

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE

Parish Clergy

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Parish office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. till 12 Noon

21st January 2024 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Remember that in Cycle B of the Lectionary, most of the Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen - Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 20/01	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Beryl Woods and family Megan Clifton RIP
Sunday 22/01	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Alan Parry RIP Joan Margaret Rowlands Get well
Tuesday 23/01	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Canon Cooper Get Well
Wednesday 24/01	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Father Michael Malady Get Well NO MASS
Thursday 25/01	St Mary's	12.10pm	Father Joseph Maley and Mary Armisted RIP
Friday 26/01	St Patrick's	10.00am	Stanley Burgess RIP
Saturday 27/01	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Louie Martin Prada RIP Tommy Bradley RIP
Sunday 28/01	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Michael McGynn RIP The Lunan and Hunt families

FEAST DAYS:

Wednesday 24th January is the **Feast of St. Francis de Sales**

Thursday 25th January is the **Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul**

Friday 26th January is the **Feast of Sts. Timothy and Titus**

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

LATELY DEAD:

Frances Maria Chester, Maureen McGuire, Linday Purcell, John Shewell

FUNERALS:

John Shewell, Friday 26th January 2024 at St. Mary's Church, at 12.30 p.m.

Frances Maria Chester, Monday 29th January 2024 at St Marys Church, at 11:30 a.m. and burial at Torrisholme at 12:30 p.m

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for James Stewart and those whose first anniversaries occur between 21st and 28th January and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for January 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: £1269.42

ATTENDANCE: 234

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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. Please could new parish members and parish members who have not yet done so complete a parish registration form. There are also gift aid forms and bank standing order forms available at the back of Church.

WELCOME: Robin Jack McCann who was baptised on Sunday 14th January 2024.

TEA AND COFFEE: Tea and coffee are available in the church hall after the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday. Why not come along, have a chat and a cuppa and meet new friends? Everyone is very welcome!

HOLIDAY: Please note that I will be away on holiday from Sunday 7th January 2024 until Friday 26th January 2024. We welcome Monsignor Verity who will be covering the Masses whilst I am away. Deacon Stephen Pendlebury will be covering any funerals and will deal with arrangements and will assist at any funeral Masses. Please note there will be no Wednesday evening Masses whilst I am away.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We will shortly be commencing the First Holy Communion programme. Please go to the website (<https://www.sjhn.org/forms>) and complete the Communion Form if you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion this year.

THANK YOU: To those who organise the Bingo once a fortnight at St Patrick's Church. It is enjoyed by all participants.

EVENTS:

SVP LUNCH: February's SVP lunch will take place on Thursday 1st February 2024 after 12.10 p.m. Mass. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church.

SAVE THE DATE - QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 2nd February 2024: Students from the OLCC Uganda Project are holding a quiz night at St Patrick's Church on Friday 2nd February, starting at 7 pm. They will be planning some interactive fun rounds as well as more traditional ones. Tickets are £4 to include light refreshments. They will be available from Ali Bates at St Patrick's or Pat Ormesby at St Mary's in January. You can also pay 'on the door' but it would be useful to let us know numbers. All proceeds from the evening will be used to support our Ugandan Partner Communities. Thank you for your support.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Tuesday 13th February 2024. The Social Committee will be serving pancakes. Further details to follow.

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–2pm	Warm Welcome	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Friday	2.00pm-3.00pm	Lectio Divina	St Mary's Presbytery
Monday 22nd January	10:30am–12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's
Monday 29 th January	1.00–3.00 pm	Bereavement Group	St Mary's Parish Hall
Tuesday 30 th January	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's

OTHER EVENTS:

STELLA MARIS – LANCASTER MASS: Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) will be holding a special Mass for seafarers and fishers, to be celebrated by Bishop Paul Swarbrick, on Saturday 10th February at 12.15pm at The Cathedral Church of St Peter, Balmoral Road, Lancaster LA1 3B. It will be followed by a reception. We are delighted to invite you and your parishioners to this special occasion. We have not held a Mass of this kind in Lancaster Diocese before – so we are keen to extend our invitation to local parish communities such as yours. If you and/or some of your parishioners can join us, please confirm attendance by phone: 0207 901 1931, or email to Roland.Hayes@stellamarismail.org

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024: Next year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 23rd to 30th July 2024. The Youth Section will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris 22nd July – 1st August 2024. For further information please check out the Diocesan Pilgrimage website: www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or email: operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk For the youth trip please email: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY:

FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, make me know your ways.