



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL, NORDEN

Caldershaw Road, Norden, Rochdale, OL12 7QL
Telephone: 01706 645361

Website: www.stvincentsnorden.org.uk
Email: james.manock@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Thursday, 11 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school! Or a warm welcome to those starting at Saint Vincent's! We hope and pray that this will be a blessed year for all of us – parents, children and staff.

As a faith school our Primary School is a part of our Parish community, and I would like to encourage all our families, whatever your religion, to see our Church as another integral part of that community, and let your children grow in a sense of belonging here too. We are very lucky to have our Church so close to school, so I wanted to remind you know that Church is normally opened at 8.30 a.m. on weekdays, giving anyone the opportunity to pop in for a quiet prayer or to light a candle if you wish. (Please just make sure children are never in Church on their own!) Also there is normally always Mass or a similar service at 9.30 a.m. on weekdays, and you are always very welcome to attend.

I would also like to encourage our Catholic families to help children attend Church at weekends: to remind you, our Sunday Masses are 6.30 p.m. on Saturday night and 9.00 and 11.00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. You are always very welcome, especially to stay behind for refreshments in the Parish Centre after the Sunday morning Masses!

Some specific notes:

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

This year is very important for **Year 3 children** baptised in the Catholic Church, as it is the time for their First Holy Communion. The journey to First Communion

starts at this time of year, as we want to use as much time as possible to make sure your children understand and get the most out of this Sacrament. We will soon be sending home more information and a Registration Form: it is very important that you return this to Church as soon as possible. *[If any children in Year 3 have not yet been baptised and you wish them to receive Holy Communion next year, it is vitally important that you speak to me as soon as possible. Please note, children under the age of 16 can only be baptised if at least one of the parents is a baptised Roman Catholic. Also, if there are any Roman Catholic children in Years 4-6 who for any reason have not yet received First Holy Communion, please contact Father James or Mrs McGrail as soon as possible.]*

HIGH SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTARY FORMS

It's also the time of year when families of **Year 6 children** are thinking about Secondary School places. Some schools (such as Holy Family, Heywood) require the completion of a "supplementary form" listing Church attendance over recent years, which must be signed by the Parish Priest. I would ask that parents complete these forms, filling in the attendance numbers honestly and truthfully, and present them to me face-to-face after one of our Masses on the weekend of **21st or 28th September** (do not post them through the letterbox!): all being well, I will countersign the forms and you can collect them after Mass on the weekend of 5th October.

CONFIRMATION

Finally, though this does not affect our primary school children, some of you may have children in Year 8 at High School: children who have been baptised in the Catholic Church and made their First Holy Communion may apply for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2026. Those children at Catholic High Schools will be contacted directly, but if you have children at non-Catholic High Schools, please ask Father James for an Application Form after September.

With prayers and every blessing for you and your families.



Fr James Manock
(Parish Priest)