#### Diocese of Hallam Registered Charity No. 512021

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#### Third Sunday of Lent

3 March 2024

Rev Fr Mark McManus Parish Priest Rev Mr Simon Hegarty Deacon stjosephsdeacon@outlook.com

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound, especially: Jade Goodinson, Alan Charlesworth, Harley Bond, Eileen McManus, Pauline Sheppard, Jackie & Brian Whelan, Ann Parkinson, Joanne Marklew, Lol Hodges, Margaret Dakin, Madge Wolstenholme, Joyce McGowan, Heidi Howson, Audrey Rodgers, Sylvia Hayden, Janette Taylor, Sonia Prince, Reece Wilson, Jason Barron, Liz Moran, Elizabeth Dodson, Pat Collett, Eunice Mannion, Sue & Frank Rodgers, Andy Mitchell, Marie Montgomery, Rita & Vin Todd, Georgina Shirt, Maria Tarnowski, Elizabeth Barron, Martin Humphreys, Susan De Couto, Jacqueline Wagland, Sr. Teresa Paschal, Tom Bryant. *If you would like anyone included on this list, and the individual concerned or a family member has consented to it, simply write the person's name down and hand it in. Thank you.* 

### The Season of Lent

- On the Saturdays of Lent there is **Exposition** of the Blessed Sacrament & **Confessions** from 10.00am to 11.00am, with Benediction at 10.50am. There are **also Stations of the Cross** at 4.15pm.

- There are Stations of the Cross after the Lenten Sunday 10.00am Mass.

- On the Mondays of Lent, Mass is at 7.15am.

- On Tuesday, **19 March** there will be a Mass for the **Solemnity of St Joseph**, along with St Joseph's School, at 10.00am.

- On 25 & 26 March, the Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, at 3.15pm to 4.15pm there will be two sessions of after-school Confessions.

- On, **27 March**, the Wednesday of Holy Week, **St Joseph's School** will perform their **Passion Play** in the church at 2.00pm. All welcome.

The **Piety Stall** has a selection of suitable items for Lent and, looking ahead, also cards, etc., in anticipation of Easter.

**Collections for the Handsworth Foodbank**, which were a regular feature for many, will recommence from this weekend. The container will be in the Narthex for weekend masses and at the back of church as usual during the week. It is an easy and worthwhile way to make a Lenten offering.

Lenten support for the Carmelite Sisters at Kirk Edge: The Sisters have written to our UCM with a request for items they would find most useful, **particularly toiletries and cleaning products**. In order to prevent duplication a tear-off list is available to help with managing the donations at the back of church.

# **First Holy Communion preparation**

Parents are the primary educators in the life and Catholic Faith of their children. Listed here is only that formal or direct parish preparation that will hopefully support them in this task. Classes will take place in the undercroft from 9.30am until 12 noon:

Saturday, 23 March, Saturday, 20 April & Saturday, 27 April (final class). Please remember the children and their catechists in your prayers.

## **Facing the Future**

Bishop Heskett wishes to begin a formal consultation about the future shape of the diocese. Information is available to each parishioner/ family to facilitate such a discussion. It is proposed that the discussion take place in three stages:

- 1. Firstly, as an individual or as a family. Each practising Catholic family is asked to take a look at the information provided and seek to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to them.
- 2. Secondly, each parish community should then come together and discern what the Holy Spirit is asking of them.
- 3. Finally, the deanery clergy, as the bishop's co-workers, are asked to come together and, including the reflections of their people and the information that they themselves have gathered, summarise their conclusions in a written report compiled by the dean (any notes, letters and emails received during the period and which are applicable to the consultation will be attached as an annex).

Our bishop asks that we prayerfully consider the future of the Diocese of Hallam and how we best serve the Mission of the Church entrusted to us with the resources that we have available. Lent and Easter are an especially appropriate time to undertake these tasks of reflection. The questions we are asked to ponder as individuals, families and as a parish community are:

- 1. What are the good signs for your parish that you can see?
- 2. What are the concerns you have for your parish?
- 3. Where do you see your parish as we enter the year of Jubilee (2025)?

# 4. What actions do you think you/your parish need to take?

I propose that we use the remainder of the Lenten season to contemplate the questions, either as an individual or as a family in prayer, and then come together at a meeting sometime after Easter.

**Offertory envelopes for the new tax year**, commencing in April, **are available to collect** in the church. *To save on costs*, especially as bank charges have risen significantly (particularly for banking cash – especially coins – and cheques) *please consider making a regular contribution to the parish via standing order*. As usual, in order that its value does not decline, I respectfully ask that you also please consider an increase in your regular giving to keep pace with inflation. Finally, if anyone has not completed a **Gift Aid** declaration, but would like to know more about the scheme, then they can e-mail or speak to Tony Brodrick or Fr M. Thank you for your understanding and for your continuing support.

THE SACRED LITURGY	
Sunday 3 March	8.45am
Third Sunday of Lent	Louise Lawson
	10.00am
	For the People
	followed by Stations of the Cross
Monday 4 March	<u>7.15am</u>
Lenten weekday	Intentions of Bishop Heskett
Tuesday 5 March	<u>9.30am</u>
Lenten weekday	Stewart Roddis
Wednesday 6 March	November Memorial Dead List
Lenten weekday	
Thursday 7 March	10.00am
Lenten weekday	
Friday 8 March	<u>10.30am</u> Requiem Mass
Lenten weekday	Thomas McGowan RIP
Saturday 9 March	10 to 10.50am Exposition & Confessions
Lenten weekday	10.50am Benediction
Vigil Mass of Sunday	4.00 – 4.30pm Confessions
	<b>4.15pm</b> Stations of the Cross
	5.00pm
	Peace in Ukraine & Gaza
Sunday 10 March	8.45am
Fourth Sunday of Lent	For the People
	10.00am
	Thomas McGowan
	followed by Stations of the Cross

Please pray for Joe Brett & Fr Antony Hayne *RIP*; for all who have died recently & for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

**Last week's collection was £617.80** (£322.00 in offertory envelopes, £295.80 in loose). Many thanks for your continuing support.

Last weekend's CAFOD Family Fast Day offering was £138.23. Thank you.