

Holy Family News

Call us Hypocrites?

There is one thing almost every politician has in common. At some stage of their career, they will have been accused of hypocrisy, of breaking promises and failing to deliver. However genuinely they may try, anything less than miracles will never be good enough. And it has to hurt, however thick-skinned they may become. Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the USA, when accused of being 'two faced' retorted: "If I had another face, do you think I would wear this one?" Maybe the quick-humoured remark lightened the tone, but he must still have felt uncomfortable.

Politicians are not alone in the accusation of hypocrisy against them. Many a time, church-goers are similarly accused, and many a time we retort just as glibly: "there's always room for one more." But before we dismiss the claim as wholly undeserved, we must be careful. In today's Gospel, we hear the conclusion of Jesus' great 'Sermon on the Mount' as he warns his listeners to be on guard against hypocrisy. And the warning is real for us, today. Are we truly Christian in what we do, the things we say, the way we live, and love in the world? Does our attendance at Mass on the Lord's day translate into a code of living for the rest of the week? Or do we prefer to reserve Our Lord's teachings for our judgment of others? Jesus says, knowing the right things and saying the right prayers are simply not enough. Saying "Lord, Lord" or preaching Christ's message will do no good at all, if we are merely acting - and that is, literally, what a 'hypocrite' is: an actor, someone pretending to be someone or something they are not.

Let us use the coming Lenten season to re-evaluate the sincerity of our Christianity. At times we will all fail to deliver - but we will not be judged on our success, just on our willingness to try; not on our personal achievements, but on our openness to allow Christ to fulfil the goodness within us. Let us pray that Faith may truly be the heart of our being; that our Faith - our 'house' in the Gospel parable - will be built upon rock, so that no storms of life will shake our foundations; for the grace that, when the world treats us badly, we may not count our virtues and cry out "Why me?"



but may simply see the suffering of the world and say: "Why not me? I'm no better than anyone else." Then, let us leave the rest to God.

LENTEN STATION MASSES

for the St Thérèse of Lisieux Deanery:
 17th March: St Patrick's, Rochdale
 24th March: St Joseph's, Heywood
 31st March: St Marie's, Bury
(with the Bishop)
 7th April: Our Lady of Grace,
 Prestwich

All our Station Masses will take place on Thursdays, beginning at 7.30pm.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES

Wednesday 16th March 6.30pm
 "We are people who follow Jesus"?

Sunday 20th March
 10.00am Mass

Wednesday 13th April 7.00pm
 Reconciliation Service

this date to be confirmed when we know the availability of the other priests of the Deanery to assist

Sunday 17th April 10.00am
 Special Mass for Palm Sunday

Wednesday 18th May 6.30pm
 "We are the Body of Christ"

Wednesday 25th May 7.00pm
 Confirmation Service

Wednesday 15th June 6.30pm
 Preparing for Holy Communion

Sundays 19th & 26th June
 3.00pm

First Communion Masses

Wednesday 6th July 6.30pm
 "We are people who live our Faith"?

Sunday 10th July
 10.00am Mass with
 Presentation of Certificates

- * *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)

NB
FAIR TRADE
STALL
AFTER MASS
TODAY
(SUNDAY)

Weekday Calendar

Monday - No Service
Fairtrade Fortnight continues

Tuesday - Mass: 9.30am, Sacristy
Church cleaning after Mass

Ash Wednesday - Morning Mass: 9.30am
Evening Mass: 7.00pm
Ashes will be distributed at both Masses today



Thursday - Funeral Mass for the late Gerard Bates: 9.45am
Evening Mass: 7.00pm, Sacristy

Friday - Lunchtime Mass: 12.30pm, Sacristy

Saturday - Mass: 12 noon, Sacristy

WE PRAY THIS WEEK

... for the following, for whom Masses will be offered
- **the sick:** Fr Arthur, Ella, Alison, Jim, Christine, Bill and Rosalind, John, Julie, Jim and Christine, Patricia, Peggy, Ethan, Anne-Marie, John, Denis, Marjorie, Mary, Denis, David, Margaret, Joan, Kathleen, Marie, Jane, Christine, Ernest, Margaret, Mary and Bridie, Helene and Ann Marie,

----- and **those who have died:** Gerard Bates, Michael Fell, Michael Keefe, Tom Lythgoe, Clarisse Wrigley, Marie-Terese Anastasi, the deceased members of the Lythgoe, Taylor, Keefe and Mitchell families and all the Holy Souls. **We also pray** for peace and for a number of special intentions.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

There will be no meeting on Ash Wednesday - our sessions will resume next Wednesday (16th March). All welcome.

HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH

Presbytery:
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Parish Priest: Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
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www.salforddiocese.org.uk

LENT BEGINS

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and our season of renewal and preparation for Easter begins. Traditionally we 'give up' something which distances us from God in our daily lives, and take up something afresh which will bring us closer to Him and to the people we want to be. Here at Holy Family we are offering an early morning Mass each Wednesday (starting next week - see below) and each Tuesday we will celebrate the stations of the Cross with Evening Prayer and Benediction.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the consultation on weekday Mass times. We cannot accommodate all views, but we will see now how the trial period progresses during Lent. **Lunchtime Mass on Friday** - A number of requests for this, but Friday was the only possible day, and 12.30pm has been selected as the time. **Early Mass on Wednesday** - again, circumstances dictated the day for this. The request for a Mass at 8.15am came from our Primary School, where it will be actively promoted amongst the children and their parents during Lent. It may well be that this is a 'Lent only' exercise - we will make a decision on this as Easter approaches.

OFFERTORY Thank you for last week's collection of £338.88 plus £200.00 (400 Club)

RETIRING COLLECTION

This week: SVP monthly collection.
No retiring collection next week.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

throughout the coming week and always