

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE
14th April 2024 – Third Sunday of Easter

Parish Clergy

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GOSPEL REFLECTION:

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement.

As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with his disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 13/04	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Holy souls and forgotten souls Sister Kathleen Hopkins - Get Well
Sunday 14/04	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Anne Belford RIP Sapphire Amanda Abbott RIP
Tuesday 16/04	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Frank Duff (Founder of Legion of Mary)
Wednesday 17/04	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Marie and Noel Gleeson Grandad Henry
Thursday 18/04	St Mary's	12.10pm	Peace in Gaza
Friday 19/04	St Patrick's	10.00am	Lucy – Get Well
Saturday 20/04	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Jane and Archie Conlon Special Intention People of the Parish
Sunday 21/04	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Deceased members of the Kenny, Morrison, Bailey and Morgan families Pamela Ann Murray RIP

FEAST DAYS:

Tuesday 16th April - **St Bernadette Soubirous**

Next Sunday is **Good Shepherd Sunday** which is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations GS SUNDAY**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Maria Ruscillo, Irene Benson, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Dean Brownlee, Davina Tetteh, Edgardo Hecate, Dee Rowley, Mary Walsh, Pam (Mary) Clark, Rev Jim Murphy, Winnie Coupe, Zoe Jarman, Karen Guerrero, Win Cowell, Tony Manley, Jennifer Doherty and the sick and housebound in the parish and those in local hospitals and nursing homes.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for all those whose first anniversaries occur between 14TH March and 21ST April and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for April which are on the noticeboards in each church porch.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: £1322.11 **ATTENDANCE:** 338

There will be a collection next Sunday for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund (EEF).

This (restricted) fund provides financial support for the selection and formation of students preparing for the Priesthood and for the Permanent Diaconate in the diocese. Currently we have three students in training for the Diocesan Priesthood. It also supports ongoing formation of the clergy and provides for priests undertaking postgraduate studies in the UK or abroad. The fund also supports the Vocations Directors for Priesthood and the Permanent Diaconate and their teams in the work of promoting vocations.

Saint Bernadette Soubirous' Story

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. Bernadette, 14 years old, was known as a virtuous girl though a dull student who had not even made her first Holy Communion. In poor health, she had suffered from asthma from an early age.

There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked scepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

According to Bernadette, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on March 25 she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realize who the Lady was.

Few visions have ever undergone the scrutiny that these appearances of the Immaculate Virgin were subject to. Lourdes became one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, attracting millions of visitors. Miracles were reported at the shrine and in the waters of the spring. After thorough investigation, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862.

During her life, Bernadette suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until at last she was protected in a convent of nuns. Five years later, she petitioned to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers. After a period of illness she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmarian and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized in 1933.

Quote of Saint Bernadette Soubirous'

"I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials; or perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home. There I shall find my Mother in all the splendour of her glory. I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus himself in perfect safety".

"Love overcomes, love delight. Those who love the Sacred Heart rejoice. Jesus, my God, I love you above all things".

PARISH NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: If you are new to the area, or are visiting us just for the weekend, you are very welcome! Please introduce yourself to Fr Darren or Deacon John.

CONGRATULATIONS: to those who were baptised and received into the church at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to support and pray for them as they continue their faith journey.

MANY THANKS: to all those who made the Easter liturgies possible, organists, choir, flower arrangers, cleaners, altar servers, sacristans and those who polish the brass.

THE NEWMAN CENTRE:

Good news:

Fr Darren has managed to obtain a grant from the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation for £16,637.00 to help with the works being carried out in the Newman Centre.

This week we have begun to paint the ceiling tiles in the main hall, after which we will be painting the walls and the woodwork. The work will not cause any disruption to hall users.

Not so good news:

Back in November we had two people who had cleaned the hall twice a week for a good number of years, unfortunately they retired. Lyndsey Humphries kindly stepped in and took over the cleaning of the hall, sadly Lyndsey passed away in December, we remembered Lyndsey at the Easter Vigil as she would have been received into full communion with the catholic Church. Someone has been cleaning the hall between December and March, unfortunately this person is no longer able to continue doing this. Fr Darren is currently cleaning the hall once a week, which cannot continue, therefore we are seeking two volunteers to clean the hall at least once a week if there are two people it should not take longer than 1 hour per week. Ideally, we would like four people to volunteer, which would mean that each group of two would clean the hall every other week. If you feel that you are able to help with this task please contact the parish office. If we are unable to find any volunteer's this will have to become a paid position in the parish, which will cost the parish around 2K per year. Currently the income from the parish hall is low and would not cover these costs.

BOOKING THE NEWMAN CENTRE:

Do you need to hire a hall for a special event? St Mary's Church Hall is available for hire for children's parties, family parties, funeral wakes and other functions. The hall can be booked on a regular basis or for a single event. If you wish to book the hall, please complete the online form at <https://www.sjhn.org/hire-the-newman-centre> or contact the parish office. The parish office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am till 12 noon.

BENCHES FROM GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH:

We have now moved 10 benches over to St Patrick's church and we still have 2 more to take over. This means that we have 10 benches left that we cannot fit anywhere else. A few people have shown an interest in having a bench for personal use in their homes. If anyone would like one of the church benches please contact Fr Darren. The plan would be that if enough people were interested we would hire a van and deliver the benches to people's homes on the same day. The cost of the van hire would be split by those wishing to have a bench delivered. If people wish to make a donation for the benches is down to the individuals. It will be a first come first served basis.

DEEP CLEANING:

If you will remember last year on the first Saturday of each month a number of us gathered together at St Mary's to carry out some deep cleaning in the church. I would be really grateful if we could do the same this year starting on the first Saturday of May and then June, July, August and September. If anyone would like to join us we meet at 11am till 12 noon and clean various items in the church like for example the stations of the cross, everything is lifted down by Fr Darren and people clean and Fr Darren returns this items to their place.

EVENTS:

Day	Time	Event	Location
Every Sunday	After 10:30am Mass	Tea and Coffee	NEWMAN CENTRE
Every Monday	10.00am-11:30am	Playgroup	NEWMAN CENTRE
Every Tuesday	10.00am	Legion of Mary	St Patrick's
Every Wednesday	12noon-2.00pm	Warm Welcome	NEWMAN CENTRE
Every Friday	2.00pm-3.00pm	Lectio Divina	St Mary's Presbytery
Monday 15 th April	10:30am-12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's
Thursday 18 th April	7.00 p.m.	SVP Meeting	NEWMAN CENTRE
Monday 22 nd April	1.00-3.00pm	Friendship Group	NEWMAN CENTRE
Tuesday 23 rd April	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's

SVP PLAYGROUP:

Every Monday 10 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. in St Mary's Parish Hall. There are lots of activities for the children and singing at the end of the session. The cost is £2 which includes a snack. Tea and coffee are available for adults. Everyone is very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there! Playgroup resumes **Monday 15th April**

Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP):

The SVP supports Mini Vinnies in our parish schools. Members visit the housebound. We support those in need.

We support the following groups:

- Playgroup at the Newman Centre
- The Tuesday Breakfast Club in Heysham
- Warm Welcome at the Newman Centre
- SVP Lunch (the first Thursday of the month) at the Newman Centre

We meet on the third Thursday of the month (except August and December) at 7.00 pm in the Newman Centre. You would be welcome at our meetings. If you have any suggestions for other projects we would be interested to hear about them.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Sunday 7th July 2024 at 9.30 a.m. at St Mary's Church.

The preparation programme will take place on the following Saturdays:

20th April 2024
4th May 2024
18th May 2024
15th June 2024
29th June 2024
6th July 2024

The preparation course will include the children attending the 10.00 a.m. Mass at St Mary's. This gives Father Darren an opportunity to talk to the children during Mass, which will form part of the preparation. After Mass the children will go into the Parish Hall to continue their preparation with the catechists. The session will end at 11.30 a.m. Therefore, we would ask parents to ensure that the children are in church five minutes before the start of Mass. At this point the children can be left with the catechists and parents can return at 11.30 a.m. to collect them.

Please be aware that attendance at Mass on the Saturday morning does not fulfil the Sunday obligation. Therefore, you still need to attend on Saturday evening or Sunday morning and ensure that you sign-in at whichever Sunday Mass you attend.

ONLINE IN REMEMBRANCE PAGE ON OUR NEW WEBSITE:

There is an online Remembrance Page on our website for anyone who would like their loved ones remembered on the anniversary of their death. As the anniversary occurs the information of your loved ones will be moved to the top of the page. If you would like your loved ones remembered in this way, please provide a photo (if desired), name of the deceased and date of death to the Parish office email sjhnp parish@gmail.com. Any donations are welcome to help with the administration of the website.

GIFT AID:

Now that the Good Shepherd has officially closed, we will no longer be able to claim the gift aid on the lose collection, this will be a loss of £2,000.00 per year. If you are a taxpayer and have not yet signed up for gift aid please do so. If you are not sure if you can sign up or not please speak to Fr Darren.

OTHER NEWS:

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE - WALSINGHAM:

Dear brothers and sisters, In **September (2nd – 6th)** this year I am renewing the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine to Our Blessed Lady. I invite you to join me! This will be the first pilgrimage since the Pandemic, and we have so much to pray for, so much to give thanks for. Some of you are familiar with Walsingham. For others it will be your first visit. In the Middle Ages the Shrine was one of the great ancient Marian places of pilgrimage in the whole of Christendom. It is known as England's very own Nazareth and is a place where the incarnation of Jesus is particularly remembered. Therefore, for the modern pilgrim, it is a place for all who would rejoice with Mary at 'the great joy of the Annunciation.' Like Lourdes in France, it is a place of reconciliation, conversion, peace and healing. Dependent on accommodation type the all-inclusive cost is no more than £500,00 per person. Coach collection/drop off will take place in Workington, Carlisle, Penrith, Lancaster and Preston. For more information and booking details contact the pilgrimage organiser Deacon Charlie Conner on 07895 742 732 or email charlie.conner@lrdc.org.uk. The places will be limited, so please book in good time. With my blessing Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster.

Saxon crown and throne denote Mary's Queenship and the date of the founding of the Shrine 1061

Three-fold lily-sceptre of virginity/ sovereignty

Seven rings for the sacraments

Mary points to Christ

Seat of Wisdom

Toadstone which is the East Anglian symbol of evil (cf. Gen. 3:15)

Arch denotes rainbow, sign of the covenant between God and every living creature (cf. Gen. 9:12f)

Pillars of the House of God, the Church

Christ extends his arm in a double gesture of blessing and protection of his mother

Christ, the Word made Flesh, holds the Gospels



LOURDES 2024:

Please join Bishop Paul Swarbrick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (**July 23rd – 30th**). The Youth Section will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris (**22nd July- 1st August**). Further details are available on the Diocesan Pilgrimage website: www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or youth email: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

OLCC UGANDA24 CHARITY CONCERT:

We are holding a charity concert in school on **Friday 19th April 2024, 7.00p.m..** This is an informal event involving an eclectic mix of music, song and dance performed by students, staff and friends of OLCC. Tickets are £6 (adults) £4 (concessions) to include a glass of wine or fruit juice. Cakes and crafts will be on sale. Proceeds to be shared between our Ugandan Communities and St John's Hospice. It should be a fun evening so please come along and support.

COME AND SEE WEEKEND:

With the Bernardine Sisters at Hynning for single women: 18-45 seriously discerning what the Lord is asking of them. Participants will be able to share in the life and spirituality of the sisters. Date: **Fri 10th - Sun 12th May 2024**. Info from Sister Mary Helen sistermaryhelen@hotmail.com

"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you." St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL: FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday 9:30 am till 9:55 am, followed by 10.00 a.m. Mass, Thursday 11:00 am till 12 noon followed by the 12:10 pm. Mass and Saturday 10:30 a.m. till 11:00 am.

"Rejoice thus, and wherever you are, as long as you are here, the Lord is very near: do not be anxious about anything." (St. Augustine)