

Teaching with Authority

Here is a teaching that is new! Hsay the people in today's Gospel. They recognise something different about Our Lord's preaching. Until now, they've heard it all before, and the preachers have said it all before - the message had become stale. The ancient texts would be interpreted for the assemblies in the Temple and in the Synagogues each Sabbath day, but there was nothing new, just a looking backwards and a keeping up of the same "because we've always done it that way." Jesus arrives, and demands change - where there is suffering, God's will is to heal, where evil and corruption have taken over people's lives, God wants to restore what is true and wholesome. So he speaks - and people sit up and listen. He commands - and it is done. Indeed, this is a teaching that is new - not because it is different, but because it has become truly relevant at last.

How much of our Christianity has become stale? How much of *my* preaching has become just the same thing? The difference brought about by Jesus is a challenge to each one of us today. If religion is boring, what are we doing about it? If God's message is always new, always healing, always bringing hope, why do so many people fail to hear it? True, in today's world the media and society in general give a false sense of pleasure to so many passing fads, but none of them has lasting power to defeat the Gospel. Let us never tire of speaking and living what is true. Let our words and our lives speak with authority again - not our own, but with the *eternal* authority of the God who cares as much now as he ever did, and always will. Let us show the relevance of the Gospel message once more.



NB
SPUC
APPEAL
NEXT
WEEK

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2011/12

Remaining dates for 2012 are as follows:

(Please let Fr Martin or Denise know if you expect to have any problems getting here)

Sunday 12th February
Special Family Mass: 10.00am

Wednesday 29th February
"We are people who follow Jesus" 6.30pm

Sunday 4th March
Mass: 10.00am

Wednesday 28th March
Lenten Reconciliation Service:
7.00pm with the people of the Parish
(As always, this date and time is subject to the availability of other clergy from the Deanery, upon whose help we rely)

Sunday 1st April,
Special Mass for Palm Sunday
10.00am

Wednesday 2nd May
"We are the Body of Christ" 6.30pm

Wednesday 9th May
Confirmation Service: 7.00pm

Sunday 13th May
Mass for the newly Confirmed:
10.00am

Wed 30th May
Preparing for First Communion:
6.30pm

Sundays 10th & 17th June
3.00pm
First Communion Masses

Wednesday 11th July
"We are people who live our Faith"
+ Children's Party: 6.30pm

Sunday 15th July
Mass with presentation
of certificates:
10.00am

Please keep all the children and their families in your prayers

- * *New to Holy Family parish?*
- * *Know someone who is sick or in hospital (or the hospice)?*
- * *Like a visit from the priest?*
- * *Think the parish may be able to help you, or you us, in any way?*

Please speak to Fr Martin, after Mass or at any convenient time.

Mass times at Holy Family

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 6.30pm
Sunday Morning: 10.00am
with **Children's Liturgy**
(Tea and Coffee served after morning Mass)
Weekdays: See Calendar, below
Holydays: Eve 7.00pm
9.30am on the day

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday after Midday Mass, and 6.00-6.15pm,
or at any reasonable time on request.
(Rite II Reconciliation Services are celebrated in Advent and Lent)

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

by arrangement *(6 months' notice required for weddings)*

Weekday Calendar

Monday: No Mass today
Funeral Service for the late Stephen Brett: 10.30am
May he rest in peace

Tuesday - Morning Mass: 9.30am, Sacristy
Church cleaning afterwards

Wednesday - Mass: 8.10am Sacristy
Journey in Faith: 6.00 - 7.00pm, Presbytery

Thursday - Evening Mass: 7.00pm

Friday *(day of abstinence):* No service today

Saturday - Mass: 12.30pm, Sacristy

WEEKDAY MASSES

Thank you to those parishioners who attended the funeral Mass here last Thursday. It gives more confidence to mourners when there are some present who are obviously familiar with the Mass, besides the benefit of being able to offer Holy Communion under both kinds. **Weekday Masses in general** are, however, fading away once again in spite of the upsurge when our new times were introduced last year. There are no plans to change times again, but questions may soon need to be asked about the viability of continuing daily Mass in the parish if current trends continue. *(Weekday Mass lasts only about 20-25 minutes).*

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Our fortnightly meetings, in the Presbytery, for those wishing to explore the Catholic Faith either as existing Church members or as people who may be interested (without any obligation) in being formally received into the Church family, continue fortnightly on Wednesday at 6.00pm in the Presbytery.

HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH

Presbytery:
28 Mornington Road, Kirkholt
Rochdale OL11 2DG

Parish Priest: Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
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WE PRAY THIS WEEK

... for the following, for whom Masses will be offered - **the sick:** Sharon, John, Olga, Veronica and David, Dan, Kathleen, Christine, Mary, Teresa, Winnie, Bill, Julie, Peggy, Anne-Marie, John, Denis, Marjorie, Denis, Margaret, Marie, Jane, Christine, Ernest, Elva, Sister Alphonsus, Kathleen, Margaret, Mary and Bridie, Helene and Ann Marie, -----

----- and **those who have died:** Francis McDermott, Jonathan Lennon, Stephen Brett, Veronica Earnshaw, Mary O'Neill, Gerard Bates, Helena Davies, George and Elizabeth Crellin and Giovanni Natale. **We also pray** for a number of Special Intentions. **DEANERY PRAYERS:** prayers are offered every Sunday in each parish of our Deanery for the people of one of these parishes. This week, we pray for the priest and people of St John's, Rochdale and St Gabriel's, Castleton.

OFFERTORY Thank you for last week's collection of £272.93.

RETIRING COLLECTION

No retiring collection this week.
Next week: our White Flower appeal, in support of the work of SPUC, will take place at both Masses next week, as we welcome Rab and Detta McDonald to speak once more.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

throughout the coming week and always

SRC DT Registered Charity No 250037

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