

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest:

Fr Darren Carden

Email:

darren.carden@lrcd.org.uk

Office Tel: 01524 410501

Mobile phone: 07305228729

Deacon: Rev. John McCann

Tel: 01524 421795



Parish office admin:

**St Mary's, Matthias Street,
Morecambe, LA4 5JR**

Parish website: www.sjhn.org

Office Tel: 01524 410501

Mobile phone: 07305228729

Parish office: Jackie & Kerry

Email:

sjhn.morecambe@lrcd.org.uk

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

11TH February 2024 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL REFLECTION: In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behaviour of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 10/02	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Seamus Boyle and family Harrison family
Sunday 11/02	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Paul Hope RIP Christopher and Daniel Lambert RIP
Tuesday 13/02	St. Mary's	10.00am	Father John Delaney Birthday
Wednesday 14/02 Ash Wednesday	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	Thanksgiving and Birthday Margaret and Ted Cottam RIP
Thursday 15/02	St Mary's	12.10pm	Robb and Daly Family
Friday 16/02	St Patrick's	10.00am	Joan Manton RIP
Saturday 17/02	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Alan Derham RIP Little John and baby Carmen Brannigan RIP
Sunday 18/02	St Mary's St Mary's	8.30am 10.30am	Special intention EMP For a successful operation (MRC)

FEAST DAYS:

Wednesday 15th February is Ash Wednesday - a Day of Fasting and Abstinence

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Maria Ruscillo, 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, Jennifer Doherty and the sick and housebound in the parish and those in local hospitals and nursing homes.

LATELY DEAD:

Father Joe Smith, Alan Edward Anderson

FUNERALS:

Alan Edward Anderson, Thursday 22nd February 2024, 12.10pm, St. Marys Church followed by interment at Torrisholme Cemetery for 1.15pm.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose first anniversaries occur between 11th and 18th 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: £1267.47

ATTENDANCE: 304

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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.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES: Please note that we have new email addresses. Father Darren's email address is: darren.carden@lrzd.org.uk. The Parish Office email is: sjhn.morecambe@lrzd.org.uk

RITE OF ELECTION: This year the Rite of Election will be held on Saturday 17th February at 2pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster. All adults being received into the church or to be baptised, are warmly invited to attend along with their sponsor, family members, Parish Priest and parishioners. As a parish we have six people currently on the RCIA programme hoping to become Catholics at Easter, please do attend the Rite of Election in support of those preparing.

BOOKING THE PARISH HALL: Do you need to hire a hall for a special event? St Mary's Church Hall is available for hire for children's parties, family parties, funeral wakes and other functions. The hall can be booked on a regular basis or for a single event. If you wish to book the hall, please contact Denise Woodhouse on 01524 422453. Very competitive prices!

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.

SENDING YOUR CHILDREN TO OTHER FAITH SCHOOLS NON-CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS:

Please, if you are intending to send your child to a non-Catholic faith school make this known to me as soon as possible by using the form available in the sacristy. If you have not made me aware of this well in advance of the need for your form to be signed, I will not be prepared to sign any forms in the future.

THANK YOU: To the Legion of Mary group who meet weekly and reach out to those who are lonely and in need of visitors.

EVENTS:

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The Social Committee will be serving pancakes on Tuesday 13th February 2024. This will take place after Mass which will be at **10.00 a.m. at St Mary's** church (please note change of church). Please come along and join us. We would love to see you there. £1 per person for tea/coffee and pancakes.

LENTEN SOUP: The Social Committee will be serving soup every Thursday during Lent in the Parish Hall after 12.10pm Mass.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT: This will take place on Saturday 24th February 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets will be available shortly.

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 12 th February	1.00-3.00 pm	Bereavement Group	St Mary's Parish Hall
Tuesday 13 th February	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's
Monday 19 th February	10:30am-12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's

OTHER EVENTS:

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 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:

*You are my refuge, O Lord:
You fill me with the joy of salvation.*