



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

13th September 2026

Twenty-Fourth Week of the Year [A]

	Time	Church	
Sunday 13th September <i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday</i> <i>Special Collection: Education</i>	5.30-5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	SJ	[Sat 12 th] Vigil Mass <i>Joan Bradley</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Blessing of Priests & Nuns</i> <i>followed by Veneration of the True Cross</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> <i>followed by Veneration of the True Cross</i>
Monday 14th September <i>Exultation of the Holy Cross</i>	2.00pm	SJ	Requiem Mass <i>Stephen Hall</i>
	6.00-6.20pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Sr Monica Howes SND</i> <i>followed by Veneration of the True Cross</i>
Tuesday 15th September <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Gwen Watson</i> <i>with St Joseph's school – Start of Year</i>
Wednesday 16th September <i>Sts Cornelius & Cyprian</i>			No Public Mass
Thursday 17th September <i>St Robert Bellarmine</i>	9.30am	SI	Mass <i>Noel McMahon</i> <i>Mass @ St Ignatius' school – Start of Year</i>
Friday 18th September <i>Votive of the Passion</i>	6.00-6.20pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Catherine Jessop</i>
Saturday 19th September <i>St Theodore of Canterbury/</i> <i>St Januarius</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>For the Lapsed & Unchurched</i>
	10.00-10.30am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30-5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>May Rice</i>
Sunday 20th September <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday</i> <i>Second Collection: Home Mission</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Brigid Deane</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30-4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>
EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]			SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

Vexilla Regis Prodeunt - The Royal Banner Forward Goes

As you will have experienced from time to time in the Parish of St John XXIII, you will have a hymn which may be unfamiliar to you. All too often in recent decades we have settled to have hymns or other music at Mass which lacks something of the weight and depth of the Church's beautiful musical Treasury. Hence, these more unfamiliar hymns, are hymns more rooted in our Catholic Tradition, full of teaching! The Exultation of the Holy Cross brings to mind the beautiful 6th century hymn *Vexilla Regis Prodeunt*. This hymn was first sung for the procession in 569AD of a relic of the True Cross, that was sent by Byzantine Emperor Justin II from the East at the request of St Radegunda, and was carried from Tours to her monastery of Saint-Croix at Poitiers. Its original processional use is commemorated in the Roman Missal on Good Friday, when the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession from the Repository to the High Altar. Its principal use is in the Divine Office. Perhaps the prayerful translation of Edward Arthur Dayman is a good mediation for us to pray this week for the feast: *The King's bright banners forward go the mystery of the Cross to show, where God Incarnate death endured, and life by death for man procured. With outstretch'd hands, transfixed and torn with bleeding brow and crown of thorn, the One, the willing Victim see, Self-sacrificed, mankind to free. Pierc'd by the spear His sacred side for us sent forth a mingled tide, a cleansing and a saving flood, Thence flowed the Water and the Blood. Fulfilled is all that saints of old in true prophetic song foretold, the accursed Tree becomes a Thone, whence reigns our King, the Lord alone. True Tree of Life! O Tree most fair, ordained those holy limbs to bear, in royal majesty it stood, empurpled with a Saviour's Blood. Upon its arms, extended wide, the sinless One for sinners died, the ransom of the world to pay, he spoils the spoiler of his pray. Pris'ners of hope, Thy Cross we hail, Christ, by this sign may we prevail, Saints find Thy glory here reveal'd, and penitents their pardon seal'd.*

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: Stephen Hall and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Edna Gee, Barbara Parker, and Elizabeth Griffith.

EXULTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Monday 14th September, is the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. There will be opportunity to venerate a relic of the True Cross after Masses this Sunday [13th September] and after Mass at English Martyrs on Monday 14th September.

SICK & HOUSEBOUND

If you or a family member has regularly received the sacraments, do not let being housebound or in care stop this relationship with Christ and His Church. If they are not in a position to receive the sacraments, visits and prayers are still important. Please do connect with Fr Etienne to arrange.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LADYEWELL

The annual pilgrimage to Ladyewell takes place on Saturday 26th September. Mass in St Mary's, Fernyhalgh is at 11.00am, followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Shrine. Altar Servers wishing to serve and accompany the procession should report to the sacristy at St Mary's at 10.30am, bringing their own cassock and cotta. There is a barbecue for Altar Servers afterwards. Do speak to Fr Etienne about this.

PARISH PATRONAL FEAST

October 11th is the feast day of St John XXIII, the principal patron of our parish. This year this is a Sunday so we will have a little social after 11.15am Mass at St Joseph's. **Do take note of the date** and help contribute something and/or join us!

FAITH FORMATION & CATECHISM CLASSES

Parishioners often ask about deepening their faith or for catechism classes for young people. Please approach Fr Etienne to assist and suggestions of times to make this more fruitful than in the past!

PARISH CENSUS

From time to time, it is good to update our records. Could each household of the parish complete a new **parish census form**, found in the Church porch or on our website. You may share this with neighbours and relations who are lapsed within the parish for them to complete their record on our census.

REQUESTING THE SACRAMENTS

When Catholic parents are considering Baptism for their children or discerning their children's readiness to prepare for Penance, Communion or Confirmation please first speak to Fr Etienne at the end of weekend Masses. This is also the best place to start when considering Instruction in the Faith and/or you would like to prepare for Marriage.

CONSIDERING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Did you know that the word catholic means "for everyone"? The Catholic Church is filled with all kinds of people who know and love Jesus Christ. Jesus founded the Catholic Church so that everyone who looks for Him can find Him.

Do you think God might be calling you to follow Him in the Catholic Church? Do you know of others who are curious about our Catholic Faith, or someone lapsed from the Catholic Faith? Fr Etienne would be very pleased to assist you, and those you encourage, in learning about the Catholic Faith.

FIRST CONFESSION &

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027

For those families with children who are currently at least 8 years old [school year 4+] who would like to consider preparing for these two Sacraments in our parish in 2027, there is an enquiry form at the back of church to be completed and returned to the parish office by Sunday 25th October 2026.

N.B: If a child is already in secondary school, please speak to Fr Etienne to make alternative arrangements for sacramental preparation.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Fr Etienne would like to invite young parishioners who are aged 10-14 years old [*School Years 6-8*] and who are not confirmed to approach him after Sunday Masses and to take an application form which should be completed and returned to the parish office by Sunday 25th October 2026. All details of dates and times are in the letter.

N.B: A date will be arranged subject to interest.

DAY OF RENEWAL

'Being Lost, Being Found,' led by the recently ordained Fr Bamber on Saturday 3rd October, at St Clare's, 10:00am – 4:00pm, starting with Holy Mass.

COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

Non-perishable food goods for those in need can be placed in the bucket found in the church porch.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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