



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

8th February 2025

Fifth Sunday of the Year [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 8th February <i>Fifth Sunday of the Year</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm 6.00pm 11.15am	SJ SJ SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass For Healing Mass Stan Hulme
<i>Day of Prayer – Victims of Trafficking</i>	4.30 - 4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass William Woods Snr
Monday 9th February <i>of the 5th week of the year</i>	6.00pm 6.30pm	EM EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass Madge Lowe
Tuesday 10th February <i>St Scholastica</i>	9.00am 9.30am	SJ SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass Lucy Clapham
Wednesday 11th February <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i> <i>Patroness – Diocese of Lancaster</i>	6.30pm	SJ	Mass John Galway Followed by Procession
Thursday 12th February <i>of the 5th week of the year</i>	9.00am 9.30am 10.30am	SJ SJ SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass James Moloney Funeral Service Wendy Sumner
Friday 13th February <i>of the 5th week of the year</i>	6.00pm 6.30pm	SJ SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance Mass Dave O'Neil
Saturday 14th February <i>Sts Cyril & Methodius</i>	9.30am 10-10.30am 5.30 - 5.50pm 6.00pm	SJ SJ SJ SJ	Mass Margaret Nolan Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass Rosy's Intentions
Sunday 15th February <i>Sixth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Day of Prayer – Unemployed</i>	11.15am 4.30 - 4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ	Mass Manuel Francis & Ana Garca Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass Richard Adamson

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]

SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

In one of the most moving scenes of the Gospel, Mary, in her moment of supreme grief receives us as her children, as Christ, her son hangs upon the Cross. We are reminded of this entering into the suffering of Our Lady when we recall her apparitions and miraculous healings at Lourdes. As in the Gospel itself, Lourdes remains a living testimony to the exceptional value that suffering has in God's eyes, and also how we need to be cleansed in order to see this value—both in ourselves and in others.

By her unique vantage point beneath the cross of her Son, our Lady makes it her priority to change our perspective: to see Jesus in suffering, and to see it as something beautiful, something that saves. We must learn to see the crucifix as something beautiful and to be attracted to the love that it stands for.

This week, we celebrate our Lady's apparitions at Lourdes, under the title of the *Immaculate Conception*, which is how she identified herself to Saint Bernadette. Yet, whenever we picture the Blessed Virgin beneath the Cross, we think more of her sorrows than of her conception. But one is the direct result of the other. Our Lady could have said to Saint Bernadette: I am the Immaculate Conception, and therefore, the Sorrowful Mother. This is because, as the great Carmelite mystic Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity says, the virginal heart suffers more than any other—because it sees more, even the presence of God in those persons from whom men hide their faces.

Our Lady of Lourdes has compassion upon the sorrows and sicknesses of all who belong to Jesus, because they belong to Jesus, because He suffers in them. With her pure eyes she sees in them the unmistakable beauty of the Lord. She is not thrown off by physical or mental handicaps. In all of them Jesus is beautiful.

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 Peter Foulkes, Fr Bryan Irving, Lucy Clapham, Wendy Sumner, and all whose anniversaries occur: Eugene Sareth, Daniel O'Neill, Stephen Maxwell, Robert Pritchard, James Nelson, Shiela Sumner, June Wignall, and Mary Pickles.

FR PETER FOULKES

We continue to pray for the soul of the late 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

The celebration of Benediction on Sundays at St Joseph's will resume shortly, on Sunday 22nd February: celebrated *after* Stations of the Cross during Lent. Do consider taking part in this beautiful tradition on Sunday afternoons at 4.00pm. Booklets will be provided to assist you.

SHRINE CHURCH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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

Monday evening Adoration and Mass continues to be celebrated at this time in the War Memorial Chapel. Thank you for your support! *Fr E*

VIGIL MASS TEA & COFFEE

If parishioners would like to re-establish Tea & Coffee after the Saturday evening Mass [Sunday Vigil] on the first Saturday of the month, then please do volunteer to organise this via the sign-up sheet in the Lancaster Room. Thank you!

APF MISSION BOXES

Those who have Red APF Mission Boxes at home, please bring them to church for counting. If you would like a Red Box in your home speak with our priests who can direct you to the *Missio* Secretary. The Red Mission Box is a simple tradition to support the missionary activity of the Church.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

To celebrate our Diocesan Patroness there is an additional Mass this Wednesday, 11th February at **6.30pm** at St Joseph's, with a short procession. Do come along and ask Our Lady's powerful intercession and pray for our Bishop and Diocese.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is Wednesday 18th February this week! Do please make every effort to attend church to receive your ashes to start the holy season well.

9.30am – St Joseph – Mass with Ashes
6.30pm – St Joseph – Mass with Ashes

LENT

Think now how you may use the opportunity of Lent: try to attend Mass on a weekday perhaps, spend time with the Lord in Exposition, donate in our various collections, come to Benediction, participate in the Stations of the Cross, and take up some spiritual reading.

RITE OF ELECTION

Do pray for our Catechumens and Candidate who will be Presented to Bishop Swarbrick and their names inscribed in the Book of the Elect on Saturday 21st February, at 2.00pm at the Cathedral.

ALTAR SERVERS' TRAINING

After the 11.15am Mass on Sunday 1st March there will be a little on-going training session for Altar Servers. If others would like to serve at Mass [perhaps those preparing for 1st Holy Communion] do come along for a brief introduction.

JOIN OUR SVP!

You are welcome to our next SVP conference meeting on Tuesday 24th February at 5.00pm in the Lancaster Room at St Joseph's. To find out more about the SVP visit 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. The next meeting is on 14th February.

CLEANING ST JOSEPH'S

If you can give some time to this work a rota is available in the church porch for individuals and families to volunteer.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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