



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 March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 22nd March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	5.30 - 5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass William Davies
	11.15am	SJ	Mass George Benson
	12.30pm	SJ	Baptism Isla-Rose Marston
	4.00pm	SJ	Stations of the Cross & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass In Thanksgiving
Monday 23rd March <i>of the 5th week of Lent</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass John Steven
Tuesday 24th March <i>of the 5th week of Lent</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass Carol Wilson
Wednesday 25th March <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass Fr Joe O'Connor
Thursday 26th March <i>of the 5th week of Lent</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass Bill Davies
	5.00pm	SJ	Parish Schools Lenten Service Parishioners welcome
Friday 27th March <i>of the 5th week of Lent</i>	11.00am	SJ	Requiem Mass Agnes Etiennes
	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass Donors Intention (B/T)
Saturday 28th March <i>of the 5th week of Lent</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass Mr & Mrs Kelly
	10 - 10.30am	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.30 - 5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass People of the Parish Mass begins in the Church Porch
Sunday 29th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass begins with a Solemn Procession – meet in the Car Park
	4.00pm	SJ	Mass John Galway
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Stations of the Cross & Benediction
	5.00pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] Mass Dilworth Family

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]

SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

VEILING DURING PASSIONTIDE

Traditionally known as Passiontide, the last fortnight of Lent is the time we are called to greater devotion and mortification. Now is the time to meditate even more deeply on Christ's Passion. At this time, our tradition is to cover the crucifixes and statues imitating Jesus at the end of the Gospel for Passion Sunday in the Extraordinary Form: "Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple." It is quite possible to introduce something of this into our homes and schools! The veiled crucifix reminds us of how our sins divide us from Jesus; we cannot see him or be guided by him when sin rules our hearts. The veiling reminds us that none of us are free of sin, and we all take part in public penance during Lent. Our going to Confession and speaking our sins aloud to a priest Confession makes our penitence manifest. Our sins are no longer hidden in our hearts, but are repented of, confessed, and forgiven.

The veiled crucifixes of Passiontide evokes a sense of Easter morning; of going to find him as did Mary Magdelene, of looking at the clothes that bound him and encountering his Risen beauty in the garden. We know that this valley of tears is temporary. We know that we will see him again. We need this time of meditation, to increase our love and devotion, to sharpen our focus so that we can embrace more fully the joy of Easter.

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: Agnes Etiennes, Susan Stoker, Joan Higginson and all whose anniversaries occur: George Benson, Richard Jackson, Gertrude Turner, Doreen Fisher, David Clarke, and Frances De Ravariere.

SHRINE CHURCH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Following the well-known 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 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 interested in joining our serving team and those who already serve. It would still be 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?** New sets of *Gift Aid envelopes*, are now to be found in the church porch, please collected your own marked set. If you are a taxpayer and would like a set of envelopes, please speak with one of the priests.

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]

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 our Holy Shop].

ROSARY

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

STATIONS & SUNDAY BENEDICTION

As Lent begins to intensify, do join us for Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday afternoons this week and next. Stations begin at 4.00pm. Booklets are provided to assist you.

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 & 5.00pm - Easter Masses

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY*

For Divine Mercy Sunday [12th April] the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed shortly before 3.00pm and the chaplet will be recited at 3.00pm. The Blessed Sacrament will remain exposed until Benediction at 4.30pm. There will be opportunity for confession between 3.15pm-4.15pm. Mass follows at 5.00pm, as normal.

*A plenary indulgence is granted to all those who recite the chaplet, receive Holy Communion, and go to Confession over the course of the weekend.

"I can't do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God."

— St. Dominic Savio

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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