



# 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

1<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Fourth Sunday of the Year [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm 6.00pm 11.15am 4.30 - 4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ SJ SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass   <i>Terry Moore</i> Mass   <i>John Galway</i> Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass   <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9.30am 6.00pm 6.30pm	SI EM EM	Mass at St Ignatius' School (all parishioners welcome) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass   <i>Fr Etienne</i>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> <i>St Blaise</i>	<b>9.00am</b>	SJ	Mass   <i>John Ratcliffe</i> <i>Followed by the blessing of throats</i>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>of 4<sup>th</sup> week of the year</i>			<i>No Public Mass</i>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Agatha</i>	9.00am 9.30am	SJ SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass   <i>Canon Eugene Dolan</i>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Paul Miki &amp; Companions</i>	6.00pm 6.30pm	SJ SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance Mass   <i>Agnes Woods</i>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Our Lady on Saturdays</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm 6.00pm	SJ SJ	<i>No Public Morning Mass &amp; Confessions</i> Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass   <i>For Healing</i>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Fifth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Day of Prayer – Victims of Trafficking</i>	11.15am 4.30 - 4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ	Mass   <i>Stan Hulme</i> Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass   <i>William Woods Snr</i>

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]

SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

### ST BLAISE

One of the yearly customs we keep as Catholics is the blessing of throats for St Blaise's memorial, 3<sup>rd</sup> February. From an early age we may be able to recall this tradition, perhaps taking it for granted this was just what we do without much reflection. Perhaps you are not accustomed with this, some traditions have lay hidden in recent decades. We know the great number of saints canonized are beyond counting, yet few have a tradition so widespread, but how good and powerful it is to receive regular blessings and particular blessings to protect and guard us in our Christian combat.

We know little now about St Blaise himself. The main facts we can say with confidence, he was raised in a wealthy Catholic family and became Bishop of Sebastea (Armenia) at a young age, and he was martyred in 316. St Blaise's days as bishop would have coincided with the *Edict of Toleration* [311], granting freedom to practise the Christian Religion in the Roman Empire. A freedom that put a spotlight on Bishops to show a lead in a new way for Christians to live and be more accepted. Yet, he was a bishop confronted with persecution still taking place towards his local church, as the *Edict* took some decades to be accepted universally in Armenia.

The blessing of throats comes from a story of St Blaise healing a woman's son from choking on a fishbone. The use of candles in the blessing recalls a story in which a woman sent St Blaise candles while he was in prison so that he might be able to read Scripture. This act of gratitude was prompted by St Blaise commanding a wolf to return to the woman her pig, which the wolf had stolen. In addition to healing throats, St Blaise was known for healing animals and being able to command them. St Blaise, *pray for us*.

## 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: Margaret Law, John Ratcliffe, David Frodsham, and Stan Hulme.

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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, however, with Stations of the Cross, in Lent, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## 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.

Thank you to those who gathered after Mass and shared their reflections last Monday.

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

## FIRST CONFESSIONS

This week, our children experience the depths of God's love for us and His immeasurable gift of forgiveness uniquely promised in the Sacrament of Penance. Consider for yourself the last time you embraced this gift from heaven?

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

## 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.

## PARISH SOCIAL

You are welcome to join us after the 11.15am Mass this Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, for a little parish social in the Lancaster Room. Please could parishioners contribute food and drinks for the shared lunch. Thank you so much!

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES

To celebrate our Diocesan Patroness there will be an additional Mass on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm at St Joseph's, with a short procession.

## 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!

## JOIN OUR SVP!

You are welcome to our next SVP conference meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.svp.org.uk/)

## SPUC-PRESTON

**Do please consider joining our local Preston branch!** Meetings are at St Joseph's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 2.00pm. The next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

## CLEANING ST JOSEPH'S

Thank you to those who regularly clean our Church and grounds. If you can give some time to this work a rota is available in the church porch for individuals and families to volunteer. If Saturdays are not possible, then speak with our priests so access can be arranged at another time.

## CRIB COLLECTION

Our Crib Collection, this year, is for our SVP Conference and will close this weekend.

## WEEKEND RECOLLECTION

A weekend delving into St John of the Cross is offered between 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 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 go to: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/love-beauty-in-st-johns-spiritual-canticle/>

## The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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