

PARISH OFFICE AND PRESBYTERY

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Week commencing 10th March 2024 - 4th Week of LENT, Year B

Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday – 3rd week of Lent <b>Vigil Mass</b>	9.30am <b>6.30pm</b>	Delia O’Brien RIP Czeslaw and Teresa Bardzinski RIP B’d day & anniv.
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>4th Sunday of Lent</b> Laetare Sunday & Mother’s Day	<b>8.30am</b> <b>10.30am</b> <i>4.30pm</i>	K. J. Mathew Mary & John Lucey RIP <i>Lenten Benediction</i>
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ferial	9.30am <i>7.30pm</i>	Jozef Tokar RIP <i>Living Waters Prayer Group</i>
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ferial	7.00pm <i>7.30pm</i>	Family reunions & marriages restored in peace & unity <i>Strength to Strength course (Parish Hall)</i>
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ferial	9.30am <i>After Mass</i> <i>7.00pm</i>	Marsha – B’d day <i>Mothers in prayer</i> <i>RCIA course afterwards</i>
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ferial	9.30am <i>7.00pm</i>	Laurence McGoff RIP <i>Holy Hour &amp; Rosary</i>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ferial <i>Friday abstinence</i>	<i>6.00pm</i> <i>7.00pm</i> <i>7.45pm</i>	<i>Exposition of the Holy Sacrament</i> <i>Stations of the Cross led by Children</i> Chris Riley – Get well soon
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ferial <b>Vigil Mass</b>	9.30am <b>6.30pm</b>	Jerry O’Leary RIP (Currow Co. Kerry) Patrick Peel – Repose of the soul
<b>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION on Saturday 11.00 – 12.00 and 5.15-6.00pm</b>			
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>8.30am</b> <b>10.30am</b> <i>4.30pm</i>	Margaret Quinn Fr John Raffety B’d day <i>Lenten Benediction</i>

**Fr. Pat writes:** Today the Church celebrates *Laetare (rejoice) Sunday*; the mood of the Liturgy in one of joy. We are midway through the **Season of Lent**, which is a Penitential one, inviting us to undergo an inner conversion and change of heart by setting aside times for prayer and acts of kindness. Rose coloured/pink vestments replace purple ones, these outward signs symbolize the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection, a joy that cannot be contained even in Lent, though we still refrain from Alleluias and singing of the Gloria until the magnificent of the Easter Vigil. **What distinguishes joy from happiness is that it always comes from within.**

During the week I was fortunate to take part in one of the Mission Services at Our Lady's Church Stockport. The three-day Mission was organised by our Diocesan Eucharistic Shrine based at St. Joseph's Church in Stockport in which there is daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Mission was led by Sr. Bridge McKenna and Fr. Pablo Escriva de Romani. It drew large numbers of people being a much-needed spiritual tonic for joy. I was one of twelve priests available for the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* and was happily occupied for over two hours. As one who is privileged to celebrate this wonderful Sacrament with people and to be a recipient as well, I can testify to its beautiful and lasting effect. *What is necessary on our part is to desire to come and open our hearts to Jesus who looks on us with eyes of compassion and love. He alone is our source for inner joy.*

Currently, our year three children are celebrating this Sacrament for the first time on their journey towards First Holy Communion. We pray and trust that their first experience will be for them and their families a time for new beginnings.

One of my favourite images of God in the Scriptures is that of a mother who never forgets her children. In celebrating Mothering Sunday, let's be full of gratitude for all mothers, those deceased and all still living in our midst who have enriched our lives and for those still with us. *Where would we be without our mother's enduring presence? When Jesus was dying on the Cross his Mother was there too.*

**MOTHERS’ DAY:** Happy Mother's Day to all mums. Children, I encourage you to show your love and appreciation to your mum by presenting them with a beautiful daffodil from the porch. Let this simple gesture serve as a token of gratitude for their endless love and support. And to the mums who may find themselves without their children nearby, please do not hesitate to help yourself.

**EASTER MUSIC CHOIR REHEARSALS:** We have some new hymns for Easter. Mrs Meehan will be teaching them on Wednesday 13th March at 6.30pm if anyone would like to join us – you don’t need to read music, just turn up. Two further rehearsals will be organised on Wednesday.

**PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** will be on Tuesday 26th March at 7pm.

**CATHOLIC PARENTS’ CLUB PALM SUNDAY:** Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931320046?pwd=RDRqMnJkaINmZ0ZBTnVXeVdoa1NkZz09&omn=86275728120>

Time: Mar 24, 2024 08:30 PM London  
Meeting ID: 693 132 0046  
Passcode: 1SWAW8

**FURTHER THREAT TO THE UNBORN OF ABORTION UP TO BIRTH:** In the next couple of weeks an attempt is to be made to widely decriminalise abortion up to the birth. This is a further assault on the sanctity of human life in our society. This extreme amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill is being made by Diana Johnson MP and parliamentarians will be under pressure to support the amendment on grounds of compassion for mothers who seek to abort their unborn child beyond the legal limits. The effect would be to withdraw legal protection from the unborn. It is important to make our voice heard in support of the unborn child. Please contact your Member of Parliament to ask that they oppose the decriminalization of abortion up to birth (Insert name and e-mail or postal address of your local Member of Parliament). The 'Right to Life' website has details under ‘Take Action’ which enables you to find and contact your MP directly and the website of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children has helpful information under ‘Resources’. This website also has details of an alternative amendment by Caroline Ansell MP to reduce the legal limit for abortion from 24 to 22 weeks on the basis of the increased survival rates for babies being born at 22 and 23 weeks. We cannot doubt the impact which your e-mail or letter will have in making known opposition to decriminalizing abortion up to birth and in support of the value of every human life.  
<https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters> and <https://www.spuc.org.uk/>

**THE YEAR OF PRAYER 2024 AND THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025:** To aid in this endeavour, during Lent we will run the CaFE Course, *Strength to Strength* - a six session DVD series, inspired by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, designed to give practical help to those wishing to pray more in their daily lives. Each session lasts about 40 minutes with mid-point group questions and prayerful reflections. Everyone is welcome to the next session in the Parish Hall after 7pm Mass on Tuesdays until 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**PARISH FOODBANK:** Our parish supports a nationwide network of food banks to provide emergency food and support to people facing hardship. Our 'Foodbank Box' is visibly located in the porch. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Ann Drozdziak through her email: [anndrozdziak@gmail.com](mailto:anndrozdziak@gmail.com)

**PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA:** Pilgrimage to **Fatima, Porto, Lisbon** (Portugal), **Coimbra**, and **Santiago de Compostela** (Spain) will take place from **21 to 28 October 2024**. The price is **€1305** (about **£1115**). An information evening will come up soon.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** please pray for Hugh F., John R., Bernadette B., Sr. Margaret and Sr. Isabel, Poppy S., Amanda B., William C., AE B., Amrut, Chloe L., Sue O’M., Anna B., Valentine M., Matthew, Sam H., Gary C., Angie O., Niall O’H., Anna and Jozef M., Gerard, Jim & Bernadette S., Margaret H., Gerry Brennan, Hannah H., and Denis C.

**RECENT DEATH:** Please pray for the soul of Joe Holleran and keep his family in your prayers. Funeral details TBC.

**OFFERINGS:** last week totalled £767.19 (plus standing orders). CAFOD’s the *Family Fast Day* appeal collection totalled £522.77 from which the Coffee morning group contributed £67.00. We received £0 for the livestream services. **Thank you for your generous support!**