

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE
10th March 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Parish Clergy

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee, who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Tuesday 12/03	St. Patrick's	10.00am	David Holman RIP
Wednesday 13/03	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Anne Hartley (Foundation) NO MASS
Thursday 14/03	St Mary's	12.10pm	Kevin and John Brownlee RIP
Friday 15/03	St Patrick's	10.00am	Anne O'Sullivan and family
Saturday 16/03	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Anne Quain RIP Harrison family
Sunday 17/03	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Doreen Hodman Linda McGuinness 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, Margaret Ford.

FUNERALS:

Ellen Carney, Tuesday 19th March 2024, 11.00a.m., St Mary's Church, followed by the burial at Hale Carr cemetery at 12.30pm

Yvonne Mason, Thursday 21st March 2024, Requiem Mass, 12.10pm, St Mary's Church, followed by committal at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium.

Margaret Ford, Friday 5th April 2024, Requiem Mass, 12.00 noon, St Mary's Church, followed by committal at the Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for all those whose first anniversaries occur between 10th March and 17th 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: £1402.42

ATTENDANCE: 376

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PARISH NEWS

MOTHER'S DAY: This Sunday is Mother's Day. We wish all mothers a very happy Mother's Day. We hope you have a joyful and restful day and get thoroughly spoilt.

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.

MISSIO BOXES: The APF red boxes are due to be emptied and the contents and contributions need to be given to us, (telephone 823815) or left with Fr Carden by Sunday 31st March at the latest. Please ensure that each contribution is clearly identified with the givers or collector's name. Eddie and Mavis Kingsley.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: All parents should now have received an email about the programme. We welcome those children and their families attending Mass this weekend and in the coming weeks as the children prepare to receive the sacraments.

THE PARISH HALL: The kitchen in the parish hall has now been completed and is fully operational. The last phase of the parish Hall is to decorate the main hall and the entrance hallway, this will be completed in the next month or so. The only other thing then will be to clean and polish the floor. As St Mary's parish hall is now the main events centre for the parish it will be renamed to become the Newman Centre, with immediate effect.

BOOKING THE NEWMAN CENTRE: Do you need to hire a hall for a special event? The Newman Centre is available for hire for children's parties, family parties, funeral wakes, meetings, weekly groups, and other events. The hall can be booked on a regular basis or for a single event. If you wish to book the hall, please contact the parish office or visit the website and click on hire the Newman Centre. Very competitive prices!

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH: Over time you will have noticed some damp and mould in the church, some of this was caused by the gutters overflowing and water coming into the walls. Back in September we replaced all the gutters and down pipes, this has dealt with the ingress of water, but the walls are still drying out. There is also an issue with the ventilation. We seem to have plenty of ventilation in the roof space and under the floor, but none in the main body of the church or the sacristy. Early next week we will be installing some ventilation in the sacristy, as a test to see if this will remedy the problem in this area. If this is successful, we will proceed with fitting ventilation in the main body of the Church. Once all of this has been achieved, we can then look at redecorating the Church.

SMARTPHONE: If anyone has an old smartphone that they now longer need, would they be willing to donate it to the Parish for use by the safeguarding representatives. This would save us having to go out and buy a new phone. Thank you.

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.

SOUP DAY: This will take place 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 on the day, it would be much appreciated. Please contact Terri Bell or Ali Bates.

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 11 th March	1.00-3.00pm	Friendship Group	St Mary's Parish Hall
Tuesday 12 th March	1.30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's
Monday 18 th March	10.30am-12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's

LENT DAY OF REFLECTION: The priests of the parish have organised a Day of Reflection on Saturday March 16th 2024, 10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m. at Ladyewell Shrine Preston (PR2 5ST). The day will include Holy Mass, time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Lenten Reflections, Confessions etc. Drinks provided, please bring a packed lunch.

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:

O Let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!