

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest:

Fr Darren Carden

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Parish office admin:

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Parish office: Jackie & Kerry

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

28th January 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed; Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Tuesday 30/01	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Noel Bouskill and family
Wednesday 31/01	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Evelyn Beattie Get Well People of the Parish
Thursday 1/02	St Mary's	12.10pm	John and Katie Cunningham and family
Friday 2/02	St Patrick's	10.00am	Joan and Michael Bouskill and Victoria Handley RIP
Saturday 3/02	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Boyle and Jack White and family Philip Milner RIP
Sunday 4/02	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Special Intention Anne Quain RIP

FEAST DAYS:

Wednesday 31st January is the **Feast of St. John Bosco**

Friday 2nd February is the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

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, Maria Ruscillo 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, Maureen Togneri

FUNERALS:

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.

Maureen Togneri, Wednesday 7th February 2024 at St Mary's Church, at 11.30 a.m. followed by cremation at Lancaster and Morecombe Crematorium at 12:30 p.m.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose first anniversaries occur between 28th January and 4th February and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for January and 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: £1252.44

ATTENDANCE: 322

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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 BACK: Welcome back to Father Darren from his holiday. We have missed you! Thank you to Monsignor Verity for covering for Father.

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!

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD: If you would like a Mass said for a relative or friend for a particular date in the coming year now is the time to make your request. We have the diary ready in the parish office to save the date. Please put Mass intentions in an envelope and state a preference of when and where you would like the Mass to be said, if necessary. Please also provide contact details should we need to contact you. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

THANK YOU: To those who organise and participate in the Lectio Divina group. The group brings the discussion of the gospel to life on a weekly basis.

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 are available from Ali Bates at St Patrick's or Pat Ormesby at St Mary's. 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 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

Please note that there will be no Legion of Mary on 30th January and 6th February

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.

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY:

FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*