

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE
28th April 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Parish Clergy

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 27/04	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Danny McAbe and family Dominic Clayton (Birthday)
Sunday 28/04	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	People of the Parish Wayne Marshall (Birthday)
Tuesday 30/04	St. Patrick's	10.00am	My family especially my Grandson Henry
Wednesday 1/05	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Special Intention – Parents and Grandparents Jessica and Alan Oddy Special Intention
Thursday 2/05	St Mary's	12.10pm	Phyllis MacDonald RIP
Friday 3/05	St Patrick's	10.00am	Estella and Anthony Finnerty RIP
Saturday 4/05	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Margaret Heath Get Well Maria Villarejo RIP
Sunday 5/05	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Holy souls and forgotten souls Sapphire Amanda Abbott RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Eamonn Rowan, 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 28th April and 5th May and all those names on the anniversaries' list for April and May which are on the noticeboards in each church porch.

LATELY DEAD:

Kenneth Walter Cardwell, Joan McCrickett, Olwyn Hornby, Rev Anthony Ingham

FUNERALS:

Kenneth Walter Cardwell, Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 3.30 p.m. at Beetham Hall Crematorium.

Olwyn Hornby, Thursday, 2nd May 2024, Requiem Mass at 2.00 p.m. followed by interment in Torrisholme Cemetery.

Joan McCrickett, Friday, 3rd May 2024 Requiem Mass at 11.30am followed by committal at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium.

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 a.m. till 12 noon followed by the 12:10 pm. Mass and Saturday 10.30 a.m. till 11.00 a.m..

WEEKLY COLLECTION: £1239.75

ATTENDANCE: 416

Monday 29th April is the Feast of **St. Catherine of Siena**

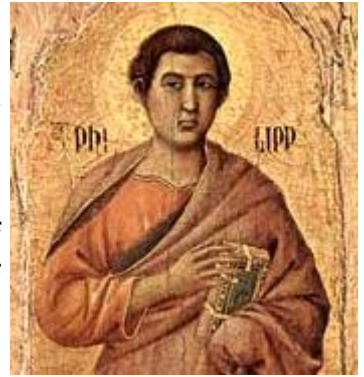
Friday 3rd May is the Feast of **Sts. Philip and James**

Saturday 4th May is the Feast of **The English Martyrs**

This week it is the Feast Day of St Philip and St James. Please find below an account of their lives.

St. Philip

The Apostle Philip was one of Christ's first disciples, called soon after his Master's baptism in the Jordan. The fourth Gospel gives the following detail: "The next day Jesus was about to leave for Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him: Follow Me. Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him: We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus the Son of Joseph of Nazareth. And Nathanael said to him: Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip said to him: Come and see" (John 1:43ff).



St. Philip is eighth in the Apostolic list of the Roman Canon; in the Synoptic Gospels he is named after the two groups of brother, Peter and Andrew, James and John (Matt 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14). In St. John (I:43-44), we read that he was called after St. Peter to follow Jesus, and the Gospel adds he was of Bethsaida, as were Andrew and Peter. Philip introduced Nathaniel, who we know as the Apostle Bartholomew to Jesus (cf. St. Bartholomew). This same Gospel of St. John mentions Philip once again (John 14:9), in the passage, read at Mass, which serves also as the Antiphon of the Alleluia and for the Communion: "Philip, he that sees Me sees the Father also"; elsewhere (John 12:21) it tells us that certain Gentiles wishing to see Jesus had recourse to Philip, and in chapter 6 Jesus says to Philip, before the multiplication of the loaves, "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"

These little incidents, though they tell us nothing about St. Philip's inner life, show us that in the intimate companionship of the Apostles he played a distinct part. The Breviary story tells us that evangelised Phrygia, and that, at Hierapolis, he was fastened to a cross and then stoned. It adds that his relics, with those of St. James, were taken to Rome and placed in the Basilica of the Twelve Apostles. This church was once one of the most venerated in Rome. It corresponds to the famous church of Byzantium called the Apostoleion or Church of the Apostles. St. Julius I (341-352) erected it, Pelagius I (556-561) rebuilt it, and finally John III (561-574) dedicated it to the memory of all the Apostles, especially SS. Philip and James, whose relics were enshrined therein.

Patronage: Hatters; Luxembourg; pastry chefs; Uruguay

Symbols and Representation: basket; basket and Tau cross or letter Tau; two or three loaves and a cross; patriarchal cross and spear; knotted cross; broken idols; inverted cross; tall column; dragon; carpenter's square and cross; long staff and spear; tall cross and book.

St. James the Less



St. James the Less, a brother of the Apostle Jude, was of Cana of Galilee. He is the author of one of the Catholic Epistles in the New Testament. He was favoured by an appearance of the Risen Christ (I Cor. 15:7). After the dispersion of the Apostles, he was made Bishop of Jerusalem. He was visited by St. Paul (Gal. 1:19). He spoke after Peter at the meeting of the Apostles (Acts 15:13). When he refused to deny the Divinity of Christ, the Jews cast him down from the terrace of the temple and clubbed him to death. The Breviary contains a very moving description of his death. "When he was ninety-six years old and had governed the Church for thirty years in a most holy manner, the Jews sought to stone him, then took him to the pinnacle of the temple and cast him off headlong. As he lay there half dead, with legs broken by the fall, he lifted his hands toward heaven and prayed to God for the salvation of his enemies, saying: Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do! While the apostle was still praying, a fuller struck his head a mortal blow." His relics now rest next to those of St. Philip in the church of the Holy Apostles in Rome, and their names are mentioned in the first list in the Canon of the Mass. The James here associated with St. Philip is St. James the Less, so-called to distinguish him from St. James the Greater, the brother of St. John, of whom we speak on his feast-day, July 25.

As to St. James the Less, his role, during the first years of Christianity, was far more important than St. Philip's. His position as one of the "brethren" or cousins of Our Lord was alone sufficient to make him an outstanding figure. Although certain incidents of his life-story are disputed, he is usually considered to have been the first Bishop of Jerusalem, the city wherein he was martyred. His mortifications and his ascetic life won for him the title of the Just.

St. Paul, who met him at Jerusalem, speaks of the apparition with which he was favoured after Christ's Resurrection (1 Cor 15:7).

Among the Catholic Epistles there is one attributed to him. It is thought to be of a later date than the Epistles of St. Paul and was probably written towards A.D. 60. The author seems to have had in mind those who wrongly claimed St. Paul's authority to teach that Faith without Good Works was sufficient for salvation. St. James speaks of certain practical matters and insists on the necessity of good works, especially those of charity.

Patronage: Apothecaries, dying people, fullers, hatmakers, hatters, milliners, pharmacists, Uruguay.

Symbols and Representation: Vertical saw; Fuller's club; windmill; halbert; three stones; loaf of bread.

"To be always united to Jesus Christ we must do everything calmly, without worrying about the difficulties that may arise. God does not live in troubled hearts." (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

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.

100 CLUB: This month's 100 Club draw winners are as follows: 1st Prize - £135 (No. 27), 2nd Prize - £81 (No. 50) and 3rd Prize - £54 (No. 73). The 100 Club has raised £180 for Parish funds. If you would like to join the 100 Club please contact the office.

DEEP CLEANING: This month's deep clean of St Mary's church will take place on Saturday 4th May from 11.00 a.m. till 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to join us.

READERS AT MASS NEEDED: Readers participating in the Liturgy of the Word play an essential role in the Mass, and the parish is looking for more volunteers to read. Pre-Covid there were usually two readers per weekend Mass and we would like to get back to that arrangement again if possible. It would also be wonderful if we could have readers from all age groups - including our young people.

On average people read about once every four to five weeks, and the rota is flexible to fit in with holiday and other commitments. You don't have to have read before and training can be provided. If you want to experience what reading would be like before deciding whether to read regularly, a one-off reading opportunity can be arranged too.

So, if you would like to find out more and give reading a try, please contact the parish office, thank you.

EVENTS:

PLAYGROUP: Every Monday 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. in the Neman Centre. 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!

Please note that there will be no Playgroup on Monday 6th May 2024 due to the Bank Holiday.

SVP LUNCH: The May SVP lunch will take place on Thursday 2nd May after 12.10 p.m. Mass in the Newman Centre. All are welcome. Sign-up sheets are at the back of church.

SVP MEETING: The next meeting of the SVP will take place on Thursday 16th May at 7.00 p.m. in the Newman Centre.

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 29 th April	10:30am–12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's
Thursday 2 nd May	After 12.10 p.m. Mass	SVP Lunch	Newman Centre
Tuesday 7 th May	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's
Thursday 16 th May	7.00 p.m.	SVP Meeting	Newman Centre
Monday 20 th May	1.00–3.00pm	Friendship Group	Newman Centre

**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.

**THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR MAY:
FOR THE FORMATION OF RELIGIOUS, MONKS, NUNS AND
SEMINARIANS**

The Pontiff urges prayers "so that religious, monks, nuns, and seminarians may grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual, and communal formation, leading them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Parish Survey Results

Question 3: What events/activities/programmes would you like to see offered to enable you to be more engaged in Church life?

Response of parish council member.

A number of responses expressed satisfaction with what is on offer now with comments such as:

Everything's fine / You do your best / We have a good range / Happy with the activities on offer / Quiz events are a winner / Useful to have the calendar of events.

Many people suggested activities and events to include children and young people e.g. family parish walks, weekend trips to include children, something for children at St. Patrick's, a youth group, something fun and family orientated, events to encourage children and young people to live the faith actively e.g. preparing gift boxes for the homeless. The importance of maintaining links with our Primary Schools, OLCC and Castlerigg was also acknowledged. It was suggested that the questions should be directed to the younger members.

Requests were made for opportunities to develop our spiritual life, such as scripture learning, liturgy study, prayer and rosary groups, Catholic teachings, possibly via Zoom in some cases.

Suggestions were made to link our faith with everyday life, such as talks by experts on topics such as dementia, divorce, teenagers, unemployment etc., from a Catholic point of view.

Some of the comments made, reflected the diversity of the Parish: e.g. "We are an elderly community so activities need to be in the daytime." and "More evening events for those working."

Some Parishioners said that they are too old or too busy to commit to Parish activities.

Overview from Fr Darren

Our community is very mixed and we try our best to cater for everyone by having things both during the day and in the evening, thus giving the opportunity for everyone to attend. For example, scripture learning (Lectio Divina) takes place during the winter months on a Friday afternoon and from spring in the evening on a Thursday. I take on board that there seems to be an appetite for more spiritual things, of course everything needs someone to take the lead and to make things happen. If anyone is willing to start a rosary group, that would be good, as some people may not be able to physically attend. If we knew, for example, that the rosary would be prayed at 1.30pm on a Wednesday people could join in from their own homes. If we could start some home prayer groups, this would also be good so people could meet in their own local area. Inviting experts to give talks, if anyone has any suggestions we would be grateful to hear from you. With regard to strengthening links to the school - this is also a good idea, but it would take one person from the parish to be the link between the school, so one person for St Patrick's, one for St Mary's and one for Our Lady's High School. It would be good if, in the coming weeks, we could get these two areas up and running then we could look at further areas with regard to this part of the parish survey. There was also a focus on young people and their involvement in the parish. Again, this needs people to be able to provide activities, if there are people willing to lead these sort of activities please do volunteer.

OTHER NEWS:

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: **Friday 10th - Sunday 12th May 2024**. Info from Sister Mary Helen sistermaryhelen@hotmail.com

CAFOD – SUDAN: The people of Sudan need our help urgently. CAFOD is launching an emergency appeal for donations to get aid to them on the biggest scale we can muster. When violence broke out last year in Sudan between government and paramilitaries, most aid agencies evacuated. Now, humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help, meaning severe delays in getting aid to the people, and the challenges of getting into areas where fighting is still going on remain. Many borders are shut as the government say they need to keep weapons out.

The situation has gone from serious to desperate very quickly. The UN is calling it 'the world's worst displacement crisis'. At least eight million people have had to flee their homes; famine looms.

If you are able to help please donate via the CAFOD website:

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parish-fundraising/sudan-crisis-parish-fundraising?form=sudancrisisappeal>

A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER: With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on 25th April and 4th May to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE: Sue Grubic invites you to save the date! **Saturday, 12th October 2024**. Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission will be holding an event at the Lancaster Cathedral Social Centre, Balmoral Road Lancaster, LA4 3BT. Speakers will include: **Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Sir John Battle and Clare Dixon** from CAFOD. I know this seems a long time away but please put this date in your diaries. More details to follow in the Summer edition of Mouthpeace but do feel free to contact me if you would like to register your interest to come. ldfjsue@gmail.com or by text on 07791444417.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.