



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

19th April 2026

Third Sunday of Easter [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 19th April <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	5.30-5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	SJ	Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.30am	SJ	<i>First Holy Communion Prep [3]</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Peace in the World</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Monday 20th April <i>of the 3rd week of Easter</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Michael Kelly</i>
Tuesday 21st April <i>St Anselm</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>John Galway</i>
Wednesday 22nd April <i>of the 3rd week of Easter</i>			<i>No Public Mass</i>
Thursday 23rd April <i>St George</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Rosamond Sutton</i>
Friday 24th April <i>St Adalbert/St Fidelis</i>	10.00am	SJ	Requiem Mass <i>Rachel Kay</i>
	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 25th April <i>St Mark</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
	10-10.30am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30-5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Helena Galvin</i>
Sunday 26th April <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Carolyn Bond 'A'</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]		SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]	

THE SPIRIT OF EASTERTIDE

Easter is the centre and climax of the Church's liturgical year. So joyous and wonderful is Easter, that it goes on and on! St Paul tells us in his first letter to the Corinthians, "And if Christ be not risen again, your faith is vain, for you are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" [1 Cor 15, 17]. Even the glories of the Incarnation and the Passion are not sufficient in themselves. Christ became man and died to deliver us from the death of sin. But this was not enough. In order to give us immortal life, He rose from the dead. He "rose for our justification" [Romans 4, 25]. We were created for glory from the beginning, but we lost it with the sin of Adam. We won it back through the Resurrection of Christ. This is our joy, that through Christ we have risen from sin and have access to immortal and eternal life.

The spirit of Eastertide that permeates these successive weeks is of sincere gratitude to the Risen Christ, through whom we possess eternal life. This knowledge, we have by the infused gift of Faith, lifts us above sin and the world and death. The Risen Christ will give us the strength to overcome the powers of darkness and death. We must have a spirit of hope, for most certainly our bodies shall also be awakened and arise. We must have a spirit of faith, unshakable in the truth of Christ truly risen from the dead. His resurrection attests to His divinity and the truth of His doctrine.

Eastertide sets a new task before us. We must now begin to live the life of the new man. We rose with Christ in baptism. "If you be risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" [Cor 3, 1-3]. This Easter let us hear Christ, "I live, and you shall live" [John 14, 19].

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; Rachel Kay and all whose anniversaries occur: Kathleen Wilson, Kathleen Cairns, William Holmes, Jane Patterson, and Helena Galvin.

SHRINE CHURCH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS
The Vigil Mass [on Saturday evening], continues to be celebrated at St Joseph's. Monday evening Adoration and Mass, however, are being celebrated in the War Memorial Chapel at English Martyrs. Thank you for your support! *Fr E*

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

A new financial began in early April. Perhaps, if you can, you could review your regular offering. If you are a taxpayer who makes cash offerings to the parish and would like a set of *Gift Aid* 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.

Thank you for your continued support!

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Families: Please remember that First Holy Communion preparation continues this Sunday, 19th April. Also, the final Confirmation session [the Rehearsal & Confession] takes place on **Thursday 30th April**. Please be there – one and all! Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd May and First Holy Communion on Sunday 17th May.

REQUESTING BAPTISM

Catholic parents of our parish, who desire to bring their children up in the practice of the Faith, should make their request for Christian Baptism to one of our priests, in person, immediately after attending one of our weekend Masses. After returning our enquiry form to one of the priests, he will then arrange to meet your family for preparation.

ADULT CONFIRMATION & CONVERTS

As we celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil, we are reminded to think about how and who we can encourage to think about becoming Catholics or to be confirmed.

EASTER HOUSE BLESSINGS

If you would like your home to be blessed by your priests during the Easter season [until Pentecost] with the water blessed at the Easter Vigil, please contact one of our priests [details below].

MAY SUNDAY 3rd MAY

As well as celebrating Confirmation on Sunday 3rd May, we will also crown Our Lady, Queen of the May! Do bring flowers to honour her after Mass.

ANN FENWICK

Ann Fenwick, an important figure in the cause for Catholic freedoms in this country, founded a Catholic Mission in the 18th Century at Hornby, near Lancaster. Our Bishop is discussing the possibility of opening her cause for canonisation. Perhaps we can begin to get to know Ann Fenwick, and pray for this cause. You are invited to attend an anniversary Mass at the Church where she is buried on Tuesday 28th April at 7.00pm at St Wilfrid, Melling, LA6 2RA.

LANCASTER MARTYRS PILGRIMAGE

Monday 4th May [Bank Holiday], the Feast of the English Martyrs, you are welcome to join a little pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Lancaster Martyrs. Meeting outside Lancaster Castle at 10.30am and processing to their place of execution. Mass will follow at 12.15pm at Lancaster Cathedral.

FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Our usual Monday evening Mass and perpetual novena to the English Martyrs on 4th May will include veneration of the relics of the Martyrs.

SPUC PRO-LIFE CHAIN

Please join us for our local annual silent act of witness to remember the millions of unborn babies lost to abortion. Saturday 25th April between 11.00am – 1.00pm. Meet on London Road, Preston – just north of Ribble Bridge, parking available by the river. For info, email: spucpreston@gmail.com

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine of Our Blessed Lady, takes place from 28th September to 1st October 2026. The All-inclusive costs are £360-£420, depending on accommodation type. Pick up and return from Preston, for more information and to book contact Deacon Charlie Conner at Charlie.conner@lrcd.org.uk or 07711345176.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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