

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



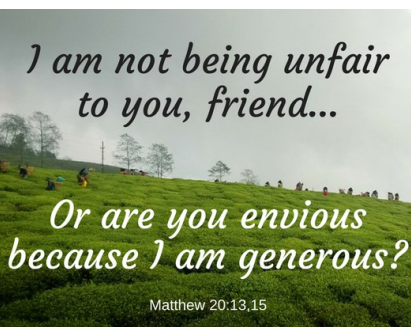
PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 24th	Ordinary Time: 25 th Sunday 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 14:00 Praying together	
Mon 25th	Ordinary Time: Week 25 08:00 Mass	
Tue 26th	Ordinary Time: Week 25	
Wed 27th	St. Vincent de Paul	
Thu 28th	Ordinary Time: Week 25	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
Fri 29th	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels	
	Parish Community 13:30 Flower Club	
Sat 30th	Ordinary Time: 26 th Sunday 17:30 Vigil Mass	
Sun 1st	Ordinary Time: 26 th Sunday 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 14:00 Praying together	
Mon 2nd	Holy Guardian Angels	
Tue 3rd	Ordinary Time: Week 26	
Wed 4th	St. Francis of Assisi 09:15 School Mass	
Thu 5th	Ordinary Time: Week 26	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
Fri 6th	CAFOD FAST DAY	
	Ordinary Time: Week 26 09:15 School Mass	
	Requiem Mass 12:00 Audrey Mitchell	
Sat 7th	Parish Community 13:30 Flower Club	
	Adoration & Confession 11:00 Quiet Prayer	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
Sun 8th	Ordinary Time: 27 th Sunday 17:30 Vigil Mass	
	Ordinary Time: 27 th Sunday 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
Sun 8th	Holy Hour 14:00 Praying together	

“IT’S NOT FAIR!”

Today we hear again Jesus’ extraordinary parable about the workers in the vineyard. The ones who have laboured all day in the heat complain because they get the same wages as those who only worked a very short shift. They have a point, don’t they?

“It’s not fair,” is an age-old cry. We all tend to look at the people and situations around us and cry out, “It’s not fair.” Even very young children have a sense of how things ought to be and get upset when justice does not seem to be done.



So, what are to make of this parable which appears to go against our ideas of justice? Jesus points out that he made an arrangement with each of the workers and stuck to it. And he asks, “Why be envious because I am generous?”

A good question to ask ourselves and to bring to prayer is, “When has God ever been unfair to me?” As we answer that question, we grow into the truth that God is completely fair, just as he is completely loving. We might also, in humility, consider the ways in which we ourselves are sometimes not fair to those around us.

God bless, Fr Kevin.

TWO WEEK NEWSLETTER/MASS TIMES

Please note that this newsletter covers the next two weeks and that there are not so many weekday Masses. Please be assured that the normal pattern of weekday masses will resume again after this and in fact from the end of October, there will be an additional weekday Mass each Saturday at 12.00 p.m.

THANKS TO EHI ITUA

I am sure we are all grateful to Ehi Itua for his inspirational talk at Masses last weekend. He reported back to us after the Knights of St Columba had kindly sponsored him to attend World Youth Day. Ehi spoke with great maturity, wisdom, insight and faith and I am sure that all who heard him would have been uplifted and encouraged. Thank you very much indeed.



HARVEST FOOD BANK COLLECTION

I am very grateful to the parish for the extremely generous donations to Manchester Food Bank in times of ever increasing need. Understandably, donations have dropped off in recent months and with the Mary’s Meals project, I have not, it has been suggested that we renew our donations to the Food Bank for the next few weeks. Please give generously.

RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Let us pray for peace and justice for all, especially for people who are unable to speak for themselves, including some people in hospital and some people with disabilities, as well as the unborn. **Lord hear us.**



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.

ANNIVERSARY: TONY BRACHER (6TH), TOM BRENNAN (23RD)

RECENTLY DECEASED: MARGARET BROUGH,

SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT: MAUREEN MURPHY,

UNWELL: JUDITH OLDHAM

OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL

AMBER McCOURT, ELIZABETH SENGHORE, LENNY, MAGGIE JOYCE, JUDITH OLDHAM, SHEILA DOWNEY, TOMMY LOFTUS.

NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS' TRAINING

Thank you very much indeed to those of you who have agreed to serve as Eucharistic Ministers. There will be an essential training session for you after Mass on **Sunday 16 October at 11.50 a.m.**



LGBTQ+

The next Salford Diocese-wide Mass for Catholics who identify as LGBTQ+, their friends, families, and supporters will be celebrated on **Sunday September 24th, 18:00**. This space is inclusive and diverse. There will be the opportunity to meet and chat after Mass. All are welcome. St. Augustine's Church, Grosvenor Street, M15 6BW. Allow time to park in the local area. Please note that the venue is accessed by stairs.

CONTACT US

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Permanent Deacon: Davie Nalikata
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Facebook: Sacred Heart & Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.

CAFOD

This is advance warning. The CAFOD Fast Day is Friday 6 October and envelopes will soon be available so that you can enclose a donation along with the regular collection. Please mark this date in your diary so that it does not catch you by surprise! That said, if inconvenient, you can always make your fast on another day.

FEEDBACK FROM PARISH MEETING ON 17.9.23

Thank you very much to the good number of people who attended the Parish Meeting last Sunday. I am going to feedback information from most of the items discussed in the coming weeks. For the moment, the two most important outcomes are:

1. There will be an additional weekday Mass each **Saturday at 12.00 p.m.** beginning at the end of October, after the half-term holiday. There will also be a Holy Hour in church each **Sunday morning from 9.15 – 10.15 a.m.** during which Confession will be available.
2. The parish intends to have regular (perhaps monthly) "Thanksgiving Masses" and more information will be given. For the moment, we need to form an "Events Team" that will oversee these Masses and also other social events related to liturgical celebrations and seasons. This is a great opportunity for new volunteers to come forward.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

The 2023-24 Confirmation Programme is going to start up soon. This is suitable for our young people in Year 7 or older and in fact there may well be some adults who missed out on being confirmed. Please watch out for the details of a meeting which I will call soon.



EVENT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY: THANK YOU

It was a great honour for us to host the Caritas event "Celebrating Human Dignity" last Saturday. It was a truly wonderful and ground-breaking occasion with some very powerful talks that invited us to consider people with various disabilities or needs. It became clear that some people have unfairly met with prejudice or difficulty and have been left out or forgotten. We came away with our hearts burning to ensure that our Church and our society become more and more places of welcome and inclusion. We are grateful to Bishop John for celebrating the final Mass, all the speakers and all who helped and attended, but most of all to our Parish Administrator, Minna Moffatt-Feldman who also works for Caritas and who master-minded the whole very successful undertaking. Thank you very much indeed.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME




The 2023-24 Sacramental Programme is going to start up soon. Please note that from now on, all children who wish to enrol on the programme need to be at weekly Mass, either at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday at St Francis Church, or 10.30 a.m. on Sunday at Sacred Heart Church.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING



There is already a group of parishioners who are inquiring about the Catholic Faith, some with a definite intention of becoming Catholic. If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out about the Catholic Faith with a view to being received into the Church, please attend a meeting at the Presbytery on Thursday 12 October at 7.00 p.m.

PARISH OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday: 17th September		
 Basket		£179.30
 Basket		£483.50
 Online		£110.00

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

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



First reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

The Lord is close to all who call him.
The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.
The Lord is close to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.
The Lord is close to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.
The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second reading: Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!*

*Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!*
Alleluia!

Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

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.