Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

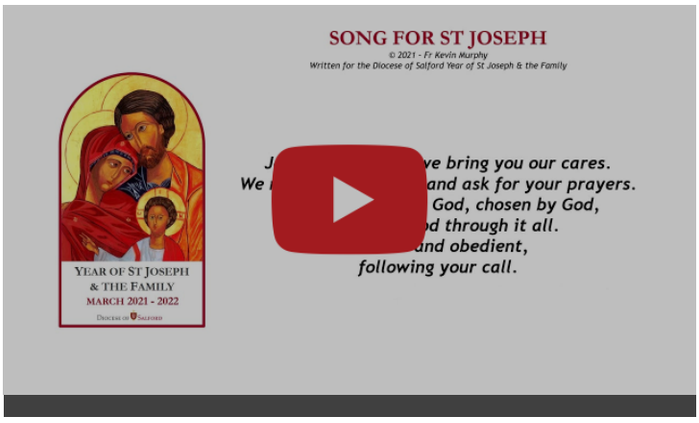
Welcome to our E-Newsletter

Welcome to our May E-Newsletter.

In this newsletter we share a new song, written by Fr Kevin Murphy, for the Year of St Joseph and the Family, let you know more about a Young Adult evening with Dr Austen Ivereigh, and announce the winners of our Laudato Si logo competition. You can also read Bishop John's Homily, from a Mass dedicated to Victims and Survivors of Abuse to mark the day of prayer for this cause.

"Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey"

A Song for St Joseph on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker



John Griffin reflects on the Feast Day of St Joseph the Worker, as part of the Year of St Joseph and the Family.

Pope Francis has invited the universal Church to dedicate a Year of St Joseph and the Family. In our Diocese we celebrate this from March 2020-2021. Did you know that St Joseph in one of the principal patrons of our Diocese?

The first of May is the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, a liturgical feast established by Venerable Pope Pius XII in 1955 to honour the dignity of work and vocation. St Joseph is the patron of all workers. During the pandemic we have shown our appreciation in particular to the selflessness of frontline key workers who have put the needs of others before their own.

Discerning the task God has assigned for us to do is part of discerning our vocation, whether that be in the religious life or as the lay faithful. Our work is sacred. When we work, we share in God's creativity of bringing God's Kingdom on earth. Jesus used many parables associated with working in the vineyard of the Lord. Jesus devoted most of the years of his life on earth to manual work at the carpenters bench, assisting St Joseph and in doing so he made work Holy.

Catholic Social Teaching has always taught work is dignified and an intrinsic good, and workers must always be respected and valued. The state has also the duty to protect the rights of all its people, and particularly workers and ensure there are good working conditions. In his latest book, 'Let us Dream', Pope Francis encourages leaders and employers to ensure every work receives a Universal Basic Income to allow a brighter future with fairer economy and an end to poverty.

As we go about our daily tasks, let us ask for St Joseph's intercession so all that we do can be for the greater glory of God. We pray for those who are looking for work, those who find their work difficult and for fairer and safer working conditions and pay.

During this Year of St Joseph, Pope Francis invites us to pray this prayer:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son;

in you Mary placed her trust;

with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,

show yourself a father

and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,

and defend us from every evil. Amen.

St Joseph the Worker, Pray for us

Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire!

On 29th April we celebrated the Feast day of St Catherine of Siena.

St Catherine was born in 1347 and died on 29th April 1380. She was 33 years old.

At an early age, Catherine had made the decision to devote her life to Jesus. Catherine joined the Third Order of St Dominic in which Religious Lay people lived at home but spent many days and nights caring for the sick and always willing to help those in need. She knew that in helping others she was also serving Jesus.

One of St Catherine's' famous quotes is:

"be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire."

As the Patron Saint for Youth in our Diocese, we echo these words of St Catherine of Siena to all the young people.

What is God asking of you?

What is the Pope asking of you?

In Pope Francis' latest book, Let us Dream, The Path for a Better Future, he set out his vision for how to create a better world as we emerge from this pandemic.

If we listen to what he has to say we will find a direction that will shape the rest of our lives! A direction full of hope and promise.

To help with this, we are privileged to be able to invite you to an evening with Dr Austen Ivereigh, who is the co-author of this book. He worked closely with Pope Francis to translate his vision into words that speak to the heart of each of us.

Austen wants to share what he learned from the Pope with you young adults and to invite you to reflect on how you can respond.

Thursday 13th May 2021 7pm - 9pm

Austen is the co-author of Pope Francis' latest book: "Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future"

In it the Pope sets out his vision on how to create a better world as we emerge from the crisis that we have been living through. He sees this crisis as having meaning for us and inviting us to new ways of thinking and doing things.

The first 20 young adults to register will receive a **free copy** of the book!

To register or for more information, please email: formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Let us dream together. Let us be part of building a better future.

Winners of Laudato Si Logo Competition Announced

Following hundreds of incredible entries to our logo competition for the Laudato Si Centre, we are happy to announce that **Max from St Mary Magdalene RC Primary School, Burnley,** is our winner.

Elements of Max's drawing will form the basis of our Laudato Si Centre logo, which will be digitally transformed.

Sebastien from St Charles RC Primary School, Swinton and **Abigail from Barlow RC High School, Manchester** were both highly commended for their entries.

Entrants were asked to draw something that represented what the Laudato Si Centre meant to them. We received more than 500 amazing entries to the competition, from children and young people all around our diocese.

The Laudato Si Centre is an exciting new project at Wardley Hall which aims to make the Diocese of Salford a flagship for effective action on climate change.

The centre was announced by Bishop John in Lent 2019 in response to the current climate crisis and Pope Francis's call for us all to care for our common home in his document Laudato Si, which the centre is named after.

It is an ambitious project which will take about 3-5 years to be fully realised, but it is hoped that the Centre will create a space for all to learn how they can take practical action to tackle climate change and will help to work towards a sustainable world for future generations.

Bishop John said: “We received more than 500 entries to our logo competition for the Laudato Si Centre and we were very impressed by the efforts of all those who entered. Clearly everyone had given a lot of thought to their designs and should be proud of what they have achieved.

“Congratulations to Max, Abigail and Sebastien for their winning entries. I would encourage all of those who entered to carry on thinking about the environment and considering the impact of our actions on our common home.”

We would like to thank everybody for their efforts and the time put into your wonderful entries, and send a huge congratulations to our winners.

Find out more about our work on the environment

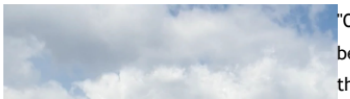
Fr Kevin, Fr Michael and parishioners go the extra mile for Caritas

A team of priests and parishioners from our diocese have raised over £10,000 forne Cornerstone (Caritas Salford) by running a half marathon.

Father Michael Deas ran a half marathon around the parish of St Catherine’s, Didsbury, beginning c.9:30am on Sunday 2 May, along with 5 parishioners, Anne Frost, Bridie Adams, Sarah Moister, Suzy Larkin and Heather Jones, who is also a teacher at St Catherine’s Primary School. Father Kevin Murphy joined from his own parish, completing his half marathon later the same day.

The group ran for Cornerstone because it is a local charity that the parish has always supported and, during this time of the pandemic, the services and support the centre provides for people is needed more than ever.

Father Michael Deas said: “Cornerstone is a great example of faith in action. We didn’t really have any expectations about how much we hoped to raise, but, at the time of writing, we have just reached the £2000 mark (and I think Father Kevin has raised over £1000 so far), so people have been amazingly generous and supportive of such a good cause. We just now hope to raise as much as we can!



"Our team at St Catherine’s came together because we realised we all enjoy running, so we thought we should put that to good use,

especially when charities are unable to have their big fundraising events going ahead as normal. We decided a half marathon was the achievable distance for all of us, as we are planning to start and finish all together.

"Some of us have signed up for the Manchester Marathon in October, so that will be the next challenge. Everyone has been enjoying the training and the support we are giving each other, but it has been getting tougher this week as the temperatures have begun to soar! We're hoping for sunny conditions on the day, but not too hot!"

Father Kevin Murphy, added: "At a priests' Zoom meeting, I was inspired by the initiative of St Catherine's Parish in their organisation of a half-marathon in aid of Cornerstone. I have seen first-hand the work of Cornerstone in helping the homeless and vulnerable and rather impulsively asked if I could join. I am amazed at the generosity of parishioners and friends and hope that we can raise a good amount of money which is all the more needed at this difficult time."

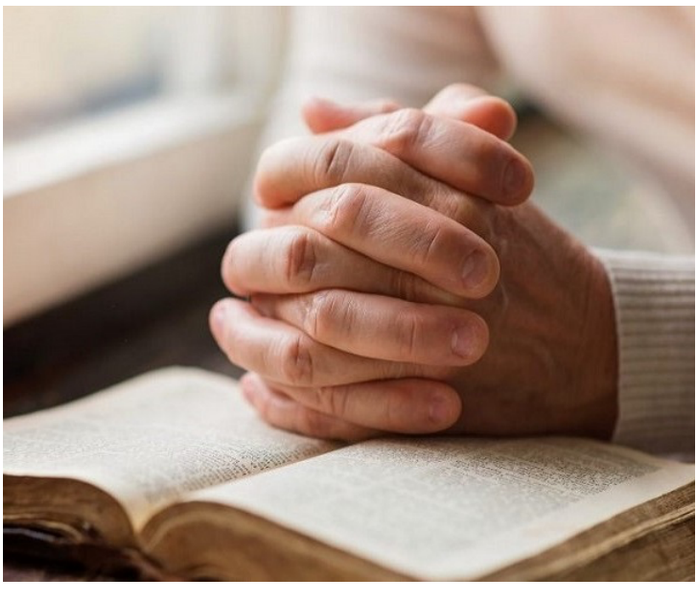
To donate to their challenge, please visit:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michael-deas1

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kevin-murphy44

Caritas
Diocese of Salford

Mass for Victims and Survivors of Abuse



On Thursday 6th May 2021, Bishop John said a special Mass at Salford Cathedral to mark a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. Below, you can read his Homily.

If we are going to be sincere about that sense of apology, we can't just leave it with words. Apologies must be followed by action. And whilst I hesitate to use the word celebration, I think there are things for which we need to give thanks. First of all, that we recognise that there has been abuse, there is abuse, in our society and in our Church and that is not to be tolerated. But for so long it seems to have been either hidden or ignored - who knows what - but now much is spoken about it and it is measured and understood in all its diverse forms. That's a major step in itself. But that, in itself, is not enough. There needs to be that response.

First of all, to the victims. Those we are going to be praying for at this Mass. Those who are directly affected by abuse and those family and friends who have also been affected because people they love have been abused and damaged. We need to care for them and recognise the damage done to them in their lives, damage that needs a constant sense of continuing healing.

Then we have got to be sure that we keep our young people and our vulnerable people safe. We should all be safe. Pope Francis talks about everything being connected and

speaks very often about the dignity of the human person. That dignity includes that sense of safety, which is not just for ourselves but about the 100 million people who are refugees or internally displaced in our world. We have to think of those who are denied sustainable, they've lost their dignity, we are denying them their dignity. Then we've got that dignity of keeping people safe. Safe from all forms of abuse, wide ranging abuse, and then we've got to act to protect the society in which we live. I am so pleased with the standards set here in the Diocese of Salford by our own Safeguarding team. I think those expectations and standards are very high indeed, but I'm also glad that those standards are not seen in any way as a solution. That through Healing through Community we have close association with Greater Manchester Rape Crisis and Survivors Manchester which gives us different ways, different means, of effectively bringing healing, calm and peace to those who have been damaged and that way we can be much more aware.

In that Gospel passage, let's just bless ourselves for moment with those disciples, they must have been terrified. Yes they were fisherman they probably were very well versed in how to sail but the Sea of Galilee is known for its unchangeable storms in which many people died in those times of Jesus. Out there in the middle with a storm which could so easily destroy boats and fishermen. And here we have that sense that these disciples were terrified for themselves and Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat and it's only when the disciples go to wake him up that things have changed. Waking up Jesus. Is that what we do when we go to prayer, that we say we need your help, and to be sure that he responds so generously – saying yes I'm here, what's the problem? Have you not got faith in me?

Perhaps in matters of dealing with safeguarding of abuse we need to be prepared to wake up Jesus. We use that prayer Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey so much in this diocese. It means that we're never alone, that we can count on Christ to guide us and to be with us in all our troubles.

Since Easter in our daily Masses and our Sunday Masses we've been reading a lot about the Acts of the Apostles. There's some very important lessons to be learned there about the challenge that the Church has faced right from the beginning. How do we deal with this problem with our Church, what's the next step forward in our Mission, how do we establish Church, who do we go to, who should be saying what to who? The Church continued to grow and to be served through particular challenges and in the Acts of the Apostles and they didn't always get it right. There were some real problems, but that's the life of the Church and we must never allow ourselves to see the Church as something static that can't change. The Church must face problems both within and without, and we must do that by waking up Jesus and asking him to walk with us.

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey so that the good work that has begun may continue, that we may recognise the challenges that are there today. I'm very grateful to those people who are committed to the highest standards of safeguarding, let's promote what they do and enjoy being active in helping them to establish those procedures and actions that we need to keep everybody safe and to bring healing to those who have been affected.

If anyone requires further support, our Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0161 817 2206. Alternatively, support from Healing Through Community can be accessed directly by calling either Survivors Manchester (0161 236 2182) or Greater Manchester Rape Crisis (0161 273 4500)

Thy Kingdom Come - Ascension to Pentecost

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. This year's Thy Kingdom Come will happen from 13th – 23rd May.

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. According to Thy Kingdom Come's annual survey findings an astonishing percentage of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and a significant number of people join in for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

There are events taking place around the country but there will be specific events taking place in both Lancashire and Manchester. Local Churches Together groups will be making arrangements also. More information will follow.

Resources can be found here

A Prayer for Vocations

Prayer for Vocations Sunday

Loving Father,
you call us by name.
As we journey through life
help us to be confident in our own unique identity
and to find opportunities to
develop our own gifts and passions.
We pray that the Holy Spirit
will pour on us wisdom and guidance
to help us realise and follow our dreams,
discerning your plan for our lives.
Bless your Church
by raising up dedicated and generous people
from our families and friends
who will serve as Priests, Deacons,
Sisters and Brothers.
May we support one another in response to God's call.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Donate

We are receiving enquiries from parishioners who have asked us how you can continue giving to your parish during the pandemic. Parishes still greatly need your support, even more so with their weekly congregations and visitors affected.

We do recognise that many parishioners may be in a different financial position than they were previously or struggling financially, and there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so.

If it is appropriate for you to consider now you can donate to your own parish by clicking the link below or at a later date via the diocesan website.

In the search function just search for your parish.

Donate Now

Thank you to all of you who have continued to donate to your parish and other agencies of faith at this time.

Our website will be continually updated over the coming weeks and months

Facebook Twitter Website Instagram

Copyright © 2021 Diocese of Salford, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

mailchimp

DIOCESE OF SALFORD