

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE
3rd March 2024 – Third Sunday of Lent

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest:

Fr Darren Carden

Email:

darren.carden@lrcd.org.uk

Office Tel: 01524 410501

Mobile phone: 07305228729

Deacon: Rev. John McCann

Tel: 01524 421795



Parish office admin:

**St Mary's, Matthias Street,
Morecambe, LA4 5JR**

Parish website: www.sjhn.org

Office Tel: 01524 410501

Mobile phone: 07305228729

Parish office: Jackie & Kerry

Email:

sjhn.morecambe@lrcd.org.uk

Parish office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 am till 12 Noon

GOSPEL REFLECTION: In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax. Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel. Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative. After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection. During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 2/03	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Gary Nathaniel Preston RIP Sister Kathleen Hopkins Get Well
Sunday 3/03	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	People of the Parish Frank Brett RIP
Tuesday 5/03	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Marilyn Dawson Get Well
Wednesday 6/03	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Ray and Christine Stansfield Mavis Kingsley Birthday
Thursday 7/03	St Mary's	12.10pm	Shirley Kenny
Friday 8/03	St Patrick's	10.00am	Canon Cooper Get Well
Saturday 9/03	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	James Case Birthday Blanche Ronayne
Sunday 10/03	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	People of the Parish Brian Burton RIP

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.

LATELY DEAD: Ellen Carney, Yvonne Mason.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for Christopher Greenhalgh and Margaret Mawdesley and all those whose first anniversaries occur between 3rd March and 10th March and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for February which are on the noticeboards in each church porch.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION: £1134.55 **ATTENDANCE:** 317

PARISH NEWS

GIFT AID: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TAXPAYERS:

If you are a taxpayer and have not signed a gift aid declaration please do so as the parish will receive 25p from the government for every £1 you give, this does not cost you anymore money. Please let us know if you would like a set of gift aid envelopes for your weekly contributions to the church. Alternatively, you can pay your contribution directly into the parish bank account, all forms are available at the back of each church. Also, if you are no longer a taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, please let the office know.

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GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH: Thank you to those who attended the Good Shepherd Church over the last two weekends. The Good Shepherd Church officially closed on Wednesday 28th February 2024. The process will now begin of removing the contents of the church. No decisions, as yet, have been made. The Finance Committee will be meeting on 7th March and the Parish Council on 14th March. After these meetings have taken place more information will be made available to the wider community. In the meantime, if anyone has any information with regard to where items originated from, please contact the office.

HELP IN TRACING FAMILY MEMBERS: We are trying to contact family members of the late Bridget (Bridie) Price and Desmond and Frances Atherton. If anyone has any contact with surviving members of their family, please contact the office.

EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS: Inside the newsletter this week are the Easter raffle tickets. Please return stubs and money by 22nd March 2024 at the latest. 1st prize will be £100.00, 2nd prize will be an Easter Egg hamper, 3rd prize will be a drinks hamper, and 4th prize will be £50.00. If you would like to help with donations for either of the hampers, please see the sign-up sheet in the porch. Once you have the item, please drop off either when attending Mass or at the presbytery.

PALM SUNDAY: This takes place on Sunday 24th March 2024. We are going back to the tradition of the Mass and will congregate outside prior to the start of Mass and will process in after the blessing of the palms. Obviously, those who are unable to congregate outside please just go into church as normal and we will join you.

CHURCH HALL: We are seeing more and more equipment appearing in the cupboards and drawers in the parish hall. Whilst people will be being generous bringing unwanted things for use in the hall, it really is not helping the situation as we are tight for space. The current users of the hall have not yet returned their items to the cupboards so in reality things that have been brought in may have to be removed to allow for the space needed. Please, if you wish to donate anything for use in the hall please speak to Fr Darren.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP: For well over a year now we have been running a bereavement group, every other Monday in the parish hall, which offers support and friendship to our community. Over time this group has become more of a friendship group which has been and continues to be a support to each other. We now feel that it is time that this group becomes exactly what it is - a friendship group. The friendship group will meet every other Monday 1pm till 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome. Come and join the others having a cuppa and a shared light lunch. Come and make new friends!

EVENTS:

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT: This will take place on Friday 15th March 2024 at St Patrick's between 7.00 and 10.00 p.m. The event will be a Jacob' Join. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of church for contributions to the evening. Tickets are £3 and will be available at church this weekend.

SVP LUNCH: This will take place on Thursday 7th March 2024 after 12.10 p.m. Mass. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of church.

SOUP DAY: On Saturday 23rd March, 12.00 until 2.00 p.m. at St Patrick's. Monies raised will go to St John's Hospice. Tickets are £5 which includes soup, tea or coffee and a biscuit. There will be a cake stall for which donations will be gratefully received and a raffle. Tickets will be available shortly. If anyone would like to help out on the day, it would be much appreciated. Please contact Terri Bell or Ali Bates.

SVP LUNCH: Thursday 7th March after the 12:10 Mass St Mary's hall, sign up sheets at the back of each church everyone welcome.

Day	Time	Event	Location
Every Sunday	After 10:30am Mass	Tea and Coffee	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Monday	10.00am-11:30am	Playgroup	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Tuesday	10.00am	Legion of Mary	St Patrick's
Every Wednesday	12noon-2.00pm	Warm Welcome	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Friday	2.00pm-3.00pm	Lectio Divina	St Mary's Presbytery
Monday 4th March	10:30am-12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's
Monday 11 th March	1.00-3.00pm	Friendship Group	St Mary's Parish Hall
Tuesday 12 th March	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. Your generous donations, given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good. You can still give online at [CAFOD.org.uk](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH:

FOR THE NEW MARTYRS

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.