



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

15th March 2026

Laetare/Fourth Sunday of Lent [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 15th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> <i>[Laetare Sunday]</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance <i>[Confessions]</i>
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Marie Windle</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Agnes Alfred</i>
	12.30pm	SJ	Baptism <i>Tobenna Chinua Ekediegwu</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Stations of the Cross & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance <i>[Confessions]</i>
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 16th March <i>of the 4th week of Lent</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Canon Eugene Dolan</i>
Tuesday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i>	8.30am		Mass <i>John Galway</i>
Wednesday 18th March <i>of the 4th week of Lent</i>			No Public Mass
Thursday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Frances Mary Kirkby</i> <i>With children from St Joseph's school</i>
	6.30pm	SJ	Solemn Mass <i>Canon A Walsh</i> <i>followed by reception in the Rectory</i>
Friday 20th March <i>of the 4th week of Lent</i>	11.00am	SJ	Funeral Service <i>Irene Boylan</i>
	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Tuson Family</i>
Saturday 21st March <i>of the 4th week of Lent</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Mr & Mrs Kelly</i>
	10-10.30am	SJ	Sacrament of Penance <i>[Confessions]</i>
	5.30 - 5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance <i>[Confessions]</i>
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>William Davies</i>
Sunday 22nd March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>George Benson</i>
	12.30pm	SJ	Baptism <i>Isla-Rose Marston</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Stations of the Cross & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance <i>[Confessions]</i>
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>In Thanksgiving</i>

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]

SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

THE SPIRITUAL COMBAT

Do we often consider our Spiritual Life to be Combat? Unfortunately, we hear too much of war in our world, and indeed we must pray for peace under the reign of Christ, the Prince of Peace. However, peace cannot be truly achieved in our world until all souls come to acknowledge the reign of Christ and are enlightened by him. Enlightened we see the true war, our combat with the devil and his angels seeking our souls.

This is the topic of the Spiritual classic [well worth reading], *Spiritual Combat* by Fr. Lawrence Scuoqli, a work that has inspired and encouraged many great saints since, including St Francis de Sales.

Fr. Scuoqli summarizes this combat in the maxim, "*Fight or die.*" Dramatic indeed, however vital to consider. The death he speaks of is eternal separation from God. In other words, we must move forward lest we be thrown back by the Evil One. In this battle there can be no non-combatants or inactivity. Each of us must engage in this battle against temptation, selfishness, sin, and spiritual attacks. The battlefield may yield temporal difficulties or benefits, but the main point of conflict is in the will of a person — turning the will away from ourselves and conforming it to the Divine will. This may be a little frightening to consider at first, no safe zone. However, it is a great solace because it is a directive to us, who left to our own devices may be wondering and dithering. We are given a life of prayer and the sacraments, not just to be channels of grace but also as aids in the battle. Four other weapons are at our disposal: distrust of self, trust in God, spiritual exercises, and prayer.

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: Irene Boylan, Agnes Etienne, and all whose anniversaries occur: Andrew Briggs, John Kershaw, Kenneth Leonard, Kathleen Dowbakin, Peter Baldwin, and Frances Mary Kirkby.

SHRINE CHURCH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Following the safety concerns at English Martyrs, the Vigil Mass [on Saturday evening], is currently being 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*

EASTER CLEANING

A "big clean" of St Joseph's and will take place on Saturday 4th April, 10.00am-11.30am. Brasses can be polished after weekday Masses the week before.

ALTAR SERVERS

Thank you to those who have shown an interest in joining our serving team and those who already serve. It would still be very useful if the older men of the parish, who may have served as boys, or not, would consider serving at weekday Masses, funerals, and weekday devotions.

Serving Team practices for Easter Liturgies:

- Tuesday 31st March, 6.00pm, followed by social.
- Saturday 4th April, 1.00pm.

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

A 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]

COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

Non-perishable food goods for those in need can be placed in the buckets found in the porches of our two churches. Thank you for your contributions.

MOTHERS DAY

This Sunday, we give thanks to God for those who live out their vocation to motherhood, often making great sacrifices. We should also visit Our Lady's Altar and give thanks for her who has been given to us as a mother also.

LENT

Continue to use the opportunities of Lent: attend Mass on a weekday, spend time with the Lord in Exposition, donate in our various collections, participate in the Stations of the Cross and Benediction, and take up some spiritual reading [some options are available in the Holy Shop].

ROSARY

During Lent, the Holy Rosary is being prayed 20 minutes before Sunday Morning Mass.

STATIONS & SUNDAY BENEDICTION

During the season of Lent, Benediction is celebrated *after* Stations of the Cross. Do consider taking part in this beautiful tradition on Sunday afternoons at 4.00pm. Booklets are provided to assist you.

SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH

This Thursday, 19th March, is the Solemnity of St Joseph, patron of our parish church. Children from St Joseph's school will join for 9.30am Mass and a Solemn Mass will be offered at 6.30pm. We are very happy to welcome Fr John Millar back to preach at this Mass. The evening Mass will be followed by a simple reception in the presbytery.

HOLY HOUR & CONFESSIONS

To make to very best preparation for Easter there will be an extra opportunity in Holy Week for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and to go to Confession: Wednesday 1st April, 6.00pm-7.00pm.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Maudy Thursday

7.00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

10.00am - Stations & Veneration of the True Cross

3.00pm - Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday

12noon - Blessing of Easter Baskets

7.00pm - Easter Vigil

Followed by a celebratory Easter Gathering

Easter Sunday

11.15am - Easter Mass

5.00pm - Easter Mass

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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