



PARISH OF ST JOHN XXIII, PRESTON

St Joseph's and English Martyrs' Churches

Incorporating the districts of St Augustine, English Martyrs, St Ignatius, St Joseph & St Teresa

Sunday 25th January 2025

Third Sunday of the Year [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 25th January <i>Third Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Thanksgiving</i>
	10.30am	SJ	<i>First Confession Preparation [4]</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Stephanie Finnerty</i>
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Kevin O'Rourke</i>
Monday 26th January <i>Sts Timothy & Titus</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Sean Lonergan</i>
Tuesday 27th January <i>St Angela Merici</i>	9:00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Taylor Woodruff</i>
Wednesday 28th January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>			<i>No Public Mass</i>
	10.30am	SJ	Funeral Service <i>Sylvia Moran</i>
Thursday 29th January <i>of the 3rd week of the year</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Mary Tochel</i>
	6.00pm	SJ	<i>Confirmation Preparation [2]</i>
Friday 30th January <i>of the 3rd week of the year</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Teresa McMonagle</i>
Saturday 31st January <i>St John Bosco</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>James & Margaret Teevan</i>
	10-10.30am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30 - 5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Terry Moore</i>
Sunday 1st February <i>Fourth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>John Galway</i>
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]		SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]	

ST THOMAS AQUINAS

Among the greatest intellectuals in the history of the Church, Saint Thomas rises far above the rest. He is not only a Doctor of the Church but is given the titles Angelic Doctor and Universal Doctor.

Thomas was born of a noble family near, the town of Aquino in Italy. Thomas began his studies when he was only 5 at the monastery of Monte Cassino. His parents hoped Thomas would flourish there and perhaps become Abbot one day! As his studies took him elsewhere, he came into contact with and was very drawn by a new Religious Order, the Dominicans. The Dominicans were equally taken by Thomas and his extraordinary mind. He joined the Dominicans at 19, to the anger of his family, who saw this as social regression as the Benedictines were considered more noble and prominent, at the time. At one point, Thomas' mother had him abducted and locked in the family castle for a year, trying to convince him to return to Monte Cassino, or to become a worldly Lord, using various forms of persuasion.

Thomas won out in the end, rejoined the Dominicans, and was then sent to Paris where he became a student of St Albert the Great. Thomas here became fond of Aristotle's philosophy, which would become the foundation of much of his future writings. Until the day Albert died Thomas, in his humility, rarely spoke up or debated, simply taking it all in from his teacher! However, the day Albert died this all changed and he began to answer the various difficult questions of his classmates with precision and eloquence.

Thomas authored numerous books, sermons, commentaries on Scripture, and even composed some of our Church's most beautiful hymns, including *Pange Lingua*. He continued as a teacher, preacher, and papal theologian in Paris, Naples, Orvieto, and Rome. Thomas a man of deep faith, who loved God, never stopped contemplating the truths of the faith and found ways for God and His Truth to be known by others.

We may not be called to a life of intellectual brilliance, but God still wants to speak to your mind, reveal many hidden truths, and help you apply those truths each day. Let us find time to consider the richness of our faith!

OUR PRAYERS

We pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners and those who care for them. We also pray for all the lately dead: Fr Osmond Aisbitt, Fr Peter Foulkes, Fr Bryan Irving, Sylvia Moran, and all whose anniversaries occur: Bernadette Whitehead and Lorna Carter.

FR PETER FOULKES

We continue to pray for the soul of Fr Peter Foulkes who served our parish as a former Parish Priest of St Augustine's. His Requiem Mass will take place at St Bernadette's, Lancaster on Monday 16th February at 11.00am. We thank God for his labours in St Augustine's district of our Parish, and we pray for his happy repose.

Eternal rest grant, unto him O Lord

SUNDAY BENEDICTION: WINTER PAUSE

There is a pause in the celebration of Benediction on Sundays at St Joseph's. Benediction will resume, with Stations of the Cross, in Lent, on Sunday 22nd February.

SHRINE CHURCH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Following the safety concerns at English Martyrs, the Vigil Mass [on Saturday evening], is at this time, celebrated at St Joseph's.

By way of a brief update and to further reflect and consider the limited options before us, I will meet with those of our parish who regularly attend English Martyrs. This gathering will take place this Monday, 26th January at 7.00pm, after the usual evening Mass in the War Memorial Chapel. Thank you for your support! *Fr E*

FIRST CONFESSIONS

This week our children will be learning the depths of God's love for us and how this is wonderfully found in Confession and how all Catholics go to the Sacrament of Penance [at least once a year] to receive this forgiveness regularly. Next week they will be Confessing their sins for the first time. Do pray for them. If you have been away from the Sacrament for some time, perhaps follow the good example of these children.

Families: Please decide between the usual Confession times of when to make this confession. Friday 30th 6.00pm-6.20pm. Saturday 31st 10.00am-10.30am or 5.30pm-5.50pm. Sunday 1st February 10.30am-11.00am or 4.30pm-4.50pm.

PARISH SOCIAL

After Mass next Sunday morning, 1st February, there will be a little parish social in the Lancaster Room. Please could parishioners contribute food and drinks for the shared lunch. Thank you!

REQUESTING BAPTISM

Catholic parents of our parish, desiring to bring their children up in the practice of the Faith, should first make their request for Baptism to our priests, in person, after attending a weekend Mass.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL [SVP]

Thank you to those who came to the SVP conference last Tuesday. It is not too late to be a part of the SVP. Our next conference meeting will be Tuesday 24th February at 6.00pm in the Lancaster Room at St Joseph's. You can find out more about the SVP from their website: www.svp.org.uk/

SPUC-PRESTON

Do please consider joining our local Preston branch! Meetings are at St Joseph's on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 2.00pm. Next meeting 12th February.

CLEANING ST JOSEPH'S

Thank you to those who regularly clean our Church and the Church grounds. It has been proposed that a regular sign-up rota be available in the church porch for individuals and families to volunteer routinely for this. A sign-up rota has now been put up. If Saturdays are not possible, then speak with our priests so access can be arranged.

CRIB COLLECTIONS

Our Crib Collection, this year, is for our SVP Conference. The collection remains open for one more week, until 2nd February.

WEEKEND RECOLLECTION

A weekend delving into St John of the Cross is offered between 20th-22nd February at the Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst entitled: *Love & Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle* given by Fr Matthew Blake, OCD. For more information follow: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/love-beauty-in-st-johns-spiritual-canticle/>

COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

Non-perishable food goods for those in need can be placed in the buckets found in the Church porch.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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