

Time & Intentions
for Sundays and
Weekdays Masses



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 1 st Feb.	9 am	Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time A	Juliet Bogin (LD) S.I. Carol Dunne on her 80 th Birthday	Holy Family
Sun 1 st Feb.	11.15 am	Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time A	Parishioners	Our Lady V
Mon 2 nd Feb.		Feast of The Presentation of the Lord		The church is closed
Tue 3 rd Feb.	9 am	St. Blaise		Our Lady V
Wed 4 th Feb.	9 am	Weekday O.T.		Our Lady V
	11 am	<u>FUNERAL SERVICE</u>	Eileen Brockbank RIP (Nenagh)	Holy Family
Thu 5 th Feb.	9 am	St Agatha		Our Lady V
Fri 6 th Feb.	9 am	St Paul Miki		Our Lady V
Sat 7 th Feb.	12 noon	Our Lady on Saturday		Our Lady V
Sun 8 th Feb.	9 am	Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time A	Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 8 th Feb.	11.15 am	Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time A	S.I. The Riley Family	Our Lady V
Sun 8 th Feb.	3 pm	Quinto Domingo	<u>MASS IN SPANISH</u>	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 Tyer, 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: William V. Ross (Jnr), Florence Woods, Ellen Kelly, Alfred Turnbull, Anne Blundell, Julia Gallagher, Colin Corey, Thomas Leeson, Peter Riley (Snr).

We pray for those who have recently died: Mrs Eileen Brockbank (9th Jan. 2026, aged 87 years).

Fr. Michael de Felice.

The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell
Our Lady of Victories, Hightown

Email: olovhfib@rcaol.org.uk / Tel.: 0151 936 1533

Website: <https://olovhfib.org.uk/>

Presbytery: Sandy Lane, Hightown, L38 3RP

Parish Priest: Fr Sergio Haro

Archdiocese of Liverpool, Reg. Charity Number 1199714

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

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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A): 1st February 2026



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL READING OF THIS SUNDAY:

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favoured. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

From Fr Sergio's Desk (Loyola Press, Sunday Connection)

Suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit. Christians feel and experience pain as do all other people; yet their faith helps them to grasp more deeply the mystery of suffering and to bear their pain with greater courage. ... Part of the plan laid out by God's providence is that we should fight strenuously against all sickness and carefully seek the blessings of good health, so that we may fulfil our role in human society and in the Church. The blessing of the sick by ministers of the Church is a very ancient custom, rooted in imitation of Christ himself and his apostles.

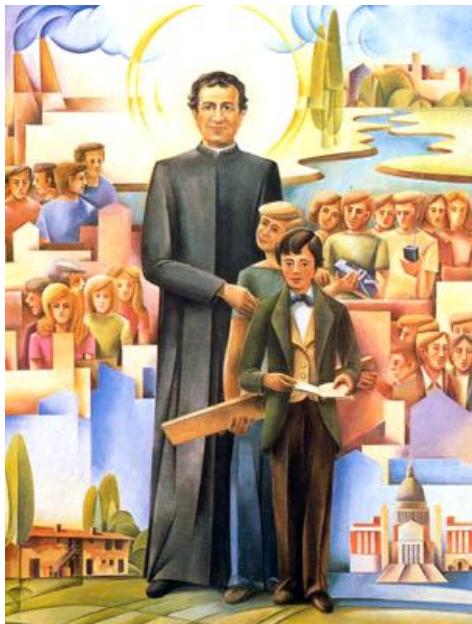
The annual blessing of throats is a traditional sign of the struggle against illness in the life of the Christian. This blessing is given on February 3, the memorial of Saint Blaise. Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His devotion spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. The blessing may be given by touching the throat of each person with two candles blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2) and which have been joined together in the form of a cross with a red ribbon, since St Blaise died a martyr.



GATHERING OF FRIENDS OF THE SALESIANS FEAST OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO: 31st 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 30th Jan. and ends on Sunday 1st 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 1st February by blessing the candles that you can take home and light again on 2nd 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 19th-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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY O. T. - CYCLE A

First reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

The word of the Lord

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Source: *Universalis App - New Lectionary*

DAY OF PRAYER: Fri 6 March 2026 at St. Stephen's CoE.

Feast of St. Blaise on February 3 - The Blessing of the Throats is a Roman Catholic sacramental that takes place on the feast day of Saint Blaise. The blessing involves holding candles crossed in the shape of an X over the throat of the person being blessed while a prayer is recited. The candles used in the blessing are blessed on Candlemas Day, February 2, and are white to symbolize purity. A red ribbon is draped over the base of the candles to represent St. Blaise's martyrdom.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146(145)

R:/ Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the LORD who sets prisoners free.

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind, the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the LORD who loves the just, the LORD who protects the stranger.

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The LORD will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, from age to age.

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