mon 12th	Ordinary Time: Week 5 08:00 Mass	
Tue 13th	Ordinary Time: Week 5 09:15 Mass	
Wed 14th	Ash Wednesday 07:30 Ashes Service 09.15 School Mass 19:00 Mass 20:30 Ashes Service	
	Ash Wednesday 11.15 School Mass	
Thu 15th	Lent weekday 12:00 Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
	Seeking Sacraments 19:00 Meeting	
Fri 16th	Lent weekday 06:30 Mass 07:00 Breakfast	
	Lent weekday 09:15 School Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Flower Club	
Sat 17th	Parish Community 09:30 Church Clean	
	Lent weekday 11:00 Stations of the Cross & Confessions 12:00 Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
Sun 18th	1st Sunday of Lent 17:30 Vigil Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	1st Sunday of Lent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments 12:00 Jumble Sale	
	Holy Hour 14:00 Prayers for the parish	

THE DISEASE OF HATE

I am guessing that in the Covid pandemic, most of us had to isolate at one time or another. I wonder how you found the isolation? I remember not being able to see my mother face to face for over a year because of the strict regime of her care home. I am sure we all remember the joy of reunions and the lifting of restrictions.

In the Gospel reading, we hear about a leper who approached Jesus and pleaded, "If you want to, you can cure me." In Jesus' day, lepers were cast out of society, not allowed to work, could not be touched and were dependent on the charity of others. They were feared and pushed away and sometimes despised.

This weekend the parish hosts an event about the modern curse of "Hate Crime." Sadly, in our society, there are various groups of people who are the victims of prejudice and hate. They can often be forced into a kind of isolation and get pushed away like lepers.

Jesus went against the norms of his society and reached out and touched the leper and cured him instantly. I do hope that you will come along to the Hate Crime event after Sunday Mass so that we can, as individuals and as a parish, be part of the cure of the disease of hate in our society, and stop it spreading like a pandemic.

God bless, Fr Kevin.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 14 February is Ash Wednesday (as well as Valentine's Day!) and the first day of Lent. It is such an important event in our Catholic calendar. Please mark the occasion by coming to receive ashes at one of five opportunities in the parish: service at 07.30, Masses at 09.15, 11.15 and 19.00 and another service at 20.30. Please see the start of the newsletter for precise details. Please also collect a "guide to Lent" which will be given out at the end of Masses this weekend.

PARISH MEETING

Thank you to the good number of you who came to the Parish Meeting last Sunday. There were so many good ideas and points of discussion that there just wasn't time to do justice to all contributions. I have therefore decided to call another meeting for **Sunday 25 February** so that we do not lose momentum and can develop plans further.

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.



Today we commemorate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Let us especially pray for all those who are nearing the end of their lives, that they may experience God's comfort and peace. We pray too for medical professionals who work in hospice care, that they might continue to safeguard the dignity and wellbeing of all patients who are made in the image and likeness of God. **Lord hear us**

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.

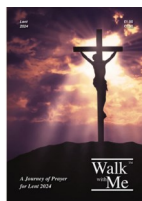
JUMBLE SALE

Please note that the Jumble Sale in aid of Mary's Meals is next Sunday after Mass. Items can still be brought to the Presbytery before then and even contributed on the day. Please support this event as fully as you can.



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.



CONTACT US

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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.

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: SAM DARLING JR, HATE CRIME EVENT

THANKSGIVING: ONE

OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL

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

CAFOD FAST DAY

This is to let you know well in advance that the next CAFOD Fast Day is on **Friday 23 February**. However, as usual, if this is an inconvenient day for you to fast, you can choose another one near to this date. Envelopes will be available in church or you can simply make your donation in an envelope of your own and mark it "CAFOD Fast" and hand in with the usual Mass collection.

SUNDAY HOLY HOUR

Please note that there is no Holy Hour on **Sunday 11 February** because of the Hate Crime Event. From 18 February onwards, the Holy Hour will be 14.00 – 15.00 in the Nativity Chapel at Sacred Heart Church.






BIG LENT WALK/ LIVE SIMPLY CAMPAIGN



As a parish we want to complete a total of 200km over lent. Our "Big Lent Walk" will be 5km of this and will take place on Sunday 17 March after the morning Mass. The other 195km we hope we can do between us! We are looking for individuals or groups of people to pledge a 5km walk to add to our total. How much will you contribute? I will also be giving out some information in the next two weeks about how we can, as a parish, support the "Live Simply" campaign. <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/sacred-heart-and-st-francis-parish-gorton>

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND 20-21/01/24		
	Basket	£181.40
	Basket	£502.60
	Online	

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: Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31(32)

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'

And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin.

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart.

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds
for us.

Alleluia!

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Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.



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

MASS READINGS



The Universalis app, contains the **daily** Mass readings—follow the QR CODE. You can download the app - it is well worth the one-off cost of £9.99. We have self-produced *Sunday Order of Service* leaflets (found at the entrance of both churches) to support parishioners during Mass Celebrations. Email the office if you have any feedback about these too.