

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE
24th March 2024 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Parish Clergy

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GOSPEL REFLECTION:

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the *Triduum*—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark’s Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus’ disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. They fare no better in Mark’s narrative of Jesus’ passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus’ passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark’s account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus’ death. In Mark’s telling of the passion narrative, Jesus understood his death to have been preordained, and he accepted this death in obedience to God’s will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfilment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood his anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of his burial, and he announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter’s denial. At his arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before his accusers. After he was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until his final cry from the cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that he was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in his death on the cross.

During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus’ passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God’s Son.



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MASS INTENTIONS:

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
Tuesday 26/03	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Phyllis MacDonald RIP
Wednesday 27/03	St. Mary's St Mary's	10.00am 7.00pm	John Billington Anne Hartley (Foundation)
Thursday 28/03 Maundy Thursday	St Mary's	7.30 pm	Doreen Sutcliffe RIP
Friday 29/03 Stations of the Cross The Lord's Passion	St Patrick's St Mary's	10.00am 3.00pm	Joe Moxham RIP
Saturday 30/03 Easter Vigil	St Mary's	8.15pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 31/03 Easter Sunday	St Patrick's St Mary's	9.00am 10.30am	Ellen Carney RIP Gary Nathaniel Preston

Please note that **Good Friday** is a **Day of Fasting and Abstinence**.

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: Margaret Ford.

FUNERALS:

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 Ruth Sainsbury, Eunice Wright, Niall John Martin and John Francis McEwan and all those whose first anniversaries occur between 24th and 31st 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: £869.29

ATTENDANCE: 341

MESSAGE FROM ROME:



Dear friends,

Greetings from Rome. I cannot believe Holy Week and the Triduum are almost upon us – this year seems to have disappeared in a flurry of exams, retreats, and new academic modules.

We are well into the second semester here at the Beda. I am currently taking courses on Moral Theology, Psalms and Wisdom Literature, Human Development and Mediaeval Church History (to name a few). I have settled into the routine of seminary life quite well – although that is not to say it is easy.

I am kept quite busy in my role as Assistant M.C., and I am soon starting some outreach in our local parish of St. Leonardo Murialdo (co-founder of the Congregation of St. Joseph). I'll be teaching English along with a few other seminarians to anyone who wishes to learn: it's a big parish encompassing Roma Tre University, so Fr. Carmelo, the Paris Priest is confident that it will be a success: we will have to wait and see if his confidence is well founded!

On the Friday before Palm Sunday, I will be instituted as an acolyte here in the college along with my fellow second years. It's a significant step – the next ministerial staging post on my formation journey. I am looking forward to this occasion a great deal, as once we are instituted as Acolytes, we take more of an active role in the liturgical life of the college.

I miss St. Mary's and Morecambe a great deal and I look forward to seeing you all in the Summer. Please remember me in your prayers and be assured of my own prayers for you and all your loved ones.

God bless.
Stephen Bamber

Our congratulations to Stephen on being instituted as an Acolyte. Please keep Stephen in your prayers as he continues in his studies and we look forward to welcoming him back in the summer.

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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.

VENERATION OF THE CROSS: This year we will return to the traditional way of venerating the Cross, by kissing the feet of Jesus on the Crucifix. After each person has venerated the Cross in this way, the area will be sanitised by using an antibacterial wipe. Of course, this is optional, and if people prefer to genuflect to the Cross in the way that we have been doing in recent years, this is totally acceptable.

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

GIFT AID: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TAXPAYERS:

If you are a taxpayer and have not signed a gift aid declaration please do so as the parish will receive 25p from the government for every £1 you give, this does not cost you anymore money. Please let us know if you would like a set of gift aid envelopes for your weekly contributions to the church. Alternatively, you can pay your contribution directly into the parish bank account, all forms are available at the back of each church. Also, if you are no longer a taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, please let the office know.

100 CLUB DRAW: Congratulations to the winners of this month's 100 Club Draw. The winning numbers are as follows: 1st Prize - £133.50 (No. 49), 2nd Prize - £80.10 (No. 72) and 3rd Prize - £53.40 (No. 80).

EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS: The Easter raffle will take place this Sunday after the 10.30 Mass. Thank you to those who donated for the two hampers and part of the cash prize. Good luck!

EVENTS:

SVP LUNCH: The next SVP Lunch will take place after 12.10 Mass on Thursday 4th April 2024. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of church.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT: We had a very successful and enjoyable evening to celebrate St Patrick's Day last Friday. The event raised £280.56. Thank you to those

who donated food for the Jacob's Join and to the Social Committee for their hard work in organising the evening.

Day	Time	Event	Location
Every Sunday	After 10:30am Mass	Tea and Coffee	NEWMAN CANTRE
Every Monday	10.00am-11:30am	Playgroup	NEWMAN CANTRE
Every Tuesday	10.00am	Legion of Mary	St Patrick's
Every Wednesday	12noon-2.00pm	Warm Welcome	NEWMAN CANTRE
Every Friday	2.00pm-3.00pm	Lectio Divina	St Mary's Presbytery
Monday 25th March	1.00-3.00pm	Friendship Group	NEWMAN CANTRE
Tuesday 26th March	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's
Monday 15 th April	10:30am-12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's

OTHER NEWS:

CASTLERIGG NEWS:

Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) in Keswick are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience perhaps recently graduated. Interested – jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

EASTER RETREAT: from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday, 28th to 31st March; a chance to journey together through Easter, have fun and make friends. Cost: £85. If cost is an obstacle, get in touch, we can probably help. <https://lancasteryouthservice.churchsuite.com/events/6auis4pf>

As you can appreciate, Castlerigg Manor (our Diocesan Youth Centre) has taken quite a hit financially during the Covid pandemic as they have been unable to host their usual programme of retreats for our schools. As a fundraising initiative, they have just launched a lottery. It costs £3 a month to enter and the winner each month takes half of the total subscribed that month. To sign up please go to: <https://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/lottery> On the sign up page, set the amount at £3 for each ticket that you want to buy and set the frequency to 'Monthly1st'. Full terms and conditions can be found on the page linked above. Thank you for helping our Diocesan Youth Service. CASTLERIGG LOTTERY: £3 per ticket. Draw at start of each month; winner takes half. <https://lancasteryouthservice.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/sdvlkexn>

LOURDES 2024: Please join Bishop Paul Swarbrick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (July 23rd – 30th). The Youth Section will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris (22nd July- 1st August). Further details are available on the Diocesan Pilgrimage website; www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or youth email youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

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VACANCY:

Job Title: Director of Formation

Hours: Full-time

Term: Permanent

Salary: £54,000 - £59,000 depending on experience, plus teacher pension

Closing Date: Monday 15th April 2024 Interview date: Friday 26th April 2024

We are looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic individual to come and join our team in this exciting new post in the Diocese of Lancaster. The successful candidate will play a vital role in helping us deliver our mission in education, providing practical support and strategic direction for formation, in all its forms, across the Diocese. The successful candidate will support our schools, Trusts and governors in three key ways: Support develop and deliver formation opportunities and resources Advise – offer expert advice to leaders and governors Lead provide strategic oversight and leadership for formation in the Diocese of Lancaster

For more information, please see the attached recruitment pack, or visit the website:

<https://www.lancaster-diocese-education.org.uk/2024/03/11/director-of-formationdiocese-of-lancaster-education-service/> , or please contact the Diocese of Lancaster Education Service on 01524 841190, or educationservice@lancasterrcdiocese.org.uk

FULL TIME HEADTEACHER:

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Workington

Start Date: 1 September 2024

Group 2 Leadership Range: Salary: L14 - L20 (£65,010 TO £75,331)

Age Range: 4-11 years old

Number on Role: 206

If you are interested in this post and would like the opportunity to visit our school, please contact us on 01900 601807. Visits can only be made by arrangement with our Business Manager, Mrs Annette Glaister.

To apply, please visit the school website www.stpatricksworkington.co.uk to download the application pack.

All completed application forms and supporting information should be returned to the Clerk to the Governing Body at the following email address: office@st-patricks-pri.cumbria.sch.uk

Timeline: Closing date for applications is 09.00am on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

Shortlisting will take place on Thursday 18th April 2024.

Successful applicants will receive notification by Friday 19th April 2024.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th April 2024.

Please note we do not accept CVs or applications from agencies. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

VEILED STATUES: It is an ancient Catholic tradition to cover the crosses and images in the Church on the fifth Sunday of Lent. As early as the 11th century it had become customary to suspend a cloth in front of the sanctuary so that the Altar could not be seen by the people. It was called the "Hunger Cloth". It was to remind all of us to acknowledge that we are sinners. In those days public sinners were excluded from the Church during Lent so that they could do penance before being reconciled at Easter. The "Hunger Cloth" compelled all the faithful to partake in a "fast of the eyes" reminding them that, as sinners, they should all be reconciled to God before Easter. In the 13th century the practice of veiling the crosses and statues had spread far and wide as a reminder that during His suffering, crucifixion and death, Christ veiled His divinity. Jesus Christ is God, but while hanging on the Cross His Godhead cannot be seen, only His dying humanity. This explains why we veil all the images in the Church and they will only be revealed when we celebrate the day of Christ's triumphant Resurrection except, of course, the crucifix which will be unveiled on Good Friday when we commemorate Christ's death. So if anyone asks why all is covered in purple, it is to remind us that the Son of God died for our sins and when everything is bright and white at Easter, it is to express our faith that He rose again to give us life.

NOTICE FROM THE BISHOP: PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Dear brothers and sisters, In September (2nd – 6th) this year I am renewing the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the National Shrine to Our Blessed Lady. I invite you to join me! This will be the first pilgrimage since the Pandemic, and we have so much to pray for, so much to give thanks for. Some of you are familiar with Walsingham. For others it will be your first visit. In the Middle Ages the Shrine was one of the great ancient Marian places of pilgrimage in the whole of Christendom. It is known as England's very own Nazareth and is a place where the incarnation of Jesus is particularly remembered. Therefore, for the modern pilgrim, it is a place for all who would rejoice with Mary at 'the great joy of the Annunciation.' Like Lourdes in France, it is a place of reconciliation, conversion, peace and healing. Dependent on accommodation type the all-inclusive cost is no more than £500,00 per person. Coach collection/drop off will take place in Workington, Carlisle, Penrith, Lancaster and Preston. For more information and booking details contact the pilgrimage organiser Deacon Charlie Conner on 07895 742 732 or email charlie.conner@lrdc.org.uk. The places will be limited, so please book in good time. With my blessing + Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster

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:

My God, my God, Why have you forsaken me?