

The Parish of the Good Samaritan

Churches of: Christ the King St Mary of the Assumption St John the Baptist BURNLEY



NEWSLETTER

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

22ND MARCH 2026 YEAR A



Even though Jesus knew that he was going to give glory to God by what he was about to do, we are told in today's Gospel that he also shed tears, on his way to raise Lazarus from the dead. These were genuine signs of his love and friendship for Lazarus and for his other friends Martha and Mary whom he saw look so devastated at losing their beloved brother. Jesus is at the centre of this sad scene at the death of Lazarus but he gives hope to those who are overcome by grief.

John shows the effects of having faith in Jesus. Ezekiel's vision of God restoring life out of death comes true when Jesus builds on the faith of Martha. In order to show the glory of God, to the astonishment of all who were present, Jesus raises from the dead his dear friend Lazarus who has been in the tomb for 4 days. Jesus pre-empted the great profession of faith by Martha by revealing who He is by saying "I am the resurrection and the life". She is then able to go on to say: "Yes, Lord I believe you are the Christ the



Son of the living God, the one who is to come unto the world". Jesus is then able to show she is right to trust him and believe in him by raising her brother from the tomb.

Those who believe in the Lord will never die, they will live forever. Martha believed to the point of knowing for certain that Jesus was her Lord and Saviour. May we who also believe in Christ as Our Lord and God, hand over all our fears of death for ourselves and our loved ones, to the One who brings us life, and who has conquered sin and death for ever.

Faith is our great ally in the face of death. It doesn't mean we have all the answers. It does not stop us from grieving when someone we love dies. However it does make a big difference, because our Christian faith adds the essential ingredient of hope. Through our Catholic faith, the big difference for us and those without faith, is that we are grieving as people who believe that death no longer has the last word.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

The services for this year's Triduum for the parish will take place at St Mary's church as follows;

Maundy Thursday 2nd April Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm, with the church remaining open for "watching" until 11pm.

Good Friday 3rd April 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday 4th April 9.30am Morning Prayer with Office of Reading
7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass

All are welcome



MASS INTENTIONS

Lately Dead: Vera Cambell, Barbara Cardwell, John McNabb, Dominic Banaszkiwicz, Antony Steciuk, John Edmondson, Theresa Browne, Francis Joseph Kinseler (Frank) Eugene Lalor

Anniversaries: John Entwistle, Annamma Joseph, Kay Hamilton, Reginald Wilcock, Margaret Melville

Edwards Edward Stewart, Kath Ternent,
Birthday Memorial: Tom Edmondson
In Memoriam: KT Joseph, Shan Thomas



CATHOLIC SAFER RECRUITMENT—THANKS

Many thanks to all the parish volunteers for the great response last Thursday to the Safer Recruitment event held in St. Mary's Parish Rooms.

Sincere thanks to all volunteers for your continuing support for the parish and the mission of the Church.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Bishop John will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for St John Vianney Deanery at St. Mary's church, Burnley at 7.00pm on Thurs 25th June. Young people living in the parish, who are in school year 8 or older and who have completed the Sacramental Programme (ie made their first Holy Communion) are now eligible to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you are interested please contact Fr David by **31st March**, who will give you a letter providing details of the programme of catechesis and a Parental Consent/Application Form. We will also be promoting the Sacrament through Blessed Trinity Catholic College.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES



Friday early morning Lenten Mass at St Mary's;

There will be an extra Mass at 6.30am at St Mary's on Fridays of Lent. This will be followed by breakfast in the parish rooms for all present.

Stations of the Cross;

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each week at one of the churches in the parish continuing on Friday 27th March at 7pm at Christ the King

CHRISM MASS

The beautiful Mass of the blessing of the oils will be held at St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst, Manchester on Wednesday 1st April. We need a couple of people who have not been before to represent our parish at this important Diocesan event. Transport is provided. If interested please contact Fr David.

GOOD FRIDAY

Family Stations of the Cross

This will be held on Good Friday 3rd April at Christ the King church at 10.30am All are welcome. Could children wishing to have a role in this service please arrive by 10.15am.

Quiet Hour with The Cross

This will take place at St John's church at 6.30pm on Good Friday 3rd April. All are welcome.

A DAY WITH THE LORD IN SOUTHPORT

On **Tuesday 28th April** we are planning a day out in Southport. We would leave Burnley around 9.30am and arrive at Holy Family RC Church in the Meols Cop area of Southport. On arrival we would have tea/coffee in the parish rooms then afterwards receive a spiritual talk by the Parish Priest Fr Kevin McLoughlin. Fr Kevin will then preach at a concelebrated Mass in the church around midday. We would then proceed towards Lord street and the promenade for lunch and time to explore. We plan to leave around 3.30pm and be home for 5pm. Our mode of transport will depend on how many people are interested; but if we work on the cost being £10 per person then we can adjust accordingly. If interested in booking a place, please call Lynne .tel 07850048538.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2026

For Disarmament And Peace

Let us pray that nations move to effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

If you, or someone you know cannot get to Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion in their home, please ask their permission, then talk with Fr. David to arrange things.



RCIA SCRUTINIES

We are hoping to have a number of people from our parish to be baptised or received into full Communion with the Church this Easter. Four of them; Jake, Izzy, Joshua and Adam are currently "Catechumens" and so have been receiving the "Scrutinies" during the Sunday Masses over the last two Lenten Sundays, continuing this Sunday the 5th Sunday of Lent at 9.15am Mass at Christ the King. With the raising of Lazarus on this Sunday, we are reflecting on the new life that faith in Christ offers to those adults who are to be baptised at Easter. This is a very important time for them so pray for them as well as candidates David, Sophie and Ethan over the coming few weeks as Easter draws near.

PARISH SPRING STROLL THIS SUNDAY

"Spring is in the Air" especially **TODAY (Sunday 22nd)** so let's go for a Stroll. Everyone is welcome to **meet at St Marys carpark for 1.00pm**. We'll walk along to Towneley Hall and if you have not been this way, at this time of year, you're in for a treat as the daffodils line the route. A cup of tea in the cafe could also be enjoyed and yes we go whatever the weather!!

Also there will be no refreshments after Mass at St Johns to give people time to join in the stroll.

PARISH CELEBRATION FOR EASTER—ST. JOHN'S

A "Parish Celebration for Easter" will take place in St John's parish hall on Sunday April 12th from 11.45am. There is a Tombola, Easter bonnet parade, eggy challenges, two Easter hampers are in the raffle and more! A mini auction is good fun, however, we need your help to make it a little bit bigger - please let Margaret P 07751 025178 know if you have any items suitable to auction. And a second request, if you'd like to donate an Easter egg, for prizes on the day, that would be much appreciated. Any monies raised are for Parish funds, Thank you!!



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION

The CAFOD group wish to thank parishioners for their very generous support of Family Fast Day. A fantastic total of £1,829 was donated in the envelopes returned to Church, with donations still coming in. In addition, the CAFOD group would like to thank parishioners who made donations direct to CAFOD and online. Your kindness will be used to help our neighbours put food on the table, not just for today, but for the days ahead.



KSC: BFC SIGNED FOOTBALL SHIRT RAFFLE

The Grand Knight Tom Wilkinson of KSC 110 is selling numbers towards the draw of a Framed Team Signed BFC Shirt 25/26. **All money raised is being equally split between Pendleside Hospice and Georgia Fourie Butterfly Fund.**



Please dig deep this Lent to help raise much needed funds for these amazing charities. Numbers are only £5 each, around the same price as a large Costa Coffee! Draw is to be made on Easter Monday provided 100 tickets are sold. Numbers are £5 each. Please get in touch with a Brother or Tom (07891 124951) to buy or for more information.

FORMING CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERS—COURSES FOR YR 12 AND YR 13 STUDENTS

We offer two summer courses exploring faith, ethics and leadership for sixth form students, offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst.

Join us for 6 days in the beautiful Ribble Valley to explore themes linked to The Common Good (Year 12) and to The Human Ecology (Year 13). Meet new friends, discuss and share with peers, tutors and academics, learn new skills, develop your relationship with Christ, build your character. Find out more at: www.christianleadershipformation.com

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND CARERS

In February the SVP had talks from two local charities which may be of use to some of our parishioners. **Home Start East Lancs** have trained volunteers who work with families with children up to the age of 11 years in their own homes or in groups. Other areas of work are, loss of a child and a baby on Neonatal Care Unit. www.homestarteastlancs.org or 01282 690536. **(NB Corrected Number)**
Carers Link Lancashire is a befriending service offering compassion, companionship, conversation and can be used for anything that gives a short break from the caring roll. It is a free service that engages volunteers to offer 2 hours or more per week for regular support to a cared-for adult over the age of 18 who has low level care needs. They also support young carers. 01254 387444 or info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk

SOCIAL GROUP AT ST MARY'S PARISH ROOMS



Our next gathering for darts, table tennis, cards, a quiz and a chat over a cuppa is on **Thursday 26th March** from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All are welcome.

MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: MONDAY 23RD MARCH TO SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2026

Please note the changes this week

- Monday** *Lent Weekday*
9.30am St Mary's
- Tuesday** *St. Oscar Romero*
10.00am Romero Academy Trust Mass with Bishop John at St Mary's
NB Only one Mass today
- Wednesday** *Feast of the Annunciation*
9.30am Christ the King **10.45am Funeral Mass for Kieron Walker RIP**
at St Mary's , 7pm Mass at St John's
- Thursday** *Lent Weekday*
9.30am St Mary's, **Nb only one Mass today**
- Friday** *Lent Weekday*
6.30am Lenten Mass at St Mary's
2.00pm Funeral Mass for John McNabb RIP at St Mary's
NB No Exposition or Reconciliation today
7.00pm Lenten Stations of the Cross at Christ the King
- Saturday** *Lent Weekday*
9.30am St. Mary's followed by Exposition with Reconciliation from 10.30am to 11.30am
Vigil Masses;
6.00pm St. John's preceded by Reconciliation with Exposition from 5.15 to 5.55pm
6.30m St. Mary's
- Sunday** ***Palm Sunday***
Christ the King: 9.15am and 5.00pm
St. Mary's: 10.00am (This Mass will be live-streamed on the parish website*).
St. John's: 10.45am
(*A recording of the Mass should be available later from Sunday afternoon)

EXPOSITION:

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starting 30 minutes before the Masses Monday to Friday. (Except before Funerals)

PARISH BONUS BALL GAME—WINNERS!

Thanks to all who have supported the bonus Ball game in each of the three churches, which will continue each week. The winning Bonus ball for last Wednesday was number **54**.

Congratulations to this week's winners Please claim your prize from the appropriate sacristy.

St John's ~ Rollover

St Mary's ~ Theresa Christ the King ~ Rollover



WEEKLY COLLECTION

The offertory collection, not including standing orders, from the three churches in the parish for weekend of 14/15th March was **£1,369.27**, for which many thanks.



FOREIGN COINS AND NOTES, OLD ENGLISH COINS AND NOTES, MEDALS AND GOLD

If you have any of these items please bring them to church and place them at a box at the back of each church. Thank you to all those concerned which is greatly appreciated.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH BY STANDING ORDER



You can make your contributions to the parish online by Standing Order; Please contact your bank and inform them that payment should now be made as follows: Name: The Salford Diocesan Trust: The Good Samaritan Parish. Sort Code: 205558 Account number: 50404640

Clergy Team

Parish Priest: Fr David Featherstone

St Mary of the Assumption 01282 422007

Assistant Priest Fr Theo Sharrock

St Mary of the Assumption 01282 422007

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Healey Mount Burnley

St Mary of the Assumption
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St John the Baptist
Bracewell St Burnley