



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

22nd February 2025

First Sunday of Lent [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 22nd February <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm 6.00pm 11.15am 12.45pm 4.30 - 4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ SJ SJ SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass <i>Thomas Woods</i> Mass <i>Sylvia Kellett</i> Baptism <i>Kayleigh, Mason & Chantelle</i> Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass <i>Narcisa Brasas</i>
Monday 23rd February <i>of the 1st week of Lent</i>	6.00pm 6.30pm	EM EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass <i>John Steven</i>
Tuesday 24th February <i>of the 1st week of Lent</i>	9.00am 9.30am 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass <i>Fr S. Chapple</i> <i>SVP Conference</i>
Wednesday 25th February <i>of the 1st week of Lent</i>	10.30am	SJ	Requiem Mass <i>Margaret Cutler</i>
Thursday 26th February <i>of the 1st week of Lent</i>	6.00pm	SJ	No Public Morning Mass <i>Confirmation Prep [4]</i>
Friday 27th February <i>of the 1st week of Lent</i> <i>CAFOD Fast Day</i>	6.00pm 6.30pm	SJ SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 28th February <i>of the 1st week of Lent</i>	9.30am 10-10.30am 5.30 - 5.50pm 6.00pm	SJ SJ SJ SJ	Mass <i>John Galway</i> Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 1st March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Special Collection: CAFOD (envelopes)</i>	10.30am 11.15am 4.00pm 4.30 - 4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ SJ SJ	<i>First Holy Communion Prep [1]</i> Mass <i>Thomas Woan</i> Stations of the Cross & Benediction Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass <i>Special Intention</i>

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]

SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

PROGRESS IN PRAYER THIS LENT

We have now begun the Lenten season, and the first of the great companions or practises of Lent is **prayer**. Just as with the other Lenten observances we set out to keep we can end up going to one extreme or the other. On the one hand, our observances can be minimal, on the other hand, we can be over-ambitious in our attempts to overhaul our spiritual life and we fizz out early.

One value we must take to heart is the importance of taking small steps in the spiritual life. St. Philip Neri said, *“One of the most excellent means of perseverance is discretion; we must not wish to do everything at once, or become a saint in four days.”* In that vein, Lenten practices are to be both manageable and fruitful. When it comes to prayer perhaps, we could memorize a short prayer or two for mental prayer in specific circumstances. Choosing a richly meaningful prayer to memorize means you have something that will reward repeated reflection. Learn something new to you, so that you can nourish your imagination with additional wisdom from the Church’s tradition. On a practical note, memorizing a short text for mental prayer also gets around many of the usual roadblocks to increasing prayer: “I will pray more” is too unspecific to succeed, and taking on something like adoration or daily Bible reading is vulnerable to factors outside your control, and can be difficult to keep up when you’re tired and busy.

Perhaps you could look to learn the Lenten Marian Anthem: *Ave Regina Caelorum* or a Thanksgiving Prayer after Holy Communion: the *Anima Christi*. Could these be your Lenten nutrition?

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: Margaret Cutler, Irene Boylan, and all whose anniversaries occur: Joan Connors, Barry Worden, Eileen Bell, Michael Sweeney, Teresa Buckley, and Annie Cookson.

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 continue 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 evening Mass on the first Saturday of the month, then please do volunteer via the sign-up sheet in the Lancaster Room. Thank you!

CLEANING/MAINTENANCE 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.

ALTAR SERVERS' TRAINING

After the 11.15am Mass next 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.

The older men of the parish, who may have served as boys, are also encouraged to consider perhaps serving at weekday Masses and for funerals.

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

Our new Financial Year begins in early April, so perhaps, if you are in a position to do so, you could consider in Lent the offering you make to your parish. Perhaps if you pay Tax and make cash offerings, you could start using ***Gift Aid envelopes***? Perhaps you could make your offering or part of it by standing order? This can also be claimed against the Tax you contribute, if declared.

If you are no longer paying Tax or want to know more, please contact our priests. Thank you for your continued support!

Setting up a Standing Order: St John XXIII,
Sort Code: 40-27-02 A/C: 71335391 [HSBC UK]

PARISH SOCIAL

After Mass this Sunday morning, 22nd 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!

LENT

Think how you might 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 [some options available in the Holy Shop].

STATIONS & SUNDAY BENEDICTION

The celebration of Benediction on Sundays at St Joseph's resumes next 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 are provided to assist you.

JOIN OUR SVP!

Do consider joining our SVP conference! This is a wonderful way to root simple works of charity in your life. Next meeting this Tuesday, 24th February at 5.00pm in the Lancaster Room at St Joseph's. To find out more about the SVP do visit their website: www.svp.org.uk/

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY

This Lent, and this coming Friday, 27th February, CAFOD invite you to participate in their Family Fast Day. Your donations will help CAFOD work with local partners in some of the world's poorest communities to find solutions and give them the tools to overcome crops failing and natural disasters bringing waves of devastation. Please give today, if you can, using the designated envelopes, found in our church porch, scan the QR code on the poster or give *directly* at: www.cafod.org.uk/give

DAY OF RENEWAL

St Clare's [PR2 9HH] invite you to their next Day of Renewal: 'Unpacking the Paschal Mystery.' Saturday 28th February 10.00am – 4.00pm. Speaker: Fr Emmon Mulchay. See porch poster for details.

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving."

- St Augustine

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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