



# 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

## PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 25th	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	2nd Sunday of Lent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Parish Meeting & Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 14:00 Prayers for our parish	
Mon 26th	Lent: Week 2 08:00 Mass	
Tue 27th	Lent: Week 2 09:15 School Mass	
	Requiem Mass 12:00 Janet McGlade	
	Deanery Station Mass 18:00 Confessions 19:00 Mass with Bishop John	
Wed 28th	Lent: Week 2 08:00 Mass	
Thu 29th	Lent: Week 2 08:00 Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
	Seeking Sacraments 19:00 Meeting	
Fri 1st	Lent weekday 06:30 Mass & Breakfast	
	Lent weekday 09:15 School Mass	
	Funeral Service 13:00: Laura Barlow	
	Parish Community 13:30 Flower Club	
Sat 2nd	Parish Community 09:30 Church Clean	
	Lent weekday 11:00 Stations of the Cross & Confessions 12:00 Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
	3rd Sunday of Lent 17:30 Vigil Mass	
Sun 3rd	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	3rd Sunday of Lent 10:30 Mass & Choir 11:45 Prayers for Gaza	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 14:00 Prayers for our parish	

## “THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED,”

In the Gospels, Jesus speaks about his Father in heaven, and at key moments, the voice of the Father speaking about the Son is heard. This happens first at Jesus’ baptism, and the affirmation of the Father helps to launch Jesus on his mission. In today’s reading, at Jesus’ Transfiguration, the voice from of the Father speaks from the cloud, “This is my Son, the Beloved.”



The experience is surely an encouragement for Peter, James and John, who soon were to see Jesus crucified; and it is surely another affirmation that will help Jesus to remain in a rock-solid love-relationship with his Father, through the worst of human ordeals.

In Lent, there can be a danger for us that we somehow think that through our efforts of prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving, we are going to get rewarded or be loved more by God. But God’s love for us is unconditional and we cannot earn it.

It is more the case that our Lenten devotions will help us to hear the loving voice of God through the cloud. It is very hard for us to be loving disciples of the Lord, offering our lives in service to those around us, if we have not first experienced the love that God has for us. Lent is a good time to pray for a new experience of the Father’s love.

**God Bless,  
Fr Kevin**

### JUMBLE SALE: THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated, all who worked so hard to put on such an impressive sale, and all who supported and spent money at the very successful Jumble Sale for Mary’s Meals last Sunday. Already, £475.00 has been collected but there are more monies to be paid in and it is hoped that the final sum may be in excess of £600.00. This really is a great achievement.

### PARISH MEETING

Please note that an extra Parish Meeting has been arranged for next **Sunday 25 February** after the morning Mass. There were so many good ideas and plans at the last meeting that there was not time to do justice to them all. I really do believe that the Holy Spirit is moving with power in our parish, and it is so important that we listen and share and pray and then act so that we can build up the Kingdom of God as we are called to do. Please do come along to the meeting.

## MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

Please note the slightly changed weekday Mass times next week. In particular, there is an additional 08.00 Mass on Wednesday and again at this time on Thursday, in place of the 12.00 Mass.

## HOLY COMMUNION

It is not permitted by the Bishops of England and Wales to receive Holy Communion by "intinction." "Intinction" means dipping the consecrated host into the Precious Blood in the chalice before consuming. Intinction was permitted in limited ways during the pandemic but is no longer permissible. If the teaching of the Church cannot be followed, then Holy Communion will revert to being offered under one kind only. Please show the greatest respect and reverence to the Sacrament.

## LENT STATION MASS WITH THE BISHOP, TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY

As mentioned last week, our parish has been chosen to host the Lenten Station Mass for the local deanery. Bishop John will be the main celebrant at the 19.00 Mass. Confession will be available from a number of visiting priests from 18.00 – 18.50. There will be refreshments in the parish centre afterwards – as long as volunteers to provide them come forward! Please do let me know if you can assist in this way. I would be very grateful to see a very good turnout from the parish at this Mass.



## RIGHT TO LIFE UK

We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and kindness of those around them would support pregnant women everywhere to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds. **Lord hear us**

## CONTACT US

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

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Francis of Assisi Parish.

## PAT COWSILL (R.I.P.)

Very sadly, Pat died just over a week ago. Already, a good number of people have expressed their sadness at her passing, as well as sharing some fond remembrances. Her requiem Mass has been fixed for Tuesday 12 March at 10.00 a.m. at St Francis Church, where Pat was a regular for many years, with a particular interest in and contribution to music. "Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen."

## ALTAR SERVERS, READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

I am extremely grateful to all of you who serve in the above roles. However, if you hold one of these three ministries, it is expected that you will have a regular weekly attendance at Mass. Rotas for readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be published soon and will reflect this requirement. If any of you not on the rotas would like to be considered for one of these ministries, please do discuss with me.



## CHRIS O'NEILL (R.I.P.)

Sadly, I was informed that Chris O'Neill passed away recently. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of his partner Julie and family. "Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

## PARISH PRAYER FOR GAZA AND UKRAINE

After the morning Mass on Sunday 3 March there will be a short time of prayer for peace in Gaza, and likewise on Sunday 10 March the time of prayer will be for Ukraine. I intend to give our children a leading role in this.

## 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.*

**BIRTHDAY:** BRUME

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** CHRIS O'NEILL

### OUR BRETHERN WHO ARE UNWELL

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






## BIG LENT WALK/

Our parish plans to complete a total walk of 200km (132 miles) during over lent. Our "Big Lent Walk" (5km / 3.3miles) will be on Sunday 17 March after the morning Mass. The other rest we hope we can do between us! Individuals/groups of people should pledge a 5km (3.3 miles) walk to add to our total.

<https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/sacred-heart-and-st-francis-parish-gorton>

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND 20-21/01/24		
	<b>Basket</b>	£156.90
	<b>Basket</b>	£451.20
	<b>Online</b>	£105.00

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: Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.



The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you

have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 115(116):10,15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted,'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the Lord's name.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

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### Second reading: Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**  
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'  
**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

### Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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.