

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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First Week of Ordinary Time. YEAR C. SUNDAY, 12th January 2025

Reflection: Theme **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

John the Baptist baptized a lot of people in the River Jordan. One of them was Jesus. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. People who had sinned, and knew themselves to be sinners, made public repentance of their sinfulness by being baptized. But Jesus, the very Son of God, was the Sinless One. He had no sin that he needed to repent of. Therefore, he had no need for John's baptism. John acknowledged that much when he showed reluctance to baptize him. Only when Jesus insisted did John give in and baptized him (Mathew 3:14-15). So, why did Jesus submitted himself to be baptized by John? He did this for two reasons.

First, Jesus wanted to identify with the sinners who came to John's baptism right at the beginning of his public ministry, since the rest of his entire ministry would be devoted to saving sinners. He wanted to be seen as one of them, even though he was not really one of them in the sense of being a sinner himself. He had come as the Lamb of God, to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). That was why he went to be baptized by John with a baptism of repentance that he did not need.

Secondly, the baptism of Jesus afforded John the Baptist the opportunity to recognize him as the Messiah for whom he was the forerunner. It is true that John must have known Jesus from childhood because they were related since their mothers were cousins, but John did not know that his relative, Jesus, was the Messiah. He was, however, given a sign by which he would recognize the Messiah. *"He on whom you see the Spirit descended and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God"* (John 1:33).

That was exactly what happened at the baptism of Jesus: The Spirit, like a dove, descended on him. When John the Baptist saw that, he knew that Jesus was the Messiah. He was further convinced by the voice from heaven that referred to Jesus with the words like those used by the prophet Isaiah to describe the Messiah that was to come in the distant future. We found that described of Isaiah in today's first reading.

After all that happened at his Baptism, John the Baptist was able to present him to his audience and his own disciples as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). That was what he had been sent to do: to present the Messiah to the world. Therefore, his mission having been accomplished, he would decrease while Jesus would increase (John 3:30).

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. James Byrne. John Kavanagh. Steven Lang.

Robert McDaid. Paul McDermott

(May their souls rest in peace)

Memorial Anniversary. Padraic O'Connor (25th) John McLaughlin. Hughie Muldowney (10th) Mary McDermott (7th)

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

Special Intention: Tom and Delia Mitchell and their sons Tom and John

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dear Parishioners, Parish volunteering is important, it helps to create a thriving community, and it can also benefit the individual volunteer. We need volunteers in various ministries of the parish - choir, hospitality, Altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, Lectors, church wardens etc. kindly call the office or see Fr. Kris after Mass. Thank you.

2. If by any chance you have in your possession or by mistake taken the parish hymn book to your home, kindly return it to the Church as we are gradually noticing the reduction in number of the parish hymn books.

3. Young Adults Pilgrimage to Rome

Young adults across the diocese are invited to join our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team for a rare pilgrimage to Rome this summer. Pope Francis has announced a special Jubilee for Youth in celebration of the 2025 Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee, which also coincides with the canonisation of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. To find out more about this remarkable opportunity and to register your interest, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/jubilee-of-youth-rome/>

4. The parish is in the process and in consultation with some parishioners to be members of the parish building/safety committee and Parish Finance Committee. These will be commissioned soon.

5. Please when lighting candles, use the lighters that are provided on the candle stands, only light the candle once it is in the candle holder on the stand, and please do not lift any part of the glass holders.

6. A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with CAFOD

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Join CAFOD online on Saturday 18th January 10:30am-midday, to find the answers to some of these questions in a light and lively start to this Holy Year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Everyone welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

Offertory collection from week of 5.1.25
St Richard's £259.97. St Mary's £391.93. Thank -you for your offerings
Total £651.90

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Day	Time	Church	Liturgy	Mass Intention
Vigil Mass Saturday	5:00 pm 6.30 pm	St Richard's St Mary's	Mass Mass	Hughie Muldowney Anniversary John McLaughlin Anniversary
Sunday The Baptism of The Lord	9:30 am 11:00 am	St Richard's St. Mary's	Mass Mass	Padriac O'Connor Anniversary
Monday	NO	MASS	TODAY	
Tuesday	9:30 am	St Mary's	Mass	Mary McDermott Anniversary
Wednesday	9:15am	St Richards	Mass	Tom and Delia Mitchell and their sons Tom and John
Thursday	9:30 am	St. Mary's	Mass	Paul McDermott RIP
Friday	9:15 am	St Richard's	Mass	Steven Lang RIP
Saturday	10 am 11:00 am	St Mary's	Exposition And Adoration. Confession during Adoration Mass	Robert McDaid RIP