



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, 2nd February 2025

The Presentation of the Lord [C]

Upcoming Masses & Services this Week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 2nd February <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	5.30pm [Sat]	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm [Sat]	EM	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Bishop's Intentions</i>
			<i>Mass with the Sacrament of Confirmation</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Irene Sheridan (RIP)</i>
Monday 3rd February <i>St Blaise</i>	2.00pm	SI	Mass at St Ignatius' School Mass <i>Madge Lowe</i>
Tuesday 4th February <i>Of the 4th Week of the Year</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Christina Skerritt (B/day rem)</i>
Wednesday 5th February <i>St Agatha</i>	11.30am	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12noon	EM	Mass <i>Fr. D Clements (RIP)</i> <i>Followed by novena to the English Martyrs</i>
Thursday 6th February <i>Ss Paul Miki & Comps</i>	10.30am	SJ	Requiem Mass for Mark Finley
Friday 7th February <i>Votive of the Holy Cross</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Special Intention</i>
Saturday 8th February <i>St Josephine Bakhita</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Mgr N France (RIP)</i>
	10.00am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>Gerard J Waddingham</i>
Sunday 9th February <i>Fifth Sunday of the Year</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Stan Hulme</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

What is the Sacrament of Confirmation about? Is it simply marking your own [adult] decision to be Catholic or a rite of maturity in the faith?

Confirmation in recent decades has become a little confusing. At times, people say that Confirmation is your opportunity to “confirm” your faith. Well, yes, you certainly must do this as you receive this Sacrament. But this is not the heart of Confirmation. Confirmation is not so much about you confirming *your* choice to be Catholic; rather, it's about *God the Holy Spirit* confirming you! It's much more something that God does to you and your eternal soul than something you do for God or even yourself.

Like Baptism, Confirmation changes you, you receive a spiritual character (an indelible mark) on your soul. And this marking becomes a permanent source of grace for you. God knows we need help to live out our baptismal dignity and calling. He knows we cannot do it by ourselves. Therefore, He gives us the fullness of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation so as to provide all we need to live as we are called.

What a wonderful gift of grace we have received! What a wonderful gift of grace is outpoured today upon our young people! *Veni Sancte Spiritus! Come, Holy Spirit!*

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: Deacon Charles Outtier, Mark Finley, Robert Talbot, Patricia Tuson and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Arthur Shillingford and Annie Doyle.

SICK & HOUSEBOUND PARISHINORS

If you or your relative is no longer able to get to Sunday Mass and wish[es] to have a regular visit from our priests and parishioners, and if they able to receive Holy Communion, then please get in touch with the parish office so our priests can make the necessary arrangements.

DIOCESE OF LANCASTER CENTENARY

As we draw close to the Feast of our diocesan patroness, Our Lady of Lourdes, on 11th February, we call to mind in particular the personal devotion of Bishop Thomas Wulstan Pearson (1st Bishop & son of our parish) to Our Lady. In the month of February in 1924 our diocese started to come alive, the Bishop set about forming his curia, the Bishop was consecrated and enthroned and the chapter of canons was established (three of whom were Parish Priests in what is now our parish). In this month, the spiritual preparation for the consecration of the Bishop, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes would have been a great consolation in the midst of all the anxiety and excitement. As with so many Catholics in England in those days, the message of Our Lady in Lourdes resonated with Bishop Pearson. The themes of penance, procession, piety, prayer, and healing still hold true and necessary for us to hear.

*Looking ahead (11th February), in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes this year in our parish you are welcome to come to Mass at St Teresa's school at 9.30am and to a Marian Procession at St Ignatius' school into Preston Cathedral.

TEA & COFFEE

Regular tea & coffee resumes *next* Sunday, 9th February. We depend, however, on volunteers to set up, serve, and clear away. Thank you to our volunteers! From March, we will aim to introduce tea & coffee after Mass on the first Saturday of the month at English Martyrs? Please contact the parish office if you can volunteer to help on a rota.

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.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC/ ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you, or someone in your family, interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church or perhaps thinking about becoming a member of the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic adult who has not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Speak with one of the priests who can help take your enquiry forward.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES 2025

- To Lindisfarne & Holy Island, in honour of our patron, St Cuthbert, 21st – 23rd May costing £310 for shared accommodation and £340 for single rooms, all inclusive, with coach pick-ups at Workington and Carlisle. Please contact info@christ-the-good-shepherd.co.uk for info.
- To Lourdes, in honour of our primary patron, Our Lady of Lourdes, 23rd – 30th July, see forms in our church porches for various costs. Please contact info@joewalshtours.co.uk for info.

GIVING TO OUR PARISH

A resolution for this new year might be to renew your generosity to your parish. The parish is more reliant now on your weekly offerings after the recent investments made to parish properties. The mission of our parish can only move forward on your generosity. Thank you!

To give stably by Standing Order instead of envelopes or cash please use the following bank details; LRC DTR CH NO 234331 Sort: 40-27-02 A/C: 71335391 (HSBC). If you Gift Aid, please contact the parish office to inform us of the Standing Order. Alternatively, if you are a UK Taxpayer your cash donation can go further if you have a set of envelopes and sign a Gift-Aid declaration. Email stjohnxxiii.preston@lrcd.org.uk for envelopes or more information.

*Another way to give, is by your time and skills. Our parish relies on volunteers and if we want to establish more routines into our little growing parish then this relies on you. Do please speak to our priests about how you may be able to help!

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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