



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY III in ordinary time (C)
25th Jan 2025 : 'Sunday of the Word of God'



*Let us ask the Lord,
for us and the whole Church,
for the gift of a true conversion
of our hearts
enabling us to receive Christ
as the only Light to follow.
Christ is the only one that really dispels
the darkness within and around us.*

from the Dicastery for the clergy

This text is being fulfilled today

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OUR SCHOOLS

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ
Head : Mrs B Quirke
Tel : 852692

St Margaret's & All Saints Federation
Gamesley SK13 6HB
Head : Mrs G Beaumont
Tel : 855818

St Philip Howard Secondary
SK13 8DR
Head : Mr J Kayes
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 25th	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Sunday of the Word) 9.15 (BB) R Coleman RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) Barbara Stoppa RIP ; 3pm (HAD) <i>concluding Service: the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	
Mon 26th	Sts Timothy & Titus 11am (HAD) Requiem Mass : Bill Wilson RIP	
Tues 27th	feria 9.30 (HAD) B & E Marsden RIP (fam)	
Wed 28th	St Thomas Aquinas, doctor of the church 9.30 (HAD) John Monaghan RIP (fam)	
Thurs 29th	feria 9.30 (HAD) Allan Shepherd RIP (D&KH)	
Fri 30th	feria 9.30 (BB) Robert Neilan RIP (fam)	
Sat 31st	St Angela Merici 9.30 (HAD) Eric Gebbett RIP (fam)	
Sun 1st Feb	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Larry Farrell RIP)fam)	

THIRD SUNDAY (A)
Psalter Week 3

Introduction: The Light of Christ comes to illumine the dark path to eternity.

First Reading : Is 8 : The deported Jewish people are promised a new and Great Light.

Resp.Ps. THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY HELP.

Second Reading : 1 Cor 1 : The love of the crucified Lord urges unity not division.

Gospel : Mt 4 : Jesus the light appears first in Galilee, a light to the world.

**Comm. Ant. BEHOLD THE ONE OF WHOM JOHN SAID: I HAVE SEEN AND TESTIFIED
THAT THIS IS THE SON OF GOD.**

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish: Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Joe Singleton, Arthur King, Maura Farrell, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Philip O'Dowd, Bernard Kevill, Roger Birks; *Monica O'Hare, Julian Churchman, John Wells, Jean Rowell, Jacqueline Mason, Jimmy Dickson, Mary Howarth, Gerard Allison:*

May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY is dedicated as 'The Sunday of the World of God'. It is the seventh such annual Sunday. The Holy Father indicates that we need to renew our hope in the power of the Word of God. It provides chance also to thank those who step forward to our Lecterns to read. More than a few have found this to be a bit more challenging since the Dec '24 introduction of the new translation. And that applies to clergy as well! Thank God for the dedication of our lectors.

THE GOSPEL This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Matthew first introduces us to Galilee, characteristically quoting the scriptures to show that they are being fulfilled, and in what way. Galilee is called 'Galilee of the gentiles' only in this passage, and it was not a particularly notable feature of Galilee. Archaeology shows that Jewish observance was strong in the region. Contemporary literature shows that there was a lively tradition of prayerful charismatic rabbis with a warm devotion to the Lord. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the imminence of the Kingdom of God, which will be the subject of all his activity. Then he begins to form the new Israel by calling his team together. The Christian imagination tends to combine this scene with the scene with the Baptist in the Jordan Valley in the gospel of John, which gives at least Peter and Andrew some knowledge of Jesus. But today's narrative must be heard on its own, and the staggering factor is that this is the first time at any rate the sons of Zebedee have set eyes on Jesus. As he passes by he calls them, and such is the electrifying power of his charismatic personality that they simply drop everything and follow this total stranger – immediately, as the evangelist stresses each time.

BISHOP PATRICK has sent a Pastoral Letter, to be read this weekend. The Theme is the launch of the new diocesan plan. **"The Diocesan Mission Plan is now available on the Diocesan website and, starting on Monday 26th January 2026, I will be presenting it in a series of area Roadshows. Parish copies of the full plan, and of a shorter version, will be made available at the end of each of the Roadshows. The encouraging reality is that some parishes, schools and other groups are already well underway. Others are keen to get going. Still others, particularly those currently involved in the process of amalgamation, may need to walk at a slower pace. Each parish is asked to share with me, by 15th June 2026, its first few steps for the first year (June 2026 – June 2027) and then to share an annual progress update on the gradual implementation of the Mission Plan. The Plan will be accompanied by a two-year programme of parish visitations beginning in late Eastertide this year. My invitation to each one of you would be to read the plan, pray for its implementation and actively look for an opportunity to contribute your gifts and talents to bringing it to life in your part of our diocese. As we all prepare to set out on this five-year journey to "Go, make disciples", let us pray that the Lord will bless and make fruitful our efforts to respond. Let us make our own that humble and trusting prayer of Cardinal Prevost as he came to the realisation that he was about to be**

elected Pope: “Here we go, Lord, you’re in charge, you lead the way.” ”

Connected with this theme are the various upcoming county Roadshows hosted by the Bishop in various county centres. Next Thursday, 29th, in Matlock Parish hall from 7 to 8.30 the Bishop invites Derbyshire parishes to come to his gathering and attend on his presentation. He hopes that three representatives from each parish will be present, along with their PP. I’m hoping to be taxed to/from that gathering . . . Offers welcome & mileage paid (for all attending).

AFFIRMATION Those candidates preparing for First Holy Communion mid-year have been invited to come to Mass today to affirm their commitment.

THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY began on 18th & concludes this Sunday 25th, with a 3pm Ecumenical Service at St Charles.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE We note the recent death of Margaret Blackburn (91) (Charlesworth & Clitheroe). May she rest in peace, and relatives and friends be comforted.

NEXT SUNDAY is declared Racial Justice Sunday.

THE GLOSSOP PARISHES are hosting a presentation by Light of Faith (a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph), with the topic **New Directions in Catechesis: a new approach to sacramental preparation and catechesis is transforming families and parishes - could it work for yours?** The presentation is designed for parish clergy, parish lay leadership, parish catechists, head teachers, school chaplains, and anyone who helps in sacramental preparation. They would also love to welcome people who feel they could help parents in their task of passing on the faith to their children. This event is free (although donations are welcome to help the parishes pay the sisters’ travel and accommodation costs and other expenses) and is on **Friday 6th February**, at 7.00pm, in St Mary’s Parish Hall, Glossop. For details please see the poster or visit www.glossopcatholics.org.uk/newdirections.

FAITH AND FOOTPRINT: Caring for Creation on Wednesday 28th January at 7.00pm. Join the next online diocesan workshop to help you turn your faith into environmental action in the home and parish. We’ll explore opportunities to help your church become carbon neutral, and connect with other faith initiatives to Care for Creation. Email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk for the Zoom link.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) L Hockey; 2nd (£20) Julia Bradley.

STANDING ORDERS: Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c “St Margaret’s church/collection (or tote)” 00510567. St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c “St Charles church/collection (or tote)” 00269177.

SAFEGUARDING If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk; / phone 07513 725411. **AND FINALLY** Last Sunday was declared ‘Peace Sunday’ throughout the Catholic world. Fr Bernard and I staggered up the nearly vertical hill to find Calpe parish church, where Mass was being celebrated ‘al fresco’ outside the church dedicated to Our Lady of the Snows. It was a remarkable occasion, with scarcely a seat available in the piazza. The parish priest spoke engagingly about the theme of peace, only to be distracted by howling, barking, meowing and chirping from many of the congregants. It was the Sunday for the blessing of pet -animals, and they attended in droves albeit mainly peaceably, awaiting their sprinkling.

Calpe is famed in winter months as a mecca for cyclists. They came from every conceivable country, even Singapore. Young and old, professional and amateur, they set off to cycle hundreds of kilometres along beautifully-maintained roads, and up and down immensely steep mountains. Get stuck in a bus behind one of the pelotons and you could be sighing ‘slow me down Lord’.

The last few days of the holiday turned very windy & cold, and I developed my first cough/cold in years. Taking time to shake it off. Sorry for the snorting!