



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, 9th March 2025

First Sunday of Lent [C]

Upcoming Masses & Services this Week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 9th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	5.20pm	EM	<i>First Confession Preparation with Parents</i>
	5.30pm [Sat]	EM	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm [Sat]	EM	Mass <i>Donors Intention</i>
	10.30am	SJ	<i>First Confession Preparation with Parents</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Michael McMullan (RIP)</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 10th March <i>Of the 1st Week of Lent</i>	6.00pm	EM	Stations of the Cross
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Special Intention</i>
Tuesday 11th March <i>Of the 1st Week of Lent</i>	10.30am	SJ	Requiem Mass for Carol Newsham
Wednesday 12th March <i>Of the 1st Week of Lent</i>			No Public Mass today
Thursday 13th March <i>Of the 1st Week of Lent</i>			No Public Mass today
Friday 14th March <i>Of the 1st Week of Lent</i> <i>CAFOD Lent Fast Day</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 15th March <i>Of the 1st Week of Lent</i>	9.00am	StWil	Jubilee Pilgrimage to Ladyewell
	12noon	SJ	<i>Baptism of Kingsley Patrick Gilheaney</i>
	5.30pm	EM	<i>First Confessions</i>
	5.30pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>Vivien Callaghan</i>
Sunday 16th March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	10.30am	SJ	<i>First Confessions</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>John Cuerden</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Stations of the Cross & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Richard Rycerski</i>

Abstinence & Why Catholics don't eat meat on Fridays?

Lent, in a particular way, sees us abstaining from meat on days of penance: Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and, for many, every Friday. We can find evidence in the first century of the Church that the day of the crucifixion was observed by abstaining from meat to honour Christ who sacrificed his flesh on a Friday.

As Lent draws us into the passion of our Lord, the willing sacrifice of his flesh for the life of the world, we should contemplate how we keep this abstinence and how do we give witness before others, by example and by teaching our friends and relations. This Abstinence, unlike fasting, is something that can be, and ought to be, practised by Christians of all ages. Long before 'Gurus' of modern man were recommending we find ways of having 'meat-free' days in our diets, 'to be your best self' or 'save the planet' through many contrived, money-making schemes, this was being done by the Church, Christians have been quietly living this out!

Abstinence is a form of penance. Penance expresses sorrow and contrition for our wrongdoing, it indicates our intention to turn away from sin and turn back to God, and makes reparation for our sins. Reparation helps to cancel the debt and pay the penalties incurred by our transgressions.

Abstinence is a form of asceticism, the practice of self-denial to grow in character and virtue and ultimately in holiness. Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves and take up their cross [Mt 16,24; Mk 8,34; Lk 9,23]. Abstinence leads us into simplicity and austerity, to deny the cravings of our bodies to honour Jesus who practiced the ultimate form of self-denial when he gave his body for us on his Cross.

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: Carol Newsham and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Cynthia Joseph, Christopher Graham, Oswald Kellett, Peter Baldwin, and Andrew Briggs.

DIOCESE OF LANCASTER CENTENARY

One thing that people often say about war, is that it brings people to church. The horrors of war should never be sought, indeed it is our gospel duty to sue for peace on the way [Lk 14, 32]. However, it is true that the heinous wars of the 20th century did coincide with growth in our diocese. Indeed, our second Bishop, Thomas Edward Flynn, faced the reality of war the very year he was appointed and consecrated, 1939. Again, the efforts of the faithful people within the Diocese of Lancaster was towards supporting the Common Good. However, this did not stop their Christian Hope and their great effort in the building up of new parishes and communities. By the time of our Diocese's Silver Jubilee in 1949 the number of priests had doubled from 1925 to 151 and the Catholic population grew by about 22,000 souls.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES – HOLY YEAR 2025

- To **Lindisfarne & Holy Island**, in honour of our patron, St Cuthbert, 21st – 23rd May. **This pilgrimage is now full!**
- 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@joewalstours.co.uk for info.
- To **Walsingham**, in honour of the seat of Our Lady's Dowry, 'England's Nazareth,' 20th – 24th October. The costing of this pilgrimage is £475-550, with coach pick-up here in Preston. For information and booking - Deacon Charlie Conner Charlie.conner@lrcd.org.uk.

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH: EDITH STEIN

A weekend exploring the life and teachings of Edith Stein [St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross] at the Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst, 14th – 16th March. For more information: www.christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-truth-edith-stein/

LENT

Think now how you may use 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, take up some spiritual reading.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- On Mondays at English Martyrs, at 6.00pm.
- On Sundays at St Joseph's, at 4.00pm. During Lent, the Rosary before Benediction will be replaced with the Stations, concluding with Veneration of the Relic of the True Cross.

ST JOSEPH'S DAY

BLESSING OF THE LANCASTER ROOM

Next Wednesday join us for Sung Mass on St Joseph's Day, **Wednesday 19th March at 6.30pm.** Our guest celebrant will be Very Rev Dr R Billing, Rector of the Catholic Shrine at Walsingham. The restored Lancaster Room will also be blessed. Contact the office to contribute to the reception.

CALLING FOR SINGERS

We would like to explore the possibility of having a little choir, to raise and broaden our liturgical repertoire, for the 11.15am Mass on Sundays at St Joseph's. Anyone keen and willing please introduce yourself to Andrew, our organist around 10.45am.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LADYEWELL

Next Saturday 15th March, you are invited to make a walking pilgrimage to Ladyewell, setting off at 9.00am from St Wilfrid's. If you are unable to walk, still make your way to Ladyewell for 12noon Mass. Contact: joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY

This Lent, CAFOD's Family Fast Day is this Friday, 14th March. Your donations will help hardworking people in some of the world's poorest communities get the tools they need to feed their families. Please give today using the designated envelope, found in our church porches, or to CAFOD directly at www.cafod.org.uk/give

APF MISSION BOXES

If you have a *Missio*/Red Mission Box at home, please do bring them to Church to be emptied and counted. If you would like a Box in your home, speak to the priests or the *Missio* Secretary.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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