One of the prayers that children are taught to say begins with the words “Gentle Jesus, meek and mild…” Maybe it’s partly because we present Jesus to children as the baby in the manger, as the good boy who always did what Mary and Joseph told him, that children can end up with an immature image of him.

Meek doesn’t mean weak, gentle doesn’t mean ineffectual and lowly doesn’t mean cringing. At the heart of these Beatitudes lies the concept of humility. Humility allows us to acknowledge the poverty of our own resources and yet at the same time to recognise that with God’s grace nothing is impossible.

When we take a look at the Beatitudes in Matthew’s gospel we are immediately struck by the fact that everything that Jesus is advocating is exactly what our modern-day world considers weakness. Poverty, lowliness, persecution, mourning etc., are things to be avoided like the plague. Nobody wants these. Yet Jesus says that Christians will be truly happy if they embrace these values. This is because if Christians are truly humble, if they realise that without God they are really powerless, then they can achieve whatever is needed. Humility is not a call to stand in the background but a challenge to step up and do what it takes.

Sometimes it’s hard to be a Christian because people equate Christianity with “being nice”. They fail to see the radical calling of the Beatitudes that sets Christians at odds with what society prizes highly. And so in a world that preaches locking people up and throwing away the key Christians preach forgiveness and mercy. Faced with globalisation and profit Christians preach justice and equity. As nations spend more and more of their annual budget on arms and invasions Christians call for peace-making. The Beatitudes point to values that go beyond this world for they promise an eternal happiness. To accept them requires a good deal of meekness. And to be meek you have to be strong.
**SINGING AT MASS**

Singing is an important part of making the Mass a real experience of celebration. St Augustine said that when we sing our prayers we pray twice. Please join in the singing at Mass. Our lead singers and choir are there to help the congregation not replace them. Also it would be great to have more lead singers, choir members and musicians with instruments - if you can help please make yourself known.

**CARITAS SUNDAY**

this weekend we celebrate Caritas Sunday the retiring collection will be in support of Caritas Diocese of Salford

**SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS**

we remember in our prayers the sick and housebound especially Christopher Meehan

**CONDOLENCES**

we offer our sincere condolences to

Rigby Family
Jeff Rigby RIP
Funeral Thursday 2nd February

O’Connor Family
Vincent O’Connor RIP
Funeral Service 13.15 Friday 3rd Feb (SH)

Moorhouse Family
Wilfred Moorhouse RIP
Funeral Service 11.15 Tuesday 7th Feb (SH)

**WELCOMERS MEETING (SH)**

there will be a meeting for all those already involved in welcoming ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners

11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 29th January 2017

**MUSIC MINISTRY MEETING (SH)**

there will be a meeting for all those already involved in music ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners

11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 5th February 2017

**READERS MEETING (SH)**

there will be a meeting for all those already involved in reading ministry at the 10.30am Sunday Mass those who would like to get involved and any other interested parishioners

11.30 to 12.00
Sunday 12th February 2017

**RASSEMBLEMENT PAROISSIENS FRANÇOPHONES (SH)**

il y aura un rassemblement pour les paroissiens francophones à 19:00 le vendredi 17 février suivie d’un repas simple pour plus d’informations et pour réserver une place s’il vous plaît contacter Regine sur 07448 148654

**CARITAS SUNDAY**

the parish relies on voluntary support at present we especially need volunteers to help with the biomass boiler

if you can spare a few hours on a regular basis please see Fr Derek or contact the parish office

**MUSIC MINISTRY MEETING (SH)**

next meeting
Sunday 12th February 2016 (SH) 12.00noon to 1.00pm

**PASSENGER MEETING (SH)**

we would like to establish a calendar of dates for charity fundraising or make collections at the end of Mass with details of the charity and the dates you would like

**FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

children in Year three and above are invited to register by sending Fr Derek (via school or via the parish office) a letter of request and a copy of both their birth and baptism certificates

**SAFE - GORTON COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS**

As a parish we have three Community Outreach Projects under the title of SAFE - Gorton. The projects are open to everyone who lives in Gorton and the surrounding areas.

SAFE COMMUNITY CAFE
under review

SAFE - AMBITION COMMUNITY YOUTH MUSIC PROJECT (safe-gorton.com)
for young people interested in music and various aspects of production

no charge
Tuesday
7.00pm to 9.00pm

SAFE COMMUNITY GARDEN
open again in early spring