



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

26th April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

| | Time | Church | |
|--|-------------|--------|---|
| Sunday 26th April <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i> | 5.30-5.50pm | SJ | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 6.00pm | SJ | Vigil Mass <i>Helena Galvin</i> |
| | 11.15am | SJ | Mass <i>Carolyn Bond 'A'</i> |
| | 4.00pm | SJ | Rosary & Benediction |
| | 4.30-4.50pm | SJ | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 5.00pm | SJ | Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> |
| Monday 27th April <i>of the 4th week of Easter</i> | 6.00pm | EM | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 6.30pm | EM | Mass <i>Margaret Moore</i> |
| Tuesday 28th April <i>Sts Peter Chanel/Louis de Montfort</i> | 9.00am | SJ | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 9.30am | SJ | Mass <i>Anthony Boylan</i> |
| Wednesday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i> | | | <i>No Public Mass</i> |
| Thursday 30th April <i>St Pius V</i> | 9.00am | SJ | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 9.30am | SJ | Mass <i>Fr P Foulkes</i> |
| | 6.00pm | SJ | <i>Confirmation Rehearsal & Confessions</i> |
| Friday 1st May <i>St Joseph the Worker</i> | 2.00pm | SJ | Wedding <i>W Loveridge & K Connors</i> |
| | 6.00pm | SJ | Exposition & Sacrament of Penance |
| | 6.30pm | SJ | Mass <i>John Galway</i> |
| Saturday 2nd May <i>St Athanasius</i> | 9.30am | SJ | Mass <i>Rosamond Sutton</i> |
| | 10-10.30am | SJ | Exposition & Sacrament of Penance |
| | 5.30-5.50pm | SJ | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 6.00pm | SJ | Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> |
| Sunday 3rd May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> | 11.15am | SJ | Mass <i>Christine Atherton</i> <i>with the Sacrament of Confirmation</i> |
| | 4.00pm | SJ | Rosary & Benediction |
| | 4.30-4.50pm | SJ | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 5.00pm | SJ | Mass <i>Dominic Reddy</i> |

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]

SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In earlier times, it was customary for the Christians of Rome to assemble in St Peter's Basilica on the Third Sunday of Easter when the gospel of the Good Shepherd was read. In more recent decades this gospel, and subsequently the Sunday of the Good Shepherd has been celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

After His Resurrection and before His Ascension into heaven, the Lord Jesus appointed Peter to be the visible shepherd of His sheep and His lambs. So, when we gather in our Catholic churches, we gather with the Christians of old, and those still today who gather in St Peter's, to experience this reality, finding ourselves safe under the protection of the Good Shepherd, guaranteed in the person of the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of Christ. Knowing the ministry of our Holy Father and witnessing the example of so many priests who also seek to serve and follow the gentle example of the Good Shepherd Himself, we see and affirm with praise and grateful hearts the introit of today's Mass: *"the merciful love of the Lord fills the earth"* (Ps 32,5).

In the Mass today, the great Prince of the Apostles announces boldly and without hesitation the Good News, the work of Christ. He joins the Good Shepherd to his preaching as he declares, *"for you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls"* (1 Peter 2, 25). Christ introduces Himself as the Good Shepherd and the Church, through Peter, continues to announce this and draw all people in, all who have returned to the Shepherd. Christ is the true shepherd, who offers Himself, sacrifices Himself for His flock. In spirit in the Mass, we join in this offering, and we follow Him as we are led by Him to the green pastures of the sacrificial banquet of Holy Communion, united with Christ we are *'His that know Him'*!

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, and all whose anniversaries occur: Anne McCleave, Kilayah-Mae Preston, David Worswick, Irene Billington, and Deacon Frank Cole.

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 earlier this month. 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, in which to place your regular cash offerings, 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 by filling in a Gift Aid form, found in the church porch.

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

The final Confirmation session [the Rehearsal & Confession] takes place **this Thursday, 30th April**. Please be there – one and all! Confirmation will be celebrated next 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

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

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.

NEW APPOINTMENT

As announced last weekend, Fr Chapple has been asked to accept the appointment of Parish Priest of St John Boste Parish, Penrith, Appleby, and Alston. Fr Chapple's last weekend in our Parish will be next weekend; he will assist the Bishop in the morning and offer the evening Masses. We give thanks for his ministry here and pray for his new appointment.

*Certain routines of Parish life may have to alter a little. Do use this moment to consider what practical help you can be to assist in your parish.

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. Her anniversary Mass will be held, **this Tuesday**, at St Wilfrid's, Melling, LA6 2RA, 7.00pm.

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.

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.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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