



The Sacred Heart &



St. Francis Parish, Gorton

July 26th 2026



17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

SCHEDULE

Sun 25th	Ordinary Time: 17th Sunday 09:15 Adoration & Confession 10:00 Morning Prayer 10:30 Mass & Choir 11:30 Church Clean	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
Mon 26th	Ordinary Time Wk 17 08:00 Mass	
Tue 27th	Ordinary Time Wk 17 —	—
Wed	Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus	—
Thu 29th	Garden Open 10:00-12:00	
	Ordinary Time Wk 17 12:00 Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
Fri 30th	St Ignatius of Loyola 09:15 Mass	
Sat 1st	Garden Open 10:00-12:00	
	St Alphonsus 11:00 Confession & Adoration 12:00 Mass	
	Ordinary Time: 17th Sunday 17:00 Confession, Adoration & Evening Prayer 17:30 Vigil Mass	
Sun 2nd	Ordinary Time: 17th Sunday 09:15 Adoration & Confession 10:00 Morning Prayer 10:30 Mass & Choir 11:30 Church Clean	
	Parish Community 12:00 Refreshments	

TREASURE AND THE PEARL OF GREAT VALUE

The readings today lead us to reflect again on what is truly valuable. In fact Solomon has to do this when the Lord appears to him in a dream and says, "Ask what I shall give you." Solomon is young and has made king. He has the great wisdom to ask for "an understanding mind" so that he can "discern between good and evil."

Jesus' parables also challenge us to consider what the most valuable things in life are. His first one depicts a man who finds treasure in a field and goes off to sell everything he owns so that he can buy the field.

And the second one is similar: a merchant finds a pearl of great value and he also goes off to sell all that he owns so that he can buy the pearl. These parables of course are not directing us to chase after material wealth. Quite the opposite. They are questioning us as to whether we really have put faith at the centre of our lives.

As I have said (unoriginally) before: we all have three commodities that are very valuable. We have time, we have our talents and we have our treasure. At mass today, and then over the Summer, we have the opportunity, in fact the call, to look at our lives again and think how we are using these commodities.

How are we spending our time? Are we giving more time to television, going online or checking our phones than we are to prayer? And what about our talents? Are we using the gifts we have been given for the service of our friends, our families, our neighbours, our community and our parish? And we do have treasure in greater or lesser amounts. How do we use and share our money and our possessions? Are we really just looking to build up our own wealth?

Jesus counselled a rich young man to sell everything he owned, give the money to the poor and to come and follow him. He probably doesn't make quite the same call to each one of us, and yet he still wants us to make our life of faith the priority, and to commit as fully as we can with our time, our talents and our treasure.

God bless, Fr Kevin.



PARISH PICNIC AND SUMMER FAIR

Thank you so much to those of you who arranged a picnic and fair at such short notice. I was so pleased to see such good numbers attending and the great fun and joy that were shared all round, along with the food. It was good to see our beautiful and prize-winning gardens being used so appreciatively. Thank you again for all those who made this happen so smoothly.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO PANTASAPH MONASTRY

There will be a pilgrimage to Pantasaph Monastery, North Wales on **Saturday 17th October 2026** as part of the 800th year celebration of the birth of St Francis of Assisi.

At this stage, for more details, please contact the pilgrimage office by telephone on 0161 817 2209 or email:

walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Let us pray for new parents and grandparents, that they may manifest the love and mercy of God to their children and grandchildren. **Lord hear us.**

AILSA SMITH. R.I.P.

I was very sorry to hear about the death of Ailsa Smith on Friday 17 July. Ailsa was very well known and very well loved here in the parish and used to be very involved before her illness. It was a privilege and blessing to have given her the Last Rites and Holy Communion quite soon before her death. Her requiem mass is likely to be in the week beginning 17 August and I will confirm this as soon as possible.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

To keep you up-to-date, we use email-list, our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#). We have a parish [WhatsApp group](#) (over 18s only). If you would like to be added, please [email the parish office](#). The newsletter is published online as well as being emailed, added to WhatsApp and printed.

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Murphy
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Facebook: Sacred Heart & Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE – LOVE FOR A LIFETIME

This course has the subtitle: 'We Build the House of Our Marriage' and is made up of four units: Foundations that can Carry for a Lifetime, A Wedding of the Stories of two Families, Our Vision of Marriage, God in our Married Life. Please note – this course is run on **Saturday 5th and Saturday 12th September 2026 at 2pm until 5pm**. Attendance is required on both dates. For more information and to register please contact Fr Herbert Opara at fr.herbert@schoenstatt.org.uk or Fr Bryan Cunningham at fr.bryan@schoenstatt.org.uk. St John Fisher RC Presbytery, Manchester Road, Kearsley, BL4 8QQ.

PARISH PRAYERS

If you would like a mass offered for a specific intention, pass an envelope with an offering of £10 or more to Fr Kevin, noting if it should be kept private.

MASS INTENTIONS

RECENTLY DECEASED:

AILSA SMITH, BERNADETTE REGAN

ANNIVERSARY: RITA WHITTAKER (4TH)

OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL

JANET MCCARTHY, JENNIFER HUNTER, MARTIN BRENNAN, TOMMY LOFTUS



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL: THANK YOU

Earlier in the year, priests from the Missionary Society of St Paul spoke at mass and made an appeal on behalf of their missions. They were a little late in totalling up all the money donated in cash and online but recently sent thanks to the parish for donations which amounted to £468.08. This is a very commendable amount given that many parishioners already give generously to Mary's Meals, Caritas, CAFOD and other charities. will be speaking at forthcoming masses to update everyone about developments. Thank you very much for your generosity.

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Caritas Salford: <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/about/careers/>
Diocese of Salford: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>
Schools: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/>
Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust: <https://emmauscat.com/>
Romero Catholic Academy Trust: <https://www.romerocat.com/>
St Teresa of Calcutta Trust: <https://www.stoccat.org.uk/>

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND JULY 18-19TH		
	Basket	£111.00
	Basket	£251.00
	Digital	£210.00

Please consider making offertory contributions **by Standing Order**. If required, forms are available at each church, use the QR code, or **transfer** directly from your bank:



**TSDD SACRED
HEART & ST
FRANCIS GORT,
20-55-34 // 20707600**