



Timetable and Intentions for Sundays and Weekdays Masses



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 3 rd Aug.	9 am	18 th Sunday in O.T.	Frank Kerrigan (A) Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 3 rd Aug.	11.15 am	18 th Sunday in O.T.	Joseph Fitzgerald (LD)	Our Lady V
Mon 4 th Aug.		St. John Vianney	-----	The Church is closed
Tue 5 th Aug.	12.30 pm	REQUIEM MASS	Margaret Kennedy	Our Lady V
Wed 6 th Aug.	9 am	The Transfiguration of the Lord	S.I. The McCambridge Family	Our Lady V
Thu 7 th Aug.	9 am	Weekday of O.T.	Annie Fay (A)	Our Lady V
Fri 8 th Aug.	9 am	St. Dominic		Our Lady V
Sat 9 th Aug.	12 noon	Our Lady on Saturday	Frances McDonagh (Birthday Remembrance)	Our Lady V
Sun 10 th Aug.	9 am	19 th Sunday in O.T.	Margaret Kennedy	Holy Family
Sun 10 th Aug.	11.15 am	19 th Sunday in O.T.	Parishioners	Our Lady V
Sun 10 th Aug.	3 pm	Domingo 19 en T.O.	MISA EN ESPANOL	Our Lady V

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions: Tue 9.30am to 10am; Sat 11am to 12

Holy Rosary & Divine Mercy Devotion: Tuesdays 9.30 am OLOV.

Baptisms, Weddings: by appointments.

Wednesday Club: closed until September 10th. / **Tuesday Nursery:** You are welcome!

We pray for all who are sick and elderly: Marie Tyrer, Ray Sherwood, Betty Maurey, Terry Mottram, John Evans-Freeke, Henry Henderson, Anne and Mike Quinn, Ronnie Baybut, Geoff Morrissey, Michael Hyland, Paul Blackford, Harry Caine, Sophie Caine, Christine Watts, Deacon John and Ann Crooks, Joan Callaghan, Natalie Kavanagh, Sue Swift, Hannalor Mainey, Betty Costello.

We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time: John Doyle, Elizabeth Davin, Kath Thompson, Catherine Brown, Anne McConnell, Marjory Ball.

We pray for those who have passed away recently: David Schofield, Margaret Kennedy, Terry Mottram.

Home visits with Holy Communion:

Eucharistic Minister:	Visiting:
Paul	Mary Cartwright, Betty Costello, Anne Viz.
Mike	Peter Sales, Stuart Munro.
Adrian	Marie Tyrer.



The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell

Our Lady of Victories, Hightown

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OLOV, Hightown: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 01544993

Holy Family: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 71545094

18th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME: 3rd August 2025



The 1st Reading from Ecclesiastes gives bad news for those who base their hopes on the perishable wealth and goods of this world, echoing a stark message: vanity of vanities, all is vanity! All of human life is ultimately meaningless if viewed in itself, apart from God. The meaning of life cannot be found in possessions but in the sharing of time, treasure and talents with the needy. Ecclesiastes, reminds us that the greedy acquisition and the selfish hoarding of goods are useless because when the hoarder dies he goes to eternity empty-handed, and his heir gains, and perhaps squanders, his riches. Greed and selfishness are not worth the effort. Thus, the statement, "Vanity of vanities, all things are vanity!". According to an old legend, Alexander the Great (356-323 BC), commanded that when he died and was carried forth to his grave, his hands should not be wrapped in the burial clothes, as was the custom, but should be left outside so that all might see them, and might see also, that they were empty. In the brief span of his thirty-three years, Alexander had conquered and possessed the riches of an empire that extended from Greece to India. Yet, in death, his hands were empty; none of his wealth could survive the passage through death.

St. Paul (2nd Reading) directs our attention to lasting Heavenly treasures and warns that greed for wealth and influence is idolatry. We are living in a culture that caters to our desire for immediate gratification. It encourages us to amass possessions, and in many ways it thrives on deceit. Paul directs our attention to those treasures that endure, warning that greed for wealth and influence is idolatry and that the faith-life of a believer requires Christ as its first priority.

Jesus (Gospel Reading) by telling the parable of the foolish rich man, warns the disputing brothers, and us, against all types of greed, because greed takes our life's focus away from God and away from serving and loving Him in other people. Jesus called the greedy rich man a fool because the man thought he would not die soon and that he was not accountable for his riches. He forgot that his wealth was lent to him by God for sharing with the needy. Jesus also warns us that our eternal life does not consist of earthly possessions, and so we should share our possessions to gain eternal life.

We are invited to share our blessings with others: The parable of the rich fool gives us a warning as well as an invitation. It reminds us that our possessions are merely lent to us by God, and that we are accountable for their use. We must be generous in sharing our time, our treasure, and our talents, the three elements of Christian stewardship. Every one of us is rich in one thing or another. The parable instructs us to share these gifts. Even if we are poor financially, we may be blessed with intelligence, good will, a sense of humour or the ability to encourage, inspire and support others. God expects us to give our thanks to Him for all these blessings by sharing them with others for His glory.

Let us control our greed: Our greed takes different shapes and forms. For some it may be the desire for the approval and praise of others. For others it is the uncontrolled desire for power, control or fame. For a few others it takes the form of desire for excessive and sinful indulgence in eating, drinking, gambling, drugs or sexual activities. Greed also turns our life away from God, away from serving and loving other people.

Father Sergio, Parish Priest



**1.700th
years of
Nicaea
Council**

To commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, Pope Leo XIV has signalled his intention to visit Turkey, echoing Pope Francis's planned pilgrimage to Iznik (modern-day Nicaea). Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople expressed his hope that Pope Francis's successor would join him in visiting the site to further Christian unity.

On 20 May 2025, the Christian world commemorated the **1700th anniversary of the opening of the Council of Nicaea**, which took place in Asia Minor in the **year 325**. This was the first ecumenical council in history, and it produced the creed that, completed by the First Council of Constantinople in 381, has become the distinctive expression of the Church's faith in Jesus Christ. This anniversary occurs within the Jubilee Year, which is centred on the theme "Christ our Hope," and it coincides with the common celebration of Easter by Christians of both East and West. As Pope Francis has emphasized, in this historic moment—marked by the tragedy of war along with countless anxieties and uncertainties—what is essential, most beautiful, most attractive, and also most necessary for Christians is precisely the faith in Jesus Christ proclaimed at Nicaea. Indeed, the proclamation of this faith is "the fundamental task of the Church" (Address to Participants in the Plenary Assembly of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, 26 January 2024).

The International Theological Commission has now published an important and comprehensive document entitled, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior: The 1700th Anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea." It aims not only to recall the nature and significance of the Council, given its great historical importance for the Church, but also to highlight the extraordinary resources that the Nicene creed, continuously professed up to our own time, contains and re-proposes, especially in view of the new phase of evangelization that the Church is presently called to undertake...

... The faith that the Council of Nicaea witnesses to and hands on is the truth of a God who, being Love, is Trinity, and who, out of love, becomes one of us in his Son. This truth is the authentic principle of fraternity between individuals and peoples, and of the transformation of history in accordance with the prayer that Jesus addressed to the Father on the eve of the supreme gift of his life for us, "that they may be one, as we are one" (Jn 17:22). The Nicene Creed thus stands at the heart of the Church's faith as a wellspring of living water to be drawn upon also today. Through it, we can enter into Jesus' gaze and, in him, into the gaze with which God, Abba, looks upon all his children and upon the whole of creation, starting with the least, the poor and the outcast. For the only-begotten Son of the Father—who became the "firstborn among many brothers and sisters" (Rom 8:29)—identifies with them to the point that he considers that what is done to each one of them is done to him (cf. Mt 25:40).

The State of Palestine:

The Vatican officially recognized the State of Palestine in a treaty signed on **May 13, 2015**. This treaty was the first legal document negotiated between the Holy See and the State of Palestine, and it formalized the Vatican's recognition of **Palestine as a sovereign state, according to Vatican News**. The Vatican had previously indicated its recognition by referring to the Palestinian representative as representing the "State of Palestine" in its official directory and during Pope Francis' 2014 visit to the Holy Land.

First reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord

Second reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

At that time: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions.' And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, "What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?" And he said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich towards God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Source: UniversalisApp – New Lectionary

**Saint John Henry Newman will be declared
the 38th Doctor of the Church, and the 3rd Englishman Doctor:**

Pope Leo XIV will officially declare Saint John Henry Newman, the most recently canonised saint from England and Wales, the 38th Doctor of the Church. In a statement from the Holy See Press Office, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, said that Pope Leo XIV has "confirmed the affirmative opinion of the Plenary Session of Cardinals and Bishops, Members of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, regarding the title of Doctor of the Universal Church, which will soon be conferred on Saint John Henry Newman. "Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, said: "I am delighted and thrilled that Pope Leo has today announced that he will declare St John Henry Newman to be a 'Doctor of the Church'. "This request has been before the Holy See for some time, having received declarations of support from many different parts of the world and, of particular importance, from the Bishops of the Church of England. "This recognition that the writings of St John Henry Newman are a true expression of the faith of the Church is of huge encouragement to all who appreciate not only his great learning but also his heroic sanctity in following the call of God in his journey of faith, which he described as 'heart speaking unto heart'. A 'Doctor of the Church' is a man or woman of great holiness and learning whose teaching and wisdom not only resonated with their own contemporaries, but still illuminates, instructs and inspires today. The Church gives them the title 'Doctor', from the Latin 'docere', meaning 'to teach', in recognition of the eminent contribution to our knowledge of the faith – spiritually, intellectually or morally. Cardinal Newman is only the third Englishman to be afforded this title, after St Bede the Venerable and St Anselm of Canterbury, for the historic and abiding impact of his teaching on the universal Church.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90(89)

**R:/ O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.**

You turn man back to dust, and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night. **R:/**

You sweep them away like a dream, like grass which is fresh in the morning. In the morning it sprouts and is fresh; by evening it withers and fades. **R:/**

Then teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Turn back, O LORD! How long? Show pity to your servants. **R:/**

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us; give success to the work of our hands. O give success to the work of our hands. **R:/**

**The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed:
I believe in one God,**

the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.