



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

SUNDAY, 19th January 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [C]

Upcoming Masses & Services this Week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 19th January <i>Second Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Peace</i> <i>White Flower Appeal</i>	5.30pm [Sat]	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm [Sat]	EM	Mass <i>Lori, Libero, Franca & Shara</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Stephanie Finnerty (Anv)</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 – 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 20th January <i>St Fabian/St Sebastian</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Canon Leo Prescott</i>
Tuesday 21st January <i>St Agnes</i>	9.30am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Tom Keatings</i>
Wednesday 22nd January <i>St Vincent</i>	11.30am	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12noon	EM	Mass <i>Malcolm Livesey (RIP)</i> <i>Followed by novena to the English Martyrs</i>
Thursday 23rd January <i>of 2nd Week of the year</i>	11.30am	SJ	Requiem Mass for James Rawcliffe
Friday 24th January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Michael Kelly (Fdn)</i>
Saturday 25th January <i>Conversion of St Paul</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Donors Intention</i>
	10.00am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>Agnes Fairlie</i>
Sunday 26th January <i>Third Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>David Collinson (RIP)</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [<i>Confessions</i>]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>Pat Fairley</i>

'There are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit'- Corinthians 12, 4

The day of our Confirmation may live long in our memory, something still vivid to us, the occasion, the liturgy, the music, the family gathering, those who prepared us, however, for some this memory may have faded. In the life of the parish when we celebrate the Confirmation of others in our families, in our community, perhaps those we know, those we encourage or prepare, we have an opportunity to consider again how the living Lord Jesus has indeed touched us, come to us and how the Holy Spirit has enlivened us. From St Paul's letter, our Second Reading today, we hear something harping back to our own Confirmation. Something that will happen again in a few weeks' time in our parish. The Holy Spirit, which guides and governs the Church, will be poured out upon some of our young parishioners and there will be a variety of gifts imparted by the descent of the Holy Spirit. By this descent our young people are touched by God, He gifts again His life-giving Spirit to them, which we all need to live the Christian life. The gifts of the Holy Spirit allow us to function in the Church, the Body of Church, in our proper way, in our proper service. Think of the stewards in the Gospel at the wedding in Cana, a variety of people, like at any event, working in a variety of ways according to their talents, abilities, drive, or instruction. All the stewards are directed by our Blessed Lady to, 'do what the Lord tells them to do.' They become stewards of the Lord, they continue in their earthly, worldly work, but now listening for the Lord's voice to lead them, by this, the voice of God they are abundantly fruitful. In the sacraments we listen to the Lord leading us, we are touched to hear his leading us in the world and so we can be fruitful stewards, disciples and apostles to our neighbour, our parish, and our world.

OUR PRAYERS

We pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners and those who care for them. We also pray for all the lately Malcolm Livesey, James Rawcliffe, Mark Finley and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Shea, Anthony Brown, Irene Cunniffe, Stephanie Finnerty, David Johnson, Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, Linda Ingram, William McManus, Frances Baldwin, and Bernadette Whitehead.

HOLY YEAR 2025

This past week our priests were attending a conference for clergy in Rome. They prayed for our parish, our families and intentions when visiting the Major Basilicas and passing through the Holy Doors. May we all seek to participate, as best we can, in a pilgrimage this Holy Year to renew and invigorate our faith once more!

DIOCESE OF LANCASTER CENTENARY

An increasingly popular and professionalised past-time for many is tracing family histories, piecing together the 'family tree.' Indeed, for us as a Diocese, we were never to forget our parent dioceses of Liverpool and Hexham and Newcastle. On the contrary, we were encouraged to maintain the '*most cordial relations and closest possible co-operation.*' This was first to be present in the shared training and traditions of our diocesan priests. This is a reminder to us of the co-operation of others before us to make the Church flourish here, the co-operation we continue to this day in our parishes and between our parishes. However, it is a reminder to challenge ourselves when we may be tempted to compare ourselves to others, to compete with others, that we, in the Catholic Church, belong to one family tree and the tree remains, even when branches change direction, shoots spring forth and others die, the tree, which is Christ remains.

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES

Blessed Chalk and Epiphany Water [bring your own receptacle for the latter] with a small instruction card are still available at the back of our churches. Our priests are still very happy to come and bless your homes, to ask God's aid and assistance for our homes and families. If you would like a priest to bless your home, please send him an email.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Do please pray for our young parishioners as they prepare to be Confirmed by Bishop Swarbrick at **Sunday Mass on 2nd February** at St Joseph's Church. Our last session in preparation is this Tuesday, 21st January at St Joseph's Presbytery.

A reception will be had afterwards in celebration in the Lancaster Room after this Mass. Please could you consider contributing to the buffet. Contact the Parish office if you can help.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Especial welcome to our young parishioners, who today, begin their journey into the mercy and love of God present in these two wonderful sacraments. Our Sunday Vigil Mass at English Martyrs and our Sunday morning Mass at St Joseph's will include the enrolment of our children, do please pray for them.

REQUESTING BAPTISM

Catholic parents of our parish, desiring to bring their children up in the practice of the Faith, should first make their request for Baptism to our priests, in person, after attending weekend Masses.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC/ ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you, or someone in your family, interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church or perhaps thinking about becoming a member of the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic adult who has not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Speak with one of our priests who can help take your enquiry forward.

CRIB COLLECTIONS

Do consider contributing to our crib collections, made at the cribs in both our churches, this year in aid of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This collection remains open between Christmas Day and the Presentation of the Lord, 2nd February 2025.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

This weekend, 18th/19th January, there will be the annual appeal and collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children [SPUC]. Please do continue to pray for and support this important work for the protection of life from the moment of conception until natural death.

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