

SAINT ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER PARISH.



Incorporating the Parishes of:

St. Mary of the Angels & St. Clare Church, Elbow St, Levenshulme, M19 3PY

St. Richard Church, Sutcliffe Avenue, Longsight, M12 5TN

Parochial Administrator: Fr. Kris Louis Aneke, MSP

Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Martin Dowd

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT. YEAR C SUNDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2024.

Reflection: *Theme: JOHN'S HUMILITY.*

For centuries, before the birth of Christ, the Jews had been taught to look forward to a Messiah, an anointed one (that is the meaning of "Messiah" and of "Christ", from the Greek "*Christos*" who would come to restore the glory of their nation. Many prophets foretold the coming, some came up claiming to be the Messiah (Acts 5) but their claims were false. The John the Baptist came along, calling people to repentance and baptizing them with a baptism of repentance. His fiery preaching, his fearless confrontation of the established authorities and his ascetic personal lifestyle soon made a deep impression on the people. They began to wonder if he at last might be the Messiah.

He was asked and he emphatically told them that he was not the Messiah but informed them that he was so much an inferior to the Messiah that he was unfit to untie the strap of his sandal. That was a chore that was reserved for slaves in those days. If John was unfit to untie the strap of the Messiah's sandal, that meant he was unfit to be even a slave to the Messiah. Let us not forget that it was the same John the Baptist that Jesus would later refer as "among those born of women, no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11). And yet John said he was unfit to be even a slave of the Messiah. Such humility!

This accords perfectly with the teaching of Jesus that those who humble themselves will be exalted by God, while those who exalt themselves will be humbled, also by God (Luke 14:11). John the Baptist humbled himself to a level below that of a slave, and God exalted him to the same status of the greatest person ever born of a woman up to his time. The teaching of Jesus remains valid for all times. History is replete with instances of its realization. Its pages are illuminated with countless examples of humble men and women who were raised to dizzying heights of glory by God. At the other end of the spectrum, the pages of history are also littered with the carcasses of proud men and women who were brought down to earth rather unceremoniously from the pedestals on which they had installed themselves. We can bet on history repeating itself if we are wise enough to follow John's example of humility, however much we may be endowed and whatever the volume of our achievements.

Pray for the Sick and Housebound. John Fitzgerald. Liam Toland. Cyril Corcoran. Sr Edith. John Tunney. Eileen Toth. Anne Leavy. Maria Morrissey, Margaret McAteer. Mary McGlade. Kathleen Beech. Martina McGeehan. Jean Angus. Irene and Karen Rice. Paul and Kath McInenny. Keith and Linda Marshall, Jim McGlynn.

We pray the Good Lord will strengthen and comfort all the sick and we pray also for all who care for the sick and elderly.

May God grant eternal rest to those who have died recently. Michael Cassidy (months mind) John Brady.

Brian Gratton. John Levin. Ann Durkin. Michael Hough. Sr Rose Brennan RNDM

(May their souls rest in peace)

Memorial Anniversary. Maureen Walkin (1st) Annette Ryan (4th) Renee Kane. Ellen Regan (4th) Margaret Towey (4th)

Jimmy Coen. Chrissie Flanagan. Sam Donaghy.

(Eternal rest grant to them Oh Lord,,,,,)

Special Intention. Michael and Mary O'Grady. Mary and Liam Carberry. Annie and Eddie McMenamin. Martin and Teresa Walsh. Mary and Pat Sherlock.

Birthday Remembrance. Patrick Walkin.

Happy Birthday to Crissie Kinnier

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Parish Sacramental Programme will commence in January. Children in our schools will receive information from school. Those who need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, Baptism (Adults), or register into RCIA programme are all advised to register through the parish office on or before the end of December 2024. If you have contacted the Parish Office already you will be contacted once dates have been finalised.
2. Parish Christmas Carols will be on Tuesday 17th, December at 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM. Come let us sing and usher in the birth of the Infant Jesus, our saviour. There will be light refreshment in the hall immediately after the Christmas carols. Please come with your family and friends.
3. **DECEMBER MASS SCHEDULE:**
December 23 – 27, December 30 – 2 January 2025, Parish office closed.
December 17th, 6:45PM – 8:00PM Parish Christmas Carols
December 20th, 6:30pm - 7:30pm: Parish Advent Confession
December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES; St. Richard's @ 5:00pm And St. Mary's @ 8:00pm
December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: St. Richard's @ 9:00 am And St. Mary's @ 11:00am
December 26th Boxing Day Mass at St. Mary's @ 9:30 AM
January 1st, 2025, New Year Day: Mass at St. Richard's @ 9:30 am And St. Mary's @ 11:00am

Please drop the Synod questionnaires, in the box at the back of Church Today (15th)

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Day	Time	Church	Liturgy	Mass Intention
Vigil Mass Saturday 14/12/2025	5:00 pm	St Richard's	Mass	Michael Cassidy, RIP (Months Mind), Michael Hough, RIP Maureen Walkin 1 st Anniversary Patrick Walkin Birthday Remembrance John Brady RIP Crissie Kinnier 90 th Birthday
	6.30 pm	St Mary's	Mass	
Sunday 15/12/2025	9:30 am	St Richard's	Mass	Annette Ryan, RIP (4 th Anniversary) Special Intention for Mary and Liam Carberry, Annie and Eddie McMenamin, Martin and Teresa Walsh, Mary and Pat Sherlock.
	11:00 am	St. Mary's	Mass	
Monday 16/12/2025	NO MASS TODAY			
Tuesday 17/12/2025	9:30 am	St. Mary's	Mass	Annette Ryan 4th Anniversary Ellen Regan 4th Anniversary Sr Rose Brennan RNDM RIP
	6:45m – 8pm	St Mary's	Parish Christmas Carols	
Wednesday 18/12/2025	9:15 am	St Richards	Mass	Brian Gratton RIP Special Intention Mary and Michael O'Grady
Thursday 19/12/2025	9:30 am	St. Mary's	Mass	Renee Kane Anniversary John Levin RIP Nancy Durkin RIP
	11:45 am	St Mary's	Funeral Mass	
Friday 20/12/2025	9:15 am	St Richard's	Mass	Chrissie Flanagan Anniversary Sam Donaghy Anniversary
	6:30 pm	St Mary's	Parish Penitential Service	
Saturday 21/12/2025	10 am	St Mary's	Exposition And Adoration. Confession during Adoration Mass	Jimmy Coen Anniversary Michael Cassidy RIP Margaret Towey Anniversary
	11:00 am			