

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

Website: www.stmaryslevenshulme.co.uk Email: info@stmaryslevenshulme.co.uk Tel: 01618436907

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. YEAR C

SUNDAY, 22ND DECEMBER 2024.

Reflection: **Theme: MOST BLESSED AMONG WOMEN**

After the serpent had led Adam and Eve into sin in the Garden of Eden, the Lord God cursed the serpent. Among other things, he said that the offspring of the woman would crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). This is the text that is traditionally referred to as the *protoevangelium*; that is, the first proclamation of the Good News (of salvation). The prophet Isaiah would later speak of a young woman who would conceive and bear a son and name him *Immanuel*, a name which means "God with us" (Isaiah 7:17). After him, another prophet, Micah, would speak of a woman in travail, who would bring forth a child (Micah 5:3).

The Israelites understood the offering or Son in all these texts to refer to the Messiah, who would be their saviour and the Saviour of all mankind. But who was the woman? Over the centuries and millennia, it must have been the dream of probably every woman in Israel to be chosen by God to be the one through whom the Messiah would come into the world. Of course, there could only be one such woman. It was not to be expected that the messiah would be more than one person, or that there would be more than one Messiah.

According to St. Paul, "when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). As it turned out, the woman in the *protoevangelium*, and the woman whom Isaiah and Micah had prophesied was Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was the woman, of all women, whom God had chosen all the way back from Genesis 3 to be the mother of the Messiah, the saviour of all humankind. That made her the "most blessed of all women", as Elizabeth testifies in our Gospel reading of today.

Mary's blessedness among all women, and indeed, among all humankind, men inclusive, by reason of her divine motherhood, is the basis of all the honour and veneration she is accorded in the catholic church, among others, since, as the saying goes, "we must give honour to whom honour is due." It is inconceivable that there would be anyone else to whom honour would be due as it is to the one woman who was chosen by God, among all women of all times and places, to be the mother of his Son, the Messiah, the saviour of the world.

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 McInnelly. 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. Nancy Durkin. Michael Hough. Bob Clover.

Vicky Connell (May their souls rest in peace)

Memorial Anniversary. Patrick and Nancy Byrne (Eternal rest grant to them Oh Lord,,,,,)

Special Intention. Mary Groake. Debbie and Jim. Chrissie and Freya Durkin. Welsh family. Patricia and Henry Groake and Family

Christmas Remembrance. Michael Connors. Mother General, Mother Provincial, Mother Anna-Maria. Deceased members of Boyle, Mulligan, Johnson, Sheehan Families. John and Philomena Johnson.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Thank you to everyone who attended the Parish Carol Service last Tuesday. The singers performed to a very high standard and the seasonal refreshments in the hall were very well received.
2. Please note the times of Masses for Christmas week, there will be no newsletter next weekend. Fr is aware of any requests received to date for Mass for the following week.

December 23 – 27, December 30 – 2 January 2025, Parish office closed.

January 1st, 2025, New Year Day: Mass at St. Richard's @ 9:30 am And St. Mary's @ 11:00am

3. 2025 is Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to unite in prayer for this special Jubilee Year. The Diocese has several pilgrimages organised and more information is available on the diocese website. dioceseofsalford.org.uk

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Day	Time	Church	Liturgy	Mass Intention
Vigil Mass Saturday 21/12/24	5:00 pm 6.30 pm	St Richard's St Mary's	Mass Mass	Special Intention for Mary Groake Special Intention Chrissie and Freya Durkin Special Intention for Debbie and Jim
Sunday 22/12/24	9:30 am 11:00 am	St Richard's St. Mary's	Mass Mass	Patrick and Nancy Byrne Anniversary Bob Clover RIP
Monday 23/12/24	11am	St Richard's	Funeral Mass	Michael Hough RIP
Tuesday 24/12/24	5pm 8pm	St Richard's St Mary's	Vigil Mass for Christmas Day	In memory of Michael Connors
Wednesday 25/12/24	9:00 am 11:00 am	St Richards St Mary's	Christmas Mass	Mother General, Mother Provincial and Mother Anna-Maria Deceased members of Boyle, Mulligan, Johnson and Sheehan families. John and Philomena Johnson.
Thursday 26/12/24	9:30 am	St. Mary's	Mass	Special Intention for the Welsh family
Friday 27/12/24	9:15 am	St Richard's	Mass	Special Intention for Patricia and Henry Groake and Family
Saturday 28/12/24	10 am 11:00 am	St Mary's	Exposition And Adoration. Confession during Adoration Mass	Vicky Connell RIP

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

As we approach and celebrates this Joyous Christmas season, I wish to thank you sincerely for all your support, commitment and generosity to our parish. Your unflinching dedication and volunteering in the various ministries of the parish have impacted lives and members of the parish. It is through such commitment that our parish will continue to thrive as a vibrant family-oriented worshipping community.

As we celebrate and rejoice during this Christmas season, let us also make strides in the coming new year to renew our commitment to our faith, our growing spiritually and our serving God through our worshipping community by serving the needy, connecting with one another and worshipping God in unity.

May the Peace, Joy and blessings of the Infant King be with you all and your families. Merry Christmas to you all.

Fr. Kris Louis Aneke, MSP