



## Time & Intentions for Sundays and Weekdays Masses



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9 am	Third Sunday Ordinary Time A	Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	11.15 am	Third Sunday Ordinary Time A	Ann Prendergast (LD)	Our Lady V
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan.		Ss. Timothy & Titus		The church is closed
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9 am	Weekday in O.T.	Fr. Michael de Felice (LD)	Our Lady V
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9am	St Thomas Aquinas	S.I. Maureen Pengelli	Our Lady V
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9 am	Weekday in O.T.		Our Lady V
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9 am	Weekday in O.T.		Our Lady V
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	12 noon	Our Lady on Saturday St. John Bosco		Our Lady V
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb.	9 am	Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time A	Juliet Bogin (LD)	Holy Family
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb.	11.15 am	Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time A	Parishioners	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: / Tuesday Nursery:** You are welcome!

### We pray for all who are sick and elderly:

Marie Tyrer, Ray Sherwood, Betty Maurey, 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, Hannalor Mainey, Betty Costello, Pauline Hayes, Irene Halsall, Stuart Munroe.

**We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time:** Elizabeth Clarke, Peggy Shea, Ann Grinter, Edward Sturmeay, Peter Conner, William V. Ross (Jnr), Florence Woods.

**We pray for those who have recently died:** Mrs Ashley Mulhall (9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2026, aged 87 years).  
 Fr. Michael de Felice.

## 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



## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A): 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026



### MEDITATING ON TODAY'S GOSPEL READING

Today's passage belongs to the beginnings of Jesus' ministry. It is a very significant time. John has been arrested and Jesus decides he must make his move. He is self-confident, determined. Today we hear the story of the beginning of Jesus's ministry: he came proclaiming the good news; he came healing the sick; he came and called people by name to be his followers. If we wanted to think of the life of Jesus in a sound-bite, it would be these tasks:

**1.- proclaiming, 2.-healing, 3.- calling (gathering).**

- 1. Proclaiming:** Jesus is the one who announces the gospel in the town of Capernaum, in the countryside, in the synagogues, all through Galilee. His call is for people to change, change ways of living with one another, change the way we think about the world, others, oneself, and know that God is close to us, loving and caring: 'The kingdom is at hand.' St Matthew stresses the significance of Jesus's choice to start in Galilee. Galilee was situated at the extremes of the Holy Land; it was therefore a symbol of Jesus's vocation to reach out those who lived on the peripheries of society, who felt outcast, or far from God's love and mercy.
- ✓ **"Repent":** As we reflect on Jesus' preaching, his most important message is repentance for our sins. In other words, Jesus challenges us to turn away from the darkness of sin so that we can live in the light of God's loving presence. Sin alienates us from the kingdom of heaven. Repentance demands humility and a fundamental change of heart. Otherwise, we cannot truly be Jesus' disciples. Repentance is central to our lives as Jesus' disciples. Therefore, let our prayer be: *Lord God, teach us to be repentant. Encourage us to change our minds and to soften our hardened hearts whenever we offend you and hurt other people. May we realise that, in doing so, we also diminish our own dignity. Help us always, through repentance, to return to your love by changing the direction of our lives and being faithful to your Son's teaching.*
- ✓ **"The kingdom of heaven":** is St Matthew's version of the more common "kingdom of God", reminding us that the Jews were reluctant to use the name of God. This biblical expression means God's plan for the world "the world as it would be if God were in charge."

- ✓ **"It is close at hand":** Jesus is aware that this is a moment of grace. When we enter into God's work, we always have the sense that we are "called", part of a movement that is greater than us, and that we are merely God's instruments. As we saw recently, John the Baptist experienced a similar awe when he began to preach. Jesus devoted his public ministry to preaching about the nearness of the kingdom of heaven and to inviting people to become his disciples.

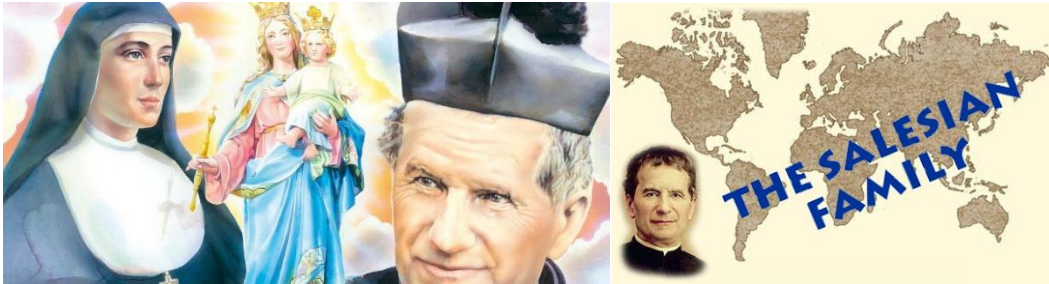
**2. Healing:** the coming of Jesus brings forgiveness, healing, renewal, and wholeness. He calls on us to change lives and minds, and he brings us God's pardon. He invites us to a new life, and he empowers us to set out to live that new life. The God who is close is the God who is gentle and forgiving.

**3. Calling (gathering):** He gathers around him, calling each person by name, a people. We are no longer isolated individuals but part of his new people. We change, start over, and seek to follow him as part of the community who has heard his call and received forgiveness through him.

*Fr Sergio, Parish Priest*

### **FEAST OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO: 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Fr. Sergio, who was a Salesian for 26 years (from 1985 to 2011), takes part of a Salesian Family Gathering every year around the Feast of St John Bosco. This gathering is organised by Fr Tony Frain, a Salesian Priest from Bootle and very well-known in our community. Some of them will have accommodation at the Presbytery, and all of them will participate in our Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Victories. The meeting starts on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. and ends on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. We will see them and welcome them in our Sunday Mass, Fr Tony will concelebrate with Fr. Sergio. As the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord comes when our church is closed, Fr. Tony will anticipate Candlemas on this Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February by blessing the candles that you can take home and light again on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb., the following day.



**St. John Bosco** (Don Bosco) founded the Salesian Family, a global network of religious and lay groups dedicated to educating and uplifting disadvantaged youth using his "Preventive System" of reason, religion, and loving kindness, established in 19<sup>th</sup>-century industrial Turin with his Oratory for boys, later expanding to include Salesian Sisters (Daughters of Mary Help of Christians) and Salesian Cooperators, all united by love for young people and devotion to Mary Help of Christians.

#### **Who was St. John Bosco?**

An Italian priest (1815-1888) who saw the plight of poor, abandoned youth in industrial Turin.

Inspired by a dream, he dedicated his life to them, starting with an oratory that served as a home, school, playground, and church. His educational approach, the Preventive System, focused on guiding youth through reason, religion, and kindness (amiability), ensuring they felt loved and safe. His motto was "Give me souls, take away the rest" (from Genesis).

#### **The Salesian Family**

**Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB):** The religious congregation of priests and brothers he founded.

**Salesian Sisters (FMA):** Founded with St. Mary Mazzarello for disadvantaged girls and young women.

**Salesian Cooperators:** Lay people committed to living the Salesian spirit in their daily lives.

**Other Groups:** The Salesian Family also includes groups like the Don Bosco Volunteers (DBV).

#### **Core Principles & Mission**

**Mission:** To be signs of God's love for young people, especially the poor, through education and evangelization.

**Preventive System:** Education based on reason, religion, and loving kindness (amiability).

**Devotion:** Strong reliance on Mary Help of Christians (Our Lady) as the inspiration and strength for their work.

**Global Reach:** Today, they work in over 130 countries in schools, youth centres, parishes, and missions.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY O. T. CYCLE A**

### **First reading: Isaiah 9:1b-4**

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

*The word of the Lord*

### **Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.,

*The word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction among the people. Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 27(26):**

**R:/ The LORD is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? **R:/**

There is one thing I ask of the LORD, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD, to enquire at his temple. **R:/**

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD! **R:/**



## **The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen

Source: Universalis App – New Lectionary