



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

3rd May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter [A]

	Time	Church	
Sunday 3rd May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Sacrament of Confirmation</i>	5.30-5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	SJ	Vigil Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Christine Atherton</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Dominic Reddy</i>
Monday 4th May <i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Health of Premature Twins</i>
Tuesday 5th May <i>of 5th week of Easter</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Canon Eugene Dolan</i>
Wednesday 6th May <i>of 5th week of Easter</i>			<i>No Public Mass</i>
Thursday 7th May <i>of 5th week of Easter</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>John Galway</i>
	2.00pm	SI	<i>May Procession @ St Ignatius' School</i>
Friday 8th May <i>of 5th week of Easter</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>John Steven</i>
Saturday 9th May <i>of 5th week of Easter</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</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>Jack Davies</i>
Sunday 10th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	10.30am	SJ	First Holy Communion Prep [4]
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Cecilia Francis</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Leslie Burns</i>
EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]		SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]	

'ITE MISSA EST'

At the end of each Mass we hear these words, 'Ite Missa Est,' to which we respond, 'Deo Gratias.' In English these are given to us by the Church as 'Go the Mass is ended.' It is not wrong to say this, it is true the Mass is ended and we are to go from the Church, however, there is so much more to this instruction and command. 'Ite Missa Est,' is more literally translated "Go, it has been sent." St Thomas Aquinas said this phrase here meant the offering of the Mass had been sent to God. Christ the victim has been sent [*missa*] to us and, through the prayer of the Church in the Mass, the victim, Christ, has been sent [*missa*] to God. The Venerable Fulton Sheen in his beautiful book, *Calvary and the Mass* makes a reflection connecting the seven last words of Christ from the Cross to parts in the Mass. Here he compares the "Ite, missa est" with Christ's words, "It is finished." More recently in his Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, Pope Benedict XVI discussed the development of *missa* from meaning "dismissed" to meaning one's "mission." As it were, in Christ, our own sending. "In antiquity," the late Holy Father writes, "*missa* simply meant 'dismissal.' However, in Christian usage it gradually took on a deeper meaning. The word 'dismissal' has come to imply a 'mission.' These few words succinctly express the missionary nature of the Church.

For those Confirmed today, their profession of Faith proclaims their personal reception of Christ, the victim who has been sent for them, and by participation in the Mass, they witness the victim, Christ, offered in thanksgiving back to the Father. In Confirmation, 'it is finished,' their Christian Initiation is complete, and they are full members of the Church. And indeed, being full members of the Church they are sent to announce and witness to, by their lives to Christ. Thank you Candidates for the courage to deepen and strengthen your faith. Today, we also have another sending, of Fr Chapple, one who has made present the sending of Christ and his offering back to the Father to us, who has now concluded his mission here and whom we send to Penrith to forward the great mission of salvation there. Thank you, Fr Chapple, we pray for this next adventure!

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; Mary Ingram, Norman Kirkby, and all whose anniversaries occur: Andrew Walch, Glyn Spencer, Matthew Spencer, Michael Rooney, Eric Folles, and Bernard Marchant.

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*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The final First Holy Communion session [with the Rehearsal] takes place **next Sunday, 10th May**. Please be there – one and all! First Holy Communion will be celebrated 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

Do consider having your home blessed during this Easter season [until Pentecost] with the water blessed at the Easter Vigil, contact Fr Etienne.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine of Our Blessed Lady, takes place from 28th Sept to 1st Oct 2026. Pick up and return from Preston, to book and for info contact Deacon Charlie Conner at Charlie.conner@lrcd.org.uk or 07711345176.

SPUC-PRESTON

Do consider joining this local group promoting Pro-Life issues! Meeting at St Joseph's 9th May at 2.00pm

CONFIRMATION

Sunday 3rd May 2026

At the 11.15am Mass this Sunday, we welcome Bishop Swarbrick to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 23 parishioners.

Pray for those being Confirmed today. Pray also for your Bishop and our communion with him.

Thank you to our young people for your participation in the preparation, to the catechists, and families for accompanying these candidates.

A reception to celebrate follows Mass in the Lancaster Room. Many thanks!

MAY SUNDAY: 3rd MAY

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

MAY PROCESSIONS AROUND THE PARISH

You are very welcome to join some of our school communities as they honour Our Lady through the month of May with little processions. All at 2.00pm.

- Thursday 7th May at St Ignatius' processing around the square into St Alphonsa's Cathedral.
- Thursday 21st May at St Joseph's processing through the school grounds, around the block and into St Joseph's Church.
- Friday 22nd May at St Teresa's processing around the school grounds.

OPENING CHURCH

It is essential to have parishioners taking responsibility to open church, especially for weekend Masses. If you think you can assist your parish in this way, even once a month, please let Fr Etienne know and he will meet with volunteers after 11.15am Sunday Mass on Sunday 31st May.

LANCASTER MARTYRS PILGRIMAGE

This 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

This Monday evening [4th May] we celebrate one of our patronal feasts at Mass with the regular devotions to the English Martyrs there will be opportunity to venerate the relics of the Martyrs.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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