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Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Catlow Hall Street, Oswaldtwistle
Lancashire
BB53EZ

Parish Priest: Rev Fr. S D O'Brien
Tel: 01254-232433



Sunday 5th March 2023 - Second Sunday of Lent

Masses & Liturgies for the Coming Week...

Saturday 4th March

9am – 9:50am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
10am Lenten Weekday Mass (*Celebrated in Lady Chapel*)
6pm The Holy Rosary for Peace in the World
6:30pm Vigil Mass for The Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 5th March

9:30am The Holy Rosary for Peace in the World
10am Mass for The Second Sunday of Lent

Tuesday 7th March

1pm – 3pm St. Mary's Warm Welcome (*Details below*)
5pm – 5:50pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6pm Mass, Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs (Commemoration)
Ss Perpetua & Felicity: These two martyrs died in Carthage in 203A.D, in the persecution under Septimus Severus; the account of their lives and martyrdom, partly written by the saints themselves and by eyewitnesses, survives.

Wednesday 8th March

9:15am – 9:50am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10am Lenten Weekday Mass
7pm Consecration to St. Joseph (*Meeting 2. Days 2 -7*)

Thursday 9th March

6:15pm Confessions (Fr. Stamp)
7pm Deanery Lenten Station Mass

Friday 10th March

5pm – 5:50pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
6pm Lenten Weekday Mass and Prayer of Thanksgiving for the all those through the years who have volunteered as St. Mary's Parish Centre
6:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 11th March

9am – 9:50am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
10am Lenten Weekday Mass (*Celebrated in Lady Chapel*)
6pm The Holy Rosary for Peace in the World
6:30pm Vigil Mass for The Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 12th March

9:30am The Holy Rosary for Peace in the World
10am Mass for The Third Sunday of Lent
1:30pm Parish Lenten Walk: Darwen Moor (*See below for details*)

Sanctuary Lamp

This week (4th March - 11th March), the Sanctuary Lamp is for June & Gerald McCaffrey

Last Week's Offertory Collection

£579.65. Thank you for your kind generosity.

CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors of the Syrian-Turkey earthquake disaster. This weekend of the 4th/5th March there will be collection baskets at the end of the weekend Masses for any financial donations which people would like to make towards CAFOD'S work in this area. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at www.cafod.org.uk/give.

Words of Wisdom

Last week St. Peter Julian described the first wonder of the Eucharist – Transubstantiation. This week he writes about the second wonder.

“A second wonder, included in the first, is that this miracle is renewed at the mere word of a man, the priest, and as often as he wants. For such is the power which God has imparted to him. He commands that God be on the altar, and on the instant, God is there. The priest works absolutely the same wonder that Jesus Christ worked at the Eucharistic Supper. He holds his power from Jesus Christ and acts in His name.

Our Lord has never disobeyed His priest, a miracle of the power of God! A weak, mortal creature gives birth to our sacramental Jesus!”

(Taken from The Real Presence, The Wonderful Work of God by St. Peter Julian Eymard)

Prayers

It's been great to have the company of Adam, our parish seminarian for the diocese of Shrewsbury, at St. Mary's this week while he's been on half term from Oscott. Let's continue to keep Adam in our prayers. Over the last 5 years he has been in formation discerning God's call as he trains the for priesthood. We need priests to bring us Our Lord in the Sacraments, so that we can experience the mercy, healing and loving nourishment of Christ. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to continue to draw Adam closer to the Lord, and God willing, to share in the sacred priesthood.

Parish Lenten Walks

After the success of last years Lenten and Easter walks there will be the opportunity this year to do the same. It's a chance to get out into the Lancashire countryside, enjoy some spectacular vistas and thank God the Creator for the blessing of having such peaceful and beautiful landscapes on our front doorstep.

Lenten Walk I: *Darwen Moor: 12th March*

A walk that I discovered, on a clear day, took in the full width of Lancashire from Pendle Hill to Blackpool Tower. The history of the area where people fought for ancient rights of access across the moors is inspiring and when you reach Darwen Tower (Jubilee Tower) you can see why. We'll begin the walk by meeting at Roddlesworth Information Centre, Tockholes Rd, Tockholes, Darwen BB3 0PA at 1:30pm

Route Terrain: Moorland, Farmland, Hills

Distance: 4 miles (6.4 km)

Height gain: 755 feet (230 m)

Lenten Walk II: *The Huncoat Trail: 26th March*

Thanks to Marie Leaver for helping suggest this local walk. We'll begin at the stocks/memorial garden in Huncoat at 1:30pm. It passes over the railway track in the village and makes its way to the motorway. Crossing over this (by bridge) we walk along the canal for a while. The path then has to go back across the railway and the motorway, through woods and back to the parked cars. It is about 4 to 5 miles of fairly easy walking.

Directions: travel up Burnley road to the Griffin pub, turndown Higher Gate Road till you come to the memorial garden BB5 6LJ.

You can park on the road here or just a little lower down as the road is wide.

It is important to note that each person who joins us will be responsible for themselves and those in their family group. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for muddy hillsides and fells. Bring appropriate footwear, clothing and food and drinks for the journey. If you would like to ask more questions or get a copy of the route do see me in the sacristy at the end of the Mass.

Congratulations!!!

On Friday 10th March Canon Jude Harrison, who many of you know, from St. Alban's in Blackburn celebrates 50 years of Priesthood. We wish Canon Jude all the best and send him our prayers and thanksgiving for his years of service to the Lord.

Lenten Station Mass 9th March

During Lent there is the tradition of Station Masses. This is where a Lenten Mass will be celebrated in a particular parish in the deanery and other parishes are invited to come. It's a wonderful reminder that we are part of a bigger family and are united by Our Lord in the sacrifice of the Mass. Our parish will be hosting one of the deanery Station Masses on Thursday 9th March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome – as you heard me say last weekend – Everyone! Fr. Bryan Cunningham SI, a priest of the Schoenstatt Institute, will be the visiting preacher and there will be refreshments afterwards. Confessions will be available before each Mass. Fr. Stamp has kindly offered to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession at St. Mary's from 6:15pm – 6:45pm. The other Station Masses will be:

St. Mary's, Catlow Hall Street, Oswaldtwistle, BB5 3EZ on Thursday 9th March at 7pm.

St Peter's, Chapel Street, NewChurch, Rossendale, BB4 9EE, on Thursday 16th March at 7pm.

Christ Church, 15 Cross St, Nelson, BB9 7LE, on Thursday 23rd March at 7pm.

St. Mary's Warm Welcome

Tuesday, 7th March, from 1pm – 3pm will be the next St. Mary's Warm Welcome. Everyone and anyone is welcome! We have some talented parishioners who dispel the cold winter blues with live upbeat music that everyone can sing along to plus there's unlimited brews and fantastic homemade cake in a warm space. Why not come along and experience something different.

Sign Of Peace

As of this weekend (4th/5th March) there will be the opportunity for the optional sign of peace to return. My thanks to all those who responded via email and letter and shared their thoughts on this topic. As parishioners have suggested, for those who would rather not engage with the sign of peace for a whole range of sensible reasons, then please do feel free to kneel or sit in preparation for the Communion Rite.

Lenten Reading

If you're looking to take time this Lent to do some spiritual reading here are a few suggestions:

Jesus of Nazareth. Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection by Pope Benedict XVI

The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by Blessed Catherine Emmerich

The Fourth Cup. Unveiling the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross by Scott Hahn

Understanding Divine Mercy by Fr. Chris Alar MIC

The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

A Guide to Living in the Truth. St. Benedict's Teaching on Humility by Michael Casey

An Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis De Sales

The Power of Silence, Against the Dictatorship of Noise by Cardinal Sarah and Nicolas Diat

St. Mary's Parish Centre Exhibition

To mark the last weekend of St. Mary's Parish Centre the 6pm Friday Evening Mass on the 10th March will be in Thanksgiving for all volunteers who have served the Centre over the years.

The Parish Centre has been more than just a building for many parishioners and their families, it's been a place of celebration, happy memories and a second home. It is important that this is recognised and we give thanks to God for all those who have volunteered in all kinds of ways to the life of the Parish Centre from its beginning.

During the final weekend (Friday 10th to Sunday 12th March) we would like to invite parishioners to bring photos of memories and celebrations they have had at the Parish Centre and are willing to share with others. From the Friday evening there will be a number of display boards you can attach your photos to at the back of church. You may want to make copies of your photos so that they don't get lost or write your name and contact details at the back.

Sacred Heart School

On Thursday morning I was invited to school to share with years 5 & 6 the importance of the saints and how they can inspire us, especially in the Lenten season. Not only are their lives models of how to live as disciple of Jesus but the saints continually support us in heaven with their prayers.

St. Mary's School

Mrs Wolfenden brought 10 pupils in the Faith Team to pray the Stations of the Cross in church on Wednesday and make them think how they could share this devotion and prayer with the other children in school. The suffering of Jesus is never nice to think about but the Stations remind us that it was His love for us that led Him to Calvary so that He could show us how deep His love was for the world.

St. Oswald's School

On Wednesday 40 pupils came to church to learn more about the Stations of the Cross and how each episode draws us closer to understanding what lengths Jesus went to, to show His love for us. I showed the children a replica of the Crown of Thorns and the nails and hammer that were tools of the Crucifixion. It was quite clear those objects brought the reality of Jesus' passion home to many of our young people and gave them a greater appreciation of Our Lords death on the Cross to save us from our sins.

Sacred Heart Memorial Exhibition

June 2023 will be the twenty year anniversary of the closure of Sacred Heart church in Accrington, and the dissolution of the parish. Anyone who is a former Sacred Heart parishioner, or had family and friends who were, may have memorabilia or other items of interest, or simply personal memories they could write down and let us have on loan for the display. We found in the past that many documents and log books for the former Sacred Heart parish have been either lost or destroyed, making researching a full history of the parish very difficult, which is why we need items or information only you as parishioners may have. We have contacted all formal archives where items may have been sent without success, so personal family collections are all that are left to search. Thank you to those who have already sent in items and information. All original items will be carefully copied and returned, but we would prefer copies to be made available for us to display:

Have you photos of the annual procession?

Have you photos of the Corpus Christi processions at Paddock House?

Is there a building plan of the church and grounds?

Do you have any leaflets or the like from Old St Oswald's church on Hyndburn Road?

Please contact John Hughes on hughes.john.d@gmail.com with any information.

St Bernadette Relic Tour Film - Out Now!

Throughout September 2022, the relics of St Bernadette Soubirous toured the UK, including a visit to our very own Salford Cathedral. St Bernadette's relics travelled 11,500 miles from the Sanctuary in Lourdes to UK churches, cathedrals, a hospital and one prison, offering a once in a lifetime opportunity to people of all faiths and none to visit the saint's sacred relics at one of 52 public venues. Amazingly, the tour reached 1 in 4 UK Catholics! The relic tour team are delighted to announce the release of their new legacy film commemorating the visit. You can watch the film here: youtu.be/3HY8iT2GioM

National Novena to St Joseph

The National Novena to St. Joseph will take place from 11th March - 19th March at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their society patron, with a special novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. For more information visit the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

The 89th Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

28th July - 3rd August 2023. We are delighted to announce that travel and accommodation booking is now available for this Summer's pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop John Arnold. Full details are available on the pilgrimage website: www.salfordlourdes.co.uk. All bookings and enquiries can be made via Joe Walsh Tours, (ATOL 11313), by phone on 0808 1890468, or by email: info@joewalstours.co.uk All are welcome.

Caritas Salford Lent Appeal

This Lent, will you make a change to change a life? Whether you're making a change to your diet, fasting, amending your behavior or adapting your thoughts and focus...as you pray, fast and give this Lent the change you're making could also help to change a life. By remembering Caritas Salford during Lent, your donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people in Greater Manchester and Lancashire that the team supports - people in our local communities facing poverty, disadvantage, homelessness and isolation. There are lots of ways you can help:

- Keep Caritas Salford and the people they work alongside in the local community in your prayers this Lent
- Join their Lent appeal and collect change to help change lives (you can pay online at www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/lent2023/)
- Help Caritas reach even more people by sharing news of the appeal on social media, with friends, family and other loved ones, colleagues and wider networks.

Thank you for your kindness and support.

Salford Diocesan Job Vacancies

We are currently hiring for the two roles found below.

SDC Café Supervisor

Appointment Type: Permanent

Working hours: Minimum 20hrs per week, to be worked 10am-2pm, Mon-Fri

Location: St Sebastian Community Centre, 1 Douglas Green, Salford, M6 6ES

Salary & Benefits: £11.67 per hour, 20 days holiday, plus statutory bank holidays (subject to pro-rata).

About: SDC Trading is seeking to recruit an experienced Café Supervisor to provide high-quality food and hospitality services to customers and visitors to St Sebastian's Centre.

Parish Administrator (Three Martyrs)

Appointment Type: Part-time, permanent

Working hours: 12 hours per week to be over two days – Tuesday and Friday

Location: St Thomas of Canterbury Presbytery, 327 Great Cheetham Street East Higher Broughton Salford M7 4UE

Salary & benefits: £11.26 per hr, 25 holidays, plus statutory bank holidays and 5 Diocesan closure days (subject to pro-rata).

About: The Three Martyrs: St Sebastian, St Boniface, and St Thomas of Canterbury are looking for a Parish Administrator to provide administrative support to the parish including office administration, secretarial and basic accounting duties.

God Bless and keep praying.

Our Lady of Oswaldtwistle, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Fr. O'Brien