

**PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE**  
**17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**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 judgement is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

## MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Tuesday 19/03	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Steven Harris Get Well
Wednesday 20/03	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	David Gardner RIP Anne Beaumont RIP
Thursday 21/03	St Mary's	12.10pm	Requiem Mass – Yvonne Mason
Friday 22/03	St Patrick's	10.00am	Elizabeth Carden RIP
Saturday 23/03	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	James Kelly RIP John Joseph Mercer RIP
Sunday 24/03	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Martin (Wedding Anniversary) RIP Yvonne Mason RIP

## FEAST DAYS:

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, St Joseph

**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, James Kelly.

**FUNERALS:** Ellen Carney, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Requiem Mass 11a.m., St Patrick's Church, followed by burial at Hale Carr cemetery at 12.30p.m.

Yvonne Mason, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Requiem Mass, 12.10p.m., St Mary's Church, followed by committal at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium.

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARIES:** Please pray for Marilyn Parry and Rosita Wilding and all those whose first anniversaries occur between 17<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> March and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for March which are on the noticeboards in each church porch.

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday 9.30a.m. till 9.55a.m., followed by 10.00a.m. Mass, Thursday 11.00a.m. till 12noon followed by the 12.10 p.m. Mass and Saturday 10.30a.m. till 11.00a.m.

**CONFESSIONS:** During Lent these will take place after 7.00p.m. Mass on a Wednesday at St Mary's until 8.00p.m. and on a Saturday 10.30 to 11.00a.m.. Confessions will also take place from 5.15p.m. until 5.45p.m. on a Saturday at St Patrick's.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION:** £1333.66

**ATTENDANCE:** 399

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## PARISH NEWS

**PALM SUNDAY:** This takes place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024. We are going back to the tradition of the Mass and will congregate outside church, prior to the start of 10.30 a.m. 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.

**THE EASTER TRIDUUM-28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH:** Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is the three-day period known as the Easter Triduum. It is one, great, single festival recounting the last days of Jesus' life. Holy Thursday, at the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, (St Mary's 7p.m.) is where we live the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified. During this Mass there is the "washing of the feet" (we are looking for 12 volunteers, sign-up sheet at the back of church) ceremony, where the priest, imitating Jesus, washes the feet of others to signify his role as servant. Mass concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," a place where the consecrated Host is kept, away from the main altar, where Mass is normally celebrated.

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. This is the day of the crucifixion. The altar is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered. Instead, we listen to the story of the crucifixion and venerate the cross. On this day there will be stations of the cross at St Patrick's at 11 a.m. and the passion service will be at St Mary's at 3 p.m..

After nightfall on Holy Saturday we celebrate the Easter Vigil, rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus. It is the most glorious, beautiful, and important celebration for the Church.

To experience Easter in its fullness, is to experience the whole of the Triduum, I strongly encourage everyone to attend all three parts of the Triduum.

**GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH:** Following last week's Fabric and Finance and this week's Parish Council meetings the following was proposed and agreed in principle by members. Of course, I am not fully aware of the history of certain items at all three churches and therefore I would encourage anyone who has information, which would make the proposal unworkable, to contact Fr Darren.

The proposal is that the statues from Good Shepherd will be relocated to St Mary's. The St Anthony statue from St Mary's will be moved to St Patrick's. The stations of the cross from the Good Shepherd will be relocated into St Patrick's church. St Patrick's stations will be moved to St Patrick's school. Five rows of benches (two per row, one either side of church) will be relocated to St Patrick's church. These rows would take the bench area to the part where the floor changes from carpet to wood type flooring. The rest of the benches will either be relocated to another church or chapel, if no one is interested in taking the benches they will be sold. Going forward the wood floor area would still be used for small social gathering. It is also proposed that we offer the altar and tabernacle to another parish or school. The sacristy press will be relocated to St Patrick's.

**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

**ST PATRICK'S CHURCH:** We will be opening St Patrick's church on a trial basis each day from 10a.m. till 3p.m. for private prayer. We have fitted locks to the inner doors to the kitchen, hallway behind the kitchen and the sacristy doors. These will remain locked while the church is open.

**EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS:** Easter raffle tickets are available at the back of church. Please return stubs and money by 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at the latest. 1<sup>st</sup> prize will be £100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize will be an Easter Egg hamper, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize will be a drinks hamper, and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**EVENTS:**

**SOUP DAY:** On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 or bake cakes, it would be much appreciated. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the back of church. Please contact Terri Bell or Ali Bates.

Day	Time	Event	Location
Every Sunday	After 10:30am Mass	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>	The Newman Centre
Every Monday	10.00am-11:30am	<b>Playgroup</b>	The Newman Centre
Every Tuesday	10.00am	<b>Legion of Mary</b>	St Patrick's
Every Wednesday	12noon-2.00pm	<b>Warm Welcome</b>	The Newman Centre
Every Friday	2.00pm-3.00pm	<b>Lectio Divina</b>	The Newman Centre
Monday 18th March	10.30am-12noon	<b>Cuppa and Chat</b>	St Patrick's
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	1.30pm	<b>Bingo</b>	St Patrick's
Monday 25th March	1.00-3.00pm	<b>Friendship Group</b>	The Newman Centre

**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.

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***RESPONSORIAL PSALM:***

*A pure heart create for me, O God.*