



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

21st June 2026

Twelfth Sunday of the Year [A]

	Time	Church	
Sunday 21st June <i>Twelfth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Life</i> <i>Special Collection: Day for Life</i>	5.30-5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	SJ	Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>John Galway</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	<i>Rosary & Benediction</i>
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Chris Schauder</i>
Monday 22nd June <i>St John Fisher & St Thomas More</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>John S Sushilap</i>
Tuesday 23rd June <i>St Etheldreda</i>			No Public Mass
	9.30am	SJ	Funeral Service <i>Lyn Rochford</i>
Wednesday 24th June <i>Nativity of St John the Baptist</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Norman Kirkby</i>
Thursday 25th June <i>Our Lady of Fernyhalgh</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am		Mass <i>Patricia Trayner</i>
Friday 26th June <i>Votive of the Holy Cross</i>	6.00-6.20pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Fr Chapple</i> <i>Followed by veneration of the True Cross</i>
Saturday 27th June <i>St Cyril of Alexandria</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Boylan Family</i>
	10-10.30am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30-5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>War Dead</i>
Sunday 28th June <i>St Peter & St Paul</i> <i>Special Collection: Peter's Pence</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Paul Hilton</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	<i>Rosary & Benediction</i>
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]		SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]	

ST JOHN FISHER & ST THOMAS MORE, PRAY FOR US! [Part 1]

St John Fisher was born at Beverley and educated at Cambridge university. At Cambridge he being elected as a Fellow of Michaelhouse [now Trinity College] and ordained priest in 1491. As his reputation grew, he held increasingly important appointments within the university, being appointed Chancellor of the university in 1504, the same year he was consecrated as Bishop of Rochester. Earlier, in 1502 he became chaplain to Lady Margaret Beaufort, the King's mother with whom he re-founded the university in all its life and vigour. As Bishop of Rochester, he was ardent in his pastoral care and noted for his preaching. Henry VIII once boasted that no other realm could claim such a distinguished prelate.

As one of the king's most admired bishops, John Fisher had no escape from clearly declaring his mind with regards to the validity of King Henry's marriage. To do so made him a marked man. The matter first arose regarding the nullity suit of 1529, but it was not until 1534 that all public officials were required to swear to a form that the marriage of Henry and Catherine was illegal and invalid. Bishop Fisher, alone among the English bishops, was unable to do this. For this he was condemned to imprisonment in the Tower of London. In the intervening years between 1529 and 1534, he had protested against the title 'Head of the Church of England'. Imprisoned in the Tower, Fisher was deprived of the university Chancellorship and the See of Rochester. For a bishop of genuine asceticism, his letter to Thomas Cromwell, the Secretary of Henry VIII, makes poignant reading. But most cruel of all was his deprivation from receiving the sacraments and any priestly visitation. The final days of his earthly life were marked by the newly-elected Pope Paul III creating Fisher a cardinal. To many this has seemed a politically inept move – Henry responded by vowing that Fisher's head would be off before the Cardinal's hat would be on. On 22 June 1535, John Fisher was taken to the scaffold on Tower Hill. Pardoning his executioner and clearly announcing that he was dying for the faith of the Catholic Church, he asked those nearby to pray for him. Praying the *Te Deum* and a psalm, his head rested on the block and, with a single blow of the axe, he died.

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; Lyn Rochford and all whose anniversaries occur: Gertrude Fisher, Maureen Kane, Mary Smith, and Joyce Lyons.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate and assure Rev Chris Sumner of our prayers as he was ordained a deacon for our diocese last Wednesday in Rome.

SICK & HOUSEBOUND

As part of the priest's ministry and the ministry of the Church is to visit those Catholics who can no longer attend Mass because of incapacity. If you or a family member has regularly received the sacraments, do not let being at home or in care stop this relationship with Christ and his Church. If they are not in a position to receive the sacraments, visits and prayers are still important.

SHRINE CHURCH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

The Saturday evening Mass continues to be celebrated at St Joseph's. Monday evening Adoration and Mass are celebrated in the War Memorial Chapel at English Martyrs.

YOUTH CONFERENCES THIS SUMMER

Fr Etienne would like to hear from families and young people who may be interested in attending the following conferences:

- **SUMMERTIME AT AMPLEFORTH:** Monday 20th July to Thursday 23rd July. The cost £180.00. At Ampleforth Abbey near York, four days for 10–15-year-olds, combining both faith and fun activities in a relaxed holiday setting. The week is structured around getting to know God and each other and includes Holy Mass each day, talks about the Catholic Faith, discussions, prayer, quizzes, arts and crafts, games, sports, and a visit to Flamingo Land.
- **FAITH SUMMER SESSION AT AMPLEFORTH:** Monday 27th July to Friday 31st July. Cost: £240 student/unwaged: £215. Five days of social, spiritual and catechetical activities for 16–30-year-olds. A series of talks is given, developing a coherent, dynamic vision of the faith. There is daily Mass, morning and night prayer, time in Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions. Time for sports, walking, a *ceilidh*, and Quiz.

DAY FOR LIFE

This Sunday, we mark *Day for Life*, a unique day to celebrate the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. This year's theme is '*The Wonder of the Child in the Womb.*' A child is a gift from God to be nurtured and cherished, but we know the tragedy of babies who die before birth and the grief experienced by their parents and families. For more information: www.dayforlife.org

PARISH SUMMER SOCIAL

After 11.15am Mass on Sunday 12th July. Do come along and spend time with each other. There will be a 'Jacob's Join' & BBQ for lunch, so please sign up to contribute and/or the help - cooks are needed! The list is in the Church porch. There will be games for the younger parishioners.

SUMMER RAFFLE

Raffle Tickets are available after weekend Masses, £1.00 a strip. The raffle will be drawn at the Parish Summer Social on Sunday 12th July. To donate prizes [but not bric-a-brac] towards the Raffle, please contact the parish office. Cash prizes of £75.00 & £35.00 to be won and many other prizes!

DOMINUS EST!

DAY OF SOLEMN ADORATION

On Sunday 19th July the Blessed Sacrament will be solemnly exposed from the end of the 11.15am Mass until 4.50pm before the evening Mass. Please sign up to be a watcher/adorer of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day, list to be found in the church porch. Come be with your Lord, speak with Him and adore Him in this most wonderful treasure and be there, in His company, so that others may come to meet and know Him!

VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making last Friday's visit of St Gerard's relics [and Fr Royston] so wonderful. Many graces will continue to flow from this most beautiful encounter!

DIOCESEAN EDUCATION MASS

You are welcome to join Bishop Paul Swarbrick this Thursday, 25th June at Lancaster Cathedral for the annual Mass for Education at 6.30pm.

LARK HILL ASSOCIATION

The 125th Anniversary takes place at Cardinal Newman College on Saturday June 27th from 11.30am. Contact: janet.metcalf53@icloud.com

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